



BANTRY FAMILY OF PARISHES NEWSLETTER

BANTRY PARISH, CAHERAGH PARISH, GOLEEN PARISH, MUINTIR BHAIRE PARISH, SCHULL PARISH

Fr. Myles McSweeney: 086-1623031 Canon Martin O'Driscoll: 027-50096

Fr. Anthony Buckley: 087-2744617 Fr. Ben Hodnett: 089-4308735 Fr. John C. O'Donovan: 028-52985

To contact Priest on duty (Bantry): 087-7999886 Parish office: Tel: 027-56398

email: bantryparishoffice@gmail.com Website: www.bantryfamilyofparishes.ie

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY) SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023 VOL.19. NO 51

Christmas 2023 Services: Christmas Cards listing the Christmas Services in all Churches in the Family of Parishes are available in the Church porches this weekend. Please take a card home for your family & for neighbours & friends. Times are also available on church notice boards, facebook & the website.

Penitential Service

Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm in Bantry Church

Monday 18th December at 7.30pm in Schull Church

Confessions after 10am Mass (Monday to Saturday) in Bantry Church

Confessions (12noon to 1pm) on Saturday 23rd Dec in Bantry Church

Confessions at 11am on Sat 23rd Dec in Goleen Church

.Died Recently: We extend prayers & sympathy to the families, relatives & friends of:

Martha Quinlan – Coorydorigan

Joan O'Mahony (née McCarthy) - Kilcrohane & formerly New Street, Bantry

Rest in Peace

ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE St Brigid's Church, Ballydehob on today, Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm. Blessing of the crib near the Danno O'Mahoney statue will take place after the service. A collection at the Carol Service will go the Schull Community Care

The Annual Bantry Community Carol Service in St Brendan's Church of Ireland, Bantry, at 8pm on Sunday 17th December. Come along, leave the commercialism behind, and be assured of a warm welcome from the parishioners of St Brendan's & the Glengarriff ladies choir

SOME CHANGES IN OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES FOR 2024:

The clergy of the Family of Parishes met last Tuesday to plan for the coming year. Changes are outlined below.

Masses will be shared in each Parish of the Family of Parishes from the 1st January 2024. This is already the practice in three of the five parishes. Each weekend in the newsletter you can see the intentions for every Mass. From 1st January 2024, Masses will be shared in the remaining two parishes, Schull & Goleen.

The Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the intentions of the People) will be celebrated in Durrus Church on a Wednesday morning at 9.00am, starting on Wednesday 3rd January. The 12noon Mass in Bantry can therefore be booked for shared intentions. The stipend of €20 for the Missa Pro Populo Mass is taken from one parish each month. The month of December is the turn of Muintir Bhaire, in November it was Caheragh, in October it was Goleen and so on.

Maintenance of infrastructure continues to take its toll on parish finances. Each year the income for parishes continues to drop. When a parishioner dies, sadly there is no one to take their place. To help defray the cost of routine maintenance, there will be a monthly collection on the first Sunday of the month in Goleen, Caheragh & Muintir Bhaire Parishes. The monthly collection is already taking place in Schull and Bantry Parishes. Some parishioners make a weekly, or monthly contribution to their parish by direct debit. We thank those who contribute in this way. Others avail of the donate link for Schull Parish.

The Goleen donate link was discontinued this year as no one availed of this method of supporting the parish. I thank all our collectors, counters, Finance Committees and those who make the lodgements.

Over the past two years, the priests have moved from parish to parish to celebrate weekend Masses. As the years role on it will not be possible to have Mass in every Church every weekend. Major questions will have to be asked and unpopular decisions will have to be made. The diocese of Cork and Ross which is made up of 68 parishes has two students studying for the priesthood. The next ordination in our diocese will probably be 2030. That's 6 years' time.

During those six years, priests will retire and die. This family of 5 parishes will be lucky to have 2 priests in 6 years' time. A lot to ponder on.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: The Christmas Offerings envelopes are available at the porches of each church. These offerings go towards the income of the priest. We thank you for your support.

Collection for Priests:

The collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is for the priests of the parish. The Bishop only allows two days in the year when the offertory collection is given to the Priests – Christmas and Easter. All other collections are for the running of the Parish. These are all accounted for by the Parish Finance Committee and in turn sent to the Diocesan Accountant in Cork. We thank you for your great support and generosity

Communion Calls: Fr. Martin will visit his Communion calls for December, Christmas & January this coming week.

Third Week of Advent: Joy, the Pink Candle Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger at Christmas. Amen

Offertory Collection Amounts for 8th Dec Holy Day: Bantry: €860

Goleen: €160 Caheragh: €405 Schull: €312

Muintir Bhaire: €310

Offertory Collection Amounts for w/e 9th / 10th Dec: Bantry: €1925

Goleen: €415 Caheragh: €1060 Schull: €614

Muintir Bhaire: €690

Recent Parish Baptisms: We welcome him into our Christian Community
Diarmuid Seán Harrington – Brahalish, Durrus

Sat.16th Dec: 2nd week of Advent:

Bantry: 6.15pm: Maura & Joe Hegarty – Ardnagaoithe
Dina O'Sullivan – Seskin Park – Months Mind
Bridie McAlpine – Ballncollig & Durrus – 1st anniv.
Arthur O'Connor – Old Barrack Road, Bantry – 26th anniv.
Hannah O'Sullivan – Scart, Bantry
Br. Henry Hoskin – Bridge Street & Buckfast Abbey- 20th anniv.
Sean Hurley – Shanacran Cross, Dunmanway (recent)
Joe McGrath – Newtown East – Months Mind
Dromore: 8pm: Christine & Jeremiah O'Sullivan - Knockgorm
Lowertown: 8pm: Kitty & Timmy O'Regan - Castlepoint

Sun 17th Dec: Third Sunday of Advent:

Bantry: 9am: Jeremiah Cremin – Seskin
John P. McCarthy – Scartbawn
Kitty McCarthy – Scartbawn – 9th anniv.
Sr. Catherine Spillane – Mercy Convent, Bantry & Schull – 6th anniv
James Lowney
Ballydehob: 9.00am: Baby Sadbh Eloise O'Sullivan - 5th anniv.
Durrus: 10m: John Deacy – Dromataniheen, Durrus
Kealkil: 10.30am: Catherine O'Rourke – Incharoe
Rita & Jackie O'Sullivan – Hillview, Breenybeg
Paddy & Mary Creedon – Kielnapogue
Ted Murnane – Maughnaclea – 14th anniv.
Schull: 10.30am: Danny Sheehan - Corrydorigan
Caheragh: 11.15am: Eileen & Denis O'Sullivan
John O'Sullivan – Dreeny – 42nd anniv.
Kilcrohane: 11.30am: Eileen O'Mahony – Raferigeen
Canon John K. O'Mahony – Months Mind
Goleen: 12noon: Pat McCarthy – Gurthdove - Months Mind
Bantry: 12noon: People of the Family of Parishes

Mon. 18th Dec: 3rd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Donal O'Connor – Glengarriff Road – 6th anniv.
Schull: 10am: Hughie Maguire - Corrydorigan

Tues. 19th Dec: 3rd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Mary Coppinger – Blackrock Road
Goleen: 10am: Tom Sheehan

Wed. 20th Dec: 3rd week of Advent:

Durrus: 9am: No booking
Ballydehob: 10am: Joe Salter – Letter & Cooragurteen
Bantry: 10am: Gemma Barrett – Colomane East

Thurs. 21st Dec: 3rd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Timothy & Mary O'Sullivan – Reenrour East
Goleen: 10am: The O'Driscoll Family

Fri. 22nd Dec: 3rd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Margaret & Liam Minehane – Bridge Street
Schull: 10am: Ellie O'Leary – Glaun
Sat 23rd Dec: 3rd week of Advent:
Bantry 10am: John & Kitty Keohane, Margaret & Jerome O'Sullivan. Margaret & Con Keohane

Community Notices

The ladies of the Care for the Aged Charity Shop would like to wish our friends and supporters a happy Christmas and looking forward to their continued support in 2024.

Gaffney's Christmas Lights Kilcrohane for Jack and Jill Childrens charity from Dec 16th - Jan 6th. P75X599.

Muintir Bhaire Christmas Lunch takes place in Kilcrohane Hall on Sunday 20th December at 12.45pm.

Ecumenical Carol Service: St. Mary's Church, Caheragh on Weds. 20th December at 7.00 p.m. All welcome. Caheragh/Dromore Folk Choir participating.