



# BANTRY FAMILY OF PARISHES NEWSLETTER

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 VOL.19. NO 52

*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us.' Mt 1:23*

We, the Priests of Bantry Family of Parishes, would like to wish all our People, both at home and abroad, especially those who are ill and those who are not able to travel home for the Christmas Season, a very holy, happy and peaceful Christmas with family and friends. Fr. Myles, Fr. Martin, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Ben & Fr. John,

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

### The meaning & importance of the Nativity Scene

The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask Him to draw near to them. Jesus, 'gentle and humble in heart' (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognise what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalise.

Pope Francis, Admirabile Signum

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

**Mary Theresa Caverly – Whitecastle, Schull**  
**Mary Kelleher (née O'Mahony) –Kealkil (in her 101<sup>st</sup> year)**  
Rest in Peace

**The Pope's Monthly Intention:** December: For persons with disabilities; We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

**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***

### **Offertory Collection Amounts for 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Dec:**

Bantry: €2000 Goleen: €380 Caheragh: €604  
Schull: €688 Muintir Bhaire: €780

Collection for Schull Community Care taken up at the Carol Service in St Brigid's Ballydehob came to €206.40.

Second Collection in each church of the Family of Parishes for church maintenance on Weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Fourth Week of Advent: Purple Candle:** Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

### **Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-**

#### **Sat.23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent:**

Bantry: 6.15pm: Patricia Green – Slip Park – 1<sup>st</sup> an  
Hugh McCarthy – Barrack Street  
Mary O'Mahony (Reenrou East) & her granddaughter Baby Grace O'Sullivan  
Jimmy & Eileen Andrews – Slip Lawn  
Eamonn Wiseman – Rooska ( 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv) & his son Ray Wiseman  
Christy O'Donoghue – Coomhola  
Turlough O'Connor – Bantry & Augaville  
Dromore: 8pm: Carmel Cadogan – Colomane West  
Bill Wilcox – Dromore – 2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.  
Lowertown:8pm:Denis O'Neill – Drishane, Dunbeacon– Month Mind

#### **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Eve:**

Bantry: 9am: Finbarr Ryan – Bantry – Months Mind  
Rita O'Donoghue – Caherdaniel  
Ballydehob: 9.00am:  
Connie, Eileen & Bernadette McCarthy – East End & Rossbrin  
Durrus: 10m: Mary & Jack Ward - Glenlough  
Coomhola: 10.30am: No booking  
Schull: 10.30am: No booking  
Caheragh: 11.15am: Charlie & Mary Hegarty and Brian O'Regan – Caheragh.Matt & Margaret O'Sullivan - Bantry  
Kilcrohane: 11.30am: Danny McCarthy - Kilcrohane  
Goleen: 12noon: Robbie Lawlor – Boulysallagh – Months Mind  
Bantry: 12noon: People of the Family of Parishes

#### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

#### **Christmas Day: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**Tues. 26<sup>th</sup> Dec: St. Stephen – First Martyr:**  
Bantry:10am: Christy & Chrissie O'Leary - Cappanavar  
Goleen: 10am: Kitty & Patrick Hodnett – Toormore & Durrus

#### **Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Dec : St. John, Apostle & Evangelist:**

Durrus: 9am: No booking  
Ballydehob:10am: Dermie Coughlan – Main Street – 50<sup>th</sup> anniv.  
Bantry: 10am: Hannie Harrington – Georges Row

#### **Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> Dec The Holy Innocents, Martyrs:**

Bantry: 10am: Eithne O'Mahony – High Street  
Goleen: 10am: No booking

#### **Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> Dec: 5<sup>th</sup> day in the Octave of Christmas:**

Bantry: 10am: Jim Cadogan – Reenrou East  
Schull: 10am: Josephine O'Regan - Dreenatra

#### **Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec: 6<sup>th</sup> day in th Octave of Christmas:**

Bantry 10am: Paul Joseph O'Mahony - Ardnathrush

**SVP APPEAL:** The local conference of St Vincent De Paul, St Finbarr's Conference will hold its Annual Appeal for the month of December. Donations can be made at the local SVP office: 5 Main Street, Bantry or an SVP envelope available at all Church Doors and drop it into any Church Sacristy. All funds raised are spent locally. Thank you for your continuing support and generosity



## *Recent Parish Weddings*



We congratulate the following couples who were married recently in our Family of Parishes.  
We wish all our couples every happiness in the years ahead.

Aoife O'Driscoll (Slip Lawn, Bantry) & Jerry Foley (Bishopstown, Cork) who were married in St. Finbarr's Church, Bantry on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

Roseanne Neville & Pat Twohig (Newcestown, Co. Cork) who were married in St. Joseph's Church, Coomhola on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Patricia O'Brien (Seskin, Bantry) & Daniel O'Sullivan (Killarney, Co. Kerry) who were married in St. Finbarr's Church, Bantry on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023



### **Prayer for those Grieving at Christmas**

Lord, not everyone feels joy at this season. Some may have lost loved ones during the year, and in many places, the winter cold blows its bitter winds into lonely hearts. This Christmas we pray for those who are grieving losses. Memories of happy times with loved ones in the past can send a rush of tears with your sweet words of comfort and cheer. Turn their sorrow into joy as only You can do. May the joy of your birth and the good news of Your coming to earth as the Saviour of the world cushion their grief this Christmas and bring peace to those who need it more. Through Christ our Lord. Amen