

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Killybegs

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Parish Secretary: Ann O'Donnell (Office Open: Mon to Fri. 9.45am to 2.45pm)

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Masses and Services: Live streaming www.mcnmedia.tv (link on website)



Christmas Gratitude as a New Year begins The Season of Christmas generates so much goodwill and generosity as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the joy of God's tender love. As we reflect on the violence in the world and its inhumanity, we pray that the spirit of Christmas generosity will extend world-wide and throughout the year, so that humanitarian catastrophes will be no more. We pray that the Prince of Peace will bring peace and good-will to our troubled world through the grace of God and through human endeavour. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped with our Advent and Christmas preparations and celebrations. Our Christmas Carol Service was early this year on 7th December. The three national schools and St Catherine's Vocational School joined the Parish Choir in a celebration of reflections and joyful and thoughtful carols. And the collection €1,415.20 has been sent to The Capuchin Centre for the Homeless in Dublin. Our sincere thanks to all concerned. We welcomed Rev Susan Elliott and her husband Don to South-West Donegal and the following week we joined with them and their congregation at St John's Church for their Carol Service. The Advent Service of Reconciliation set the scene for our Christmas celebrations. Thanks to Fr Charlie Deeney who helped out.

We had three Masses on Christmas Eve, along with two on Christmas morning. The First Communion children excelled in the Christmas play at the 6pm Mass and the Junior Choir, numbering over 85, sang to their heart's content under the direction of Ann O'Donnell. The individual singers were excellent: Roisín O'Donnell, Kelly McGinley, Lauren McHugh, Aimee & Lauren Hegarty, Chloe McGinty & Orlaith McGing with Janet Boyle on the keyboard providing invaluable accompaniment. Miriam Curran on guitar, Kia Boyle on flute and Nicole on drum. We are grateful to everyone for such a joyful celebration, especially the parents who helped out. The Confirmation candidates looked after the readings, prayers and gifts at the 8pm celebration and were joined by the St Catherine's Vocational School Choir, under the direction of their music teacher Karen McCrudden. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in this uplifting celebration as well as the 10pm celebration with the Parish Choir excelling.

Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in all the Christmas Masses: Ministers of Word & Eucharist, Collectors, Ushers & Gift-Bearers. The Senior Choir sang at both the 10pm & 11am Masses. The Choir continues to embrace new members & undertake new challenges. We are very grateful to them. Special thanks to Ann O'Donnell, Parish Secretary, who carries out all her duties with cheerfulness and efficiency, multi-tasking in the office and in the liturgy, including overseeing the Junior and Senior Choirs. Special thanks also to Patricia O'Boyle, the Parish Sacristan, who carries out her duties throughout the year with thought and care. Patrick, Betty & John Boyle take responsibility for our Christmas Crib with stunning results. Sincere thanks to them and to the Christmas Trees team of Johnny Paul, James, Hubert and Thomas who were so prompt into action. We're grateful to Maureen Cunningham who looks after the candles on a daily basis and to the Money Counters for this much appreciated weekly undertaking. Our thanks to the Finance Committee and all parish committees and organisations for their dedication and service. Those who open & close the Church on a weekly basis throughout the year offer an invaluable service. Siobhan McBrearty & Daiva Mingelaite of Killybegs Employment Project keep the interior of the church in pristine condition and Lawrence McGill does likewise with the church and parochial house grounds, while John Hegarty is meticulous in his care of the graveyard, all under the supervision of Colin & Ann Marie. We are grateful to all concerned.

Our three national schools continue to thrive under the excellent leadership of the three Principals: Eugene Mulligan (Niall Mór N.S.), Joe Cannon (Commons N.S.) and Emma McGinty with Aisling Meehan (Fintra N.S.). We are very grateful to them and to all the staff, pupils, parents and members of the Board of Managements for their diligence and cooperation. We wish the new Boards well, being very appreciative of the previous Boards whose four year term has just ended.

Our gratitude to all involved in the express delivery of Church & Restoration Envelopes, Parish Calendars & Christmas Newsletters. We are grateful to everyone who supported the parish financially throughout the year. Your ongoing generosity to the Restoration & Maintenance Fund is also much appreciated. Special thanks to Canon John Gallagher who is always at hand and always very obliging. On a personal note, my sincere thanks for your gifts, generous Christmas offerings and good wishes. Go raibh céad míle maith agaibh.

Wishing you good health, happiness & peace in 2024,

Beannachtaí na hAithbhliana oraibh uilig, Fr Colm

- ◆ **Sunday 31st December 2023: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year B**
 - ◆ **Weekday Readings: Octave of Christmas**
- Masses will be relayed on the webcam: go to killybegsparish.com for a link to Online Services**

Friday	29th December: 11.00am	- Con Doogan (Anniversary)
Saturday	30th December: 07.00pm	- Frances O'Donnell (4th Anniversary) Seamus Meehan (4th Anniversary) Patrick O'Donnell (Anniversary) Michael Boyle (10th Anniversary) Con Gillespie (21st Anniversary)
Sunday	31st December: 09.00am	- Mary (5th) & Mickey Lafferty (Anniversaries)
	11.00am	- Funeral Mass of Sean Murphy R.I.P. Dinny Byrne (1st Anniversary)
Monday	1st January: 11.00am	- Freda Gillespie (14th Anniv) & deceased family members
Tuesday	2nd January: 10.00am	- Eddie, Catherine & Thomas Sweeney (Anniversaries)
Thursday	4th January: 10.00am	- Rose & Brendan Fitzgerald & Mary Worley (Anniversaries)
Friday	5th January: 07.00pm	- Deceased members Ward Family
Saturday	6th January: 12.00 noon	- Kathleen O'Donnell (Month's Mind Mass)
	07.00pm	- Eileen Kennedy (1st Anniversary) Rita Durkan R.I.P. (Birthday) Angela McBrearty (Anniversary) Brendan (3rd) & Rónán (3rd) O'Keeney & Fionnuala Gorman (Anniversaries) Hugh (65th) & Brigid (70th) Cunningham (Anniversaries) Rose & James O'Donnell, Fintra (Anniversaries) Michael Hugh & Patrick Byrne (Anniversaries)
Sunday	7th January: 09.00am	- Nora & Edward Leslie (Anniversaries)
	11.00am	- Philomena Byrne (2nd Anniversary)

*No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this weekend. Mass on **Monday at 11am.***

Pray for: *Sean Murphy, Castlecommon, whose Funeral Mass takes place today Sunday at 11am; Walter Konkolewski, whose Funeral Mass is in Bruckless today, Sunday, at 1pm; Jackie & Ann McGettigan, Benroe, whose funerals were in Bruckless on Wednesday, followed by burial in Killybegs; Margaret Tully, who died in England (sister of Seamus Tully); Patsy Garvey, Cliffooney, Sligo, who died recently; Irene Hegarty, whose funeral was in Glencolmille on Friday.*

Pray for: *Moirá Mallon (5th Anniversary), Sarah O'Donnell. [Suaimhneas Sioráí.](#)*

The Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday 6th January
Masses: Vigil Friday 7pm and Saturday 12 noon.

 **Parish Choir Practice** Thursday 7pm

Sunday Missal 2024 now available
Complimentary copy to all Ministers of the Word & the Eucharist & the Parish Choir.

Killybegs Parish Calendar 2024
complimentary copies available in Parish Office.

Anam Cara Donegal, Parent Evening on
Thursday 11th January at 7:15pm in the
Raddison Blu Hotel, Letterkenny. Tel: 01 4045378

St Joseph's Young Priests Society
Collection amounted to €620.
Sincere thanks to all who contributed.

Sunday Collection 24th December € 1,755.00
Maintenance Fund 24th December € 1,175.00
Graveyard Seats € 100.00
Thank you for your continued generosity.

A Prayer for the New Year
Dear Lord, please give me...
A few friends who understand me
and remain my friends;
A work to do which has real value,
without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel,
even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart;
A sense of humour;
Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to recognise them
when they come.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2024**