

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Killybegs

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Parish Secretary: Ann O'Donnell (Office Open: Mon to Fri. 9.15am to 2.45pm)

Email: info@killybegsparish.com Website: killybegsparish.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Ó Gallchóir: Tel: 074 9731013/30

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



There is always a choice.
 Perhaps in these
 strange moments
 it is a simple one;
 to dwell on
 what has been taken away
 or to dwell
 in what we have been given;
 to build our nests anew
 weaving safe and soft
 a chance to breathe,
 with all the terrible
 possibility that brings;

to reflect,
 to wonder,
 to sit anew
 in the secret depths of those actions
 of holy ordinariness;
 eating,
 drinking,
 walking,
 sleeping,
 cleaning,
 being with,
 being alone,
 simply being.

Taking the time to watch the earth
 reset and heal,

to allow our inner sky to clear of
 all our worry weather,
 often as grey and insubstantial
 as clouds,
 until the one thing necessary
 shines through at last,
 and we see the present moment,
 sky blue,
 and fragile as a blackbird's egg,
 nesting secure in the heart,
 deep within the brambled hedge
 of our thorn tangled thoughts,
 awaiting the stillness
 of a spring morning

when we grant ourselves new greening,
 awaiting the sunbeam
 of divine attention
 to warm it to life,
 awaiting our sitting breath,
 faith feathered and yielding,
 to hatch within us a new way.



Nesting Season by Brother Richard
 I am a Capuchin Franciscan priest-friar, living and working in Ireland (mostly). Currently I am the Guardian of Ards Friary in Donegal which includes a large residential retreat centre (More at www.ardsfriary.ie). I also teach Christian meditation and mindfulness & work with the Sanctuary Spirituality Centre in inner city Dublin. www.sanctuary.ie

You are welcome to place your envelopes through the Parish Office letterbox or into either donation box in the church porch.

Sunday Collection	€1,480.00
Education of Students	€ 20.00
Trócaire	€ 1,910.00
Restoration Fund	
Envelopes 11th & 12th April	€ 818.00
Total Restoration Fund:	€ 3,176,410.43

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Accord Covid-19 Couples & Relationships Support Line
 If you need to speak to an experienced couples & relationships counsellor during this time of unprecedented stress and pressure on family life.. Contact: 01 531 3331 9am - 8pm, Monday-Friday All calls charged at local rate.

- **Sunday 19th April 2020:** *Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)* *Year A*
- **Weekday Readings:** *2nd Week of Easter*

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions all celebrations below take place behind closed doors and will be relayed on the webcam: go to killybegsparish.com for a link to the live streaming

Saturday	18th April:	07.00pm - Eugene McGuinness (1st Anniversary) Nora & Arthur Kee (Anniversaries) Barney & Doris Conwell (Anniversaries) Liz Prior (10th anniversary) Bill McClean (13th Anniversary)
Sunday	19th April:	11.00am - Cahir Gallagher (2nd Anniversary)
Monday	20th April:	10.00am - Special Intention
Tuesday	21st April:	10.00am - Dominic Whelan R.I.P.
Wednesday	22nd April:	10.00am - Mary Robinson (2nd Anniversary)
Thursday	23rd April:	10.00am - John Kelly R.I.P.
Friday	24th April:	10.00am - Mary O'Carroll R.I.P.
Saturday	25th April:	07.00pm - Johnny Mc Gowan (Anniversary) David (2nd) & Jackie (3rd) Mehan (Anniversaries) Oliver Cunningham (9th Anniversary)
Sunday	26th April:	11.00am - Special Intentions

Pray for: *Kieran Harvey*, Harbour View Drive, whose funeral took place on Monday.

Pray for: *Hugh & Bridget Gallagher, Constantine Murrin, Nora Grimes. Suaimhneas Storáit.*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I hope and pray that you are all coping well during these pandemic days and that you are staying safe and trying your best to keep others safe.

Holy Week and Easter 2020 were so different. It was a strange experience being almost alone in the church during all the celebrations. I am very grateful to Patricia O'Boyle, sacristan, & Ann O'Donnell, parish secretary, for all their help and support. Thanks also to Roisin O'Donnell, accompanied by her sister Sara, for the wonderful singing and music and to Daffy O'Donnell for his help. Their help is so very much appreciated.

For the first 300 years or so of the Church's existence worship took place in people's homes. St Paul in the letter to the Romans (16:5) sends greetings to the 'church at their house'. This is very much the situation at present: your home is the Church.

Even though St Mary of the Visitation Church is open for private prayer (8am to 8pm, except during Mass times, observing all safety protocol), it is closed for public worship because of Diocesan & Government norms. This means the focus of worship is the home and if you are able to tune into the webcam, all the better.

At times of illness and death the coronavirus has amplified grief. It is so difficult for family members not to be able to be at the bedside of their loved ones in illness or not to be able to wake them at home or be present in person at the Funeral Mass. Being present through the webcam helps. I find myself saying prayers and rosaries and giving blessings over the phone or by video-link. And a powerful symbol of the Church in action is people lining the streets, observing social distancing, while the cortège passes and the funeral bell tolls. The community is the Church.

This Easter season the Church is alive in the homes and hearts of people unable to publicly celebrate their faith. It is so important to hold on to faith when certainties crumble around us as the coronavirus pandemic causes so much havoc and uncertainty. Our faith is stronger than the coronavirus.

May the love of the Risen Christ continue to bring us hope and peace during these lockdown days,

Fr Colm

Ann O'Donnell, Parish Secretary, can be contacted outside office hours: 087 6735139

St Mary's Church Bells will ring Sunday 11am & Thursday 8pm in support of all healthcare workers.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People ALONE: Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, 0818 222 024.