

## Christmas Gratitude

Christmas-time in church was a special time of grace as we celebrated the birth of Jesus & the joy of his tender love. Christmas is a season of good-will and everyone is welcome in the church at this time of year and, indeed, always. Like the shepherds at the stable the first Christmas, all are welcome, with the tender love and gracious compassion of God.

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped with our Advent and Christmas preparations and celebrations.

The Advent Service of Reconciliation resumed this year and was well attended: thanks to the priests who helped out. It always sets the scene for our Christmas celebrations.

Christmas Mass was celebrated at Killybegs Community Hospital the Wednesday before Christmas, praying God's blessing on all the residents and staff, the first Mass at the hospital since covid lockdown 2020.

With the flu and covid still about, 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 80, sang to their heart's content under the direction of Ann O'Donnell. The individual singers were excellent: Roisin O'Donnell, Kelly McGinley, Lauren McHugh, Aimee & Lauren Hegarty, Chloe McGinty & Orlaith McGing, joined by musicians Janet & Kia Boyle. Sara O'Donnell was on the keyboard providing invaluable accompaniment. We are grateful to everyone for such a joyful celebration, including 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.

The 10pm celebration was marked by the poignant absence of Maeve Murray who died in August. It was the wish of the Parish Choir that her rendering of O Holy Night would be heard and it was much appreciated by the congregation and I'm sure by all who were tuned in online.

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 solid foundations laid by Maeve Murray continue to bear fruit as the Choir embraces new members & undertakes new challenges. We are very grateful to them and to Nadia from Kiev who plays the organ & sings at 9am Sunday Masses.



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 Choir. Special thanks also to Patricia O'Boyle, the Parish Sacristan, who carries out her duties throughout the year with thought and care. Patrick & Betty 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 Seamus 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 who resumed this much appreciated task post-covid. 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 keeps the interior of the church in pristine condition. Lawrence McGill of Killybegs Employment Project does likewise with the church and parochial house grounds, while other members maintain the graveyard, 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 Mc Ginty (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.

Our gratitude to all involved in the express delivery of Church & Restoration Envelopes, Parish Calendar & Christmas Newsletter. We are grateful to everyone who supported the parish financially throughout the year. Your ongoing generosity to the Restoration Fund is much appreciated and we will mark the full repayment of the loan, a remarkable achievement, in the New Year.

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 2023,*

*Beannachtaí na hAithbhliana oraibh uilig. Fr Colm*



## St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Killybegs

Parish Office, Killybegs, Co. Donegal, F94 CY56 Tel: +353 (0)74 9731013

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

Masses and Services: Live streaming [www.mcmedia.tv](http://www.mcmedia.tv) (link on website)



- ◆ **Sunday 1st January 2023:** *Mary, The Holy Mother of God* Year A
  - ◆ **Weekday Readings:** *Before Epiphany*
- Masses will be relayed on the webcam: go to [killybegsparish.com](http://killybegsparish.com) for a link to Online Services

|                 |                       |   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Friday</b>   | <b>30th December:</b> | <b>07.00pm</b> - Frances O'Donnell (3rd Anniversary)  |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>31st December:</b> | <b>07.00pm</b> - Brendan O'Keeney (2nd Anniversary)<br>Fionnuala Gorman (15th Anniversary)<br>Harry Brady (11th Anniversary)<br>Con Gillespie (20th Anniversary)<br>Condy & Sheila Gillespie (Anniversaries)<br>Patrick O'Donnell (Anniversary)<br>Freda Gillespie (Anniv) & deceased family members<br>Special Intention |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>1st January:</b>   | <b>09.00am</b> - Moira (4th) & Vincent Mallon (Anniversaries)<br><b>11.00am</b> - Jody Gysling (1st Anniversary)  |
| <b>Monday</b>   | <b>2nd January:</b>   | <b>10.00am</b> - Paddy Ward (6th Anniv)<br>& deceased members of Ward family  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>3rd January :</b>  | <b>10.00am</b> - Charlie (4th) & Nan Harkin (Anniversaries)   |
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>5th January:</b>   | <b>10.00am</b> - John Murrin R.I.P.   |
| <b>Friday</b>   | <b>6th January:</b>   | <b>07.00pm</b> - Rita Durkan R.I.P.   |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>7th January:</b>   | <b>07.00pm</b> - Philomena Byrne (1st Anniversary)<br>Michael Boyle (9th Anniversary)<br>Josie O'Donnell (10th Anniversary)<br>Bridget & Michael Cooper (Anniversaries)   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>8th January:</b>   | <b>09.00am</b> - Hughie & Justine McGuinness (Anniversaries)<br><b>11.00am</b> - Angela McBrearty (3rd Anniversary)   |

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mondays 11am - 7pm.

*Pray for: **Conor Breslin**, Emerald Park Drive & Bunrana, who died on Tuesday and whose funeral is in St Mary's, Bunrana, Saturday 10am. **Pray for:** Bridget Byrne, Rose O'Donnell, Anne & Patrick Gallagher, Baby John Kelly. **Suaimehneas Sioraí.***

### Killybegs Parish Calendar 2023

More complimentary available from the Office.

### Thank You

Fr Colm expresses his sincere gratitude to all who sympathised with him and his family following the death of his brother Cathal at the end of October. Sincere thanks to all who sent Mass cards, sympathy cards, messages of sympathy and those who attended the wake or funeral. Mass will be offered for your intentions. Buíochas ó chroí daoibh uilig.

**Sunday Missal 2023** now available

**Anam Cara Donegal**, Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thurs 12th January 7.15pm, Raddison Blu, Letterkenny. Tel: 014045378

Happy  
New  
Year

the way  
to do  
is  
to be

**Sunday Collection** 25th December €2,215.00  
**Restoration Fund** 25th December €1,014.00  
**Total Restoration Fund** €3,402,498.38

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

**Coláiste Na Carraige** students present their school Musical "Super Trouper" the story of Abba. Wed 18th, Thurs 19th & Fri 20th January at 8pm. €12/€8.