

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.mcn.live (link on website)



Christmas Gratitude as a New Year begins As Kate Oria sang 'Walking in the Air' at the 6 o'clock Mass on Christmas Eve, it summed up the feeling of joy & exuberance based on achievement & anticipation, among the children and indeed the whole congregation. Celebrating the birth of Jesus in drama and song wrapped us in the joy of God's tender love as we prayed that the Prince of Peace may bring harmony & unity where conflict and division abound. And prayed also that he would send Santa safely on his way! Sincere thanks to everyone who helped with our Advent and Christmas preparations and celebrations. At our Christmas Carol Service on 4th 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 €1,245 has been sent to UNICEF who work with vulnerable children in the Middle East and throughout the world. Our sincere thanks to all concerned. Rev Susan Elliott joined us and the following week we joined with the congregation at St John's Church for their Carol Service.

The Advent Service of Reconciliation prepared us for our Christmas celebrations. Thanks to Fr Charlie Byrne and Fr Danny McBrearty for helping 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 100, sang to their heart's content under the direction of Ann O'Donnell. The individual singers were excellent:

Roisín O'Donnell, Lauren McHugh, Aimee & Lauren Hegarty, Chloe McGinty, Orlaith McGing and Kate Oria Johnston with Janet Boyle, Miriam Curran & Iuliia Vakhlamova providing invaluable accompaniment. 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 Mass and were joined by the St Catherine's Vocational School Choir, under the direction of teachers Karen McCrudden & Megan Quinn. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in this uplifting celebration.

The 10pm Mass featured the Parish Choir, who were also there at the 11am on Christmas Day. We are grateful to all choir members, under Ann O'Donnell's direction, including soloists Iuliia, Gráinne (O Holy Night) & Frank and musicians Iuliia, Frank, Maeve & Miriam.

Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in all the Christmas Masses: Ministers of Word & Eucharist, Collectors, Ushers & Gift-Bearers. Special thanks to Ann O'Donnell, Parish Secretary, who carries out all her duties with cheerfulness and efficiency throughout the year, multi-tasking in the office and in the liturgy. Special thanks also to Patricia O'Boyle, the Parish Sacristan, who carries out her duties with thought and care. Patrick, Betty & John Boyle assembled our Christmas Crib with stunning results. Sincere thanks to them and to the Christmas Trees team of Johnny Paul, James, Hubert, Thomas and Pat. We're grateful to Maureen Cunningham who looks after the candles on a daily basis and to the Money Counters for their 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. Daiva Mingelaite of Killybegs Employment Project keeps 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 Aisling Meehan, Acting Principal (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 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 on 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 2025/Beannachtaí na hAithbhliana oraibh uilig. Fr Colm

★ Father in heaven, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your kingdom in this New Year ★

◆	Sunday 29th December 2024: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Year C	
◆	Weekday Readings:	Octave of Christmas
	Masses will be relayed on the webcam: go to killybegsparish.com for a link to Online Services or mcn.live	
Friday	27th December:	07.00pm - Seamus Meehan (5th Anniversary)
Saturday	28th December:	11.00am - Funeral Mass for Alicia Curran R.I.P. 07.00pm - Ann & Jackie McGettigan (1st Anniversaries) Sean Murphy (1st Anniversary) Frances O'Donnell (5th Anniversary) Moirá Mallon (5th Anniversary) Phonsie & Rose Diver (Anniversaries)
Sunday	29th December:	09.00am - Mary & Mickey Lafferty (Anniversaries) 11.00am - Harry Brady (Anniversary)
Monday	30th December:	10.00am - Con Doogan (Anniversary)
Tuesday	31st December:	10.00am - Dinny Byrne (2nd Anniversary)
Wednesday	1st January 2025	10.00am - Willie (1st) & Bridie (14th) Fobister (Anniversaries)
Thursday	2nd January:	10.00am - Deceased members of Ward family
Friday	3rd January:	10.00am - Patrick O'Donnell (Anniversary)
Saturday	4th January:	07.00pm - Philomena Byrne (3rd Anniversary) Michael Boyle (11th Anniversary) Michael Hugh Byrne & Patrick Byrne (Anniversaries) Hughie & Justine McGuinness (Anniversaries)
Sunday	5th January:	09.00am - Ronan (4th) & Brendan Senior (4th) O'Keeney & Fionnuala Gorman (17th Anniversaries) 11.00am - Freda Gillespie (Anniversary)

No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Monday 30th December.

Pray for: Alicia Curran, The Old Rectory, Killybegs, whose funeral took place here on Saturday.

*Pray for: Patrick Ryan. **Suaimhneas Stóraí.***

Final Hymn: Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king.

Let every heart prepare his room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods,

Rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace

And make the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, and wonders, of his love

Next Parish Choir Practice Mon 6th Jan 7.30pm

Thank You Paddy Bourke, Benroe, would like to thank most sincerely everyone who sent him good wishes, Mass bouquets, gifts and prayers for healing during the past year. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all your intentions.

Sunday Collection 22nd December €1,515.00

Maintenance Fund 22nd December €1,365.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Happy
New
Year**

Missals 2025
are now available.
Complimentary copy
for Ministers of the
Word and Eucharist.

Killybegs Parish Calendar 2025

Complimentary copies available in Parish Office.



Congratulations & Best Wishes

to Eunan Kee & Ciara Meehan
who were married recently.

First Holy Communion

Parents' Liturgy Group meets in the Parish Office
Thursday 2nd January 7.30pm

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Sunday 12th January 11am.

Meeting in Parish Office for helpers
Thursday 2nd January 6pm.



CLG Na Cealla Beaga New Year's Eve Ball
on Tuesday, 31st December, Bay View Hotel.