

## 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)

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

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



### Christmas Gratitude

None of us will hardly ever forget the year that has just passed. We have entered a New Year conscious that we are embarking upon a prolonged period of self-isolation as we continue to live with and try to come to terms with the virus that has haunted our lives since last March.

We are grateful that the chapel was open for the Christmas Masses, being able to accommodate 100 at each Mass (two independent zones), which also enhanced the celebration for those participating on-line. There were nine Christmas Masses in all, with admittance by ticket only. We are very grateful to everyone for their patience and cooperation. The team of stewards and sanitisers, spearheaded by Ann in the Parish Office, did a superb job, along with Patricia in the Sacristy. Ann also looked after the Readings and Patricia led the responses for the live-streaming.

We drew on a number of resources for the music and singing. Roisín and Sara O'Donnell have been the backbone of this ministry since lockdown began back in March and others helped out for the Christmas season: St. Mary's Parish Choir with their 'Bosnia' recordings of 1995; Kelly Mc Ginley recording the younger generation of Lauren Mc Hugh, Chloe Mc Ginty and Jenna Curran, along with Roisín and herself, accompanied by Sara; Maeve and Carol Anne Mc Gowan with some enchanting lullabies as Gaeilge. We are very grateful to all concerned.

It was good to be able to welcome a lot of people in the chapel during the Christmas Masses, while many others relied on the live-streaming. The 'presence' of the virtual congregation is so much part of all our celebrations now here in St Mary's Church. MCN Media estimate that, on average, 825 devices are tuned in weekly to us (making the weekly virtual congregation around 2500), the vast majority are local and from different part of the island of Ireland (about 700 devices), others include the UK, the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Vietnam and others. They will have more detailed information for us in the near future.

Stalwarts Ann O'Donnell (Parish Office) and Patricia O'Boyle (Sacristan) have made an immense contribution since lockdown began and excelled over the Christmas period. We are so blessed to have them both. The Christmas Crib team of Patrick, Betty and John Boyle assembled 'the nativity' with such care, devotion and precision that visiting the Crib is so awe-inspiring. The Christmas Trees team of Johnny Paul, James, Hubert and Seamus never disappoint and were so prompt into action.

The last nine months have presented our three national schools with a daunting task and they have undertaken this challenge so admirably 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. The whole operation was coordinated by Ann O'Donnell, Parish Secretary, whose cheerfulness and efficiency in the Parish Office are much appreciated. We are grateful to everyone who supported the parish financially throughout a difficult year. Your ongoing generosity to the Restoration Fund is much appreciated. Our sincere thanks to Maureen Cunningham who looks after the candles and to all who open and close the church on a weekly basis. Parish ministries, committees and organisations were largely inactive since March but we look forward to their gradual participation and activities again. Our thanks to Colin & Ann Marie and participants of Killybegs Employment Project who look after the graveyard & Donna, Stella and Richard have kept the interior and grounds of the church in great shape. Special thanks to Canon John Gallagher who is always very obliging. On a personal note, my sincere thanks for your gifts, generous Christmas offerings and good wishes. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Wishing you good health, happiness & peace in 2021,

Beannachtaí na hAithbhliana oraibh uilig.

Fr Colm



- **Sunday 3rd January 2021: Second Sunday of Christmas Year B**
- **Weekday Readings: Before Epiphany / After Epiphany**

Masses will be relayed on the webcam: go to [killybegsparish.com](http://killybegsparish.com) for a link to the live streaming

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2nd January:</b>	<b>11.00am</b> - Charlie Boyle (1st Anniversary) <b>07.00pm</b> - Frances O'Donnell (1st Anniversary) Fionnuala Gorman (13th Anniversary) Michael Boyle (Anniversary) Freda Gillespie (Anniversary)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd January:</b>	<b>09.00am</b> - Charlie Harkin (2nd Anniversary) <b>11.00am</b> - Mary (2nd) & Mickey Lafferty (Anniversaries)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4th January:</b>	<b>10.00am</b> - Denis Kinsella R.I.P.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5th December:</b>	<b>7.00pm</b> - Patrick O'Donnell (Anniversary)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6th January Epiphany</b>	<b>10.00am</b> - Rita Durkan R.I.P.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7th January:</b>	<b>10.00am</b> - Harry Brady (9th Anniversary)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8th January:</b>	<b>10.00am</b> - Angela Mc Brearty (1st Anniversary)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9th January:</b>	<b>07.00pm</b> - Justine & Hughie Mc Guinness (Anniversaries)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th January:</b>	<b>11.00am</b> - Nora & Edward Leslie (Anniversaries)

**Please note:** The Feast of the Epiphany: Wednesday 6th January: Mass at 7pm (Vigil) and 10.00am.

**Pray for: Ronan O'Keeney, Clar, Donegal Town, who died this Saturday morning (son of Brendan & Ellen O'Keeney); Willie John Cunningham, Bundoran & Glencolmille, whose funeral took place this Saturday morning (brother of Mairead Gallagher, St Cummins Hill); Nora Heraty, Lisearney, Westport, whose funeral took place New Year's Eve (mother of Michael & Seamus Heraty); Seamus Mc Sorley, Omagh, whose funeral took place St Stephen's Day (brother of Jacqueline Byrne, Lisnacloya); Jack Byrne who died in New York (brother of Hilda Boyle, Ardara Rd); Michael Kane, Mountcharles, whose funeral took place last Wednesday;**  
**Pray for: Hugh Josie Boyle, Patrick Ryan, Philomena Mc Devitt, Marcus Lydon, Kathleen Boyle, The Crew of 'The Evelyn Marie': Paddy Bonner, Hughie Gallagher, Tom Ham, Johnny Óg O'Donnell, Roland Faughnan, Joe O'Donnell. Suaimhneas Sioraí.**

### LEVEL 5 COVID REGULATIONS

Stay at home, restrict your movements.  
Wash your hands, stay 2 metres apart.  
Wear a face covering, reduce contacts.

- Mass celebrated here behind closed doors, all Masses live streamed.
- Funerals restricted to 10, Weddings to 6.
- No Baptisms for now
- The church is open for private prayer 8am - 7pm. Take care.

### A Blessing for 2021

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord let his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord uncover his face to you  
and bring you peace.

**Sunday Missal 2021 Special Price: €5**  
Complimentary copy for Ministers of Word and  
Eucharist and all involved in ministry.  
Available from Parish Office.

**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People**  
ALONE manage a national support line and  
additional supports for older people.  
The support line is open seven days a week,  
8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

### St. Vincent De Paul

We encourage anyone who is under financial  
stress to contact us, all requests treated in  
confidence. Ring any of the following:  
087 3507727, 9731186, 9731426, 9731391.  
Those wishing to support our work may donate  
by using the above details.



A new CD with hymns &  
songs sung by Roisín &  
Sara O'Donnell.  
On sale from the Parish  
Office and Curran's €10.  
All proceeds to:  
Killybegs Community  
Hospital  
Patients' Comfort Fund

**Healthcare Assistant** (part time, fully certified and  
experienced) available for employment  
from January 2021. Tel: 0872968926