

# ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION CHURCH KILLYBEGS



## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2015



*Lord Jesus, come into our world with your gift of joy and peace.*

*As we journey by the light of the star of Bethlehem,  
may God wrap us in integrity, clothe us in hope and fill us with joy.*

***Beannachtaí na Nollag  
agus na Bliana Úire oraibh uilig***

## Dear Parishioners and Friends,

*As Christmas approaches, we reflect on how things have changed in our lives and in our world in the past twelve months. We bring memories good and bad to the table on Christmas Day. At some tables there will be an empty space, with someone having died or someone away from home. At other tables there will be an extra place, welcoming a new member to the family. At other tables there will be a sombre mood, tragedy having struck. The cruel killing of 130 people while enjoying a night out in Paris, from 18 different countries, from all walks of life, by Islamic State terrorists, struck a deep chord of apprehension throughout the world. All the while, Pope Francis is emerging as a remarkable and charismatic world leader in his pursuit of global peace, the healing of divisions and inequalities within the global human family, calling for practical support for refugees, alerting us to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth. He reminds us that education in environmental responsibility ‘can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices’.* (Laudato Si, no. 211). *The current U.N. Summit on Climate Change in Paris will, please God, bring about significant changes for the better.*

*As you read this, Pope Francis will have launched the Holy Year of Mercy on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015, proclaiming that every person, whether they think of themselves as religious or not, longs for the embrace of God’s mercy, the love that accepts us as we are and, at the same time, calls us to become what we are made to be. The Year of Mercy is an invitation to discover the wonder of the love and mercy of God that calls out to the deepest recesses of our hearts and of our world.*

*We pray that all families may experience blessings this Christmas-time, through the grace of God and through their own good will. We are indebted to all who are actively engaged in different ministries on a regular basis, the young and not-so-young alike. And the on-going financial support for the general running of the parish and for the Restoration Fund is greatly appreciated. A special welcome to those who are home for Christmas. We keep all who are away from home in our thoughts and prayers, as we do those who have heaven as their home.*

*A complimentary Killybegs Parish Calendar 2016 is enclosed with this Newsletter. Further complimentary copies are available from the Parish Office.*

*Wishing you every blessing this Christmas and throughout 2016.*

*Fr Colm, 3rd December 2015*

# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS 2015

## Christmas Carol Service

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.**

Young people from the local schools join the Parish Choir.  
The collection will go to the Donegal/Galway Cancer Bus.

## Service of Reconciliation

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**

Please maintain a spirit of prayer and peace throughout the service.

## Saturday & Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December

Masses at 7.00pm (Vigil), 9.00am & 11.00am

## Christmas Masses

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve**

**7.00pm:** Children's Christmas Mass

**11.00pm:** Christmas 'Midnight' Mass

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day**

Masses at **9.00am** and **11.00am**

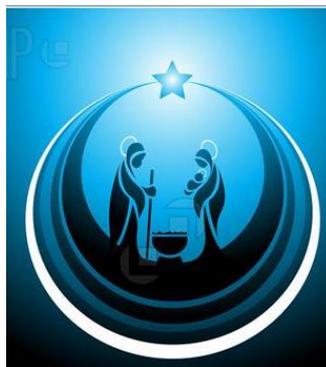
**Practices for Children's Mass (Christmas Eve 7pm):**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 5pm and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 11am.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Adoration Room every  
Sunday 6pm to Monday Midnight (except 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> December).

## Rosary & Divine Mercy

every Tuesday in the Adoration Room 6.30pm. Adoration of the  
Blessed Sacrament on the last Tuesday of the Month.





**The Holy Family Painting**, after Murillo (1617-1682); originating from late 17<sup>th</sup> century, completed by Stéphanie Hénault (née Séron) 1840; donated to St Mary of the Visitation Church, Killybegs, in 1844 by Alexander Murray, landlord. Restored 2011 - 2015 by Caterina Goodhart, London. Unveiled in St Mary's Church, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Available in the Parish Office:**

**Prints** (16 x 10 inches): €5 includes explanatory flyer

**Framed Prints:** €15

**Postcards:** €1

**Framed 'Murillo' Postcards:** €6

**The Restoration of the 'Murillo' Painting by Caterina Goodhart**

*We are gradually paying for the Restoration which took 4 years to complete. The total cost will be €40,000 approx. The sterling rate has not been favourable! The Murillo Restoration Fund presently stands at €9,090. Here were the various stages in the restoration process:*

- Receive and unpack the painting..... Disinfestation of the stretcher.
- Removal of the stretcher. Cleaning of the stretcher.
- Disinfestation of the canvas. Removal of the previous relining canvas.
- Removal of mould and foreign bodies. Removal of the relining paste.
- Shrinkage of the original canvas. Preparation for relining.
- Send for 1<sup>st</sup> relining. Visit to the reliner to assist and advise.
- Return of the painting on the stretcher from the reliner.
- Removal of the protection paper. Stage 1 cleaning – removal of dirt.
- Stage 2 cleaning – removal of varnishes. Stage 3 cleaning – removal of residual varnish.
- Stage 4 cleaning – partial removal of previous restoration.
- Visits to the Louvre in Paris, the Prado in Madrid (conservation dept.), Wallace Collection, Dulwich Picture Gallery.
- Cleaning all the areas of paint loss from the binding mixture.
- Send samples of paint for analysis – cross sections of paint analysed using a microscope (Visible and UV light, 50x to 500x optical magnification).
- Additionally, a selection of samples was analysed with Scanning Electron Microscopy in combination with Energy-dispersive X-Ray spectroscopy.
- Working with external technicians to carry out the X-Ray analysis.
- Filling all the areas of paint loss with gesso.
- Carefully scalpellling all the areas of gesso to match the original paint layers as possible.
- Prepare and send for 2<sup>nd</sup> relining – this was necessary as at the 1<sup>st</sup> relining the paint layers were not visible because they were covered by the Japanese paper and very little pressure was used hence the paint layers did not adhere completely.
- Adjustment of the gesso and reapplication where necessary.
- First retouching with reversible colours which did not work (after 6 weeks of retouching it was necessary to carry out further tests to find colours which were stable and would ultimately match the original colours).
- Second retouching with colours which now remained stable.
- Extensive base retouching where large sections have been remodelled completely (approximately 30% of the surface).
- Application of varnish.
- Final retouching on top of the varnish on all the base colours to adjust the colours and toning, aging etc.
- Packaging of painting for shipment.
- Unpacking and final retouching once in the frame.

## From the Parish Office: some ideal Christmas gifts



A magnificent aerial photograph of St Mary's Church, Killybegs, in its beautiful idyllic setting. A3 size (16 x 12 inches), mounted on canvas: €40 each.

- **The 'Murillo' Prints: €5    Framed Prints: €15**
- **St. Mary's Christmas Cards: Pack of 6: €2**
- **Greeting Cards from Killybegs: Pack of 6: €2**
- **Killybegs Parish Calendar 2016:** complimentary copies available.
- **Religious Objects of Devotion, Cards, Cribs & Books**
- **Mass Cards & Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards,** signed by Fr Colm.
- **Sunday Missal 2016.** Special Price €5.

### The Mass Rocks of Killybegs



### Ten Pilgrimages to Sacred Places in Killybegs, Summer 2013

Contains over 250 photographs. Price: €10.



### Fundraiser: 'Last Man Standing'



An interesting teaser for soccer fans, all in aid of St Mary's Restoration Fund.

- During the Christmas period, figure out how the Premier matches will unfold from early January to late February.
- Entries cost €10 and there is a prize of €400 for the 'Last Man Standing'.
- Also, two consolation prizes of €50.
- An entry form accompanies this newsletter; the deadline is Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon.
- Further entries available from the Parish Office or just photocopy them.
- Before returning your entry, keep a record of your selections.
- Names of those 'still standing' after each week's fixtures will be posted on the Parish Office window and on our website: [killybegsparish.com](http://killybegsparish.com)

## The Sacrament of Baptism:

Parents may arrange the baptism of their child with Fr Colm or Ann in the Parish Office. Two members of the Parish Baptism Team will make arrangements to visit the family, one half-hour visit, to arrange readings, prayers and go through the ceremony. If a home visit does not suit the meeting may take place in the Parish Office.

The usual times of Baptism are the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 12.30pm.

## Getting Married: A few helpful guidelines

Each partner must complete the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form.

The following documents are required to complete this form:

1. Baptismal Certificate
2. Confirmation Certificate
3. Pre-Marriage Course Certificate. (Pre-Marriage Courses: [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie))
4. Letter of Freedom (if necessary)
5. Receipt of three month notification from the Civil Registrar of Marriages. (Stranorlar Registrar: Marie Greene on 074 9189554 / 9189558)

Fr Colm will gladly advise couples on the above.

## Money Matters

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who supports the parish financially, the general running of the parish and contributing to the Restoration Fund.

- The upkeep and maintenance of the parish, in terms of buildings, programmes and personnel, are carried out in a cost-efficient manner and your ongoing support is vital.
- Our target for all restoration work (including provision of the new Parish Office) is now set at €3.1 million. This includes the restoration painting and current interest on a bank loan of €950,000. Our current monthly repayments are €9738. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 the loan balance stood at €675,472. We are grateful for your ongoing support.
- *Weekly or monthly or annual* contributions are very much appreciated. It is also necessary to have a number of fundraising efforts during the year.
- Many people use the weekly envelopes for their contributions. We are delivering two sets of envelopes (Parish Envelopes and Restoration Envelopes) to each household which has been in receipt of envelopes. If you do not intend to use both, discard what you do not need. It makes it much easier, for office purposes, to do it this way. It means just one delivery of envelopes, with matching numbers.
- If you wish to receive a set of envelopes or if you have any queries, please contact Fr Colm or Ann at the Parish Office (074 9731013).

## National Schools Boards of Management

### **Niall Mór National School**

Number of pupils: 186  
*Board of Management:*  
Patron's Nominees: Fr Colm Ó Gallchóir  
Bríd Doogan  
Principal Teacher: Michael McGuinness  
Elected Teacher: Eugene Mulligan  
Elected Parents: Michelle Gallagher  
Ronan Smith  
Community Representatives: Niamh Kennedy  
Jimmy White

### **Commons National School**

Number of pupils: 99  
*Board of Management:*  
Patron's Nominees: Fr Colm Ó Gallchóir  
Michael Gallagher  
Principal Teacher: Joe Cannon  
Elected Teacher: Ann Hampshire  
Elected Parents: Cathy Cunningham  
Conal McBrearty  
Community Representatives: Eimear McGuinness  
Ann Marie Bourke

### **Fintra National School**

Number of pupils: 63  
*Board of Management:*  
Patron's Nominees: Fr Colm Ó Gallchóir  
Johnny Paul McGuinness  
Principal Teacher: Emma McGinty  
Elected Teacher: Aisling Meehan  
Elected Parents: Evelyn Murchan  
Chris Morris  
Community Representatives: Joan Greenlaw  
Kevin Gilgunn

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dates for 2016

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am

**Mass Rock Mass** (location not finalised): Wednesday 1st June at 7.00pm

**Graveyard Mass:** Friday 29th July at 7.00pm

**Blessing of the Fleet:** Saturday 6th August at 7.00pm

**Mass at Croaghlin Mass Rock:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Parish Office** is located on church grounds, opposite main door of the church

**Hours of Opening:** Monday to Friday 9.15am - 2.45pm. **Tel:** 074 9731013

**Email:** [info@killybegsparish.com](mailto:info@killybegsparish.com)

**Website:** [killybegsparish.com](http://killybegsparish.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Ann O'Donnell

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Colm Ó Gallchóir: Tel: 074 9731013 / 9731030

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday Masses:** 7.00pm (Vigil), 9.00am & 11.00am.

**Weekdays:** Monday, Tuesday & Friday 10.00am; Thursday 7.00pm.

*Please note changes in weekday Masses.*

*Mass on Tuesday morning 10.00am. No Mass on Wednesday.*

*Mass on Thursday evening 7.00pm.*

*Subject to change, consult weekly Newsletter.*

**mcnmedia.tv:** All Masses and all church services from St Mary's are streamed live on the internet. Go to *mcnmedia.tv* and then *St Mary's, Killybegs* or go directly to our website.

Marriages and Funerals can be recorded, on request, free of charge, and then downloaded from the site.

**Induction Loop** is available for hearing-aid users, switch to T position.

**Gluten-free Bread** for Holy Communion, available on request.

**Website:** The Parish Weekly Newsletter is posted every Saturday evening on our website: [killybegsparish.com](http://killybegsparish.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Raphoe

St Mary's Parish in Killybegs has adopted the Diocese of Raphoe Policy Statement and everyone working with children in the parish is required to comply with it. The two Parish Safeguarding Representatives are: Kathleen O'Donnell, Fintra Rd and Pat McGee, The Glebe.

*May Christmas infuse our hearts with trust  
and encircle us with hope.*