



# Prior's Corner 7



Servite Priory, Main Street, Benburb, Co. Tyrone

Advent/Christmas 2015

Another church year is about to begin and preparations are well underway for the celebration of Christmas. As far back as September the cards and santas were already on the shop shelves and even one of my nephews (known for leaving his shopping to Christmas Eve) had already completed a large share of what he had to buy. Christmas just seems to get earlier and earlier each year.

A year closes - a year begins. More tensions at Stormont, no agreement on budgets; murder haunting our streets once more,; the plight of migrants trying to escape the inhumanity in their homelands. Still the words of the first Christmas echo in our time—there is no room for you at the inn. Our doors remain closed to those seeking shelter—our own people made homeless through no fault of their own rejected by those tasked with finding them shelter often are told “we have nowhere for you”—sleep on the streets. The migrants being told to go home to war and bloodshed and live among the debris.

Christmas just seems to get further and further away. Yes—we will celebrate it in the age old fashion—festive meals and copious amounts to drink. But in the essential element of the feast how much have we advanced? How more loving, caring, compassionate, forgiving have we become? To embrace these values is to embrace the Christ whose birth we celebrate. May our Christmas be a true celebration of this reality in our world today.

Happy Christmas— Gabriel OSM

## For your Diary

Our arrangements for Advent and Christmas are as follows:

Advent retreat Sunday 13 December 10:00—5:00pm

Christmas Mass times - Midnight (Christmas Eve)

10 a.m. Christmas Day and 9 a.m. each morning after

Our programme of events and courses is available on our website. If you would like information sent to you about any of these contact us at the above address or phone 028-37548241

e-mail: [servitepriory@btinternet.com](mailto:servitepriory@btinternet.com)

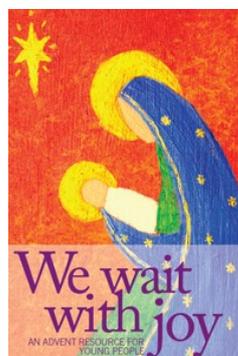
Facebook: [servitepriorybenburb](https://www.facebook.com/servitepriorybenburb)

## Safeguarding

We would like to remind all visitors to the Priory of the following:

- **All visitors, except those attending mass or getting mass cards, need to sign in to the book provided at reception**
- All children **must** be accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent or an appropriate adult while in the Priory or on the grounds
- Please respect all “no entry”, “Private” and “community only” signs

Your co-operation helps to ensure the safety of all who visit here. Thank you.



The Advent season lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

## The Advent Wreath

The wreath is made of various ever greens, signifying continuous life. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath symbolises the eternity of God. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolise life and resurrection.



## We are now on the web

We have gone live on the web. Now our masses and other services can be watched by the housebound and sick by logging on to [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv) and choosing Benburb Priory

## VOCATIONS

A Servite Brother and Priest in today's world spends much time outside of Church .... In hospitals, prisons, nursing homes and schools. He goes where he is needed. It's a special kind of Love. Can you live it?

If so then visit our web site and contact us via our vocations page - [www.servitefriars.org](http://www.servitefriars.org)



Recently during our clearance work we have uncovered The Old Benburb Well.. We are not sure of how far back the well dates to and would love your help if possible..

We have been told that it was once the only water source for the village and was regarded (unconfirmed) as aiding in the feeling of good health.. If anyone has any knowledge of the well, images etc please

let us know.. Work is well under way to restore this well (also known as McGuigans well) , with original stonework right beside the New Artwork Sculpture.



Thanks once again to Fr Sean McEvoy and Anne Traynor for another wonderful evening of flower arranging. All who attended enjoyed the evening. Thanks to you all for your support



**The Library Project** continues at a good pace Work is ready to begin on the building some time in November and it is hoped that all will be ready for opening in the early part of 2016. It is good to take the opportunity to thank all of those who have worked tirelessly on this project to protect some very rare and valuable books and to open them for the benefit of all those interested in such matters.



On behalf of The Servite Community at Benburb may I take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to all of you for your kindness, generosity and support throughout 2015.

Your support makes it possible for us to carry out the work we do in the service of the Gospel and to continue the work of creating the Kingdom of God among us.

May this Christmas season be truly a Blessed one for you. May you find joy and happiness in all you do.

May 2016 be a year filled with Blessing and Goodness.

*A happy and Blessed Christmas to you  
all and peace throughout 2016*

## Servite Priory masses and Prayer times

### Monday to Friday

Morning Prayer	8:45 a.m.
Mass	9:00 a.m.
Evening Prayer	5:45 p.m.

### Saturday

Mass	9:00 a.m.
Evening prayer	5:45 p.m.

### Sunday

Mass	8:00 a.m.
Evening prayer	5:45 p.m.

Mass in honour of St Peregrine on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings at 8:00p.m. with sacrament of reconciliation beforehand.

**All are welcome to join us**

**OFFICE HOURS 9:30 a.m. TO 5:30 p.m.**

Many have asked after **Fr Colum McDonnell** who has been a member of the Benburb Community for years. Colum recently moved to Ashbrook Care Home on the Moor Road in Clonoe as he required more regular care than we were able to provide. Colum is in great form and doing very well. Why not drop in and visit him if you are passing that way — he would be very pleased to see you



Please remember in Prayer **Fr Ignatius McCafferty** of our community in Kersal (Manchester). Ignatius died on 27 August aged 87 in the Nazareth House (not far from our Parish). May he rest in Peace.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRIORY THAT WAS IN KILTIPPER (DUBLIN) HAS CLOSED AND THE COMMUNITY THAT WAS THERE HAS MOVED TO A NEW ADDRESS AT;

36 GRANGEWOOD, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN 16

**At the Priory a priest is on duty and available at the following times:**

**Morning 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Afternoon 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**A Priest is NOT available outside of these times except by appointment**