

**Christmas in Durrus**  
*from Durrus and District  
Community Council*

Last year was the first time that there was an official ceremony for turning on the lights on the village Christmas tree. It was an enormous success, with carol singing, a blessing, hot



chocolate and goodies and of course the arrival of Santa Claus on a pony and trap. The Community Council hope to repeat it again this year - on December 5th (further details nearer the date)

**We need your help and ideas! There will be a short public meeting in the hall on Wednesday, 11th November at 8pm Come and have your voice heard, all ideas and help welcome. If you can't make it on the night please phone or text your ideas to the Community Council phone 086 0538164.**

There will be a Blood Pressure Clinic held at the Bantry Health Centre on Wednesday, 4th November 2009 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

**Dunmanus Rovers GAA Club  
Open Day on Sunday, November  
8th from 2.30pm. All are welcome.**

**Sunday Club  
The next gathering  
will be on Sunday,  
November 15th  
11.15 am at St. James'  
National School**



At the October meeting members enjoyed a talk by Joy Saville on her work with Irish Therapy Dogs in hospitals, nursing homes and schools in West Cork. At present there are eleven volunteers involved in visiting. Joy was accompanied by her retired visiting dog, Hayley. Also there were Hilary Finnegan with Percy, and Alison McCoy with Flora.

Enrolling Member Mary Dukelow was taken by surprise by a cake and candles, celebrating her recent significant birthday. Members also signed a card for former member Betty Kenworthy who celebrates her 90th Birthday later this month in Clonakilty Hospital.

Next meeting will be on November 16th in Bantry at 8 pm. when Quentin Gargan will speak on environmental issues. All interested people are welcome.

**In addition, Dr. Russ Parker, a Church of England Cleric and noted speaker, who is deeply involved in Healing Ministry, will be visiting the Diocese this week. He will be conducting a quiet day for the Clergy and lay readers on Tuesday and the Mothers' Union in the Diocese have invited him to address them as part of a Diocesan Healing Service in St. Peter's Church, Bandon this Wednesday night. It starts at 8pm and all are welcome to attend.**

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**Harvest of love**

For the last month, all over this Diocese and beyond, parishes have been celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving, in beautifully decorated churches adorned with produces of every kind. The sights and smells turn our heads and awaken our senses. They call us to be still and help us to reflect and give thanks to God for the earth we live in and for all the blessings of this life. Perhaps more than ever before we as a Christian people need to take for ourselves this time for reflection.

We live in a world of great economic uncertainty and of political and social unrest. Every day we hear revelations of corruption, stories of the misuse and abuse of tax payers money which have led to job losses, cuts in public services and higher taxation, and as a result we can feel very vulnerable and fearful of what the future holds both for ourselves and for our children. These are very difficult and challenging times for us all.

But the reality too in all of this is that such fear and negativity may lead us to become angry, mistrustful and resentful, and we can easily lose sight of the beauty and loveliness of God's creation that is to be found everywhere, if we only could open our hearts and souls to seeing it.

In difficult times it can be hard to look for such beauty - the world we live in does not automatically do so. In our humanity we seem to find it easier to point out to each other our faults, to put each other down when given the opportunity. Even when someone does a genuinely good or kind thing for another person there can be many around who will look for a hidden motive, assuming neither good nor kind.

Harvest time challenges us to look closer - to try to see the beauty and loveliness that is to be encountered not just in the physical world, in the beautiful countryside or in world of art, literature or music but also, and more especially it challenges us to look for the profound and deep beauty that is to be found in people. We may encounter it in such things as a warm smile, an honest compliment, a small act of caring or in the friendship and support of a loving and loyal friend who offers us a kind and encouraging word when we need it most, who takes the time to listen and talk over a cup of tea. It is such things that St Paul talks about when he tells the Galatians that the harvest of the spirit is that of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Let us in these difficult times strive to look for the beauty! **A.M.S.**

## God's Kingdom

I have often spoken in sermons about looking for signs of hope! Anne too, in her beautiful reflection this month, has also encouraged us to look about us for signs and symbols of God's love and His beauty.

We have been blessed, in recent times, to have seen such signs. The children of the Sunday Club transformed our Harvest Thanksgiving in Bantry. On successive Sundays in Bantry we have welcomed children into the fellowship of the Church in Holy Baptism. Those who worship in St. James' Church were moved when Fr. Ger Galvin came and preached and shared fully in our worship. These are just a few of the 'sweet moments, rich in Blessing' which we have enjoyed. I pray and trust that in these times you all will be encouraged in faith by them and be filled with renewed zeal for the task at hand - building up God's Kingdom.

Those who know me will be aware that Ecumenism is very, very close to my heart. I grew up in a Rectory where in the 1970's there was a great and wonderful renewal in all the Churches called the Charismatic Renewal in reference to the Greek word *Charis* meaning Grace or 'gifts of the Holy Spirit'. Clergy of all denominations visited and were welcomed equally at my home. This to me was 'normal'.

Wonderful things happened to people, in parishes and in communities in Dublin at that time. They discovered Faith for the first time or found new depth and meaning on their 'journey'. I thank God for that introduction and have dedicated my life and ministry to that cause. It is therefore a very great joy and blessing to me to have finally met a kindred spirit in Fr. Ger Galvin, the new Parish Priest of Durrus. We have met on many occasions in the short time he has been here and have discussed many issues which are of great importance to us all as we try to build up the Kingdom.

Fr. Galvin is very committed to the Women's World Day of Prayer and I am delighted to say that it will happen in Durrus next March.

Fr. Galvin has invited Anne and myself to the Christmas Eve Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Durrus this year. In turn we have invited Fr. Galvin to our 'Midnight' Service in St. James' Church. We will exchange symbolic gifts - the white Christmas candle from our Advent Wreath. So through Advent our Wreath will be incomplete until it is made perfect by the gift from our brothers and sisters in Christ. what a wonderful symbol of hope.

Fr. Galvin has also invited us to join with him at Sacred Heart Church, Durrus on Monday, December 21st for a Community Christmas Carol Service.

**As we look ahead to Advent and Christmas we often become engulfed in the 'other' preparations. This year we have decided to prepare and study ecumenically and therefore on Wednesday, November 25th at 8pm in St. James' Church we will welcome Fr. Galvin and some of his parishioners for a Service of Preparation and a discussion group afterwards. Those who come will be give a set of readings for Advent upon which to reflect in that Holy season. PMW**

### Protestant Education & Choice

Ian Coombes has been headmaster of Bandon Grammar School for the past ten years. He is a most dedicated member of the Church and truly committed to education in this Diocese and beyond. We congratulate him on his recent appointment as headmaster of Kilkenny College, the largest Church of Ireland school in the state. It is a well deserved appointment and we wish him well.

He has been a strong advocate, as has our Bishop, of Protestant education in this country. In a time of financial crisis we have all read the reports about cut backs in this sector. The impact of the cuts will be to remove our choices! We may not all choose Protestant Secondary Education for our children but we do have a choice at the moment. This threatened cutback would be a backward step for us all.



## Rota of Sunday Services for November and early December



<b>Sunday, November 1st</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. Brendan's Church, Bantry	<b>All Saints</b> <b>8.15 am</b> 10 am 11.45am	Holy Communion 1 Holy Communion 2 & Holy Baptism Holy Communion 2
St. James Church, Durrus		
<b>Wednesday, November 4th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry	Noon	Holy Communion 2
<b>Sunday, November 8th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. James Church, Durrus	<b>Third Sunday before Advent</b> <b>8.15 am</b> 10 am 11.45am	Holy Communion 1 Holy Communion 2 Holy Communion 2
<b>Wednesday, November 11th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry	Noon	Holy Communion 2
<b>Sunday, November 15th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. James Church, Durrus	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b> <b>8.15 am</b> 10 am 11.45am	Holy Communion 1 Holy Communion 2 Holy Communion 2
	<i>Sunday Club will meet at 11.15 am. Coffee and refreshments afterwards.</i>	
<b>Wednesday, November 18th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry	3pm	Healer Prayer Group
<b>Sunday, November 22nd</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. Brendan's Church, Bantry Beara Parish House St. James Church, Durrus	<b>Christ the King</b> <b>8.15 am</b> 10 am 11 am 11.45am	No Service Morning Prayer Holy Communion Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday, November 25th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. James Church, Durrus	Noon 8pm	Holy Communion 2 Ecumenical Preparation for Advent
<b>Sunday, November 29th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. James Church, Durrus	<b>Advent 1</b> <b>8.15 am</b> 10 am 11.45am	Holy Communion 1 Holy Communion 2 Holy Communion 2
<b>Sunday, December 6th</b> St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. Brendan's Church, Bantry St. James Church, Durrus	<b>Advent 2</b> <b>8.15 am</b> 10 am 11.45am	Holy Communion 1 Holy Communion 2 Holy Communion 2