



Prior's Corner 2



Servite Priory, Main Street, Benburb, Co. Tyrone

Christmas 2014

I have always found the Christmas season one of joy and closeness—at least until my parents died. My mother never really liked Christmas as much as she enjoyed Easter and yet she marvelled at the stores with their Christmas lights and decorations and animated or singing Santas.

Perhaps what touches the hearts of most people at this time of year is the sentimentality of it all. Who can resist reaching out with love to a new born baby? Or who could deny our inner yearning for a world of peace and harmony where all is respected and we are respected by all?

Yet, among our feelings of warmth and good cheer we know that many do not find Christmas a time to rejoice. The memories of loved ones who shared Christmases past and are no longer with us come into stark focus and bring sadness not joy at this time of year. The worry of financial hardship is ever present for others. The concerns of sickness and ill health distracts many. The separation we experience while family members live at distances from us (in spite of Skype) diminishes how we feel as Christmas dawns.

As we celebrate this great time of year, let us spare a thought (and a prayer) for those who cannot find the space to discover joy in their hearts and lives. Let us, in so far as we can through our presence, bring hope and peace and God's Ultimate Word of Love to all we encounter on our path of life so that the message of the angels may become a reality in our world "Peace on earth—Goodwill to All"

A Joy filled Christmas and A Year Filled with Blessing to you and all your loved ones

Gabriel OSM



Our programme of events and courses is available from the Priory. If you would like information sent to you contact us at the above address or

phone : 028-37548241

e-mail: servitepriory@btinternet.com

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



Memorial Mass for Fr Peter Rookey OSM

On September 10 in Chicago USA Fr Peter M Rookey OSM passed away. He was 97.

Fr Peter had been one of the founding members of the Servite Community at Benburb. Starting off as Master of Students he became Prior in 1950 until 1953 before moving on to new services with the Order.



To mark his passing a memorial mass was celebrated in the Priory on Sunday 2 November. Fr Gabriel, as Prior, presided and Fr Tim Flynn, who knew Fr Peter well, preached the homily.

A large number of people attended what proved to be a very dignified celebration of a man highly respected by those who came into contact with him.

During the homily Fr Tim mentioned how far in advance Fr Peter had intuited the importance of healing in the life and mission of the Church. This was to be the hallmark of his ministry throughout his life.

We pray that Peter may be led "with all the beloved Servants into the presence of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the one and only Mediator of us all."





Brain Vallely Paintings

On 20 October 2014 the Priory acquired a number of paintings on permanent loan from the esteemed and well known Armagh artist Brian Vallely.

For many years the Priory has been custodians of two of Brian's pieces of art (St Michael the Archangel and the Crucifix



ion) and these have been joined by others from Brian's early religious collection. We would like to thank Brian for considering us in such a special way for the exhibiting of these pieces of his art .



CHRISTMAS AT THE PRIORY

Christmas Santa replaces our Christmas Bazaar this year. Santa will be at the Priory from 5 to 7 December.

Advent retreat to prepare ourselves for Christmas. It will be a day of prayer and reflection and take place **December 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available at the Priory reception and offers an opportunity to remember in a particular way all your friends and relatives at this special time of year.



Harvest Thanksgiving



Our annual Harvest Thanksgiving was held on 26 October with Fr Dermot and Fr Sean leading.

There was a beautiful display of "harvest" thanks to the O'Neill family who arrange the fruit and vegetables for the service.

The local children provided the centre pieces to the service with song, recitations, music and dance. All participants were excellent and raised our celebration to yet another high level.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this wonderful afternoon. We truly have gifts among us that we are proud to share with our communities.



See you all again next year!

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

Joyce Rupp

November 15-16 saw the arrival of Joyce Rupp (a well known and highly respected Servite author and retreat giver from the US) to lead a retreat of reflection on our relationships with God, self and others.

This event was sold out and all who took part found it valuable.



Events Past We have been very busy over the past few months— our annual Flower Show (thanks to Fr Sean and Ann), Cursillo men, Cursillo women, Serenity retreat, meditation groups, 12 step meditation day. Thanks to all who participated in these and those who organised and led them.

A special thanks to the Friends of Benburb and Noilin Mullin who work so tirelessly in the background.

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.

If you need to see a priest outside of these times please make an appointment

