

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

20 APRIL 2008.

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

*'We seek to become a more welcoming community where God's message of faith,
hope and love is experienced'*

THE DEEP END - CORNERED BY THE STONE.

Today's Second Reading (1 Peter 2:4-9) describes Jesus as a stumbling stone for those who do not believe. Could that include anybody who harbours disbelief - even believers? I think so. Following Jesus is a very varied venture. When he calls us to follow him he doesn't specify the distance. That's up to us. And the temptation is to start measuring - especially the closer we get to him.

From a distance, everything Jesus stands for is great. How could any decent human being not be for what Jesus is for: love of God, love of neighbour, especially the weak, the exploited and those on the margins of society and even sanity? But how close to that loving do we want to get and how close do we actually get?

In his book, God of Surprises, Gerard W. Hughes writes; 'There is a foolish prodigality, too, in the Father who is presented as leaving the ninety-nine sheep to go and hunt for the one that is lost, a foolishness which we so often correct in the Church by concentrating our attention and energise on the one which is safe and leaving the ninety-nine!'

There is no detour. That stumbling stone has us cornered. We must face it in the one who is lost, or become lost ourselves.

(Intercom - April 2008 - Fr. Tom Cahill)

Fr. Chris Ginnelly - Foxford 094-9256401.
Fr. Stephen O'Mahony - Kiltimagh 086-8226405.

Fr. Michael Maloney - Charlestown 085-1510383.
Fr Dermot Burns - Straide 094-9031029

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday, Thursday, Sunday 10 a.m.
KILLASSER - Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. / Saturday 8 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Sean Thompson
Sunday 10.00 a.m. Joseph McNulty.
Sunday 11.30 a.m. First Communion

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Sr. Margaret and Mary Marren.
Sunday 10.00 a.m. Mary Mulligan.
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Beatrice Goldrick and Geraldine Burke.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Siobhan O'Hara Sunday 11.30 a.m First Communion

CALLOW

Sunday 10 a.m. Peter Noone.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 26th April 8.00 p.m. Niall Armstrong Lorraine Kavanagh Liam Moran Hayden Harrold.
Sunday 27th April 11.30 a.m. Cormac Warde Caoimhe Warde Conor Stephens Siobhan Tully

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8. p.m. The Holleran Family (Dromada-Duke)

Sunday 10.00 a.m. The Burke Family (Callow)

Sunday 11.30 a.m First Holy Communion.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated on Sunday next 27th April during the 11.30 a.m. Mass in Killasser. This year there are six children, two from Carramore and four from Killasser. We pray for them at this very special time in their lives, as well as for their parents and teachers.

THE CHILDREN IN THE FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES in Carramore and Killasser National Schools visited the Carmelite Monastery in Knock on Tuesday last In the Monastery in Knock, Altar Breads are made for use in many Churches. The Children were shown how they are made and were allowed to cut the breads that will be used for their First Holy Communion Mass. We were all very warmly welcomed by the Sisters and each child was given a Booklet and Rosary Beads.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARTY: Killasser Community Care Group are organising a Party for the Children who will receive their First Holy Communion next Sunday. This will take place in Killasser Community Centre after the First Communion Mass. It is always a very special and most enjoyable part of this day that is enjoyed so much by the Children. The Childrens' Parents, Family Members, Teachers are all invited for some refreshments. Sincere thanks in advance to the Community Care Group for their thoughtfulness.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be celebrated in the Parish this year on Saturday 10th May. The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 a.m. The children of Fifth and Sixth Classes in Carramore and Killasser National Schools will receive the Sacrament. The total number to receive the Sacrament this year is 24.

THE CEREMONY OF LIGHT in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation for the Children and their Parents will be celebrated in Killasser Church on **Wednesday 30th April** at 8.00 p.m. Note the change of date to Wednesday 30th April from Thursday 1st May. This is on account of the Cluster Choir Practices that are taking place every Thursday night in preparation for the Dana Concert.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASSES in Carramore and Killasser National Schools will travel to Ballintubber Abbey on Friday 2nd May for a Confirmation Retreat. This should be a very worthwhile experience and an important part of their preparation to receive the Sacrament.

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND FOR WOMEN with Redemptorist Sisters in Monastery of St. Alphonsus, St. Alphonsus Road, Dublin 9, will take place from Friday 25th April - Sunday 27th April 2008. Single women interested in finding out more about monastic vocation are invited to join in their life of **Prayer, Liturgy and Work for the weekend**. Preferred age **25 - 45 years**. **Places limited. Details from: Sr. Gabrielle O.Ss.R., Monastery of St. Alphonsus, St. Alphonsus Road, Dublin 9. Phone No. 086-8164179. www.rednuns.faithweb.com e-mail Gabrielle.fox@redemptorists.ie**

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be in Killasser Church on Monday next from 4.00 - 7.00 p.m.

THE KNOCK PILGRIMAGE SEASON begins on Sunday 27th April and continues until Sunday 12 October. The Achonry Diocesan Pilgrimage takes place on Sunday 18th May. More details of the Knock Pilgrimage Season in later Newsletter.

KNOCK CONCERT TO AID MAYO BASED CANCER SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT: Singer James Kilbane in association with Mayo based **Mayo Cancer Support Association** will perform his popular Gospel Concert in **Knock House Hotel, Knock** on Sunday 20th April, commencing at 8 p.m. **The Mayo Cancer Support Association Building Development** is the Mayo Organisation's new fundraising drive to build an extension to the premises at **Rock Rose House, Castlebar**. This development will provide for the increased demand on the services to cancer sufferers from all over Mayo. To give support and enjoy a good night, tickets are available from **Knock House Hotel at 093-88088, Knock Shrine Bookshop and Rock Rose House, Castlebar at 094-9038407** and other outlets across the region. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. and the concert will start sharp at 8.00 p.m. There will be a super Raffle on the night.

ROSCOMMON CHAMBER CHOIR: It is with great excitement that a new choral group given the name **'Roscommon Chamber Choir'** will be set up this year. It is hoped that the group will consist of approximately twenty-four of the finest voices within the county of Roscommon and its surrounding areas. The group will have many challenges and is set up primarily as a competition choir to compete in various choral competitions both nationally and internationally. However, the first project for this new talented bunch of singers is to record a Christmas CD in November ready for release in December 2008. The **'Roscommon Chamber Choir'** will rehearse every Wednesday in Roscommon Town commencing in September. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 30 are now being sought to complete an application form and return it before Monday 12th May. Auditions will be carried out during May and June. More details will follow. Application form available from Fr. O'Mahony. Applications can also be e-mailed to roscommonchamberchoir@yahoo.com

THE WEEKLY KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE 25 CARD GAME will be held in **Killasser Community Centre** on Monday night 21st April at the usual time of 9.00 p.m. Your support will be very much appreciated for what is always a most enjoyable game.

SWINFORD AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION is celebrating their 20th Anniversary on Friday 9th May with a function in the Gateway Hotel. Numbers are limited; if you are a member and would like to attend, give your name into the Office. Names will be drawn on Friday 2nd May. The Members' Car Draw will also take place on the night. An open day will be held in the Office on 9th May and everyone is welcome.

ACCORD CHARLESTOWN All Marriage Preparation courses can be booked online at www.accord.ie or by telephoning 094-9254944. Accord Counselling service for people experiencing difficulties within their marriage or relationship. Safe, professional and confidential. To make an appointment telephone 094-9254944.

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING on Wednesday next 23rd April in Killasser Church at 8.30 p.m.,

A CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday next at 8.30 p.m. The Killasser/Callow representatives are Maureen Murphy and Joe McNulty.

'IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL' 11-day Pilgrimage & Cruise to Greece, Rhodes, Patmos, Ephessos. Sun. 29 June to Wed. 9 July. Celebration Travel with Aer Lingus ex Dublin costing €1,625 p.p.s, including. half-board & all taxes. Contact Marian Maloney 087-2112555 for brochure.

COSGALLEN NEWS - HOME CARERS: Cosgallen CDP are interested in hearing from people who live in the Swinford or Charlestown area who are providing care on a voluntary basis to a person who is in need of care (of any age) due to illness or disability. Cosgallen CDP are at present investigating the necessity of providing supports to assist home carers under the Dormant Accounts Fund 2007/2008 in the area of training programme.

COSGALLEN NEWS - RESOURCE CENTRE: Cosgallen Community Development Project's Resource Centre has a free information service on Social Welfare Entitlements, Health Benefits, Education and Grants. There are many forms available at the Centre e.g. Motor Tax, Drivers Licence, Passport, Register of Electors, Medical Card, European Health Insurance Card, Drugs Payment Scheme and more. The Resource Centre also has a number of services available at very low cost such as Photocopying, Laminating, Binding and Fax. The Staff at Cosgallen CDP are available to give assistance and advice to individuals or groups on services, activities in the area and will recommend other services for queries outside their remit. Drop in for a chat or browse at your leisure. The Resource Centre is open Monday to Thursday from 10.00 a.m - 4.00 p.m. and Friday by appointment.

THE SOUTH SLIGO SPRING WALKING FESTIVAL will take place on 19th / 20th April 2008. There will be three walks on each day. Further information can be got by contacting Breege Mullarkey on 087-1381770 or Breda Monaghan on 071-9181291 or e-mail tshe1963@hotmail.com The Walking Festival is organised by the Ox Mountain Development Co. Ltd. with funding assistance from Sligo Co. Council Led. Peace 11 Task Force.

THE CLUSTER NEWSLETTER is now printed and is available again after all Masses again this weekend. It is a sixteen page edition of very interesting articles and pictures from each of the five parishes. It was due to be published before Christmas but the material was not ready in time. There will be a copy free of charge for every household in the Parish and for anyone who wishes to have a copy or send one to a relative elsewhere.

DANA IN CONCERT: Former Eurovision Song Contest Winner Dana will sing in Concert in Killasser Church on Sunday 11th May. Tickets for the Concert will be €20 and they are now on sale. Proceeds from the Concert will go towards the Killasser/Callow Parish Renovation Fund. It promises to be a very special occasion. Your support will be very much appreciated.

TICKETS FOR THE DANA CONCERT are available before or after each of the Masses in the Parish again this weekend. They cost €20 each. You are advised to get them in good time. **Tickets are also available from Aine Ni Chiarain on 087-2587821 / Michael Fox 087-7546909 / Fr. O'Mahony 094-9251431 / Kevin Hughes 086-8583380 / Jacinta Gallagher 087-6722053 / Maureen Murphy 094-9251525 / Louis McNulty 094-9256316 / Theresa Convey 094-9251364**

CLUSTER CHOIR PRACTICE FOR SUPPORT ACT FOR DANA CONCERT will take place again on Thursday Night next 24th April at 8.30 p.m. in Killasser Church. There were up to 50 people present on Thursday night last which was brilliant. If you would like to be involved do come along on next Thursday night. The choice of songs is excellent and and I have no doubt that this choir could put on a full concert themselves - maybe in the future.

A CONCERT MEETING to assess the arrangements for the Dana Concert will be held on Monday Night next 21st April at 9.00 p.m. in Killasser Church. If you haven't been to the earlier meetings and are willing to help out, feel very welcome to come along on Monday night.

KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENT: Enrolments will be taken form after Easter in Killasser National School for September 2008. You are asked to phone the School on 094-9251489. An Open Day for all new Junior Infants will take place on Thursday 29th May.

OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER: Patient, Understanding and Considerate individual with mature attitude **WANTED** in small town in East Mayo to assist young children with basic reading, writing and arithmetic. If you feel that you could commit to one or two hours each week to this worthwhile project then contact Teresa or Breda at 094-9381494 or call in person to Volunteer point at INFO WEB Aiden Street, Kiltimagh for more information.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 12th / 13th April amounted to €1,285.

THE VOCATIONS COLLECTION take up last weekend amounted to €600. If you have forgotten it, you can hand it in at your convenience.

THE EASTER COLLECTION: Sincere thanks for your contributions towards the Easter Collection. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

THE KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH RENOVATION FUND ENVELOPES for the year ahead - March 2008 to February 2009 have now been distributed. Your continued support is very much appreciated. If you have already paid the full amount, you will still receive your Envelopes. This is done so that nobody is aware who has or has not paid. For those of you who do not need them anymore, just destroy them.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next meeting for those involved in the preparation of Parents and Godparents of children for Baptism, from each of the Parishes in our Cluster will be held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Monday 9th June at 8.30 p.m. Siobhan Warde, Doontas and Helen Thompson, Gaffy are involved in this new ministry in the parish. Sincere thanks to both of them for their willingness to take on this ministry, which I am confident is very worthwhile, beneficial now and for the future. The objective is to work along with the priest(s) in each Parish of the cluster in helping Parents and Godparents to prepare better for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of their child. A meeting is held sometime before the date of Baptism with the Parents of the child and if possible it is very desirable that the Godparents would also attend this meeting.

A CLUSTER BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING took place in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Monday night last. It was attended by representatives from Attymass, Bonniconlon and Killasser. The Foxford representatives were unable to be there and Straide have yet to get some people involved. It was a very good meeting, with everyone reporting on their experience to date. The feedback was very positive.

THE ARAS ATTRACTA ANNUAL SPONSORED CYCLE will take place this year on Saturday 31st May. This year the organisers have very generously offered to run it for the Killasser/Callow Church Renovation Fund. What is especially needed is the support of Killasser to provide Marshals and Bucket Collectors. All people involved in the organisation will appreciate all the help and support that can be given from Killasser. Sponsorship Cards will be available very shortly. **The 100 K. Cycle will begin and finish at Killasser Community Centre.** For those unable to cycle the full distance, it is possible to cycle part of the route. Later that night there will be a Dance/Function in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford. Tickets for this function will be €10 each. **Sponsorship Cards are now available from Bridie Sheerin 094-9251062 / Pat Thompson / Fr. O'Mahony.**

ALTAR SOCIETY FOR KILLASSER CHURCH: A very well attended meeting of people who are interested in being part of the Altar Society for Killasser Church was held on last Monday evening. As a result of this meeting there is now a rota of two people per month for six months of the year. That is a great start and we are very hopeful that the remaining months will be filled. If you would like to be involved, you can give your name to Maureen Murphy or Fr. O'Mahony.

THE ANALYSIS OF THE RECENT PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES suggested the possibility of a Youth Mass/Youth Service to be celebrated occasionally at particular times of the year. This suggestion was discussed at the Pastoral Council Meeting on Wednesday night last. After some consultation with young people there was a feeling that near exam time might be a first opportunity to organise something. It is hoped that a meeting with a representative number of young people and some members of the Pastoral Council can be held in a few weeks time to discuss this possibility. All suggestions and ideas will be very welcome and will be considered.

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST FOR CALLOW CHURCH: A number of Ministers of Eucharist in Callow Church, who have been in ministry for a good number of years, wish to step aside at this stage. This is very understandable and acceptable as the commitment is only meant to be for three years and not for an indefinite period. As well it is important that new people would join every ministry on a regular basis to keep it renewed. If you are asked to be involved you might consider it or if you would like to volunteer, you might let a member of the Pastoral Council or Fr. O'Mahony know. It does take a little bit of courage, but never underestimate your ability. **One person has volunteered and a number of others are considering it. Sincere thanks for that generosity. The possibility of organising a course for new members will be discussed at our Cluster Steering Committee Meeting on Thursday Night next in Attymass.**

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST FOR KILLASSER CHURCH: It is now an opportune time to commission some new people as Ministers of the Eucharist for Killasser Church also. **At least one person has expressed a willingness to participate in this ministry. It would be good to get about six new people if at all possible.**

PAINTING OF CHURCH DOORS: All external doors in Killasser Church are being painted at present. Some of them have been in great need of paint for some time. It is important that they are looking well for the summer ahead and all that will be happening..

A YEAR OF VOCATION PRAYER CARD has been produced for this year and a number of copies are available in the church at the doors this weekend. A copy of this very nice prayer was included in last week's Newsletter. It will be repeated again in a later Newsletter.

A 10 KILOMETRE WALK IN AID OF TEAMPALL MAOL CEMETERY one of the oldest in Co. Mayo, will take place on Monday 5th May commencing at 1.00 p.m. The walk begins and ends at Teampall Maol Cemetery, via Coolegrane, Cullen, Prebane, Askilawn, Attymachugh, Corley, Leckee, Laraganmore, Muckroe and Churchpark. The distance is 6.2 Miles. The committee would very much appreciate your support. Voluntary donations will be accepted on the day. Tell your friends to come along. Tea and refreshments will be served after the walk. For further information contact Kevin Hughes on 086-8583380 or e-mail kvn.hughes1@gmail.com

ITALIAN PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO ST. PIO PIETRELCINA: It is a 7 Night Pilgrimage beginning on 23rd May. Special Group Price is €29 PP. Group Leader is Michael Garret. For itinerary contact Michael Garret on 071-9162714 or Joe Walsh Tours on 01-2410816.

FATIMA 2008 WEST OF IRELAND PILGRIMAGE will take place from 7th October, leaving from Knock. It will be 7 Nights in Hotel Avenida. The cost is €835 plus €25 Insurance. Spiritual Director is Fr. John Maloney. For details contact Nancy Surlis on 071-9185640 or 086-8185153.

WEST OF IRELAND 10-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND DIRECT FROM KNOCK from 22nd September - 1st October. Spiritual Director is Fr. Tomas Surlis. The cost is €1,190 fully inclusive of taxes and half board. For further information contact Nancy Surlis on 071-9185640.

AN OVERALL CLEAN-UP OF KILLASSER CHURCH will take place on Friday next 25th April, commencing at 7.00 p.m. All who are willing to help are encouraged to come along. It is important to have this clean-up before First Communion, Confirmation and Weddings that will be taking place over the next number of months.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE PLANNING THEIR MARRIAGE? Accord are now recruiting new volunteers to work as Marriage Preparation Facilitators. Successful applicants will be fully trained and work as part of a team. If you are interested please contact Accord on 094-9254944. Closing date is Monday 12th May. An information night will be arranged for all applicants who are interested.

SPANISH STUDENT PLACEMENT: Interested in having a Spanish Student come to your home for the month of July? You must have a child/children between 12 - 17 years of age and be a friendly family. The child will take part in all your family activities for that month. An allowance is given to participating families. For more information, contact Marie on 087-6563527.

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL CASTLEBAR ANNUAL OPEN DAY: St. Anthony's School, Humbert Way, Castlebar for children age 4 - 18 years who have Mild Learning Difficulties are have their Annual Open Day on Wednesday 30th April from 11.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Parents and Teachers and interested members of the public are all welcome to come and see what makes St. Anthony's School special!

COMMISSION FOR PASTORAL RENEWAL AND ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT: A Workshop/Consultation on Adult Faith Development for all priests, Members of Parish Pastoral Councils, Religious and Lay People takes place in Knock House Hotel on Saturday next 26th April from 10.30 a.m. 3.30 p.m. The need for resource materials for adult faith_development has been emphasised consistently by diocesan pastoral workers in many meetings over the past three years. The various workshops around the country have been planned as a means of publicising this information and consulting people concerned with adult faith development in practice. Outcomes of the conversations will be compiled and carried forward into an ongoing process of development. Cost of workshop is €25 per person or €20 for teams of 2 or more. Interested people will be sponsored by the Parish. Timetable of the Day is elsewhere in this week's Newsletter.

PRAY FOR Mary Keating, Fermoy, Co. Cork and Carramore-Moy and Deceased Members of Rochford and Hennigan Families, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Patrick and Madeline Marren, Cloonfinnish, Saturday 8 p.m.
 William and Annie Scully, Dromada-Duke, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Margaret and John Maloney, Tierenanny, Betty Casserly and Michael Maloney, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Sally Walsh, formerly of Tiernanny, who died in Coventry, England on 20th November. Her cremated remains were received into Killasser Church on Friday evening last at 7 p.m. Mass was celebrated on this Saturday at 12 Noon. Burial took place afterwards in Killasser Cemetery.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.