

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7 DECEMBER 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'*

AS I WAS SAYING

Advent has begun. The Season means different things to different people. For many, - and this will include the vast majority of children - it is a season of great expectation and great joy. To the child, uncontaminated by experience or cynicism, everything is new and filled with wonder. Christmas ensures that their childish expectations will not be disappointed; on Christmas Night the 'Old Reliable' will deliver, on target and on time, from his ample bag of uncountable blessings!

At Christmas, we adults too find ourselves counting our blessings. In fact, I suspect that the heart of all religion is really gratitude, an expression of the need to say 'thank you' for everything that we have, indeed even for life itself. For some, this need to say 'thank you' goes hand in glove with the existence of a Creator God who is responsible for the world and all its beauty. For others, it's the natural world itself that generates this sense of dependency that leads to the spirit of gratitude and thankfulness.

Yet, whatever way we come to it, there are still those who will regard all this as whistling in the dark, the desperate attempt to console ourselves with up-beat stories. But it's not that at all; actually counting our blessings is a sort of reality check, just as our gloomy self-absorption urges a retreat into some insular unreality. What we need to do is take a big step back from our obsessive attention to the stock exchange and our empty wallets and look at things from a much wider perspective.

It is interesting that those who are able literally to step out of the world often return with their world-view changed. A spectacular example of this 'conversion' was the astronaut James Irwin. Irwin walked on the moon in 1971, the eighth man to do so. He often spoke of the lunar mission as 'an epiphany', declaring 'I felt the power of God as I've never felt it before.' In his Book *'More than Earthlings'* in 1983, Irwin wrote that, from a huge distance, 'The Earth reminded us of a Christmas Tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine.'

Religious practice is an attempt to create just this sort of perspective, to view our own life from the viewpoint of eternity. And from this vantage point, however it's reached, the world is not so fraught and not so anxious. Consider the lilies of the field, says Jesus, they are all beyond anxiety.

Jesus is making a simple point; there's a vast reality beyond our own worries, and that getting exclusively caught up in the trials of the day is a form of blindness. That is why most of us could do with a lot more gratitude in our lives. Because the central event we are preparing to celebrate is good news for all: for Children, for the Emigrant, for the Family, for the Poor, for the Lonely, for the Sick and the Dying. The one who opened the door to God for us then drained the bitter cup of human experience for love of us. Gratitude becomes us.

(Fr. Dick Lyng - Newsletter St. Augustine's Church, Galway - 30 November 2008)

Fr. Chris Ginnelly - Foxford 094-9256401.

Fr. Joseph Gavigan - Foxford 094-9256858.

Fr. Stephen O'Mahony - Kiltimagh 086-8226405.

Fr Dermot Burns - Straide 094-9031029

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. / Sunday 10 a.m.

KILLASSER - Monday 8 p.m. / Wednesday 10 a.m. / Saturday 8 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Monday 10 a.m. The Hughes Family (Coolegrane)

Monday 8.00 p.m. The McLoughlin/Dunleavy Families.

Saturday 8 p.m. The Sheerin Family (Tierennany)

Sunday 10.00 a.m. The McNulty/Neary Families.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. The Judge Family (Magheraboy)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will NOT be in Killasser Church on Monday 8th December.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR29th / 30th November amounted to €1,175.**THE KILLASSER/CALLOW MONTHLY RENOVATION FUND COLLECTION**

for October/November amounted to €1,525. Sincere thanks to everyone for your contributions, support and generosity.

NOTICE TO KILLASSER GROUP WATER SCHEME USERS: Members are advised that tests carried out recently by the HSE have shown that the water supply is unsatisfactory at present and consumers are advised that the water should be boiled before human consumption. This boil notice will remain in effect until further notice. The Committee apologise for any inconvenience caused.

THE KILLASSER WATER SCHEME ANNUAL RENT is now due and will be collected over the coming weeks.

A GENERAL MEETING of all members of Killasser Group Water Scheme will be held in Killasser Community Centre on Tuesday Night next 9th December at 8.30 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

THE NEXT KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held in Killasser Church on Wednesday 10th December at 8.00 p.m. Items discussed at last meeting included: **Prayer Service for the Departed to be held in Killasser Church on Friday next at 8.00 p.m. / Altar Server training for new servers for Killasser Church / Neighbourhood/Station Services - probably three/four more to be held between Christmas and Easter / Reflecting of Scripture for Advent to begin on Wednesday 26th November in Callow Church at 8.00 p.m. / Carol Service in Callow Church on Sunday 14th December / Kneelers in Callow Church will be placed under two rows of chairs for those who wish to kneel / Active Retirement Age Group and those who may wish to go to Attymass on Tuesday's.**

THE KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY 25 CARD GAME will continue on Monday night next 8th December, commencing at 9.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome and your support will be greatly appreciated.

KILLASSER COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL 25 CARD GAME: This event will be held in Killasser Community Centre on Monday 15th December, commencing at 8.30 p.m. There is a Prize Fund of €500. Admission - Tickets are €8 each. Your support will be very much appreciated.

THE NEXT CLUSTER CHOIR PRACTICE will take place in Attymass Parish Church on next Wednesday evening 10th December at 8.30 p.m. **Note the change this week back to Wednesday and in Attymass.** This is in preparation for the Mass on Sunday 4th January in Attymass Church which will be televised live on R.T.E. as part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the birth of Fr. Peyton. **Note the change from 11th to 4th January.**

THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE BALLINA is about to enter its next phase of development. In January 2009 a **Diploma in Applied Theology (Pastoral Studies)** will commence at the institute. The Course will run for two years and will be held on Friday evenings from 7.00 - 10.00 p.m. and on number of Saturdays. The cost of the Course is €1,200 per year. If anyone in the parish is interested in participating in this course, it will be possible to subsidise the cost. Details of the Diploma are available from Fr. O'Mahony. The closing date for application is 12th December.

SWINFORD AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Sunday 14th December at 4.00 p.m. All members are requested to attend. The Car Draw will take place at the A.G. M. 'If you are not in, you can't win'.

ACTIVE RETIRED: If you are among the active retired people of the parish, you may wish to join a group of people who meet in the Fr. Peyton Centre in Attymass every Tuesday. There are a limited number of places available on the bus which can pick you up at any point along the following route: **Carramore, Magheraboy crossroads, Graffy crossroads, Cullen and Coolegrane** at 11 a.m. approx. Mass is celebrated in the Centre at 12 Noon. Lunch is served afterwards. In the afternoon there is musical entertainment or a game of Bingo before the bus returns at 5.50 p.m. The cost is just €10. Why not try it out. We are sure you will enjoy the day. Enquiries to Anne Prendergast (between 10.00 and 11.00 a.m.) on 094-9256382.

REFLECTING OF THE SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR ADVENT took place on the last two Wednesday evenings in Callow and Killasser Churches. It was a very worthwhile experience and time very well spent. It will not take place on the next two Wednesdays because of a Pastoral Council Meeting and the Services of Reconciliation. However we hope to resume the exercise again in the not too distant future. Sincere thanks to all who participated on the last two Wednesday nights.

'GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING' is the title of a new C.D. of Carols sung by St. Muredach's Cathedral Choir. It features some of the much loved Christmas Music such as *Adeste Fideles*, *O Holy Night*, the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah* and much more. The Cathedral Choir and some of its soloists including Debbie McCole, Donna Malone, Caroline Jackson, Emer Connor, Therese Gaughan and Aaron Cawley are joined by some of their finest local musicians such as Andrew Sheeran (violin), and Aileen McGowan (low whistle). The CD is now on sale at the Cathedral Bookshop in the Pastoral Centre in Ballina and at the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass. It costs €10 and could be an ideal Christmas gift.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW ALTAR SERVER FOR KILLASSER CHURCH will take place during the Vigil Mass on this Saturday 6th December at 8.00 p.m. There are eight children to be commissioned who are members of Fifth Class in Carramore and Killasser National Schools. Some training for those to become servers has taken place and will be ongoing. Sincere thanks to the members of the Pastoral Council who have produced an Altar Servers' Information Booklet and also to those who have carried out the training in Callow and Killasser. **The following will be commissioned this Saturday evening:**
Carramore School: Jack Barry (Carramore), Aidan Ginty (Treenreevagh), Clodagh Cronnolly (Doontas), Emma McNulty (Dunmaynor), Roisin McSharry (Culduff). **Killasser:** Lorna Kavanagh (Carramore), Rian Stephens (Rooskey), Orlaith Peyton (Dromada-Gore). Silé Carr (Coolcastle) and Carramore N.S. and Tiernan Sutherland (Killaturley) and Killasser N.S. will be commissioned at a later date. We welcome all the above children into this ministry and wish them well for the years ahead.

THE ANNUAL CARRAMORE FUNDRAISING SOCIAL will be held this year in Frank's Place, Killasser on Saturday 13th December. Tickets are on sale at the moment for very valuable prizes, **including two tickets for Manchester United v Blackburn in the Premiership in 2009**, and there will be lots other prizes for raffle on the night. Your support will be very much appreciated.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH will take place this year on Sunday 14th December commencing at 7.00 p.m. The next rehearsal/practice will take place on this Sunday evening 7th December in Callow Church at 6.00 p.m. All adult choir members and as many children and young people as possible are very welcome and encouraged to attend. Any child, young person or adult who plays a musical instrument is asked to bring it along this Sunday evening. It would also be helpful if those who are willing to participate in the Service by proclaiming the Word of God or reading a prayer could attend this Sunday to receive the material and practice reading it. Sincere thanks to all who were present last Sunday evening. It is a very special celebration every year and I am sure this year will be as well.

THE YOUTH GROUP/WOMENS GROUP is having a Jumble Sale, Cake Sale - Christmas Theme on this Sunday 7th December in Killasser Community Centre after 11.30 a.m. Mass. A Raffle will be held. Your support will be appreciated.

AN ART EXHIBITION OF WORK BY MARIA TUFFY will take place in Mellett's (upstairs), Swinford on Friday 12th December, commencing at 8.00 p.m. The Official Opening will be performed by Cllr. Joe Mellett, Chairperson of Mayo Co. Council. Your presence and support will be very much appreciated by Maria.

SELF HELP AFRICA CHURCH GATE COLLECTION takes place on 6th/7th December. €10 will enable an African Family to develop a family woodlot. €25 provides a Farmer with a drip irrigation system to grow vegetables. €70 provides an African Woman with seed capital to start a business.

THE ACHONRY DIOCESAN READOIRI COMPETITIONS were held in Ballinacarrow Community Centre on Saturday Night last 22nd November. Killasser was represented by a Ballad Group from Carramore National School who progressed to the next stage of the competition which is the Connacht Semi-Final. **This will be held in Manulla Community Centre on this Saturday 6th December.** Complements and congratulations to all who participated. The Ballad Group is as follows: **Siofra Frain, Brenda Carr, Chloe Meehan, Melissa Cronnolly, Rebecca Leonard, Clodagh Cronnolly and Sile Carr. Siofra Frain competed in Solo-Singing and Chloe Meehan in the Recitation.** We hope all continue to enjoy the rest of the competition and every good wish for this evening.

SPONSOR A LIGHT FOR CHRISTMAS: A Christmas Tree will be erected again this year outside both Churches in the Parish. You are invited to sponsor a light for €10 per light to remember a loved one who has died or someone away from home at Christmastime. Envelopes for this purpose will be available at the church doors very soon. Mass will be celebrated for the living and the dead at a later stage.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND CRIB IN CALLOW CHURCH: Even though the Christmas Carol Service is a little early this year, it is hoped to have the Christmas Tree and Crib erected in the Church for Sunday 14th December. The Church will also be partially decorated for Christmas.

THE SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION/PENANCE FOR CHRISTMAS will be celebrated in **Killasser Church** on **Tuesday 16th December, commencing at 7.00 p.m.** This will be an opportunity for everyone to receive the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Christmas. The dates and times for the other parishes in the cluster will be given in a later Newsletter.

SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION IN THE OTHER PARISHES IN OUR CLUSTER AS FOLLOWS:

FOXFORD:	Foxford Parish Church	Monday 15th December 7.00 p.m.
STRAIDE:	Straide Parish Church	Monday 15th December 8.30 p.m.
BONNICONLON:	Bonniconlon Parish Church	Wednesday 7.00 p.m.
ATTYMASS:	Attymass Parish Church	Wednesday 8.30 p.m.

You are more than welcome to avail of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament in any of the Churches, whichever suits you best. It is hoped that all the priests of the Cluster will be present in each Church.

COOLEGRANE LIGHTS: The Hughes Family, Coolegrane will once again be erecting their colourful display of Christmas Lights at their home. The Lights will be switched on, on Friday evening next 12th December at 6.00 p.m. by the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council Joe Mellett. Afterwards the Crib will be blessed by Fr. Dan O'Mahony. Santa Claus will be calling to see the lights and talk to the Children on the night. Everyone is welcome. As usual a donation box will be placed at the gateway and all proceeds collected this year will go to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Hopefully as many people as possible will travel to see this display of Lights over the Christmas Season and support this worthy cause. For further information, contact Kevin Hughes on 086-8583380.

A CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING was held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday night 27th November. Some of the items discussed were: The Cluster Newsletter to be published for Easter. Items for the Newsletter should be ready not later than 15th February. / Annual Ecumenical Service to be held this year in the Church of Ireland Foxford / Reports from Cluster Members who visited the Dioceses of Ossory and Armagh on the topic of clustering etc. etc. More detail in a later Newsletter.

HAS EPILEPSY LEFT YOU FEELING ADRIFT? Get back on board with a one-year training course located in Sligo I. T. Practical Skills. Self Confidence. Progression. Qualifications. No Leaving Certificate required. Payment is €303 per week. Medical Services on Campus. Campus Accommodation. Qualification Options: FETAC / ECDL / IT Sligo A3L Foundation Certificate. Entry is by interview. Call us today for more information on 071-9155303. Brochures available from Fr. O'Mahony.

BANADA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY will launch a Book of Enrolment Records - Banada National School 1860 - 2000 at Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry on Friday next 12th December at 4.00 p.m. Everyone welcome and Books will be available on the day.

BANADA BAZAAR: You are invited to the Banada Bazaar in Banada Community Centre (beside Football Pitch) and meet Santa Claus on Sunday 14th December at 3.00 p.m.. Draws for Hampers, Turkeys, Hams, Homebaked Christmas Cakes, 500 Litres Home Heating Oil, Home-made Quilt by Banada Ladies Group and many more valuable prizes.

FAMILY COUNSELLING AND THERAPY CENTRE, POUND STREET, BALLAGHADERREEN continues to offer professional and confidential services to individuals, couples and families. Issues include: Relationship Difficulties, Bereavement, Loss, Separation, Anxiety, Depression, Sexual Abuse, Communication, Conflict Resolution ... Fees are on a sliding scale. For appointments, contact 094-9861000, e-mail: famcoun@eircom.net website: www.achonrydiocese.org.

A CLEAN-UP OF KILLASSER CHURCH will take place on Tuesday afternoon next from 4.00 p.m. All members of the Altar Society and anybody who wishes to help is invited to come along.

KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 7.00 p.m.

CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place on Thursday 18th December, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

FEAST DAYS: Monday - The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.
Friday - St. Finnian.
Saturday - St. Lucy.

A SALE OF WORK will be held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on this Sunday 7th December at 3.00 p.m.. Christmas Cakes and Puddings, Dundee and Porter Cakes, Mince Pies, Homemade Quilts, Fresh Christmas Wreaths, Crafts and Bric-a-brac. Your support will be very much appreciated.

A MONSTER 25 CARD GAME will be held in the Browne Memorial Hall on Tuesday 16th December at 8.00 p.m. sharp. Prizes: €300 / €150 / €50 Spots and Raffle. Tickets on sale now. Proceeds in aid of the Hall Insurance.

PRAY FOR Teresa Doyle, Months Mind and Deceased Doyle and Mulroy Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.
James Adams, Cloonfinnish, Saturday 8 p.m.
Elizabeth and Thomas Cronnolly, Cartron, Saturday 8 p.m.
Martin McManus, Carramore and Deceased Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.
Vincent Cunney, Dromada-Gore and Deceased Family, Saturday 8 p.m.
Martin Quinn, Dromada-Joyce, Saturday 8 p.m.
John (Dan) Mulligan, Callow, Sunday 7th December 10 a.m.
John Browne, Boleboy and Deceased Family Members, Sunday 7th December 11.30 a.m.
John McLoughlin, Chicago and formerly of Derreen, brother of Seamus McLoughlin, Una Dunleavy And Nuals Kilgallon, who died on Wednesday last 26th November in Chicago. His Funeral Mass was Celebrated in Chicago on Monday last 1st December. Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated in Killasser Church on Monday 8th December at 8.00 p.m.
Michael Dempsey, Graffy and Deceased Members of Dempsey and Hughes Families, Saturday 8 p.m.
Kathleen and Paraic Barry, Carramore and Kathleen McGrath, Swinford, Saturday 8 p.m.
Bridie Sheerin, Tierenanny and Deceased Members of Sheerin and Doherty Families, Saturday 8 p.m.
Helen Murphy (Nee McNulty), Cullonaughton, Sunday 14th December 10 a.m.
James Neary, Lismorane, Callow and Deceased Family members, Sunday 14th December 10 a.m.
Catherine Gallagher, Cloonfinane, Swinford, Grandmother of Ms. Claire Gallagher, Principal Killasser National School who died on Tuesday last 2nd December.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.
