

# KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8 JANUARY 2006.

## 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'*

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### BAPTISM - A WIDER VIEW.

Our Christmas ends with the baptism of Jesus. A solitary figure stands in the river and hears, as the heavens were 'torn apart', the voice, 'You are my Son, the Beloved'. There will be other moments. Mark's Gospel continues typically. The breathless narrative, like a mountain river, leaps from rock to rock, intense, urgent, matter-of-fact, surging ahead as if everything depended on it - which it did.

Which makes it all the more important that we have a still point with which to weigh all other experiences. Baptism can be such a time. It is important to us. Any church has always placed a great emphasis on the act of baptism.

In a world of collapsing boundaries, we still all too easily define ourselves too narrowly. We are loyal to country, members of a family. Baptism reminds us that we are not just citizens of one country, members of one religion, members of one family, and members of one race and gender. We are citizens of the whole world, one with all who believe, brothers and sisters with the human family.

Baptism trumps any other kind of membership, especially the mega-bucks private club membership. Our real passport is not issued by an individual country and baptism put us into solidarity with others far beyond any one faith or denomination. We are citizens of the world before any national citizenship. Baptism reminds us of that.

( Fr. Tom Cox -

Intercom - January 2006 )

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday 10 a.m. / Wednesday 7.30 p.m.

KILLASSER - Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. / Saturday 8 p.m.

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK: THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. Mary Stenson.

Francis Hegarty and Mary Marren.

Sunday 10 a.m. Frank Cregg.

Kennedy.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Ray Chuck

Francis Brennan.

### MINISTERS OF

Saturday 8 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. Joe

Sunday 11.30 a.m.

### OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. The Howley Family (Carrowleambeg) Sunday 11.30 a.m.  
The Scully Family (Dromada-Duke)  
Sunday 10 a.m. The  
Conroy Family (Lismorane)

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:  
CALLOW:**

Saturday 8 p.m. Claire Stenson Sunday 11.30 a.m. Ronan Carr  
Sunday 10.00 a.m. Niamh O'Grady.

**ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>. January 8 p.m. Kevin Barry Colin Cronnolly  
Eimear Burke Liam Moran  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. January 11.30 a.m. Ciara Hussey Angela Hennigan  
Erin Rochford Keith Kavanagh.

**THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

amounted to Euro 988.

31<sup>st</sup>. December / 1<sup>st</sup>. January

**FEAST DAYS:**

Sunday - Baptism of the Lord.  
Friday - Sts. Fabian and Sebastian.

Monday - St Anthony.  
Saturday - St. Agnes.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

next 9<sup>th</sup>. January 4 - 7 p.m.

resumes in Killasser Church on Monday

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

will be celebrated in Killasser Church on Saturday next

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**PARISH FUNCTION:** Killasser Community Care Group held its Annual Parish Function on Friday last 6<sup>th</sup>. January. The event commenced with Mass at 7.00 p.m. . The Party was held afterwards in Frank's Place. A lovely meal was served to all who attended. This was followed by great music and dancing with lots of local musicians and singers. Sincere thanks to the Community Care Group for providing a most enjoyable occasion. A special thanks to all the Musicians/Singers.

**THE PARISH CLUSTER NEWSLETTER** has been published a few day before Christmas and is available to every family and to visitors at this time. It is a lovely production, with informative articles from each of the five parishes in the Cluster and plenty of photographs. It is on the tables at each of the Church doors. You are asked to take one, complements of the Parish.

**FINDING STILLNESS IN THE BUSY LIFE - SPIRITUALITY FOR THE EVERYDAY:**

A Spirituality Programme entitled '*Finding God In The Busy Life - Spirituality for the Everyday*' is now being offered by the Western Theological Institute. The Course will run one night a week, 8.00 - 9.30 p.m. for six weeks, and will be made available in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass in Spring 2006. The Topics covered include: **The Spirituality of Patrick Kavanagh as revealed in his Poetry.** / **Celtic Spirituality - Finding God in all Things.** / **Ignatian Spirituality - Contemplatives in Action.** / **St. Francis - An Exemplar of Creation Spirituality.** / **The Christian Mystical Tradition - Seeking Union with God.** / **The Christian Meditative Tradition - Lectio Divina.** The Course will run on the following dates: **Thursdays - 9 / 16 / 23 February / 2 / 9 / 23 March.** It is limited to **40** Participants and will cost **Euro 45** per person. It will be subsidised by the Parish. We are looking for eight candidates. I am happy to report that now up to this weekend **FOUR** people from the Parish have booked for the Course. If interested, contact Fr. O'Mahony. Hopefully we will reach our target of **EIGHT**.

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**A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING** was held in Callow Church on Wednesday evening last 4<sup>th</sup>. January. Items discussed included - Baptism Preparation, Spirituality Course, Bereavement Cards.

**A PARISH CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held in the Fr. Peyton Memorial Centre, Attymass on Wednesday night week 11<sup>th</sup>. January at 8.30 p.m. James Howley (Carramore) and Margaret McGowan (Cullenaughton) are our parish representatives on this committee.

**THE ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE** to mark Church Unity Octave will be held in Bonniclonon Parish Church on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. January at 8.00 p.m. The Homily will be given by Bishop Richard Henderson, Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Killlala and Achonry. Refreshments will be served afterwards. The ceremony will more than likely be held in Killasser in 2007. It is now very much a cluster celebration with venues rotating. There is an open invitation to everyone to attend.

**PRESENTATION TO FORMER CARRAMORE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** A presentation was made to Ms. Ena Kilcoyne, former Principal of Carramore National School, by members of the Board of Management on behalf of the the pupils and parents, in the Cill Aodain Hotel, Kiltimagh on Thursday night last. This was a small token of our appreciation for the great contribution she made to education in the broadest sense in the school. She extends her thanks and good wishes to everyone and she has treasured her five years as a teacher in Carramore. We wish her every blessing and success for the future in teaching and in life.

**LADIES KEEP-FIT CLASSES FOR THE WINTER MONTHS** resumes in Killasser Community Centre next Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>. at 7.00 p.m. All ladies interested in getting fitter, healthier, losing a few pounds etc. are invited to come along.

**A MEETING OF KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE** will be held in the Community Centre on Wednesday Night next at 8.30 p.m. All committee members are invited to attend.

**BASKETBALL AND INDOOR SOCCER** resumes again this week for the young people in Killasser Community Centre on Monday and Friday respectively.

**A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held in Killasser Community Centre on next Saturday Night at 9.00 p.m.

**KILLASSER AND CALLOW NATIONAL SCHOOLS** will re-open on Monday next 9<sup>th</sup>. January. We hope pupils and teachers had a most relaxing Christmas holiday.

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** will be celebrated in the Parish on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>. March. This will be Fourth Sunday of Lent.

**FIRST CONFESSIONS AND FIRST COMMUNION DATES** will be decided upon in the very near future, now that we have a date for Confirmation.

**'DO THIS IN MEMORY':** The programme of preparation for First Confessions and First Communion, 'Do This In Memory', continues with the next celebration which takes place during the 8 p.m. Mass in Killasser Church on Saturday next 14<sup>th</sup>. January.

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**SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR:** Ash Wednesday - 1<sup>st</sup>. March  
Easter Sunday - 16<sup>th</sup>. April.

**MARTIN NYLAND R.I.P.:** The very sudden and unexpected death of Martin Nyland of Sweetwell took place on Christmas Day. Martin was a man of who had many aspects to his long life. He was a great community person who was involved in so many committees and he was the Swinford/Killasser correspondent for the Western People for about 30 years, having worked also for the Western Journal, no longer published. He climbed Croagh Patrick for 52 years in a row. He

farmed, never drove a car, went by bus to Ballina each week with the Swinford Notes to the Western People Office - e-mail and computerisation didn't catch up with him! He will be greatly missed by the Swinford Community and surrounding areas. We thank him for his great contribution to community life in his own gentle quiet way. Certainly the end of an era. His funeral took place in Swinford on Thursday last 29<sup>th</sup>. December. May he rest in peace.

**PREPARATION FOR AND CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT PARISH AND CLUSTER LEVEL:** As you are probably aware, many parishes have been and are offering a preparation/information evening for Parents and Godparents prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. At present our Parish Pastoral Council are discussing the merits of this approach for the future as a means of keeping the flame of faith more alive. While saying that better preparation could lead to better celebration of the sacrament, in the light of a very informative workshop/seminar that members of the council attended recently, they are not saying that what happened in the past was faulty. However in a different faith context/climate, we can no longer take for granted in 2006 many of the things we did take for granted in the past. Within this context it is hoped to encourage some people in the parish and within each parish in the cluster to become involved in this very important ministry. This will involve some training/education for the participants who might consider becoming part of such a ministry team. Their role would mean working with the priest(s) in preparing the Parents and Godparents of the Children to be baptised for the celebration of the Sacrament and they could also be involved in the actual celebration. It is the Parish Community, not the Priest who welcomes the Child/Person into the worshipping community, so it is only appropriate that some of the community be present. It is not the role of anyone, Priest, Baptism Ministry Team, Parish Community, Grandparents or other family to force the Parents of any Child to have him/her baptised. It is the Parents of a child who needs to ask to have their child baptised. Then every assistance, information, preparation is made available for the best celebration possible. Due to the size of our Parish and the number of candidates for baptism each year, those involved in Baptism Ministry will not be too overworked. You are encouraged to consider becoming involved. It is important for parents of children for baptism in the future to try and see this approach as a help to a better understanding of the richness of the Sacrament which is so full of meaning and symbol. This can so easily be overlooked, which is a great loss. A different approach is not meant to be burdensome or to create barriers in peoples' way. It is something that we as a worshipping/parish community need to think about a lot, to absorb into our minds and heart and this takes time! If you wish to become involved you might fill in the reply slip at the bottom of this page and give it to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council or place it in a box that will be provided in each Church. You might consider doing this over the next two weeks - it would be nice to have a list of volunteers by the end of January. Members of Pastoral Council - Michael Fox, Ray Chuck, Margaret McGowan, Mary Mulligan, James Howley, Pat Gallagher, Marty Noone, Patricia Tansey, Maureen Murphy, Theresa Convey, Bridie Sheerin, Anna Howley and Fr. Dan O'Mahony.

**THE ST. STEPHEN'S DAY SPONSORED WALK FOR THE PAKISTANI EARTHQUAKE APPEAL** has raised almost Euro 3, 000. Contributions will be accepted for another few days before it is sent on to the Aid Organisations/Agencies. It is planned to divide the proceeds between Trocaire and Goal. Sincere thanks again to everyone for such generosity. It will make such a difference to so many people living in such dreadful conditions.

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**PRAY FOR** Patrick and Annie O'Hara, Dromagh, Saturday 8 p.m.  
Martin and Brigid Brady, Lismorane, Sunday 10 a.m.  
People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.  
Pake Howley, Carrowleambeg, Granddaughter Ciara and Deceased Family,  
Saturday 8 p.m.  
Martha and Patrick Stenson, Knocks, Saturday 8 p.m.  
Lizzie O'Donnell, Carramore-Moy, Months Mind, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. 11.30 a.m.

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*MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.*