

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9 DECEMBER 2007.

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 RIGHT TO BE WRONG.

One of the rights I treasure most greatly in my life is my right to be wrong. I absolutely demand this right. I demand the right to be wrong one hundred times a day, in big things and small things. I demand the right to say, 'Sorry, I was mistaken. Sorry, I did not understand. Sorry, I acted without sufficient thought. Sorry, I was insensitive.' I could surrender many other rights and still live a satisfying life, but I could not survive a single day without the right to be wrong.

Far too often the Catholic Church has believed that it had such a level of divine guidance that it did not need the right to be wrong. As a result, both theologically and psychologically it can be bound to decisions of the past. It can be unable to move forward, even when clear evidence emerges that earlier decisions were conditioned by their own time and that the arguments for them are not as strong as they were once thought to be. It has not been able to face the idea that on important issues and for centuries of time it might have been wrong.

(Bishop Geoffrey Robinson - Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church - p 255)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday 10 a.m. / Thursday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.

KILLASSER - Wednesday 10 a.m. / Friday, Saturday 8.00 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Ray Chuck

Sunday 10 a.m. Sean McLoughlin.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Eileen O'Neill and Paraic O'Hara.

Sunday 10 a.m. Angela Conlon.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Beatrice Goldrick.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Ray Chuck Sunday 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan.

CALLOW

Sunday 10 a.m. Sean McLoughlin

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 15th December 8.00 p.m. Siobhan O'Hara Ciara Hussey Siobhan Tully Jonathan Burke

Sunday 16th December 11.30 a.m. Lorraine Kavanagh Erin Rochford Brenda Carr Hayden Harrold.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8. p.m. The Barry Family (Milltown)

Sunday 10 a.m. The McNulty Family (Cullenaughton)

Sunday 11.30 a.m. The Hurst Family (Carramore-Moy)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held in Killasser Church on Monday from 4 - 7 p.m.

PREPARATION/PRACTICE FOR CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW will continue on this Sunday 9th December at 4.00 p.m. It is vital that everyone who is taking part in the Carol Service is present this Sunday. That not only includes the children but also everyone who is reading Prayers, Reflections, Scripture Passages, Narration etc. There has been a wonderful attendance of children at all the rehearsals so far, which is most encouraging. Keep up the effort for these few weeks.

THE ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH will take place this year on Sunday 23rd December at 7.00 p.m. We hope that it will be a very important part of our preparation for a prayerful celebration of Christmas.

A SALE OF WORK IN THE FR. PEYTON CENTRE ATTYMASS will take place on this Sunday 9th December at 3.00 p.m. A variety of homebaking including Christmas Cakes and Christmas Puddings, Craft work: Patch work quilts, rugs, Christmas Wreaths etc. will be available. Raffle and Novelty Prizes. Your support will be very much appreciated.

THE NEXT CELEBRATION OF 'DO THIS IN MEMORY' the programme of preparation for First Confessions and First Holy Communion, will be celebrated during the 8.00 p.m. Mass on Saturday next 15th December. This year there are six Children from Carramore and Killasser National Schools preparing to receive these Sacraments. They are: Emma Howley / Courtney Groarke / Finn Stephens / Dara Kavanagh / Saoirse Warde / Jonathan O'Hara.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH will take place during the 8 p.m. Vigil Mass on this Saturday 8th December. The children to be commissioned are members of Fifth Class in Carramore and Killasser National Schools. They are: Carramore - Chloe Meehan / Melissa Cronnolly / Brenda Carr / Hayden Harrold. Killasser - Mary Tully / Jonathan Burke.

THE ANNUAL SWINFORD ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION was taken up before each Mass on the weekend, 10th / 11th November. On behalf of the Swinford Conference sincere thanks to everyone who contributed and if you have forgotten you can hand it in at your convenience. The amount collected to date is €8,000 approximately. We thank the Swinford Conference for the good work they do in our Parish.

REBUILDING OF WALL AT KILLASSER CHURCH: The wall around the perimeter of Killasser Church Ground on lower side of the grounds near the Community Centre is being rebuilt at the moment. It had been in very bad condition before it was demolished recently. It is being rebuilt under the Rural Social Scheme and hopefully will be faced with stone like the wall opposite the Killasser Housing Estate. Some grant aid has been sanctioned by IRD Kiltimagh and the local County Councillors. We thank them for their support.

DONATIONS TOWARDS RENOVATION AT CALLOW CHURCH: Sincere thanks for the following donations towards the renovation at Callow Church and Killasser Parochial House - €5,000 / €1,000 / €1,000 / €250 / €100 / €50 / €100 / €100 / €50 / €50 / €50 / €200 / €1,400 / €150 / €400 / €1,000 / €250 / €2 / €50 / €300 / €200 / €200. / €100. / €100. / €300. / €200. / €100. / €300 / €250 / €60 / €100 / €250 / €100 / €2,000 / €500 / €500 / \$1,000 / €3,000 / \$500 / €2,000 / €100 / €1,000 / €50 These donations received recently. Other donations of any amount will always be welcome.

KILLASSER GROUP WATER SCHEME: The Annual Rent is now due and the Rent Collector will be calling to each household over the next few weeks.

THE NEW PARISH CALENDAR is still available from the Sacristy of each Church after Mass. Price €10. Again make sure you get your copy in good time. It is also on sale at each of the Doors in Callow Church after Mass each Sunday. The Calendar can also be bought from Thomas Marren (094-9251327) Fr. O'Mahony (094-9251431), Maureen Murphy (094-9251525), Aine O'Hara, Michael Fox (094-9253603), Theresa Convey (094-9251364), Bridie Sheerin (094-9251062), Kevin Hughes and a number of Shops in Swinford and Foxford. Quite a large number of the Calendars were sold at the Craft Fair in Foxford last weekend 30th November / 2nd / 3rd December. As time goes by they are getting more scarce.

BUILDING AT CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL is still progressing very well. The two new class rooms are now plastered inside and out. They have been painted inside and units have also been installed. New furniture has also arrived. The outdoor playing area beside the new General Purposes Building is now complete. The children are now able to play on it. It is an all-weather surface that can be used in all kinds of conditions. It is really state of the art.

PARLEZ VOUS FRANCAIS? French language Courses for Primary and Post Primary Students are now available. The 15 Week Course is given by a highly qualified French Native Teacher with 20 years experience. The Course can tip the scales in your favour when exam times come around, getting the professional help you need now. For enrolment and full details please contact Jacqueline Duffy on 094-9861146.

AT THE LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING on Wednesday evening last 21st November in Killasser Church. The following items were discussed as well as others: The analysis of the Parish Questionnaire - 71 were returned. / Cluster Baptism Preparation Team / Evaluation of Remembrance Service for the Dead, Donal Harrington Workshop, Killala Diocesan Liturgical and Music Workshop / Internal adjustment/reorganisation of Killasser Church / Loose Change Collection / 'Do This In Memory' / Bishop-Elect Brendan Kelly etc.

THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FOR 2007 - 2008 ARE Michael Fox / Collette Howley / Helen Thompson / Maureen Murphy / Anna Howley / Margaret McGowan / Mary Mulligan / Joe Kennedy / Joe McNulty / Bridie Sheerin / Marty Noone / Patricia Tansey

A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING took place on Wednesday 28th December in Callow Church. A first draft of the analysis of the Parish Questionnaire Responses is now complete and this was looked at in detail at this meeting to make some adjustments that were necessary. The full meeting was devoted to this purpose apart from a few other minor details.

THE ANALYSIS OF THE PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE will be made available to everyone who wishes to see it at a later stage when it is ready for publication. This will probably be after the next Pastoral Council meeting and so you should have it before Christmas. After publication of it, the next step is to try and see what we can implement as a parish community to enrich our faith journey. That is a bigger challenge, but I am confident that we can take it on together and move forward step by step. It is very clear from it already that the majority of people who responded wish to have the Vigil Mass for Christmas at 12 Midnight as it has been for many years. It will be at Midnight again this year. There is also agreement to have a two-hour gap between the starting times of the Masses in Callow and Killasser on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday to allow sufficient time for the celebrant to travel from one to the other with a little less pressure of time. Mass this year on Christmas Day in Callow Church will be at 9.30 a.m. and in Killasser Church at 11.30 a.m.

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE - PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MINISTRY: This was a very encouraging aspect of the questionnaire, to know that quite a number of people indicated their willingness to become involved in the various ministries in the Church. As the questionnaires were not signed, the Pastoral Council would appreciate very much if those people who wish to become involved would contact any member of the Pastoral Council. New people are always needed and are most welcome.

A CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING was held in the Fr. Peyton Centre Attymass on Thursday night 22nd November. The possibility of having a group of people to work with the priests in the cluster in preparing Parents and Godparents better for the Baptism of their children was discussed again. **It is hoped to have two people from each parish for an information evening on Monday 26th November from 8.30 - 10.00 p.m. in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass. This will, hopefully, enable them to become involved in this ministry. We now have two volunteers and we would still like to have one more. Do think about it.** Other items discussed were: Marriage Preparation Booklet / Christmas Cluster Newsletter / Rationalisation of Parish Services / Preparation for Advent and Christmas / Services of Reconciliation / Bishop-Elect Brendan Kelly / Ecumenical Service.

BETTER PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: A meeting to discuss how we might do this was held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Monday night 26th November. The Priests and some people from each Parish discussed this topic at some length to see how we can help Parents and Godparents particularly to understand better the richness of the meaning of the Sacrament. **A further meeting for this purpose has been planned for Monday 14th January in Attymass.**

THE NEXT CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday 17th January 2008 at 8.30 p.m. The Killasser/Callow representatives are Maureen Murphy and Joe McNulty.

A CLUSTER NEWSLETTER will be published again for Christmas this year. Maureen Murphy is a member of the editorial team and is looking for any articles or photographs of interest you might have. You can contact her on 094-9251525.

THE FOXFORD CLUSTER ECUMENICAL SERVICE will be held in January and this time it is the turn of Foxford to host the event. Last January it was celebrated in Killasser Church and was a most meaningful and enjoyable service. It will probably be held during the week beginning 20th January. More details later.

BUS TO TEA DANCE: Would you like a Rural Transport Service from your area to the Tea Dance in Midfield, Swinford on Sunday afternoons? If you would like to use this service, please contact Anne-Marie Carroll on 094-9381494 as soon as possible. This pilot service will only run if there is a need and passengers using the route.

NEW ARTS OFFICER FOR IRD KILTIMAGH: IRD Kiltimagh Ltd. has recently appointed Anne Marie McGing as the new Arts Officer. Anne Marie hails from Killawalla and has been working in the arts previously in Galway and Mayo. She will be working throughout the year on developing a programme of arts activities in the Town Hall Theatre and other venues. You can contact Anne Marie at the IRD Kiltimagh by calling 094-9381494 or emailing annemariemcing@ird-kiltimagh.ie

KILTIMAGH ARTS MAILING LIST: IRD Kiltimagh Arts Office is in the process of updating its arts interest mailing list. If you are interested in receiving information about up-coming events in the East Mayo Area please contact the IRD Kiltimagh Arts Officer, Anne Marie McGing with your contact details. You can e-mail the information to the above address or you can contact IRD on 094-9331494. Please include a contact name, address and e-mail address in e-mails.

FOXFORD 25 CARD GAME continues in Browne Memorial Hall on Tuesday next 11th December at 8.30 sharp. Usual Prizes, Spots and Raffle. Your support will be very much appreciated.

THE KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH RENOVATION FUND COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER amounted to €1,660. Sincere thanks to everyone for your support and generosity for what was an excellent collection.

FARMERS' MARKET: The Farmers' Market is now open in Foxford at the Mill Car Park. It takes place each Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. For further information contact 071-9181847.

COOLEGRANE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING: The Hughes Family in Coolegrane will, once again, be erecting their display of Christmas Lights at their home. The Lighting Project this year will be bigger and better. The proceeds from this project go to Rock Rose House Cancer Support Centre, Castlebar. A Donation Box will be placed at the gate. We hope as many people as possible will come to see this colourful display of Lights. The Cancer Support Centre would be grateful for any donations.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 1st / 2nd December amounted to €1,331

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SWINFORD AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION will take place in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Tuesday 11th December at 8.00 p.m. All members are requested to attend and anybody who would like to know more about their local Credit Union are welcome to come along and hear how a Credit Union operates. The benefits of your local office and how all money is used locally for the benefit of the local community.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION will be celebrated in each Parish of the Cluster during the Third Week of Advent. It will be celebrated in:

KILLASSER CHURCH	on Monday 17 th December at 8.00 p.m.
FOXFORD CHURCH	on Tuesday 18 th December at 8.00 p.m.
STRAIDE CHURCH	on Wednesday 19 th December at 8.00 p.m.
BONNICONLON CHURCH	on Thursday 20 th December at 8.00 p.m.
ATTYMASS CHURCH	on Friday 21 st December at 8.00 p.m.

You will be welcome to receive the Sacrament in any of the Parishes. It will be celebrated at 8 p.m. in each parish.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH TROCAIRE'S CHRISTMAS GLOBAL GIFTS: 'It is more blessed to give rather than receive' (Acts 20 : 35). If we reflect on this simple Bible quote, it really sums up the concept of Christian giving and sharing with our sisters and brothers wherever they may be. Trocaire's Global Gifts offer a range of ethical gifts that people can purchase for friends and family this Christmas, which Trocaire will distribute on their behalf to vulnerable families and communities in the developing world. This year's Global Gifts include chicks that will provide eggs for families devastated by HIV and AIDS in East Africa, school packs for Burmese refugees, seeds and trees for families in central Africa, survival kits for refugee families in Uganda returning home having been driven out by war, the gift of care for mothers and newborn babies in Somalia, weaving looms to help women in Guatemala earn a living, the gift of a brighter future for young people in Liberia through skill training, the gift of water to help communities all over the world and houses for families in India. It is easy to make a difference this Christmas. To purchase a Trocaire Global Gift log onto WWW.TROCAIRE.ORG/GLOBALGIFT or call 1850 408 408 or (NI) 0800 912 1200. Trocaire's Global are also on sale in Veritas and Avoca outlets nationwide or at Trocaire centres in Maynooth, Dublin, Cork or Belfast.

SPONSOR A LIGHT FOR CHRISTMAS: You will have the opportunity to sponsor a light on a Christmas Tree outside Callow and Killasser Churches again this year. This can be done in memory of family members, relatives or neighbours who have died and also for family members living away from home in Ireland or particularly overseas. The Christmas trees will be erected before Christmas and switched on in Callow, probably after the Carol Service and after the Vigil Mass in Killasser on 22nd December. The cost of sponsoring a light will be €10 as it was last year. Envelopes for this purpose will be available from next weekend. A Mass will be offered in Callow and Killasser early in 2008 for all the living and dead who are remembered. The sponsorship money will go towards the Parish Renovation Fund.

A KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in Killasser Community Centre on Wednesday Night next 12th December at 8.30 p.m. Hopefully all committee members will be able to attend.

THE CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND-RAISING SOCIAL will be held in Frank's Place, Killasser on Saturday Night next 8th December, commencing at 9.00 p.m. Tickets are on sale for the main Prizes which are very valuable. Tickets are €2 each or a Book of 12 for €20. The Prizes are - €500 Home Heating Oil / Berg Go Kart / Nintendo Wii and Game / Satellite Navigation System / €200 Lynch Group Hotel Voucher. Draw will take place at the Social. Lots of other Raffle Prizes to be raffled on the night. Your support will be very much appreciated for what is always a most enjoyable function.

FOXFORD FARMERS' MARKET: Foxford's New Farmers' Markets runs every Saturday morning from 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. in the Car Park of the Foxford Woolen Mills. Items available include fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, home-baking - orders can be placed now for puddings and Christmas Cakes, also catering to any dietary requirements. Hot soup available. Also available in the market is a wonderful selection of cheeses and there is even an opportunity to purchase some seasonal plants and festive wreaths. This weekend the Foxford Craft Fair takes place in the Sports Centre and the Farmers' Market, for this week only, will run on Saturday and Sunday. This is an ideal opportunity to purchase local produce, organic vegetables and home-baking so come along and support the traders. It is a very pleasant and sociable experience.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD CELEBRATION: Fr. Heribert Wolf, who has been visiting Foxford for many years and now spends much more time there in recent years will celebrate the Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) of his Ordination to the Priesthood during the 7.30 p.m. Mass in Foxford Parish Church on this Saturday 8th December. There will be a presentational social afterwards in the Browne Memorial Hall. We congratulate him on reaching this milestone in his life and wish him every blessing, happiness and good health for many years to come. Fr. Wolf is a native of Germany.

APA - AIDS PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA - AN IRISH CHARITY SET UP BY FR. OWEN LAMBERT: VOUCHERS - Why not treat someone to a unique gift for Christmas of a voucher (€35) for entry to Pampering Day at Balla Resource Centre on Sunday 27th January 2008 and at the same time support the of APA which helps alleviate the suffering of AIDS orphaned children in Africa. For information/vouchers please contact Patricia Mannion on 086-3936083 or Catriona Doyle on 087-2369702.

PIECES OF MY MIND - A NEW BOOK BY FR. BRENDAN HOBAN is now available in many local Bookshops. It contains 75 Reflections on topical subjects relating to the Church, Family and Modern Ireland. Simple, practical and down to earth commentaries on the issues that matter in peoples' lives. It costs €13.95c and is well worth buying. I only bought my copy this Saturday and have only had a glance through it. You can order it from FAITHALIVE@EIRCOM.NET for €15 which includes postage.

THE CLOONLYON NATIONAL SCHOOL PARENTS are holding their Christmas 25 Card Game in the Airport Lounge on Wednesday next 12th December at 9.00 p.m. Cash Prizes €160. Big Raffle and Spot Prizes. Refreshments served. Your support will be appreciated.

A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held in Killasser Church on Wednesday night next 12th December at 8.00 p.m. Note the change of time to 8 p.m. instead of 8.30 p.m.

PRAY FOR James Adams, Cloonfinnish, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Michael Dempsey, Graffy and Deceased Members of the Dempsey and Hughes Families, Saturday 8 pm.
 Kathleen McGrath, Park Road, Swinford, Sister of Maureen Barry, Carramore, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Martin and Geraldine McNulty, Listernan and Norman Donoghue, Athlone, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Vincent Cunney, Dromada-Gore, Sister Vera, Parents Patrick and Brigid, Nephew Martin, Saturday 8.
 Martin Quinn, Dromada-Joyce, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Tom Kavanagh, Carramore and Deceased Members of Kavanagh and Kilbride Families, Saturday 8pm.
 Dan (John) Mulligan, Callow, Sunday 9th December 10.00 a.m.
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.
 Margaret Haran (Nee Browne), formerly of Boleboy, who died in Chicago on Monday 3rd December.
 Mass will be celebrated on Friday next 14th at
 Brigid and Patrick Cunney, Carrowleamore, Son Vincent, Daughter Vera, Grandson Martin,
 Saturday 8 p.m.
 Mary and Martin Edward Howley, Dunmaynor, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Katie Doyle, Sister of Brigid Holleran, Dunmaynor, who died in Mill Hill, London on 3rd November.
 Saturday 8 p.m.
 Helen Murphy (Nee McNulty), Cullenaughton, Sunday 16th December 10 a.m.
 James Neary, Lismorane, and Deceased Members of Neary and Duffy Families, Sunday 16th 10 a.m.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT