

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

FR. DAN O'MAHONY (094) 9251431. e-mail djomachonry@eircom.net

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 DECEMBER 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'*

A SECOND LOOK

Seeing an old Biblical manuscript can give you quite a shock at first. Everything is written in Capital letters with no spaces or punctuation. If it were in English, it would look a bit like this:

INTHEFIFTEENTHYEAROFTIBERIUSCAESARSREIGNWHENPONTIUSPILATEWASGOVERNOROFJUDEA

You might have just made out that it is the opening of today's Gospel. So, you can see why punctuation helps. The cramped script is ironic really, as John was a child of the open places. Ten days into an already short Advent season, he's demanding attention, crying out. Like a dog warning you of someone coming to the house - he won't give up until you pay attention. The echo of his voice rumbles across the desert of people's lives announcing a decisive turning point in the history of the world. Are you ready?

It's a very broad canvas, with sweeping brushstrokes we're told every valley shall be filled. Every mountain and hill shall be laid low. Beware of small horizons. Come on, John seems to be saying, 'Time to get your life back into focus. 'Come on, time to think about who you are and what you long to be.' No more than letters make little sense without the precious scaffolding of word and punctuation, so without some space to listen to God in our lives, we can run the risk of life not making any sense either.

Fr. Tom Cox - Intercom - December 2006)

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 p.m. Patrick McNulty.

Sunday 10 a.m. Pat Gallagher.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. Thomas Marren and Sr. Margaret.

Sunday 10 a.m. Margaret McGowan.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Bridie Sheerin.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8 p.m. Rachael McDonnell

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Aileen Gallagher.

CALLOW

Sunday 10 a.m. Deirdre Gallagher.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 16th December 8 p.m. Siobhan O'Hara Niall Armstrong David Cronnelly Brid Rogers.

Sunday 17th December 11.30 a.m. Erin Rochford Aileen Gallagher Shane Cunney Pierce Rowley.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. The Goldrick Family (Carrowleamore)

Sunday 10 a.m. The McDonnell Family (Lismorane)

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

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

'DO THIS IN MEMORY' the Preparation Programme for First Confessions and First Holy Communion will have its next celebration on Sunday next 17th December, Third Sunday of Advent. during the 11.30 a.m. in Killasser Church. The focus for this celebration will be the Nativity - Birth of Christ.

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND will be visited on Thursday next 14th December at the usual time. If you are not on the list and would like to be visited, you are asked to contact Fr. O'Mahony.

ACHONRY REGIONAL PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION: Mass will be offered for the deceased members of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association from the Achonry Diocese in St. James' Church, Charlestown on Monday evening next 11th December at 7.30 p.m. Everybody is welcome. The Annual Dinner of the Regional Committee will follow afterwards in the Riverside Restaurant.

MASS ON RTE TELEVISION ON SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER will mark and celebrated 175 years of the Mercy Sisters in Ireland The founding of the Mercy Order took place on 12th December 1831. Congratulations to all concerned on reaching this milestone.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY is this Sunday 10th December. The U.N. Declaration asserts, 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.' On the occasion of International Human Rights Day let us remember those whose right to life, liberty and security of person are consistently violated, particularly in the conflict-torn Darfur region of Western Sudan where violence continues to escalate. More than 200,000 people have died as a result of the conflict in Darfur since 2003. In addition 2.5 Million people have been displaced and are reliant on international aid for survival. As the violence in Darfur escalates civilians continue to be attacked, killed, raped and forcibly displaced from their homes. Trocaire, with the support of the Irish Church, works in Darfur providing food, water and healthcare as well as advocating for a political solution, which is critical to resolving this ongoing crisis. We are encouraged to pray for the people of Darfur either during Mass or in personal prayer on International Human Rights Day - today.

E.S.B. NETWORKS NOTICE: There will interruption of Electricity Supply in the Callow area on Wednesday next 13th December from 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

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 / ~~€100~~ / €50 These donations were received recently. Other donations of any amount will always be welcome.

SPONSOR A LIGHT FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE CALLOW AND KILLASSER CHURCHES: This is one of the suggestions from the first open meeting held on 13th November. An outdoor Christmas tree will be erected outside Callow and Killasser Churches and you can sponsor a light on either tree for €10. **Envelopes for this purpose and for your donation are available in both Churches again this weekend.** You can hand them in at your convenience. Proceeds will go towards the revovation. The trees are being donated and erected free of charge. Sincere thanks to all who have offered to do this.

SPONSOR A LIGHT ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE CALLOW AND KILLASSER CHURCHES for a Family Member, Relative or Neighbour who is living away from home - in other parts of Ireland, England, U.S.A., Australia or anywhere in the world - who will be unable to return this Christmas. It could be an ideal present to inform them that a light is being lit for them at home this Christmas. **You could also sponsor a Light for somebody who has died More envelopes are available this weekend in both Churches and the suggested donation is €10.** All proceeds will go towards Callow Church and Parochial House renovations. Your support and generosity will be very much appreciated.

SINCERE THANKS TO A SPONSOR who has donated €500 towards Christmas Lights on one of the outdoor Christmas Trees. A most generous contribution which is very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AT THE HUGHES HOME IN COOLEGRANE: Each year the Hughes Family erect very decorative Christmas lighting outside their home which attracts many people. At the gate there is always a donation box and the money is given to different charities and for different causes each year. At the meeting on 13th November, the Hughes family offered to give this year's proceeds to the Callow Church Renovation Fund. We thank them sincerely for this most generous gesture and we encourage as many as possible to go along to see the lighting /decoration when it is erected. We will let you know when this happens.

A SPONSORED WALK FOR CALLOW CHURCH will take place on St. Stephen's Day to raise funds for the renovation work. A route has been planned out. If you remember we had a most enjoyable walk last St. Stephen's Day to raise funds for the earthquake victims in Pakistan. We hope you will mark this into your diary and come out in large numbers on that day. There will be refreshments and music etc. afterwards. **The walk will begin and finish at Callow Church.**

A CONCERT OF SPIRITUAL MUSIC AND SONG will, hopefully, take place in Callow Church, possibly around Eastertime. No definite arrangements or details yet but it will be worked on over the coming weeks.

ANOTHER REMINDER TO PAYE WORKERS TO RETURN YOUR REVENUE FORMS: Sincere thanks to everyone who has returned a tax form. If you have overlooked it, you are encouraged to return it at your convenience. It is important to remember that this does not affect your tax in any way. It does not cost you as a taxpayer but it can greatly assist the Church renovation fund. **Take Note: You do not have to put in any money with the Tax Form - you just write down how much you contributed to the Church in 2005.** If you still need a form or if you have any query you can contact 087-6305936 or Fr. O'Mahony.

COMPLETION OF PAINTING OF CALLOW CHURCH: The painting of Callow Church will be completed during the week ahead. This was supposed to have been done last week but that was not possible. The doors have still to be painted, also the red line around the windows and some timber has still to be varnished. Even before the completion of painting, the church was looking beautiful for the Wedding on this Saturday. It will be looking even better for Christmas.

FEAST DAYS: Wednesday - St. Lucy Thursday - St. John of the Cross.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 2nd / 3rd December amounted to €1,325.

NOTICE TO KILLASSER GROUP WATER SCHEME MEMBERS: Members are advised that the annual water rate is now due and will be collected in the coming weeks. Rate for domestic use - €70 Rate for domestic and agricultural use €120.

SWINFORD AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION A.G.M. will take place in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Tuesday next 12th 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 will be explained.

LADIES KEEP-FIT: Keep-Fit for ladies continues in Killasser Community Centre on Wednesday Night at 7.00 p.m. Start your exercise regime for Christmas and the New Year by joining up. Admission Cost €4 per class.

FR. PEYTON CENTRE SALE OF WORK: The annual sale of work will be held on this Sunday 10th December at 3 p.m. This year's sale of work will be bigger and better than ever with lots of Christmas baking and a great variety of freshly baked cakes, scones, apple tarts, sponge cakes, brown bread and pastries. Beautiful craft work and Christmas wreaths also on sale. Not to be missed. Your support will be much appreciated.

GIFT VOUCHERS FOR CHRISTMAS: Pampering Day in aid of children living with AIDS in Africa. Ideal Christmas gift for only €35 for day. All funds raised will go directly to APA (AIDS Partnership with Africa) For the purchase of Christmas Vouchers and information regarding the forthcoming pampering day, please contact Caitriona Doyle on 087-2369702 or Maura Walshe on 087-6815441.

POLISH MASS: Mass will be celebrated for the Polish Community in St. Nathy's Cathedral, Ballagherreen on Tuesday next 12th December at 8.00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at 7.00 p.m.

Ojciec krzysztof odprawi Msze swieta dis Polskiej Spolecznosci w przyszly czwartek o godzinie 20.00. Spowiedz Odbędzie sie o godzinie 19.00 Bardzo prosimy przekazać wiadomość wszystkim znajomym - z góry dziękujemy za rozpoznanie dobrego wiadomości.

THE ANNUAL CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL FUND-RAISING SOCIAL which was held in Frank's Place, Killasser on Saturday Night 2nd December was an outstanding success. Sincere thanks to everyone who sponsored the many prizes available, those who sold and bought tickets and everyone who attended on the night. In total there was over €4,000 in profit, which will be used to obtain extra computer for the schools.

THE KILLASSER COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL 25 CARD DRIVE was held in Killasser Community Centre on last Monday Night 4th December. There were 15 Tables. Sincere thanks to everyone who attended and to all who sponsored prizes. Proceeds are in aid of the Community Care Group to help them continue the good work they have been doing for so long.

KNOCK MARRIAGE BUREAU: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 Marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying? For further information contact the Bureau at Knock. Phone 094-9375960 or visit their website at www.knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the bureau.

TUBBERCERRY FAMILY AND CHILDCARE RESOURCE CENTRE: This year the Tubbercerry Christmas Committee wish to invite the wider community to become involved in their celebration of the Christmas Season. They are organising a Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 3.00 p.m. Proceeds of the Carol Service will be given to the Childline and WAVES Domestic Violence Charities. They are hoping to involve all the Churches in the surrounding area. Weather permitting, the Service will take place outdoors or failing that it will be held in St. Brigid's Hall. We are invited but it may not suit on account of our own Carol Service in Callow. Contact Helen on 087-6795548 or Conor in Resource Centre on 071-9186926.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AVAILABLE: Five women from Achonry Diocese have recently completed two years training in Spiritual Direction with the Jesuit Centre for Spirituality, Manresa. They are now available to meet with individuals. Spiritual Direction/Guidance offers a reflective look at life and working of the Holy Spirit in it. For more information, Phone Patricia McCarthy on 086-1021532 or Frances Mellett on 087-7813926. You can get a brochure in the Sacristy.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE will be held in Callow Church on Sunday next 17th December. It will commence at 7.00 p.m. Practice for the Service has already begun. All children and young people wishing to take part in the Carol Service are asked to come to Callow Church on this Sunday evening at 7.00 p.m. and again on Tuesday evening next at 7.30 p.m. You are also asked to bring along your musical instruments. The Service will consist of Christmas Carols, Music, Scripture Readings, Mime/Drama, Reflection and Prayer. Everyone from both sides of the Parish and the surrounding parishes are invited and welcome to attend for what is always a very special occasion in the lead-up to Christmas.

A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held in Callow Church on Wednesday Night next 13th December, commencing at 8.30 p.m. Some important matters have to be discussed and decide on. All members are encouraged to attend.

MASS ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT IN KILLASSER AT MIDNIGHT OR AT AN EARLIER TIME? A number of people have asked does it have to be at 12 Midnight or could it be celebrated a little earlier to suit children and older people. Nothing is set in stone and change is always possible. Let us try to discuss and get a consensus.

CHRISTMAS EVE IS SUNDAY THIS YEAR: At our last Parish Pastoral Council Meeting the Mass times/schedule for Christmas were discussed. It was suggested that we could have two vigil Masses on Saturday 23rd December - 7.00 p.m. in Callow and 8.00 p.m. in Killasser - and leave Christmas Eve Morning free. It would be easier then to focus on the Christmas Vigil Mass. Again we might think about this and get a consensus.

KILLASSER COMMUNITY ALERT COMMITTEE has been sanctioned for a Grant of €5,840 for extra security equipment. This will be given by the Department of Community and Rural Affairs. It is expected very shortly.

THE FOXFORD SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE was officially opened on this Saturday afternoon 9th December. Congratulations to everyone involved in providing such a fabulous amenity/facility for Foxford and the surrounding area. It is a beautiful building that should be appreciated by everyone who can use it. We wish the committee who will run it every success for the years ahead.

KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place in the School on Tuesday week 19th December. As usual it will be a night of great entertainment.

CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be on Thursday 21st December. Great entertainment promised and a night not to be missed. Both concerts will commence at 7.30 p.m.

A COMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS IN KILLASSER CHURCH: was held during the 8 p.m. Mass in Killasser Church on Friday last 8th December. The following children were commissioned:

Caoimhe Warde (Doontas), Cormac Warde (Doontas), David Cronnolly (Dunmaynor), Sinead Timlin (Prebawn) (All 5th Class in Carramore School)

Kevin Rowley (Dromada-Gore), Pierce Rowley (Dromada-Gore) Brid Rogers (Killasser Estate), Lorraine Kavanagh (Creggane), Conor Stephens (Carramore), Shane Cunney (Dromada-Gore) and Paul Quinn (Dromada-Joyce). (All 5th Class in Killasser School). We congratulate and wish them well in their new Ministry.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/PENNANCE will be celebrated in four of the Parishes of our Cluster over the next two weeks. Priests from within the cluster will be administering the Sacrament at each of the services. If you are unable to attend in our own Church, feel totally free to go to one of the other parishes. It will not be celebrated in Foxford as that was part of the Mission held in November. Venues, Dates and Times are as follows:

BONNICONLON	MONDAY	11 TH	DECEMBER	8.00 P.M.
KILLASSER	TUESDAY	12 TH	DECEMBER	8.00 P.M.
STRAIDE	MONDAY	18 TH	DECEMBER	8.00 P.M.
ATTYMASS	TUESDAY	19 TH	DECEMBER	8.00 P.M.

We encourage as many people as possible to receive the sacrament as part of our preparation for Christmas.

PRAY FOR Michael Dempsey, Gaffy and Deceased Members of the Dempsey/Huges Families, Saturday 8 p.m.
James Adams, Cloonfinnish, Saturday 8 p.m.
Helen Murphy (Nee McNulty), Cullenaughton, Sunday 10th December 10 a.m.

John (Dan) Mulligan, Callow, Sunday 10th December 10 a.m.

People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.

Patrick and Mary Rochford, Cartron, and Deceased Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.

Martin and Brigid Brady, Lismorane, Sunday 17th December 10 a.m.

James Neary, Lismorane, Sunday 17th December 10 a.m.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

A CAROL SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND FOXFORD will take place on Saturday next 16th December at 6.00 p.m. Foxford Brass and Reed Band will be in attendance. Seasonal refreshments will be served after the Service. Everyone
