

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

16 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'*

MERE OBEDIENCE

There are persons who, because of fear or laziness, do not want to take personal responsibility for moral choices. They want either the bible or church authority or a charismatic leader or popular opinion or a peer group to take the responsibility for them, so that all that will be left to them is to follow this authority. This cannot be called 'the very dignity' of these persons, for they have not taken personal responsibility for their decisions and will not grow as they should. Mere obedience, to either religious authority or popular opinion, is not 'the very dignity' of a person.

(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 10 a.m. / Saturday 8.00 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Mary Stenson.

Sunday 10 a.m. Pat Gallagher.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Patrick McNulty.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Mary Marren and Francis Hegarty.

Sunday 10 a.m. Mary McNulty.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Brid Rogers. Sunday 11.30 a.m. Pierce Rowley

CALLOW

Sunday 10 a.m. Deirdre Gallagher.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 22nd December 8.00 p.m. Siobhan O'Hara Ciara Hussey Melissa Cronnolly Chloe Meehan.

Sunday 23rd December 11.30 a.m. Pierce Rowley Kevin Rowley Eoin Gallagher Brid Rogers.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8. p.m. The Durkin Family (Magheraboy)

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

Sunday 11.30 a.m. The Ruddy Family (Cullen)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

will NOT be held in Killasser Church on Monday next 17th December. It will resume again in mid-January.

PREPARATION/PRACTICE FOR CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW

will continue on this Sunday 16th 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 at all the rehearsals so far, which is most encouraging. **Keep up the effort for this final rehearsal.**

THE ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH

will take place this year on Sunday next 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.

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 this Saturday 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.

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH CALENDAR 2008:

A Meeting to update the position on sales etc. will be held in Callow Church on Tuesday Night next 18th December at 8.00 p.m. Possibly a group photograph might be taken on the night also.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH took place during the 8 p.m. Vigil Mass last Saturday 8th December. The children who were 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.** We congratulate them and thank them for being willing to serve in the Church. We hope they will be committed to the ministry and that it will be an enjoyable experience for them over the next number of years.

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 KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH RENOVATION FUND: Sincere thanks for the following donations towards the renovation at Callow Church and Killasser Parochial House - €5,000 / €1,000 / €250 / €100 / €50 / €100 / €100 / €50 / €50 / €50 / €200 / €1,400 / €150 / €400 / €1,000 / €250 / €200 / €50 / €300 / €200 / €200. / €100. / €100. / €300. / €200. / €250 / €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.

CITIZENS' INFORMATION CENTRE: Mayo Citizens' Information Service will hold an outreach on Friday next 21st December at the Cosgallen Office in Charlestown from 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. The service is free and confidential and a wide range of areas are covered. For more information contact Cosgallen on 094-9255070.

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. The floors have been covered and all the Tarmac has been laid on both sides of the road in the last couple of days. 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. The whole project is now down to the final detail and it will be a fantastic facility for the future.

NEW BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT FOR CARRAMORE AND KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOLS have been set up recently and they came into office on 1st December. They will remain in place until 30th November 2011. We welcome them onto these very important committees, we thank them for being willing to give of their time and talent to the efficient running of the schools and wish them well over the next four years. The previous Board Members served for the past four years, the time it was a four year term. We thank them sincerely for their willingness to be involved and for their commitment to tasks that presented themselves. We wish them a pleasant retirement from these positions.

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 November 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. It will be available at the Church Doors at all the Masses next weekend 22nd / 23rd December. 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 this year but it will **NOT** now be available for Christmas as enough material hasn't come in from each parish. 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.

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 ANNEMARIEMCGING@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 18th 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.

WATERPOINT ENNISCRONE - GIFT VOUCHERS: Gift Vouchers are now available at Waterpoint and Sunset Spa. Receive a 10% discount off membership with the purchase of a Christmas Membership Voucher. Phone 096-36999.

COOLEGRANE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING: The Hughes Family in Coolegrane have, once again, erected their display of Christmas Lights at their home. The Lighting Project this year is 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 8th / 9th amounted to €1,590

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 FRIDAY 21 st December at 9.00 p.m.
FOXFORD CHURCH	on MONDAY 17 th December at 8.00 p.m.
STRAIDE CHURCH	on Wednesday 19 th December at 8.15 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. **Note the change of date and time for Killasser. This is due to circumstances outside our control, because of events happening in other parishes.**

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.

PRAYERS AND WISHES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM 2007: For the eighth consecutive year Christmas celebrations will take place in a difficult climate for all peoples in the Holy Land. At this time of year we pray for justice, peace and security for Palestinians and Israelis. This year you are invited to send a message to the people of Bethlehem, the place where Jesus was born. All individuals and parishes are invited to e-mail Christmas wishes and prayers for peace before 25th December. Messages can be submitted on Pax Christi's website at WWW.PAXCHRISTI.NET.

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 this 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.

THE CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND-RAISING SOCIAL took place in Frank's Place, Killasser on Saturday Night last 8th December. A very large crowd attended. Sincere thanks to everyone who did attend and to everyone who supported this fund-raising event. Almost €7,000 profit was made. This large amount is due in no small way to the very good prizes because of the generous sponsorship of so many people. Thanks to one and all.

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.

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 SICK AND HOUSEBOUND will be visited on Thursday next at the usual time. If there is anyone not on the list and would like to be visited, please contact Fr. O'Mahony.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION will be celebrated for Carramore and Killasser National Schools on Tuesday morning at 9.30 a.m.

THE KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place in Killasser School on Wednesday Night next 19th December, commencing at 7.00 p.m. Come early to get a good seat as I am sure there will be a capacity crowd for what is always a wonderful occasion. Ms. Niamh Ruttledge, former teacher in Killasser National School will attend the concert. The Children will make a presentation to her in appreciation of her contribution to the children and the school over the past nine years.

THE CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE will be celebrated in Killasser Church on Thursday Night next 20th December, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is not confined to the parents and families of the children in the school. It is open to everyone and it will be a lovely service in an appropriate setting.

DECORATION OF KILLASSER CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: May I suggest that a lot of this work could be done on Tuesday/Wednesday evenings if that suited - Christmas Tree, Crib, Candles on windows etc. Everyone who is willing to help out is more than welcome to come along and join in. How about 7.00 p.m. as a starting time?

SPONSORED WALK ON ST. STEPHEN'S DAY AT 12 NOON: All details in another part of this Newsletter.

PRAY FOR 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, Saturday 8 p.m.
 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 10 a.m.
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.
 Tom McDonnell, Wife Annie and Son Martin, Tiernanny and Deceased Family, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Sally Golden (Nee Walsh), Tiernanny, who died in Coventry on 20th November, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Sarah and Anthony Regan, Culduff and Deceased Regan/Gillen Families, Sunday 23rd 10 a.m.
 Mary (Baby) Doherty, Currinara, Foxford, Mother of Mairead Brady, Cloonygowan, who died on Saturday 15th December in the Blackrocks Nursing Home, Foxford. Funeral arrangements later.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
