

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17 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'*

THE DIVINITY CODE.

It's been a good year for lovers of theological conspiracy theories with Dan Brown's 'Da Vinci Code.' But every Advent, there is another hidden puzzle that escapes notice, right under people's noses.

They're called the 'O' Antiphons which are prayed every Advent from about the 7th Century onwards. They form an increasingly urgent plea from a weary world for its redeemer to come. Each day from 17th to 23rd December, beginning with the letter O, we have various titles for the coming of Jesus. O Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, rising Sun, King, Emmanuel.

In the original Latin, if you read the initial letter of each title backward (Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel), you get EROCRAS. It literally means an enigmatic 'I will be tomorrow.'

But, why tomorrow? Why not today? Why the wait? Sometimes we only understand things when we look backwards. Life is lived forward, but understood backwards. We may only know the full meaning when a prophecy is fulfilled and we look back. It's the same with our life. In God's holy flirtation with the world, we don't fully understand things. Advent has us looking forward to a coming, but it seems that it will be afterwards, when we will fully grasp the rhyme and reason for things.

Fr. Tom Cox - Intercom - December 2006)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday, Thursday 10 a.m. / Saturday 7 p.m.

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

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 7 p.m. Sean McLoughlin

Saturday 8 p.m. Ray Chuck.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 7 p.m. Margaret McGowan.

Saturday 8 p.m. Eileen O'Neill and Francis Hegarty.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8 p.m. Eimear Burke.

CALLOW

Saturday 7 p.m. Brendan Gallagher.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 23rd December 8 p.m. Caoimhe Ward Lorraine Kavanagh Colin Hughes Steven Cunney.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. The Cunney Family (Dromada-Gore)

Saturday 7 p.m. The Mulligan Family (Callow)

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 this Sunday 17th December, Third Sunday of Advent. during the 11.30 a.m. in Killasser Church. The focus for this celebration will be Advent and the Nativity - Birth of Christ.

MASS ON RTE TELEVISION ON THIS SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

will mark and celebrate 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.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR

8th December amounted to €775.
9th / 10th December amounted to €1,512.

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 / €300 / €200 / €200. 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. A special Mass will be offered for all those people, living and dead, for whom a light has been sponsored, early in the New Year.** All proceeds will go towards Callow Church and Parochial House renovations. Your support and generosity will be very much appreciated.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE CALLOW CHURCH HAS NOW BEEN CONNECTED and will be switched on after the Carol Service in Callow Church on this Sunday Evening 17th December.

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 IS NOW SWITCHED ON: 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 **which is now switched on. It is well worth seeing and you are encouraged to go along and see it for yourselves.**

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 take place in Callow Church on Sunday 15th April - the Sunday after Easter Sunday. James Kilbane and his musicians will be performing on the night. More information as it becomes available.

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 has almost been completed over the past few days. Hopefully you like what you see. The entrance gate and walls on the entrance on the Swinford side of the Church will be painted early in the new year. It is not possible to do it earlier because of the weather condition which would not allow it to dry quickly enough.

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.

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.

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.

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 this Sunday 17th December. It will commence at 7.00 p.m. 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.

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. As a result of putting the question to the congregations last weekend and listening to the responses - those who gave their views to the Pastoral Council Members all wanted the Christmas Night Mass to be celebrated at 12 Midnight again this year - those who gave their views to Fr. O'Mahony - 3 wanted it to stay at 12 Midnight and 15-20 wanted it to change to an earlier time like 9 or 10 p.m. It is important that the Parish Pastoral Council would hear and take into account all views on both sides of the debate. The Pastoral Council does not decide what should happen, in isolation, but only after reflecting on the views and wishes of the people of the Parish, in so far as it is possible to get those views. It will always try to represent the wishes of the majority of the people. As a body it must always be open to the possibility of change. The feeling at the meeting last Wednesday night was that more people wanted Mass at 12 Midnight than at an earlier time. It was also felt that enough time wasn't given to decide to change this year. The Pastoral Council has been discussing the possibility of a parish questionnaire for the past number of months. It now seems more relevant than ever - what do we really want at Christmas and Easter as regards Church Ceremonies/Services? Another issue that needs to be discussed is the timetable of Masses on Christmas Morning - 10 a.m. Mass in Callow and 11.30 a.m. Mass in Killasser are too close together for the one Celebrant. How about Callow at 9.30 a.m. or Killasser at 12 Noon? We certainly seem to have one very real and relevant question for a Questionnaire.

CHRISTMAS EVE IS SUNDAY THIS YEAR: At our last two Parish Pastoral Council Meetings 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. This has now been accepted unanimously as a result of putting to the congregations of last weekend..It will now be easier to focus on the Christmas Vigil Mass.

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.

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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/PENANCE will be celebrated in two more Parishes of our Cluster on Monday and Tuesday next - see below. Priests from within the cluster will be administering the Sacrament at each of the services. If you were 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:

STRAIDE	MONDAY	18TH	DECEMBER	8.00 P.M.
ATTYMASS	TUESDAY	19TH	DECEMBER	8.00 P.M.

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

COSGALLEN NEWS - CITIZENS' INFORMATION CENTRE: Mayo Citizens' Information Service will hold an outreach on Friday 22nd 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 including: Consumer Rights, Employment Rights, Social Welfare, Taxation and Disability Information. For more information contact 094-9255070.

THE ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR CHURCH UNITY WEEK is being hosted this year by Killasser Parish. Church Unity week is from 18th - 25th January. At the Pastoral Council Meeting on Wednesday Night last it was decided to have it on Wednesday 24th January. The Service will commence at 8.00 p.m. in Killasser Church and it will be followed by refreshments in Killasser Community Centre afterwards. People of all faiths and none are invited and welcome to attend. This will be the first time for Killasser to host this event which was always held in Foxford until the formation of our cluster.

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CLUSTER NEWSLETTER is being printed at present and will be available for Christmas. There will be a copy for every family/household in the Parish and for visitors who might like to have one.

TROCAIRE - THANKS FOR GLOBAL GIFT SUPPORT: Congregations all over the country have been tremendously supportive of Global Gift this year as in previous years and there is still some time to purchase gifts on behalf of family and friends. These gifts make a life-changing difference to their recipients in developing countries. For example in 2004 the public bought over 30,000 clutches of chicks for families in Central America. In the village of San Juan Pueblo, a close-knit community in northern Honduras, 47 families received chicks. When they received news of their gift the community worked together to build hutches from wood and corrugated metal with individual pens of sticks and mud. The chicks have provided an extra source of food and income for the whole community and this has made life easier for all 200 people who live in the village. There are four easy ways to purchase your gifts: **By Post:** Post completed order form with payment to Trocaire, FREEPOST, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (or fax it to +353-1-505 3295) or Trocaire, FREEPOST, BEL 1230, Belfast, BT1 6BR. **By Phone:** CALLSAVE, Trocaire at 1850 408 408 (ROI) or FREEPHONE 0800 912 1200 (NI) with details of your order, your address and your credit/debit card details. **On-Line:** Order your gift on-line at www.trocaire.org/globalgift or through 02 I-mode on enabled mobile phones. **In Person:** At Trocaire Offices in Maynooth; 12 Cathedral Street, Dublin; 9 Cook Street, Cork and 50 King Street, Belfast or at your nearest Veritas store in Dublin, Cork, Ennis, Sligo, Letterkenny, Derry or Monaghan.

THE LIGHTS ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE KILLASSER CHURCH have been connected up this Saturday afternoon by Kevin and Brendan Hughes, Coolegrane. It looks very well and will be switched on at an appropriate time.

A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR INSIDE KILLASSER CHURCH has also arrived this Saturday. It has been given once again by Kevin Egan, to whom we are very appreciative for his thoughtfulness. It and the Crib will be erected later in the week.

THE DECORATION OF KILLASSER CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will be carried out on Friday evening next 22nd December, commencing at 6.00 p.m. **Everyone who is willing to give a helping hand is invited to come along.**

PRAY FOR 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.
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.
 Anthony and Sarah Regan, Culduff and Deceased Members of the Regan and Gillen Families, Saturday 7 p.m.
 Brigid and Patrick Cunney, Carrowleamore, Daughter Vera, Son Vincent, Grandson Martin, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Mary and Martin Edward Howley, Dunmaynor, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Norman Donoghue, Athlone, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Mary Murray, Magheraboy and deceased members of the Durkin Family, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Tom and Annie McDonnell, Tiernanny and Son Martin, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Tom McNulty, Wolverhampton, formerly of Renbrack, Brother of Anne Hanley, Dunmaynor who died On 26th November.
 Kathleen McGrath, Park Road, Swinford, Sister of Maureen Barry, Carramore who died on Monday 11th December, Funeral on Wednesday - Mass in Swinford and burial in Killasser.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

