

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21 DECEMBER 2008.

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'*

'NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD'

Don't you just hate it when something upsets your plans? Mary's parents had carefully arranged this wedding. Mary and Joseph had doubtlessly been dreaming of their impending marriage. A visit from an angel changed everything.

We never really know what God has in mind. We can only be sure that it is far more glorious than anything we have planned. 'May it be done to me according to your word' tends to stick in the throat when God's plans vary from our own. God often chooses the unexpected as an avenue to enter our lives and to evoke greatness from us that we never knew existed. Our Father wants each of his children to reach his or her potential.

A pregnancy prior to marriage would obviously have been difficult for Mary to explain both to her parents and to Joseph. This wasn't in Mary's plans. Questions are asked of the angel, answers given and accepted. Mary's plans changed in her humble acceptance of God's will rather than her own. She had no way of knowing how this humble flexibility would affect salvation history.

Challenges, crosses, problems will come to us all. They may well be gifts from God to enable us to achieve the greatness he always envisioned for us.

'When have I recognised God equipping me for a task or situation that would normally be beyond my capacity or outside of my plans?'

(A Year of Sundays - Gospel Reflection - 2009)

Fr. Chris Ginnelly - Foxford 094-9256401.
Fr. Stephen O'Mahony - Kiltimagh 086-8226405.

Fr. Joseph Gavigan - Foxford 094-9256858.
Fr Dermot Burns - Straide 094-9031029

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Tuesday 10 a.m. / Christmas Day 9.30 a.m. / Friday 12 Noon / Sunday 10 a.m.
KILLASSER - Monday 10 a.m. / Christmas Midnight / Christmas Day 11.30 a.m. / Friday 11 a.m.
Sunday 11.30 a.m.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. The Heaney Family (Derreen)

Sunday 10.00 a.m. The Conroy Family (Callow)

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

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

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR

13th / 14th December amounted to €1,185.

THE KILLASSER/CALLOW MONTHLY RENOVATION FUND COLLECTION

for October/November amounted to €1,525. Sincere thanks to everyone for your contributions, support and generosity.

ANNUAL ST. STEPHEN'S DAY WALK: This year's 5 Mile Walk in Killasser will begin at the Community Centre and will travel via Magheraboy, Graffy Crossroads, Rubble, Milltown and Boleboy. The event is growing in popularity each year, with people travelling from far and near to explore a different part of the parish. It is an ideal opportunity for family, friends and visitors to meet up and work off some of the Christmas excesses together. The starting time is 12 Noon. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Community Centre. Participants are encouraged to make a donation to support parish funds. Don't miss it! There will also be a Cathal O'Shannon Newsreel DVD of Killasser in the 1960's shown afterwards. It will run for about 20 minutes.

COSGALLEN NEWS: **Bocci Classes** and other physical activities for the over 50's are held in the Sports Complex, Swinford Road, Charlestown every Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. The cost is €3. All are welcome. / **Hold (Helping Ourselves Live With Disability)** is a group of people with varying disabilities who meet on a weekly basis in Cosgallen CDP. This group comes together to discuss issues and topics that effect their lives in a social and confidential setting. The meetings are every Tuesday morning from 11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. If you have a disability and would like to join the group contact 094-9255070 / **Prizewinners Poster Competition** Cosgallen recently held a poster colouring competition in conjunction with an anti-litter campaign. There were a large number of entries and a large number of National Schools took part. The standard was very high and judges found it extremely difficult to judge the winners. However, after studying them carefully the following winners were chosen: Category A Winner: **Chloe Tuffy, Carramore National School, Killasser.** Category B Winner: **Catrional Lynch, Aughadeffin, Kilkelly.** Due to the high standard received the judges picked two posters which were considered 'highly commendable'. They were received from Rory Smyth, Swinford and James Devanney, Culmore N. S., Swinford. Both posters, along with the two winners, are printed in a 2009 Calendar published by Cosgallen. All entrants were entered into a draw for a compost bin and kitchen caddy and the winner was Darren Convey, Culmore N. S., Swinford. Congratulation to all who took part and to the winners. Many thanks to the judges Alyson Freegard and Con McMenamain. / **Cosgallen Office Christmas Holidays** The Cosgallen Office will close on Friday 19th December until Monday 5th January. The Management and Staff would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

NOTICE TO KILLASSER GROUP WATER SCHEME USERS: Members are advised that tests carried out recently by the HSE have shown that the water supply is unsatisfactory at present and consumers are advised that the water should be boiled before human consumption. This boil notice will remain in effect until further notice. The Committee apologise for any inconvenience caused.

THE KILLASSER WATER SCHEME ANNUAL RENT is now due and will be collected over the coming weeks.

'STAY COOL THIS CHRISTMAS': Christmas is the season of peace and good will to all people. Unfortunately for many it has become the season of stress, arguments, anger and rage - a time that many individuals and families dread. This Christmas **'The Irish Association of Anger Management'** is launching a campaign to provide every person throughout Ireland, with the tools to **'Stay Cool This Christmas'**. We are inviting every Parish and Parishioner to download for **FREE** our **'Stay Cool This Christmas Booklet'** at www.difficulthemotions.com In addition, if anger is causing you difficulties in your marriage, relationships or work, you can find out about our next **Anger Management Programme** on **28th February** by contacting Peter Devers on 094-9037677.

A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING was held in Killasser Church on Wednesday 10th December. Items discussed included: **Carol Service in Callow Church on Sunday 14th December / Ongoing training of Altar Servers and production of final Booklet / Mass on T.V. from Attymass on 4th January and changing of Mass time in Killasser on that Sunday / Mass in Callow at 9.30 a.m. on Christmas Day / Sponsored Walk on Stephen's Day / Sacrament of Reconciliation for Christmas / Ecumenical Service in January / Diploma in Applied Theology (Pastoral Studies) in Newman Institute beginning in January etc. etc.**

KILLASSER COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL 25 CARD GAME: This game was held on Monday Night last 15th December when there were 14 Tables. The Killasser Community Care Group wishes to thank everyone who supported and also all who sponsored prizes and helped out.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MASS AND PARTY for all in the active retirement age-group, like myself, are more than welcome to attend - that is anyone 55 years of age or older will take place on Sunday 4th January. It will commence with Mass at 6.00 p.m. in Killasser Church, followed by a Meal afterwards in Frank's Place. Music will follow the meal. **There will NOT be Mass at 11.30 a.m. in Killasser Church on that morning due to the Television Mass from Attymass at 11.15 a.m.**

SWINFORD AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING took place in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Sunday last 14th December. It was a well attended meeting which reported a very successful year. The Car Draw took place as well as 20 other cash prizes ranging from €500 to €100. Kathleen McNulty, Carrowedan won a €100, the only winner from Killasser.

ACTIVE RETIRED: If you are among the active retired people of the parish, you may wish to join a group of people who meet in the Fr. Peyton Centre in Attymass every Tuesday. There are a limited number of places available on the bus which can pick you up at any point along the following route: **Carramore, Magheraboy crossroads, Graffy crossroads, Cullen and Coolegrane** at 11 a.m. approx. Mass is celebrated in the Centre at 12 Noon. Lunch is served afterwards. In the afternoon there is musical entertainment or a game of Bingo before the bus returns at 5.50 p.m. The cost is just €10. Why not try it out. We are sure you will enjoy the day. Enquiries to Anne Prendergast (between 10.00 and 11.00 a.m.) on 094-9256382.

KNOCK MARRIAGE INTRODUCTIONS BUREAU: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo. Phone No. 094-9375960 or visit their website on www.knockmarriagebureau.com

'GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING' is the title of a new C.D. of Carols sung by St. Muredach's Cathedral Choir. It features some of the much loved Christmas Music such as Adeste Fideles, O Holy Night, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah and much more. The Cathedral Choir and some of its soloists including Debbie McCole, Donna Malone, Caroline Jackson, Emer Connor, Therese Gaughan and Aaron Cawley are joined by some of their finest local musicians such as Andrew Sheeran (violin), and Aileen McGowan (low whistle). The CD is now on sale at the Cathedral Bookshop in the Pastoral Centre in Ballina and at the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass. It costs €10 and could be an ideal Christmas gift.

THE ANNUAL CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL FUNDRAISING SOCIAL was held in Frank's Place, Killasser on Saturday Night last 13th December. There was very large crowd as usual and a most enjoyable night was had by all. There were loads of Prizes, almost one for everyone in the audience. The two Manchester United Tickets were won by Colin Neary, Kilmactigue, the Balance Bike was won by Jennifer Meehan, Dunmaynor. The proceeds for the night were in excess of €4,000. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH was celebrated on Sunday evening 14th December with a large crowd gathered for a very special evening of Carols, Scripture Readings, Reflection, Music and Prayers. Sincere thanks to everyone who prepared so diligently over the past number of weeks for the ceremony. It has become a very important part of our preparation for Christmas. Congratulations to the Choir for singing so beautifully, our own choirs and those who joined us from our neighbouring parishes. Sincere thanks to John and Maria McHugh, Foxford and the children from the school in Foxford who played and sang so beautifully. It was so good to have so many young people and children singing and reading. A very special thanks to Eithne McLoughlin, Maureen Noone and Helen Thompson for all their organisation and planning as well as their participation. We must never take these ceremonies for granted, they do not happen without a huge commitment by many people. For this to continue our support and our presence at the various ceremonies is essential and I think is not too much to ask for.

SPONSOR A LIGHT FOR CHRISTMAS: A Christmas Tree will be erected again this year outside both Churches in the Parish. You are invited to sponsor a light for €10 per light to remember a loved one who has died or someone away from home at Christmastime. Envelopes for this purpose will be available at the church doors very soon. Mass will be celebrated for the living and the dead at a later stage. The Tree outside Callow Church will be officially switched on after the Carol Service on this Sunday evening.

THE SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION/PENANCE FOR CHRISTMAS were celebrated in each of the Parishes in our Cluster during the past week - it was in Killasser Church on Tuesday evening last. There was a very good gathering for a very meaningful ceremony as there was in each of the parishes. It was very encouraging to see so many availing of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament. Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the Ceremony all who prepared the church so beautifully in candlelight.

A CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING was held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday night 27th November. Some of the items discussed were: The Cluster Newsletter to be published for Easter. Items for the Newsletter should be ready not later than 15th February. / Annual Ecumenical Service to be held this year in the Church of Ireland Foxford / Reports from Cluster Members who visited the Dioceses of Ossory and Armagh on the topic of clustering etc. etc.

HAS EPILEPSY LEFT YOU FEELING ADRIFT? Get back on board with a one-year training course located in Sligo I. T. Practical Skills. Self Confidence. Progression. Qualifications. No Leaving Certificate required. Payment is €303 per week. Medical Services on Campus. Campus Accommodation. Qualification Options: FETAC / ECDL / IT Sligo A3L Foundation Certificate. Entry is by interview. Call us today for more information on 071-9155303. Brochures available from Fr. O'Mahony.

FAMILY COUNSELLING AND THERAPY CENTRE, POUND STREET, BALLAGHADERREEN continues to offer professional and confidential services to individuals, couples and families. Issues include: Relationship Difficulties, Bereavement, Loss, Separation, Anxiety, Depression, Sexual Abuse, Communication, Conflict Resolution ... Fees are on a sliding scale. For appointments, contact 094-9861000, e-mail: famcoun@eircom.net website: www.achonrydiocese.org.

THE KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT was held in the School on Wednesday night last before a capacity crowd. A most enjoyable night was had by all. Compliments to the children and their teachers Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Ginley for putting such a great show. The support of all who attended was very much appreciated.

THE CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT was held in the New School Hall on Thursday night last in front of a huge crowd. It was a most enjoyable night's entertainment. Again complements to the children and their Teachers, Mrs. Fallon, Mrs. Sharkey and Miss Jennings for putting on such a great show. A plaque in memory of Hazel Fletcher, R. I. P. was unveiled at the end of the night by her younger sister Laura. It will be erected in the entrance are of the Hall.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated in Callow Church on Saturday next at 1.00 p.m.

WEDDING: Congratulations to Grainne Doherty, Swinford and Mark Fahy, Dublin who were married in Callow Church on Thursday last 18th December. We wish them both every blessing and happiness in their future married life.

KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE FURNITURE BORROWED? A number of chairs, table tops and frames and some other items are missing from the community centre. If you have borrowed any of the above, you might be good enough to return them. There is no problem borrowing as long as we remember to return. Please check to see if you have anything to return.

FEAST DAYS: Thursday - Christmas Day. Friday - St. Stephen. Saturday - St. John, Evangelist.

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND will be visited on Monday next 22nd December in the afternoon.

PRAY FOR Brigid and Patrick Cunney, Carrowleamore, Vera Cunney, Vincent Cunney and Grandson Martin, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Molly, Jim, J. P. and Pat Heaney, Derreen, Norman Donoghue and Peg O'Brien, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Martin and Geraldine McNulty, Listeran and Deceased Members of the McNulty and Kerrane Families Saturday 8 p.m.
 Tom and Annie McDonnel and Son Martin, Tierenanny, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Michael Conroy, Callow, Sunday 10 a.m.
 Anthony and Sarah Regan, Culduff and deceased members of Regan and Gillen Families, Sunday 10 a.m.
 Thomas and Margaret Quinn, Prebawn, Friday 12 Noon.
 Thomas and Brigid Cooke and Deceased Family, Knocks, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Sr. Agnes Warde, Doontas and Deceased Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Mary and Patrick Rochford, Cartron and Deceased Members of Rochford and Beirne Families, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Michael Gilroy, Enniscrone, Father of Mary Gilroy, Cluster Choir Conductor, who died on Tuesday.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

**I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY, HOLY, PEACEFUL AND
SAFE CHRISTMAS**

**ANNUAL 5 MILE WALK ON ST. STEPHEN'S DAY, BEGINNING
AT 12 NOON FROM KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE.
REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS IN THE CENTRE AND
SHOWING OF DVD OF KILLASSER IN THE 60'S IN THE
CENTRE.**

**'DO THIS IN MEMORY' WILL BE CELEBRATED DURING
11.30 AM. MASS IN KILLASSER CHURCH THIS SUNDAY
21ST DECEMBER.**