

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23 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'*

RESPONSIBILITY.

Responsibility is the single most crucial element in human growth. And people will feel truly responsible only for that which they have in some manner helped to create, whether it be a local project or a universal church.....

Just as, before the church proclaims a truth, it should ensure that this truth is not contrary to the Bible, or the world around and within us or what has been handed on, so it should ensure that the truth is not contrary to the faith of the Pope, or the faith of the Bishops or the faith or *sensus fidei* of the whole church.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Christmas Day 9.30 a.m. / Wednesday 11 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.

KILLASSER - Thursday 12 Noon. / Friday 10 a.m. / Saturday 8.00 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Midnight Mass Ray Chuck, Claire Stenson.
Tuesday 9.30 a.m. Miceal Murphy, Claire Conroy.
Tuesday 11.30 a.m. School Children.
Saturday 8.00 p.m. Sean Thompson
Sunday 10 a.m. Pat Gallagher.
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Midnight Mass Sr. Margaret, Thomas Marren, Eileen O'Neill
Tuesday 9.30 a.m. Margaret McGowan and Anne Deacy.
Tuesday 11.30 a.m. Bridie Sheerin, Beatrice Goldrick.
Saturday 8.00 p.m. Mary Marren and Francis Hegarty.
Sunday 10 a.m. Mary Mulligan.
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Geraldine Burke.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Christmas Midnight Mass Claire Stenson Christmas Day School Children
Saturday 8.00 p.m. Siobhan O'Hara Sunday 11.30 a.m Ronan Carr.

CALLOW

Christmas Day Kevin Gallagher.
Sunday 10 a.m. Patrick McNulty.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Christmas Midnight Mass. Colin Hughes Lorraine Kavanagh Paul Quinn Shane Cunney.
Christmas Day Mass. 11.30 a.m. Brid Rogers Pierce Rowley Eoin Gallagher Ciara Hussey.
Saturday 29th. December 8.00 p.m. Siobhan O'Hara Niall Armstrong Siobhan Tully Haynd Harrold.
Sunday 30th December 11.30 a.m. Brenda Carr Jonathan Burke Erin Rochford

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Christmas Midnight The Heaney Family (Derreen)
Christmas Day The Scully Family (Dromada-Duke) Christmas Day 10 a.m. The McNulty Family (Cullenaughton)
Saturday 8. p.m. The Judge Family (Magheraboy) Sunday 10 a.m. The McGowan Family (Cullenaughton)
Sunday 11.30 a.m The Hurst Family (Carramore-Moy)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

will NOT be held in Killasser Church on Monday next 24th December. It will resume again in mid-January.

THE ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH

will take place this Sunday 23rd December at 7.00 p.m. It will consist of Carol Singing, Reflection, Scripture Readings, Drama and Prayers. We hope that it will be a very important part of our preparation for a prayerful celebration of Christmas. Do come along and encourage others to do so.

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 / €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 / €100 / €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.

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 now almost complete. In fact the children and teachers used the new classrooms for the first time on Friday last. 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.

MEMBERS OF CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Mrs. Marie Fallon Ms. Fiona Jennings Maureen Armstrong Paraic O'Hara Maureen Ginty Patrick McNulty
Gerry Cronnolly Fr. Dan O'Mahony.

MEMBERS OF KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Ms. Claire Gallagher Ms. Aine Gibbons Sean Thompson Theresa Hennigan Eugene Hussey Bernie Scully
Collette Howley Fr. Dan O'Mahony.

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

THE ANALYSIS OF THE PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE is now available to everyone who wishes to see it. It is available at the Church Doors at all the Masses this 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. 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.

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 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 15th / 16th December amounted to €1,597

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION was celebrated in each Parish of the Cluster during the past week. It was celebrated in Killasser Church on Friday Night last. Sincere thanks to everyone who was present and hopefully it will help to make our celebration of Christmas even more humble and sincere. Sincere thanks to all the priests of the cluster who attended.

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 €10⁰⁰ 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 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 KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT took place in Killasser School on Wednesday Night last 19th December. Complements and congratulations to the Children and their Teachers for presenting such a wonderful show. It is wonderful for all the children to get the opportunity to use their many talents on the stage. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported and attended. Ms. Ruttledge also attended the Concert where she met all the parents and children afterwards. The Children made a lovely presentation to her in appreciation of her nine years of dedicated teaching in Killasser School. They made a beautiful thank you card for her and also gave her a set of Ear Rings in Santa Claus container. We wish her again every happiness and success in her new position in Killala National School.

THE CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE was presented in Killasser Church on Thursday evening last 20th December. It was a beautiful presentation. Sincere thanks to the Children and their Teachers for giving them this opportunity. Sincere thanks to all who attended.

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

WELCOME HOME to all our visitors for the Christmas Season. We hope that you have a very happy re-union with your families and friends. Let us all try to travel safely over these days and not bring any injury to ourselves or others.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated in Callow Church on next Saturday afternoon.

THINKING OF STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2008? The Innovation in the Business Centre at GMT Castlebar will be hosting an Open Day on Thursday next 27th December from 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.. Please come along and see the Innovation Centre and find out what support structures are in place for budding entrepreneurs. The Centre is located behind GMT main building.

PRAY FOR 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.
 Tom Doyle, Carramore, Months Mind, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Sarah and Anthony Regan, Culduff and Deceased Regan/Gillen Families, Sunday 23rd 10 a.m.
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.
 Thomas and Margaret Quinn, Prebawn, Wednesday 11 a.m.
 Sr. Agnes Warde, Doontas, who died this Saturday 22nd December. Removal from the Sisters of Charity Convent, Baldoyle, Dublin to Saint Peter and Paul's Church, Baldoyle on this Sunday 23rd December at 5.00 p.m. Funeral Mass on Monday at 11 a.m. to Kilbarrack Cemetery Dublin.
 Mass for the repose of her soul in Killasser Church on Friday next 28th December at 10 a.m.
 Sr. Anne McDonnell, Cullenaughton, Sister of the late Fr. Ignatius McDonnell, who died during the Week in Dublin. Her funeral took place in Dublin this Saturday 22nd. December.
 Paddy and Annie O'Hara Dromagh, Saturday 8 p.m.
 The Deceased Members of the Carr Family, Clooncleeveragh, Saturday 8 p.m.
 John Thomas Peyton, Dromada-Gore, at request of Kevin, Anne and Evelyn Davitt, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Mary and Patrick Rochford, Cartron and Deceased Members of the Rochford and Byrne Families, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Brigid Cronnelly, Knockmullin, who died on Sunday last 16th December. Funeral Mass was celebrated On Thursday 20th December.
 Michael Conroy, Callow, who died on Thursday last 20th December. Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday 22nd December.
 Mary (Baby) Doherty, Currinara, Foxford, Mother of Mairead Brady, Cloonygowan, who died on Saturday 15th December in the Blackrocks Nursing Home, Foxford. Funeral on Tuesday last.
 Sarah Moriarty (Nee Fitzmorris), Sister of the late Hugh Fitzmorris, Creggane who died in Kenmare, Co. Kerry on this Saturday 22nd. December.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

**A VERY HAPPY, HOLY, PEACEFUL AND SAFE
 CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.**

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS IN CALLOW AT 9.30 A.M.

**ANNUAL ST. STEPHEN'S DAY WALK
 BEGINNING AT CLOONFINNISH BALL ALLEY
 AT 12 NOON. COME ALONG.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT