

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24 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'*

CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES.

On a day when many make their various journeys homeward, today's Gospel presents another completed journey in the encounter of Elizabeth and Mary. Mary had, after all, a difficult journey from Nazareth. At one level, the story of the Visitation is a meeting of Elizabeth and Mary, but at another level it is a meeting of the children still in their wombs. Here, however, there is no conflict. Elizabeth's child, John the Baptist, 'leaped for joy' in her womb. He was conceived six months earlier than Jesus, and his life's meaning was that of forerunner.

Mary has been called a type (and the mother) of the Church. She was the very first tabernacle and as she brought the Lord to Elizabeth (and John), so the Church is meant to be. More importantly, this is how we are meant to be. Sometimes we glimpse Him. Usually it's through seeing Him present in other people. People like a woman in her 80's who, frail as she was, received the host from an equally aged priest. She spoke to the host how much she loved Christ and she thanked him for her wonderful life and she told him she is now ready to be with him.

I shall be young again.... On Christmas day.

Fr. Tom Cox - Intercom - December 2006)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Christmas Day 10 a.m. / Tuesday 11 a.m. / Saturday 7 p.m.

KILLASSER - Sunday - Christmas Midnight, Christmas Day 11.30 a.m. / Friday, Saturday 8 p.m.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Christmas Midnight Mary Stenson/Patrick McNulty
Christmas Day 10 a.m. Claire Conroy/Micheal Murphy.
Christmas Day 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan/Theresa Hennigan.
Saturday 8 p.m. Claire Stenson
Sunday 10 a.m. Tom Keane.
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Sean Thompson

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Christmas Midnight P.O'Hara/A.Holleran/M.Marren.
Christmas Day 10 a.m. Anne Deacy and Mary Mulligan.
Christmas Day 11.30 a.m. B.Goldrick and B. Sheerin.
Saturday 8 p.m. Sr. Margaret and Thomas Marren.
Sunday 10 a.m. Marty Noone.
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Francis Brennan.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Christmas Midnight Ronan Carr. Christmas Day 11.30 a.m. Erin Rochford
Saturday 8 p.m. Rachael McDonnell. Sunday 11.30 a.m. Erin Rochford.

CALLOW

Christmas Day 10 a.m. Peter Noone.
Sunday 10 a.m. Patrick McNulty.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Christmas Midnight	Ronan Carr	Niall Armstrong	Eoin Gallagher	Ciara Hussey.
Christmas Day 11.30 a.m.	Erin Rochford	Keith Kavanagh	Lorraine Kavanagh	Cormac Warde
Saturday 8 p.m.	Siohan O'Hara	Colin Hughes	Kevin Rowley	Paul Quinn
Sunday 11.30 a.m.	Stephen Cunney	Christine Durkin	Shane Cunney	Conor Stephens.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Christmas Midnight	The Ruddy Family (Cullen)	Christmas Day 10 a.m.	The Burke Family (Callow)
Christmas Day 11.30 a.m.	The Scully Family (Dromada-Duke)	Sunday 10 a.m.	The Conroy Family (Lismorane)
Saturday 8 p.m.	The Judge Family (Magheraboy)		
Sunday 11.30 a.m.	The Hurst Family (Carramore-Moy)		

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in Killasser Church is cancelled until Monday 8th January 2007.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 16th / 17th December amounted to €1,176.

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 / €2 / €50 / €300 / €200 / €200. / €100. These donations were received recently. Other donations of any amount will always be welcome.

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. You can still sponsor a Light. Envelopes are still available at the Church Doors.** 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.

OFFICIAL SWITCHING ON OF THE OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREES AT CALLOW AND KILLASSER CHURCHES: The official switching on of the Christmas Tree outside Callow Church took place on Sunday evening last 17th December after the Annual Carol Service. Everyone gathered around the tree after the Service singing Christmas Carols as the tree was switched on. **In a similar fashion the Christmas Tree outside Killasser will be officially switched on after the 8 p.m. Mass on this Saturday evening 23rd December.**

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. There will be a Bucket Collection at the Church and your generosity will be very much appreciated.**

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 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.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE was held in Callow Church on Sunday last 17th December. Once again it was a very prayerful, reflective and enjoyable experience attended by a capacity congregation. Sincere thanks to everyone who made the effort to be present. Compliments to everyone who participated in word, drama, music and song and for all the preparation that took place over the past number of weeks. A special thanks to Eithne McLoughlin and the Church Choir and to Maureen Noone and the children involved in the drama. It was also very nice to have so many people from the surrounding parishes. A particular word of thanks to John and Marie McHugh, Foxford and all the children from Foxford for their wonderful music and song.

THE NEW SEATING FOR CALLOW CHURCH was ordered last Monday and should be available for early March.

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.

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.

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 KILLASSER AND CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL CONCERTS took place during the past week and were attended by capacity audiences. Everyone was entertained to the full with wonderful drama, music and song. Congratulations to the pupils of both schools and sincere thanks to their teachers for giving them the opportunity to express their talents on stage for all to see.

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 6th 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.

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 and 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 MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL 2007 CALENDAR contains photographs of Stained Glass Windows from Churches in Mayo that came from the Harry Clarke Studios. We are very interested because the window over the Gallery in Callow Church, of St. Patrick, is one of those windows. It is included in this 2007 Calendar which is a beautiful production.

THE CLUSTER NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTMAS 2006 has been published again this year and is a bumper edition of sixteen pages. It contains news, articles and photographs from all five parishes in the cluster. There is a copy for every family in the Parish and for visitors who are here for Christmas. You may also wish to send a copy to your relatives in other parts of the country or world.

PRAY FOR 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.
 People of the Parish, Christmas Day 11.30 a.m.
 Thomas and Margaret Quinn, Prebawn, Tuesday 11 a.m.
 Willie and Vera Peyton, Dromada-Gore, and deceased Family, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Deceased Members of the Walsh Family, Tiernanny, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Noel Crowley, Toorard, Saturday 8 p.m.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

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

THE ANNUAL KILLASSER COMMUNITY CARE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MASS will be held on Friday 5th January 2007. Mass will be celebrated in Killasser Church at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a party in Frank's Place after Mass. Everyone over 55 is welcome to attend.
