

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29 JULY 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'*

PRAYING OUT.

What would you do if you were given divine information about the destruction of a city? Contact the TV Stations? Telephone someone? Raise the alarm? Abraham however chose to '... (remain) standing before the Lord'. You could say that he chose to remain in prayer. He stayed in the presence of God.

This Sunday we are told a few things about prayer. They seem almost contradictory at first sight, but they aren't. Prayer is not to be long-winded as God already knows our needs. It is also to be persistent. At times, there seems no answer to our prayer. It may be that we need to demonstrate our resolve, or that the time to grant our request is not yet right, or that we are asking for the wrong thing. Whatever the reason, we are not to lose heart; still less to worry that God might grow impatient with us.

It also seems that God seeks intercessors in the mould of Abraham when there are situations of sin and injustice. (First Reading) Have you raised your voice for a good cause? Ever?

Someone once said that God answers prayer in one of four ways. Yes, No, Wait, and Are you Joking? Somewhat glib, but there is some truth to it. Sometimes the heart must be ready, that inner house swept clean before the visitor can truly enter within.

(Fr. Tom Cox - Intercom - July 2007)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday, Tuesday 8.30 a.m. / Sunday 10 a.m.

KILLASSER - Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Claire Stenson

Sunday 10 a.m. Mary Keane

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Patrick McNulty

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Mary Marren and Paraic O'Hara.

Sunday 10 a.m. Margaret McGowan.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Bridie Sheerin.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Claire Stenson

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Patrick McNulty.

CALLOW

Sunday 10 a.m. Deirdre Gallagher.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 4th August 8.00 p.m. Conor Stephens Kevin Rowley Keith Kavanagh Pierce Rowley.

Sunday 5th August 11.30 a.m. Liam Moran Eoin Gallagher Brid Rogers Erin Rochford.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. The Holleran Family (Dromada-Duke)

Sunday 10 a.m. The Monaghan Family (Callow)

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will not take place in Killasser Church during July and August.

WEDDINGS: Congratulations to Siobhan Convey, Darnagh and Tommy Dolan, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim who were married in Killasser Church on Sunday last 22nd July, also to Michael Scriven, Cork City and Joanna Rowley, Wigan, England and Alberta Cunney, Dromada-Gore and Martin Durkan, Midfield, Swinford who were married in Killasser Church on this Saturday 28th July. We wish them every blessing and happiness in their future married life.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated in Killasser Church on Saturday next 4th August at 3.30 p.m. Three children will be baptised in this ceremony. This will bring the number of children baptised in the Parish this year to 12.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR: 21st / 22nd July amounted to €1,470.

THE KILLASSER/CALLOW RENOVATION FUND for June amounted to €1,855. Sincere thanks for your support.

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 / €50 / €300 / €200 / €200. / €100. / €100. / €300. / €200. / €100. / €300 / €300 / €250 / €60 / €100 / €250 / €100 / €2,000 / €500 / €500. These donations were received recently. **Other donations of any amount will always be welcome.**

THE SACRISTY IN KILLASSER CHURCH has been completely refurbished. New furniture has been installed by Rory Conroy, Callow who did a beautiful job of the sacristy in Callow. Killasser has the same design. A new timber ceiling has also been put in place which looks very well. A new and better radiator has been installed behind the presses holding vestments etc to keep them in the best condition possible.

SINCERE THANKS TO RORY CONROY for providing and installing the new furniture in Killasser Church Sacristy free of charge as he did earlier in Callow Church. This is a most generous gesture and we thank him on behalf of the who parish.

THE TARMAC AT KILLASSER CHURCH is in a poor state and needs to be newly done. The kerbing will also have to be replaced. The tarmac area will also be extended on the Estate side of the Church.

THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AT KILLASSER CHURCH will not mean a new Fundraising initiative. It does mean asking you to continue to support the present fundraising campaign which is going very well and which is for both sides of the parish. Improvements always need to be carried out on grounds and buildings, especially buildings that are very old like churches. The improvements inside and outside of Killasser Church will be done on a phases basis.

THE OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2007 - 2008 have been distributed over the past few weeks. If you haven't received a box yet, it will be delivered during the coming week. You will also receive a letter and a Statement of Accounts for 2006. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed over the past year and in anticipation thanks for your continued support in the year ahead. The money from the Offertory Collection each week goes towards the general maintenance/running costs of Killasser and Callow Churches and the Parochial House.

Mayo County Council Blue Flag Beach Photography Competition which has a Beach/Coast Theme to promote awareness of the Blue Flag Beach in Ireland and throughout Mayo. The categories under which entries should be submitted are Primary School Children, Secondary School Students and General Public. The closing date is Friday September 7th 2007.

INFORMATION SERVICE: A service providing information and advice to members of the community will be available each Monday from 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. in Killasser Community Centre.

NOTICE TO KILLASSER GROUP WATER SCHEME CONSUMERS - WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS REPORT: The HSE has recently taken samples of Killasser Group Water Scheme water for analysis. The laboratory report of Analysis in respect of those samples indicates that the Bacteriological Results are satisfactory with **no Coliforms, no E.coli and no perfringens** detected. Chemical analysis of Killasser Group Water Scheme water has consistently shown that the chemical properties of the water are excellent for drinking water. A copy of the bacteriological test report on the Church Notice Boards.

KILLASSER GROUP WATER SCHEME - PRECAUTIONARY BOIL NOTICE: Notwithstanding the above quality results, the management committee are required to advise users of untreated water i.e. Water which has no added disinfectant; that the water should be boiled prior to human consumption. This notice is to remain in effect until further notice.

THE KILLALA/ACHONRY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2007 takes place from 23rd - 28th August. The Pilgrimage will be jointly led by Bishop Fleming of Killala and Bishop Flynn of Achonry. It would be important to book in good time. Details on each of the Church Notice Boards.

THE LOUGH DERG PILGRIMAGE SEASON commenced on Tuesday 1st May with the One-Day Pilgrimages. The Three-Day Pilgrimages began on Monday 1st June and run until Monday 13th August. Phone No. 071-9861518. The One-Day Pilgrimages will recommence after 13th August and continue until towards the end of September. The One-Day Retreat costs €27 and a reservation should be booked in advance. The Three-Day Pilgrimage costs €45 and it is not necessary to book.

A ONE-DAY PILGRIMAGE FROM KILLASSER TO LOUGH DERG will take place in September if there is sufficient interest. For those who may wish to make more long-term arrangements, can I suggest Monday 10th September as suitable date. Speaking to some people, this date is suitable for them, so you can take it that this will now be the date for the pilgrimage. More details later.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI will take place from Thursday 25th October to Thursday 4th November. There will be four nights in Rome and three nights in Assisi. The company is Celebration Travel. The Spiritual Director is Fr. Joe Caulfield, Carracastle. Price depends on number booking. Further information from Marian Maloney on 087-2112555 or 094-9288229

THE WEEKLY SEISIUNS will be held again this year in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on each Thursday night at 9 p.m. during July and August. Fifth session on next Thursday Night 2nd August. Admission €10. Children have free admission. Refreshments served. There was a wonderful night's entertainment on last Thursday night and a huge crowd in spite of the inclement weather. Well worth a visit. The tea/coffee and buneeens were beautiful.

THE BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER MENTORING PROGRAMME which is operated by Foroige needs volunteers, both male and female, from the Swinford area. Volunteers are asked to share their time, interests and hobbies with a young person for about one hour each week. Volunteers receive training and are fully supported by a professional youth worker. For brochures and application forms contact Big Brother Big Sister Office, The Mall, Castlebar. Phone 094-9060417.

THE PARISH CALENDAR is now ready for launching on next Thursday night 2nd August in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford at 9.00 p.m. It promises to be a beautiful production which will be a collector's item for the future. It will have relevance for every townland in the parish, with the name of each townland included as a picture as well as twelve beautiful photographs of different areas in the parish. When it is on sale make sure you get your copy early as it is a once-off production. It will have a special appeal for people from the parish living in other parts of the country and world. Sincere thanks to everyone who has worked so hard over the past few months to produce the calendar and to Bernie O'Hara who will perform the official launch on Thursday night. More details elsewhere in this week's newsletter. Everyone is welcome to attend.

WELCOME / CEAD MILE FAILTE / CUPAN TAE / BUNEEENS: To welcome home all our visitors and to give an opportunity to people to stay and chat, there will be a cup of tea served to everyone after all Masses next weekend. To arrange this, there will be a short meeting in **BOTH** churches on Wednesday evening next 1st August at 8.00 p.m. Everybody who is willing to lend a hand or bake a few scones is invited to attend. Your help will be very much appreciated.

THE NEW PARISH CALENDAR will be on sale after all Masses next weekend. Price €10.

CSKA KILLASSER COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB'S JULY SPORTS CAMP was a very enjoyable experience for all who took part. In spite of an extremely wet first day, forty nine children, including three Spanish children, who were holidaying in the area, enjoyed Gaelic football, Soccer, Rugby, Tae-kwon-do, Rounders, Athletics, Basketball and a host of fun and fitness games. Mr. Jack Charlton presented the certificates which all the children received. Jack Charlton posed for a photograph with each child and the signed all the certificates. The club wishes to thank the Chairperson of Killasser Community Centre, Mrs. Geraldine Burke and all the committee for their help and co-operation. The club will host another Camp from 13th - 17th August, inclusive. This promises to be another memorable week of activity and fun. Well done to everyone concerned with the running of the camp. It is wonderful for all the children to have this opportunity on their doorstep.

KILLASSER CHOI KWANG DO: It has been a very busy year for Killasser CKD. Three gradings have been held. Two of these gradings involved a visit from Mrs. V. Mackie 111 Dan and Mr. K. Mackie 111 Dan. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mackie were very pleased with the standard of the students. The last grading was in June and the following people were graded: Pierce Rowley White Snr., Breege Rogers Yellow Snr., Fergus Ward Orange Snr., Oisín Broe White Snr., Caoimhe Ward Gold, Soncha Broe White Snr., Cormac Ward Orange, Emer Loftus Yellow, Siobhan Ward 11 Dan Gold. Congratulations to all the students and they are encouraged to keep up the good work. Classes took a two week break and are now back in the Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.00 p.m. All ages from five years are welcome.

SWINFORD RICHARD KING APPRECIATION SOCIETY in conjunction with Siamsa Sraide and Mayo County Council Arts Committee presents 'The Art of Richard King in Swinford Parish Church' a Talk by Ruth Sheehy, M. Litt., TCD, on Friday next 3rd August in the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Swinford at 8 p.m. Admission: Adults €8 and Students €5. Richard King was born in Castlebar in 1907 and was educated in Castlebar and Westport before moving with his family to Dublin where he entered the Metropolitan School of Art. He was apprenticed to Harry Clarke and became manager of his stained glass company. He set up his own company and is responsible for beautiful stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross in Swinford Church; stained glass windows in Tuam Cathedral and Newport church; Stations of the Cross in Dunmore and an oil painting of the Assumption of Our Lady in Kiltulla near Athenry. His work is to be seen countrywide and worldwide.

RE-DEDICATION OF CURRY PARISH CHURCH: Curry Parish Church, which was completely renovated/refurbished during 2006 will be re-dedicated on Sunday 5th August. This ceremony will be performed by Bishop Flynn during concelebrated Mass which commences at 2.00 p.m. After the Mass and ceremony, a commemorative Book, edited by Brian

Cahill will be launched, followed by light refreshments in a marquee on the church grounds adjoining the church. Congratulations and complements to everyone who has been involved in this huge project.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR SHEILA O'HARA CULLENAUGHTON is being celebrated today at 3.00 p.m. in the O'Hara Home. There is an open invitation to attend for anyone who wishes to do so.

PRAY FOR: Eamonn Doyle, Treenreevagh, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Dan Barry, Carramore and Deceased Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.
 Sheila O'Hara, Cullenaughton, Sunday 3 p.m. in the O'Hara Home, Cullenaughton.
 P.J. Cronnolly, Doontas, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Tom Monaghan, Callow and Cullenauthton, Sunday 5th August 10 a.m.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

WHO WOULD WANT TO BE A BISHOP?

There are a number of appointments of Catholic Bishops expected in the near future, among them a new Bishop of Achonry, where Bishop Flynn is expected to retire. There was a time when such appointments were coveted. Now apparently obviously qualified candidates turn them down with increasing frequency, which often accounts for the long drawn out process of appointment. It is not easy to decide who would make a good bishop. The only general principle that seems to make sense is that those who covet such a position should be kept as far away as possible from it. Wanting to be a bishop - even when it is camouflaged behind a predictable piety and protestations of unworthiness - should immediately disqualify. The only appropriate candidate for the position is someone who has to be prevailed upon to accept the burden of office. The wisdom is that those who want to be bishops - and spend their lives preparing assiduously for it - are usually disastrous choices. Once bishops were like the gentry, living in opulent circumstances, cared for by a bevy of hirelings, bowed before by a fawning public. Now like the rest of us they usually live alone, boiling a lonely egg on dark February evenings, often harassed and demented by difficult Catholics demanding assent to their often bizarre expectations. Once a bishop's wish was every priest's command, not always because priests were devoted to their bishops but for the more basic and understandable reason that a priest didn't want to be shunted to an unpopular parish. Now priests ignore bishop's wishes, even directives and on occasion, even refuse to move to another parish. Once bishops were accepted as infallible, never contradicted, never criticised. Now at local level they are convenient scapegoats for everything that goes wrong and every journalist on the make sees them as the softest of soft targets. Bishops have a terrible time. The number of priests is steadily declining and this brings huge pressure from parishioners unhappy with cut-backs in personnel and services. It brings pressure too from priests whose work-load is increasing as they get older. And, for a bishop, it's becoming increasingly more difficult to match the right priest to the right job. There is too the belief that a bishop has to be everywhere - at every Confirmation, for example, and at every meeting - and for some bishops there's the terrible burden of dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse. The belief that more bishops are living very stressed lives was borne out by the permission to retire at the age of 65 granted recently to Bishop John Crowley of Middlesborough. Crowley himself had argued in the past that the retirement at 75 rule for bishops is good neither for the bishop or the diocese, a conclusion that seems obvious to most of the human race but apparently doesn't get much of a hearing in Rome. There are other pressures too. If the bishop comes from outside the diocese, there's the experience of displacement from friends and families. If he doesn't, there's the difficult readjustment in relationships with his fellow priests. Then there is the expectation that a bishop should have a medley of gifts - strategic and analytical thinking, people management, social interaction, communication and other skills. There is too the fact that he has to take responsibility for whatever goes wrong, even when he had no responsibility for it. And there's now relief in sight from what is, in effect, a life-appointment with death the only rescue this side of 75. Being a bishop is much more complicated than it used to be. Once bishops, by common consent, had very little to do. The present multi-layered bureaucracy simply didn't exist. One Killala bishop famously spent most of his time looking into the fire all day and rarely if ever typed a letter or circulated any correspondence to the priests of his diocese. All he had to do was confirm, make priests' changes (when he looked into his own soul and wrote a series of letters once a year) and deal with the occasional crisis by lobbing a dictat in some direction. Bishops then were ornaments as much as anything else - we couldn't do without them but they had little if anything to actually do. Now bishops are what one writer described recently as 'district managers of a global

corporation' caught between the increasingly unrealistic expectations of the customers of a series of branch offices being run by ageing, overworked branch managers who seem destined not to retire at a reasonable age but to take over a number of other branches. Again, we are in this predicament because we have ignored the road-map that the Second Vatican Council presented to us. The key word was 'collegial' but that, to our cost and our shame, was blown out of the water by those who refused to trust God's spirit. This reluctance to accept the thrust of Vatican Two was then copper-fastened in church law and this in turn leaves us with a top-down over-clericalised Church that will eventually implode under the pressure. Bishops don't need to have their fingers in every pie. They need to be leaders, sussing out the demands of the gospel in changing world, not tied to a desk answering mountains or correspondence often, no doubt, to very little purpose. And they need to have some kind of life away from the office. Shepherds need to be looked after too.

'Just a Thought - Brendan Hoban - Western People - June 2007'

ONGOING DIALOGUE.

Catholic feminist theologians are leaders in highlighting environmental and ecological issues as life issues on a planetary scale and they regularly incorporate these concerns into the moral agenda they discuss. Women also oppose nuclear proliferation and excessive militarism which drain money from poverty alleviation, health care, housing and day care for the children of working parents and the Pope should also highlight these issues.

Benedict should hear from survivors of clerical sexual abuse and express the Church's sorrow and determination to see enforcement of conditions necessary to prevent this scandal from recurring. He should encourage bishops to seek justice for survivors in ways that are primarily pastoral not legalistic.

Benedict should hear from priests who have retired from active ministry to marry. They would tell him that marriage is a sacrament in Catholic teaching and that they are prepared to re-engage in active ministry to ensure that no parish lacks liturgical celebration at a time when vocations to the priesthood are still in decline.

Benedict would be reminded that we already have married priests in the Catholic Church; formerly Protestant ministers who became Catholic have remained married after ordination and the people whom they serve in ministry not only do not mind this development, they scarcely seem to notice. The time for optional celibacy has long since arrived. Far from being an innovation this would be a recovery of a tradition that lasted for more than eleven hundred years of Church History.

Benedict should listen to divorced and remarried Catholics at present excluded from Eucharist if unable to obtain annulments. They would remind him of practice in the Orthodox Churches where irreparably broken marriages can be departed from for a new marriage and communion can be resumed.

'Ongoing Dialogue - Paul Surlis - Furrow, April 2007'

