

KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - www.killasser.com

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

30 NOVEMBER 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'*

PRESENT PERFECT.

We need Advent to teach us patience. It can teach us more than that, of course. However, with our busy lifestyles we need to relearn how to be patient with, rather than how to be patient with, rather than how to put up with something or someone. That busyness results in us wishing our life away. We become edgy and tense with the present and slide easily into the future - be it only into the hour ahead of us. We develop the 'when I ...' mentality: when-I-get-home, when the weekend arrives, when the summer is here, when I get my new car, when I ... when I When I. The future seems to hold the carrot; the present the stick. And as we lose touch with the present, we lose touch with ourselves.

And how easy that is. During the summer I saw a pub advertising a fancy dress Christmas bash for the middle of July. For many years now venues for Christmas parties have to be booked months in advance. And it's no surprise anymore to hear and see promotions for summer holiday deals the day after Christmas. We are being programmed to live in the future as if the present doesn't count. More and more life's rhythms are set by the world of commerce than by the world of nature.

Advent slows us down. It alerts us to prepare for Christmas, not to start celebrating it. Our Gospel today alerts to something else; the Lord's return. That alertness is for now, for we can meet the Lord at any time.

(Fr. Tom Cahill - Intercom - November 2008)

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 - Monday, Thursday 10 a.m. / Sunday 10 a.m.
KILLASSER - Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. / Saturday 8 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8 p.m. The Doyle Family (Carramore) Sunday 10.00 a.m. The Mulligan Family (Callow)
Sunday 11.30 a.m. The Browne Family (Boleyboy)

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

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 22nd / 23rd November amounted to €1,315.

COSGALLEN NEWS: **16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women** will run from 25th November to 10th December. The event is entitled 'In her Shoes'. This involves having a shoe display on a shop window with each pair of shoes representing one woman who has been murdered in Ireland since 1996 as a result of domestic violence. To facilitate this event Cosgallen would be grateful if local people could drop in old unwanted ladies shoes into their office or O'Connell's Pharmacy, Swinford. / **Bocci Classes** and other physical activities for the over 50's are held in the Sports Complex, Swinford Road, Charlestown every Tuesday at 1.00 p.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 affect their lives in a social and confidential setting. The meetings are every Tuesday morning from 11.00 - 1.00 p.m. If you have a disability and would like to join the group contact 094-9255070. / **Local Employment Service** will hold an Outreach on Wednesday 3rd December from 10.00 a.m. - 12 Noon. / **Looped Walks:** A number of requests have been made to look into the possibility of establishing looped walks in Killasser, Swinford, Carracastle and Charlestown areas. Anybody interested in getting involved should attend a meeting in Cosgallen, Charlestown on Thursday 4th December at 8 p.m.

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.

A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING was held in Callow Church on Wednesday 19th November.. Some of the items discussed were: **Prayer Service for the Departed to be held in Killasser Church on Friday next at 8.00 p.m.** / **Altar Server training for new servers for Killasser Church** / **Neighbourhood/Station Services - probably three/four more to be held between Christmas and Easter** / **Reflecting of Scripture for Advent to begin on Wednesday 26th November in Callow Church at 8.00 p.m.** / **Carol Service in Callow Church on Sunday 14th December** / **Kneelers in Callow Church will be placed under two rows of chairs for those who wish to kneel** / **Active Retirement Age Group and those who may wish to go to Attymass on Tuesday's.**

THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR NEW MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST for all the parishes in the cluster took place during a special Mass in Attymass Parish Church on Tuesday 28th October. The principal celebrant was Bishop Brendan Kelly. **This Sunday morning we welcome Jacinta Gallagher (Callow), Joe McNulty (Cullenaughton) and Catherine Burke (Callow) to the church in Callow as they begin their ministry. They are giving their service to the parish for the years ahead and we thank them for their generosity.**

A SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE DEPARTED was celebrated in Killasser Church on Friday Night last 28th November. For all those who died in the Parish since November 2007 a special candle was lit in their memory as well as for those who were natives of the Parish who lived elsewhere. A family member of the departed person accepted the candle towards the conclusion of the ceremony to bring it home where it can be lit at any appropriate time for each family. A very large crowd gathered for the service which was very prayerful and reflective and hopefully meaningful and reflective for all present. Sincere thanks to everyone who prepared the Church for the ceremony and to all who participated in it so well.

THE KILLASSER COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY 25 CARD GAME will continue on Monday night next 1st December, commencing at 9.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome and your support will be greatly appreciated.

KILLASSER COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL 25 CARD GAME: This event will be held in Killasser Community Centre on Monday 15th December, commencing at 8.30 p.m. There is a Prize Fund of €500. Admission - Tickets are €8 each. Your support will be very much appreciated.

A CLUSTER CHOIR PRACTICE will take place in Foxford Parish Church on next **Thursday** evening 4th December at 8.30 p.m. **Note the change this week to Thursday.** This is in preparation for the Mass on Sunday 4th January in Attymass Church which will be televised live on R.T.E. as part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the birth of Fr. Peyton. **Note the change from 11th to 4th January.**

THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE BALLINA is about to enter its next phase of development. In January 2009 a **Diploma in Applied Theology (Pastoral Studies)** will commence at the institute. The Course will run for two years and will be held on Friday evenings from 7.00 - 10.00 p.m. and on number of Saturdays. The cost of the Course is €1,200 per year. If anyone in the parish is interested in participating in this course, it will be possible to subsidise the cost. Details of the Diploma are available from Fr. O'Mahony. The closing date for application is 12th December.

CREDIT UNION NEWS: The next Members' Draw will take place at the A.G.M. which is provisionally booked for Tuesday 9th December in the Gateway Hotel. The first prize is a Toyota Yaris and there will be several cash prizes. Members are automatically included if they have already signed the application. If you are unsure just call into the Office before 2nd December. The usual terms and conditions apply.

SWINFORD AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Sunday 14th December at 4.00 p.m. All members are requested to attend. The Car Draw will take place at the A.G. M. 'If you are not in, you can't win'.

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.

A KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in the Parish Office on this Saturday night 29th November at 9.15 p.m.

REFLECTING OF THE SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR ADVENT will take place in Killasser Church on Wednesday night next 3rd December for an hour, 8.00 - 9.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome and it can be time very well spent exploring what the Scripture Readings might be saying to us at this particular time in our lives. We can help each other to understand them better. Sincere thanks to all who attended on last Wednesday evening in Callow.

'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.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW ALTAR SERVER FOR KILLASSER CHURCH will take place during the Vigil Mass on Saturday next 6th December at 8.00 p.m. There are eleven children to be commissioned who are members of Fifth Class in Carramore and Killasser National Schools. Some training for those to become servers has taken place and will be ongoing. Sincere thanks to the members of the Pastoral Council who have produced an Altar Servers' Information Booklet and also to those who have carried out the training in Callow and Killasser.

A BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING OF KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL will be held in the School on Monday evening next at 8.00 p.m.

THE ANNUAL CARRAMORE FUNDRAISING SOCIAL will be held this year in Frank's Place, Killasser on Saturday 13th December. Tickets will be on sale at the moment for very valuable prizes and there will be lots other prizes for raffle on the night.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH will take place this year on Sunday 14th December commencing at 7.00 p.m. The next rehearsal/practice will take place on this Sunday evening 30th November in Callow Church at 6.00 p.m. All adult choir members and as many children and young people as possible are very welcome and encouraged to attend. It would also be helpful if those who are willing to participate in the Service by proclaiming the Word of God or reading a prayer could attend this Sunday to receive the material and practice reading it. Sincere thanks to all who were present last Sunday evening. It is a very special celebration every year and I am sure this year will be as well.

CLOONLYON PARENTS' ASSOCIATION CHARLESTOWN is holding a Christmas Card Game on Wednesday 10th December at Knock Airport. Please note games start at 9.00 p.m sharp. Entry fee is €8 and two for €15. A Christmas Raffle will be held on the night with great prizes. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

NEW HORIZONS DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION will be held in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Wednesday next 3rd December at 8.00 p.m. The special guest is Louis McNulty. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

THE YOUTH GROUP/WOMENS GROUP is having a Jumble Sale, Cake Sale - Christmas Theme on Sunday 7th December in Killasser Community Centre after 11.30 a.m. Mass. A Raffle will be held. Your support will be appreciated.

AN ART EXHIBITION OF WORK BY MARIA TUFFY will take place in Mellett's (upstairs), Swinford on Friday 12th December, commencing at 8.00 p.m. The Official Opening will be performed by Cllr. Joe Mellett, Chairperson of Mayo Co. Council. Your presence and support will be very much appreciated by Maria.

SELF HELP AFRICA CHURCH GATE COLLECTION takes place on 6th/7th December. €10 will enable an African Family to develop a family woodlot. €25 provides a Farmer with a drip irrigation system to grow vegetables. €70 provides an African Woman with seed capital to start a business.

THE ACHONRY DIOCESAN READOIRI COMPETITIONS were held in Ballinacarrow Community Centre on Saturday Night last 22nd November. Killasser was represented by a Ballad Group from Carramore National School who progressed to the next stage of the competition which is the Connacht Semi-Final. This will be held in Manulla Community Centre on Saturday next 6th December. Killasser was also represented in the Recitation and Solo Singing competitions. Complements and congratulations to all who participated. The Ballad Group is as follows: **Siofra Frain, Brenda Carr, Chloe Meehan, Melissa Cronnolly, Rebecca Leonard, Clodagh Cronnolly and Sile Carr. Siofra Frain competed in Solo-Singing and Chloe Meehan in the Recitation.** We hope all continue to enjoy the rest of the competition.

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

THE SMALL COIN COLLECTION FOR MEKI amounted to €563 which was excellent. Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. It will be sent off shortly to this Diocese in Ethiopia. This amount of money is worth about ten times in Ethiopia what it is worth in Ireland.

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND CRIB IN CALLOW CHURCH: Even though the Christmas Carol Service is a little early this year, it is hoped to have the Christmas Tree and Crib erected in the Church for Sunday 14th December. The Church will also be partially decorated for Christmas.

THE SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION/PENANCE FOR CHRISTMAS will be celebrated in Killasser Church on Tuesday 16th December, commencing at 7.00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for everyone to receive the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Christmas. The dates and times for the other parishes in the cluster will be given in a later Newsletter.

COOLEGRANE LIGHTS: The Hughes Family, Coolegrane will once again be erecting their colourful display of Christmas Lights at their home. The Lights will be switched on, on Friday evening 12th December at 6.00 p.m. by the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council Joe Mellett. Afterwards the Crib will be blessed by Fr. Dan O'Mahony. Santa Claus will be calling to see the lights and talk to the Children on the night. Everyone is welcome. As usual a donation box will be placed at the gateway and all proceeds collected this year will go to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Hopefully as many people as possible will travel to see this display of Lights over the Christmas Season and support this worthy cause. For further information, contact Kevin Hughes on 086-8583380.

A CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING was held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday night last. 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. More detail in a later Newsletter.

PRAY FOR Deceased Members of the O'Kane Family, Boleyboy, Saturday 8 p.m.
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.
 Teresa Doyle, Months Mind and Deceased Doyle and Mulroy Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.
 James Adams, Cloonfinnish, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Elizabeth and Thomas Cronnolly, Cartron, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Martin McManus, Carramore and Deceased Family Members, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Vincent Cunney, Dromada-Gore and Deceased Family, Saturday 8 p.m.
 Martin Quinn, Dromada-Joyce, Saturday 8 p.m.
 John (Dan) Mulligan, Callow, Sunday 7th December 10 a.m.
 John Browne, Boleboy and Deceased Family Members, Sunday 7th December 11.30 a.m.
 John McLoughlin, Chicago and formerly of Derreen, brother of Seamus McLoughlin, Una Dunleavy
 And Nuals Kilgallon, who died on Wednesday last 26th November in Chicago. His Funeral Mass will
 Celebrated in Chicago on Monday 1st December. Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated in
 Killasser Church on Monday 8th December at 8.00 p.m.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.