

# KILLASSER/CALLOW PARISH NEWSLETTER

PARISH WEBSITE - [www.killasser.com](http://www.killasser.com)

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

30 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'*

### OLD AND NEW SINS.

'A young man replaced Father Glynn for a few months when the old priest fell ill. His sermons were short and delivered quietly in plain language. They related Christianity to the lives of people and stated that reflection on the mystery of life was itself a form of prayer, superior to the mouthing of empty formulas: he touched on character assassination, backbiting, marital violence, child beating, dishonesty, hypocrisy: he claimed a primary place for personal humility and love of others and charity of mind. My father in the front seat was incensed .... (he) did not lack support. The criticism took the form of a deep and troubled censoriousness at what the modern church was coming to. They rejoiced when Father Glynn returned. What they wanted was hell and damnation which they could apply, like death, to other people'.

( John McGahern - Memoir - p 202)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

MASSES CALLOW - Monday 1.00 p.m. / Tuesday 11 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.

KILLASSER - Tuesday 10 a.m. / Friday 12.30 p.m. / Saturday 8.00 p.m. / Sunday 11.30 a.m.

#### MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Mary Stenson.  
Sunday 10 a.m. Sean McLoughlin.  
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Ray Chuck.

#### MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Anne Holleran and Paraic O'Hara.  
Sunday 10 a.m. Marty Noone.  
Sunday 11.30 a.m. Beatrice Goldrick and Bridie Sheerin.

#### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - KILLASSER:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Rachael McDonnell Sunday 11.30 a.m. Erin Rochford

#### CALLOW

Sunday 10 a.m. Kevin Gallagher.

#### ALTAR SERVERS FOR KILLASSER CHURCH NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 8.00 p.m. Melissa Cronnolly Chloe Meehan Colin Hughes Paul Quinn.  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 11.30 a.m. Kevin Rowley Brenda Carr Haydn Harrold Siobhan Tully.

#### OFFERTORY PROCESSION NEXT WEEK:

Saturday 8. p.m. The Holleran Family (Dromada-Duke) 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 31<sup>st</sup> December. It will resume again in mid-January.

#### THE ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE IN CALLOW CHURCH

took place on Sunday evening last 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Sincere thanks to everyone who attended - it was the largest crowd yet. Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the Service and all who prepared for it since early November. It was a very special experience.

#### 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.

#### 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 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 / €250 / €100 / €50 / €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. [louismcnulty@gmail.com](mailto:louismcnulty@gmail.com) 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 30<sup>th</sup> November / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> December. They will remain in place until 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Cronnelly 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> January in Attymass.**

**THE NEXT CLUSTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 has **NOT** been 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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** 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> December amounted to €1,445.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:** Sincere thanks for your contributions towards the Christmas Collection taken up at all Masses at Christmas. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated.

**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](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> December. Messages can be submitted on Pax Christi's website at [WWW.PAXCHRISTI.NET](http://WWW.PAXCHRISTI.NET).

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**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 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The cost of sponsoring a light will be €10 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.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:FAITHALIVE@EIRCOM.NET) for €15 which includes postage.

**THE KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** took place in Killasser School on Wednesday Night 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Rutledge 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THE SPONSORED WALK ON ST. STEPHEN'S DAY** was a most enjoyable and successful occasion. It started and finished at Cloonfinnish Ball Alley. A large crowd of people took part and travelled around through Cloonfinnish, Cloontubrid and Lisloughna. It is a lovely quiet and safe route and in addition - no hills. The proceeds of the walk are going toward the Killasser/kCallow Parish Renovation Fund. The amount raised was €1,541. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported and to all who organised it so well.

**BAPTISM:** We welcome Katie Louise Keeshan, Cullenaughton into the Christian Community of Callow/Killasser, through the Sacrament of Baptism, celebrated in Callow Church on this Saturday afternoon 29<sup>th</sup> December. We pray that she will grow up to be a committed follower of Christ through the efforts of her Parents, Godparents, Relatives and Neighbours.

**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY MASS:** Congratulations to Brigid Walsh, Craigaballagh who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on this Saturday afternoon with her family in her home. The celebrations began with the celebration of Mass to give thanks to God for her life and to ask him to give her good health for many years more.

**WEDDING:** Congratulations to Michael Browne, Boleboy and Caroline Groarke, Craigaballagh who were married in Killasser Church on Thursday last 27<sup>th</sup> December. We wish them every blessing and happiness for their future married life. Caroline is a grand-daughter of Brigid Walsh.

**DUMPING IN ESKER BOG AREA:** Dumping has resumed again in the Esker Bog area of the parish. A van was seen in the vicinity of the offending material. If the culprit would please remove this material as soon as possible, it would be much appreciated. There is no excuse for this kind of behaviour, it is just despicable. Anyone responsible for illegal dumping should be very very deeply ashamed of their behaviour.

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**SINCERE THANKS** to everyone who has prepared both Churches for Christmas so beautifully, to all our organists, musicians and choir members of both churches who prepared so diligently for the Christmas Masses and who added so much to our celebration of this great Feast. It is all so much appreciated and never taken for granted, I hope. It added so much to our enjoyment of the church celebrations. I say thanks for Christmas and indeed for all occasions during the past year. Complements, congratulations and sincere thanks to all who decorated the churches for Christmas and who do so throughout the year. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in ministry in the parish for your willingness to give of your talent and time during the past year. I feel it all helps us to get closer to being a ministering parish which is the goal of our faith journey together.

**LARGE CROWDS AT CHRISTMAS MASSES:** It was wonderful to have such large congregations for each of the Christmas Masses which included so many visitors. Hopefully, the spiritual side of worshipping together was meaningful for all of us. We thank God for his goodness to us over the past year and we ask for his help and guidance for the year ahead.

**PARISH FUNCTION:** Killasser Community Care Group will hold its Annual Parish Function on Sunday next 6<sup>th</sup> January. The event will commence at 8.00 p.m. in Frank's Place. There will not be any special Mass for the occasion as everyone will have the opportunity of celebrating Mass on either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Everyone is invited to come along for what is always a most enjoyable function.

**CARRAMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL OPEN DAY:** The new buildings and the older renovated building at Carramore National School will be open to the public on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 2.00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come along to see the fantastic new facilities at the School. More details later.

**BLESSING OF CARRAMORE SCHOOL:** A blessing of the new facilities will also take place on 20<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00 p.m. Again everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served and some entertainment will be provided. It will be a very proud day for Carramore and everyone associated with it.

**PRAY FOR** Paddy and Annie O'Hara Droma, 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.  
 Thomas and Margaret Quinn, Prebawn, Sunday 10 am  
 Tom and Nora Howley, Carramore, Saturday 8 p.m..  
 People of the Parish, Sunday 11.30 a.m.  
 Paid and Kathleen McGowan, Carramore-Moy, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 11.30 a.m.  
**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**

**A  
 VERY  
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 HOLY  
 PEACEFUL  
 SAFE  
 THOUGHTFUL  
 2008**