



# Callan Parish Newsletter

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Fr. W. Dalton P.P. 77 25287



**Weekend Mass Times in Callan: Parish Church 6.30pm (Vigil) 8-30 a.m., 11.00 a.m.;  
Coolagh: 7.30 p.m.; Newtown 9.30 a.m.**

*www.ossory.ie (see Callan Parish)*

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Aisling McGrath; 8.30 a.m. Colin Ahearne; 11. Aisling Bryan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** 6.30 p.m. Sadie Bacon & Bernie Butler; 11.00 a.m. Margaret Nolan, Geraldine Collins & Kathleen Carroll.

**Feast of Christ the King:** We have arrived once again at the end of the Church's Year. As we grow older these years seem to pass more swiftly. The purpose of this feast is to pose that question for all of us who 'our king' is? Is it material well-being, career, work, drink, drugs etc.? Prayers at 3 p.m. for Christ the King and the Holy Souls on Sunday either in Kilbride or parish church depending on weather.

**40 Hours Adoration:** To mark the Feast of Christ the King, the 40 Hours Adoration, organised by St. Joseph's Young Priests Society will take place Thur. 19 Nov. – Sun 22 Nov., 10.00a.m. – 10.00 p.m each day in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, St. Mary's Cathedral. No all night vigils this year.

**Second Collection this weekend is our Annual Collection for the sick and retired priests.**

During the past year (2015) three priests of the Diocese died : Msgr. Thomas Maher, former P.P. of Mullinavat; Rev. James Carrigan, former P.P. of Aghaboe & Fr. Paddy Brennan, former P.P. of Muckalee & Ballycallan. We have currently 10 priests of the diocese retired, 5 of whom are in nursing home care – Fr. Bob Raftice, Fr. Joe Delaney, Fr. Denis Purcell + – the other 5 are living independently. Of the 10 who are retired only 3 are capable of helping out with public Masses etc.. Our collection today is to help defray the cost of nursing home care. Please try to be as generous as possible.

**No significant increase in the number of vocations:** In Sept. 2015 a total of 17 candidates entered Maynooth to study for the priesthood, one of whom is for Ossory. Even if all were to continue to ordination it would be but a drop in the ocean compared to what is needed. In normal course of events about 50% of those who begin see it through to the end. In countries traditionally noted for high numbers of vocation e.g. Poland and Africa vocations are already in decline. It is generally agreed that vocations in any place and time are a fairly accurate barometer of the level of faith in that community. This would seem to be very much the case in our present day culture. Could it be that the Lord is giving us a 'wake-up call' but we don't seem to be hearing him. With the disappearance of the older generation because of incapacity, illness and death the numbers attending church continue to decline. Recently our Mill Hill Missionary, Fr. Gerald Doyle, while on mission appeal in the parish, spoke of his many years of experience in the Cameroons. There the faith is flourishing with the catechist acting as community leader and presider at the Sunday liturgy and the priest showing up every few months whenever he could get around to it. We are heading in that same direction right now. As priests get older and those of lesser age develop health problems there will soon only be a priest here and there and a greatly reduced number of Masses. It will be a matter for the faithful to fan into a flame that gift that the Lord has given them and to nurture and support one another in the faith in whatever way they can. That day is nearer than we think.

**Blood Transfusion Unit in the Parish Hall Callan – this Monday 23 Nov. 4.30 – 8p.m..**

The service is encountering difficulties in collecting sufficient blood to meet weekly requirements of 3,000 unit. Please come along to give blood.

The **November Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls**: A word of thanks to all the relatives who presented candles on behalf of the loved one who died during the past year. These candles are lit each morning for the 10.00 a.m. when the November Masses for the Holy Souls are being offered. These will continue to the end of Nov.. You are welcome to come along any morning to join in that Mass for the Holy Souls. They need our prayers.

**Sr. Mona says thanks** to all who donated wool for her knitting project. She now has sufficient supplies for her present Mission Project. Thank you once again for your support.

**St. Vincent de Paul Collection this weekend.**

**South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture: World War I - An Overview by Dr. Pat McCarthy**; Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in Mullinavat parish hall (opposite church)

**Admission: €5** (members and students free). All are welcome

**Callan Heritage: an Illustrated Talk**: An Illustrated talk called '**Callan before the Great Famine**' takes place in the Workhouse Callan on this coming Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of November at 8.00 PM. The speaker is **Professor Pierce Grace** who is an expert on the period in question. It promises to be an engaging talk especially as it takes place at the very location which was central to the story of the Famine in the Callan area. (Pierce is the author of a recently published book: 'The middle class of Callan, Co. Kilkenny, 1825-45.') Everyone is welcome.

**New Book on memories of growing up in Callan 70 years ago**: A new book by Callan native **Father Jim O'Halloran** will be launched at Stonehouse Books, Kieran St., Kilkenny on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of December at 3.00 PM. It is called **Giving Life Away: Memories**. In it Fr. Jim recounts his life growing up in Mill Street during the 40's and his subsequent life as a priest and Missionary abroad. It costs **€10** and is signed by the author – surely an ideal Christmas gift for loved ones abroad.

**Feast of Christ the King**: We have arrived once again at the end of the Church's Year. As we grow older these years seem to pass more swiftly. The purpose of this feast is to pose that question for all of us who 'our king' is? Have we swapped 'the things of heaven' for 'the things of earth'. Is our new God material well-being, career, work, drink, drugs etc.? Prayers at 3 p.m. for Christ the King and the Holy Souls on Sunday either in Kilbride or parish church depending on weather.

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**Kilkenny Bereavement Support: Children Grieve too**. November 20<sup>th</sup> marks the First National Children's Bereavement Awareness Day. The day is aimed at those supporting bereaved children, whether parents or carers, teachers, sports groups, faith communities or friends in their local communities. We wish to highlight that while bereaved children belong in their families we all have a part to play in supporting them through their journey of grief. Kilkenny Bereavement Support will have a stand with trained volunteers in McDonagh Junction Shopping Mall (Nov.20<sup>th</sup>) to support those who feel they have a part to play in this important work.

**World Youth Day 2016**: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Mt 5:7). World Youth Day 2016 will take place in Krakow, Poland at the end of July 2016. Pope Francis will attend and will lead the Way of the Cross on Friday, the overnight vigil on the Saturday and Mass on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Diocese of Ossory is inviting young people (over 18 years) to attend. They are invited to make contact through [wyd@ossory.ie](mailto:wyd@ossory.ie) or Fr Richard Scriven (087 2420033) or Derek Dooley (087 938 4242) for further information. Richard Scriven [rscriven2009@gmail.com](mailto:rscriven2009@gmail.com) 087 2420033

**Laudato si**: Recently Pope Francis issued an encyclical letter urging us to care for the earth and the environment and to do our utmost to offset the effects of climate change. Carbon emissions, the by-product of so much of our energy sources, seem to be the main villain. Would that we could harness and harvest more energy from the sun. Did you know that in 90 minutes, enough sunlight strikes the earth to provide the entire planet's energy needs for a full year.