



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)

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 p.m. Brenda Farrell & Molly Foley; 11.00 a.m. Mary Horgan, Nellie Lynch, Olivia Quirke.

Ministers of the Word: 6.30 p.m. Colm Keher, 8.30 a.m. Paddy McGuire; 11.00 a.m. Ailis Carey

First Sunday of Advent: Marks the beginning of the Church's Year. Formerly Advent was often seen as a kind of 'Second Lent' and even extended over 40 days like Lent. What Lent was to Easter, Advent was to Christmas. Remnants of this survived into the early 1960s. How many remember cooking the Christmas ham in the big pot on the open fire and not being able to taste it to see if were cooked until after mid-night on Christmas Eve as it was a day of fasting. This all changed after the Second Vatican Council when the predominant austere and penitential themes of Advent gave way to sentiments of hope and joyful expectation. Thus, in the present-day liturgy the penitential aspect has been downplayed and the focus is now more on waiting patiently for the coming our Saviour. The penitential aspect of Advent - which was a relic of the Ancient Gallic Liturgy and which our Irish Pilgrim Monks such as Columbanus (the man who saved Europe) embraced with great gusto, has given way to the more ancient Roman tradition of joyful waiting and expectation of the one who is to come etc.. The blessing of the Advent Wreath will take place at all Masses this weekend.

The spiritual meaning of Advent: When we're expecting special guests we like to have due notice in order to be able to make the necessary preparations. We don't like being taken unawares with no prior warning. Preparation, anticipation and having everyone and everyplace looking their best are all part of making a guest welcome. This is why we have the season of Advent. The Fathers of the Church liked to speak of the 3 comings of Christ – his 1st coming when he was born at Bethlehem, his 2nd coming when he taps us on the shoulder and calls us home at the moment of death; his 3rd coming when he will come again in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead.

It is that 2nd coming that preoccupy us most – when we are summoned before him to give an account of our lives. St. Augustine reminds us that “if we have made him welcome at his first coming we have no reason to fear his second coming”. Advent presents us with the ideal opening to ensure that we make him welcome when we commemorate his first coming on Christmas night.

Hence we must ask ourselves are we ready to host a guest of such high dignity and stature? Have we room for him in our life? Notice how fitting apt the gospel story of Christmas night is (Lk. 2:1-11). There was no room for him in the inn. It would be terrible if we are to greet him only on the doorstep of our life and apologise for not inviting him in because our house is not in order or a fit place to receive anybody or as St. John reminds on Christmas “he came to his own domain but his own people did not accept him” (Jn. 1:11).

Advent and Christmas are above all about family – providing an apt family atmosphere where the infant Jesus would feel at home and want to stay. So much of our family life is dragged asunder by tensions, pressure and anger – an atmosphere that no visitor would like to delay in for very long. To get into the spirit of Advent we might think of how we could create a suitable environment in our home where the infant Jesus would be happy to come stay rather

than be anxious to pack his bags and get out of here as quickly as possible. Unfortunately the latter is all too common. The experts tell us that family disputes often reach boiling point over the Christmas period. Help lines are at their busiest in the days after Christmas.

Creating a place for family prayer during Advent could help in dissipate family tensions and re-focusing on the real meaning of Christmas. Looking back over the day or the year just ending and like Mary in the Magnificat counting our blessings. This could serve as a useful starting point for prayer. The presents, the tinsel and the commercial side of Christmas trivialize and obscure its real meaning and send us in the wrong direction. The one thing we need in our life is the right direction. Advent and Christmas provide us with the time and space to look at the direction we're heading and see if we need to change and re-focus.

Vocations Blurb: November 29, 2015 - First Sunday of Advent – vocation blurb

Be on the watch! Allow God to lead you in the ways of truth and justice. How is God calling you to serve? (Jer.33:14-16) If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr. Willie Purcell Ossory Vocations Director. 056 7770261 or email ossoryvocdir@gmail.com.

www.ossory/vocations

Prayer of Intercession: For our Church, that in this time of Advent, many women and men will be alert to God's call to service, Lord hear us...

8th December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception – holy day of obligation – Vigil Mass Mon. 7 Dec. 6.30 p.m.; Masses in Callan for holy day 8.30 a.m.; 11.00 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.. Holy day Masses for Coolagh & Newtown combined into the Sat/Sun. Masses 5/6th Dec.

Windgap Annual Bazaar - Sunday, 13th December, in Windgap Community Hall, at 2 pm. Spinner, raffles, firewood, Christmas cakes, vegetable stalls and lots more. Come and see. Raffle tickets on sale already.

Mount Carmel Nov. 2015 Draw Winners: €200 Visions, Westcourt Business Park; **€100 each:** Kathleen O'Halloran; Nellie Croke, Mill St.; **€30 each:** Mary Dalton, Poulacapple; Lena Saunders, Coolagh; Mary Holden, Green St.; Bernadette Cuddihy, Westcourt; Angela Doheny; Aoife & Conor O'Sullivan; Maggie Cody, Poulacapple; Eileen Gibbs, Ahenure; Bernie Walsh, Windgap; Breda Murphy, West St.; Promoters' Prize: Nora Comerford, Veronica Robinson, Sr. Cecilia.

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 5th 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 Callan folk abroad.

Ambo of parish church gone to Molloy's Workshop for upgrading and overhaul. It should be back in good time for Christmas.

The School of the Holy Spirit will host its annual coffee morning On Sunday 29th November between 11am and 1pm. in their School in Seville lodge, Callan Road. Enjoy a cuppa with home bakeries and pick up a few bargains at the gift stall, books cds, dvds and perhaps win an amazing hamper or two. Anyone wishing to donate gifts etc to event can contact Therese Buckley @0879040208

Monster Auction at O'Loughlins GAA Grounds, Hebron Rd. in aid of Cathedral Fundraising – this Sat.. 28 Nov. .Viewing from 10.00 a.m.. Auction 11.30 a.m. onwards.

Marking Year for Religious Life: On Sunday Next 29th November, we will celebrate the massive contribution of Religious to the people of our Diocese. At St Kieran's College starting at 12 noon until 5pm there will be stands displaying information about the many religious communities who are serving in Ossory and the chance for teas and coffees etc...

Please come along to celebrate all they have done, and continue to do, while serving the people of our diocese. The day concludes with a mass of Thanksgiving in St Mary's Cathedral at 5.30pm. .