



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)

Recent death; Paddy Delaney, An Solás, l'Arche Community, Green Lane – Paddy, a native of Windgap was the first residential core member of l'Arche Ireland, taking up residence with l'Arche in 1978. Paddy became known nationally when his picture appeared in the one of the primary school religious textbooks in the early 2000s. Paddy worked in the garden at Kilmoganny and latterly in the candle department of the l'Arche workshop in Green Lane. Thanks to the wonderful care Paddy received in l'Arche he lived into ripe old age.

Sat. 19 Dec. 7.10 pm - Reconciliation Service & Confession for Christmas i.e. immediately at the end of Mass. Outside priests will be available for confessions.

Readers: 19/20 Dec. 6.30 Patti Maguire; 8.30 Rachel Hogan; 11.00 a.m. First Communion Parents. **Christmas Eve** 6.00 p.m. to be assigned ; 9 p.m. to be assigned.

Christmas Day: 8.30 a.m. Bridie Bergin; 11.00 a.m. Caoimhe Reid

Christmas schedule in the parish: Thur. 24 Dec. Christmas Eve: 6p.m. family Mass of Christmas; **Night Mass of Christmas (with parish choir) 9 p.m.**, preceded by carol singing. **Coolagh & Newtown both at 7.30 p.m..**

Friday, Christmas Day: Parish Church 8.30 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.;

Saturday, St. Stephen's Day: no morning Mass, **vigil Masses (Callan & Coolagh) for Sunday; Sunday - regular Sunday Mass schedule.**

Bishop Forristal's Diamond Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood: Bishop Forristal was ordained priest in Rome on **Dec. 21st, 1955** for the Archdiocese of Dublin. He was student at Propaganda Fide College in Rome at the time. He became Bishop of Ossory in July 1981 on the death of Bishop Peter Birch and continued as bishop for the next 26 years. He lived through extraordinary and exciting times in the Church, brought about principally by the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. He embraced the new way of thinking heralded by that Council and set about implementing it, first as a priest and later as a bishop. We heartily congratulate him on reaching this milestone in his priestly life and wish him ad multos annos.

Deceased since Christmas 214: Molly Carolan, Coolalong; Aggi Morrissey, Parkview; Bridget Freeman, Coolaghmore; Josephine Morrison nee Power, Kilkenny & Bauntha; Seamus Somers, Loughboy & Coolagh; Bridget Carroll, Scaughacloren; Margaret Malone, Prologue; Velvie McBride, Boyle & Green St.; Jim Lyons, London & Mallardstown; Lucy Greene, Greenville; Jack Fitzgerald, Tinnamona; Margaret Donovan, Green Lane; Breda Rice, Convent View; Maureen Roche, Scaugh; Ellen O'Grady, Westcourt; Statia Walsh, Green St.; Mary Ryan, 10 Bolton Green; Nellie Bolger nee Kennedy, Prologue; Kathleen Moloney nee Dargan, Drangan; Cathy Fitzgerald, Kingscourt; Patrick J. Ryan, Green St.; Rita McEnery, Collins Park; Bridget Hackett, Lr. Bridge St.; Sr. Alphonsus Sheehy, Convent of Mercy; Mary Bourke, Newtown; Patrick Webster, Kilbride; Joan Kelly nee Hennessy, Clonkil; Helen Vaughan, George McCuthion, Camphill Community; Abhainn Ri; Br. Louis McHale, Westcourt; James Foley, Westcourt; Kitty Hackett, Collins Park; Marie Donovan, Dublin & Green Lane, Callan; Jackie Roche, Poulacapple; Breda Holden, Canon Kennedy Court & Mill St.; Paddy Delaney, l'Arche Community, Callan.

Word of thanks to our Parish Bingo Committee for its generous contribution towards hall expenses and parish funds. We would like to thank the bingo patrons also and wish all a very happy Christmas and New Year. The cost of running facilities like a hall is going only in one direction - heat & light + insurance + water & waste water charges, repairs and maintenance come to about €5,000 per year. We are glad to be able to facilitate groups wishing to use the hall provided they have their own insurance and Safeguarding procedures in place.

Church Car Park available for parking: Over the next few days parking space may be at a premium with many people shopping etc.. Please feel free to use the church car park if needs be i.e. the area immediately adjoining the church. All we ask is that you leave it in the same condition as you find it i.e. tidy and litter-free.

Callan Parish Whist: A word of thanks to Bridie Bergin, Bridie Metcalf, Rose Corcoran & others who both organised and supported Callan Parish Whist during the course of the year. Again it was very much a social event for the participants coming from far and near. Outside support was ensured by the readiness of Callan people to travel to other venues to support. We thank them too for their donation towards parish funds and the running cost of the hall.

Christmas: how the Feast of Christmas came about: It is often said that if Christmas did not exist we would have to invent it and invent it. Unlike the death of Jesus (which is a historically verifiable fact) which underpins our celebration of Easter the gospels tell us nothing about the date of the birth of Jesus. Furthermore it wasn't until about 350 A.D. that Christians first began to celebrate the Feast of Christmas on December 25th. It is generally accepted that this date was chosen in order to counteract an old pre-existing pagan festival dedicated to the sun-god on that date. The leadership of the Roman Christian community wanted to wean its followers off celebrating pagan festivals in much the same way as the early Irish Church endeavoured to wean its people off old Celtic, pagan rituals.

As we approach year end days are at their shortest and the sun is at its lowest in the sky. People are generally low in spirit as well and need something to give them a lift. Pre-Christian culture wishing to assure those feeling overburdened by the dull and dreary weather looked for re-assurance that the sun would shine again. What better way to do this than to invent or establish a festival in honour of the Invincible or Unconquerable Sun. The Roman Emperor **Aurelian** decreed such a feast in the **year 274** in order to keep his subjects happy as the end of a wet, dull and dreary December. In due course Christians were happy to import and take over this festival and pencil it into their calendar as the birthday of Christ.

St, Vincent de Paul says thanks: The local St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank sincerely all who contributed so generously to last weekend's Christmas Collection. It will all be put to good use. Those seeking assistance from the SVP should call the confidential **number 085-2490029**. The local SVP designated members, being the best qualified to assess the situation on the ground, will make the arrangements best suited to the circumstances. On this way duplication will be avoided.

Happy Christmas to all: I would like to wish all our parishioners and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year. As we get older the years seem to pass more quickly. The year just ending will not doubt leave behind a mixture of happy and sad memories for all of us. We must soldier on, however, and that is what Christmas is all about - keeping faith with the Christ of Christmas while allowing him to shape and influence our decisions in the year ahead. I would like to thank all of you for your help and support over the past year – pastoral, financial and spiritual. What the future holds in store we can only guess but the one thing we can be certain of is that it will bring more changes. But then 'to live is to change'. We pray and hope that Christmas will be a happy time for all families and that no accident or injury may come the way of anybody during these festive days.

Finally we wish all our www readers of the Callan Parish Newsletter a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We will be remembering all of you wherever you are in our prayers and Masses over the festive period. We hope our Newsletter helps to keep you in touch with home.