

# CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

**Readers:** 6.30 p.m. Marie Murphy; 8.30 a.m. Tommy Quinlan; 11.00 a.m. Joe Kennedy.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** 6.30 p.m. Brenda Farrell & Molly Foley; 11.00 Margaret Nolan, Mary Horgan & Nellie Lynch.

**This Sunday, 29 May - Corpus Christi:** Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi, the day when we carry the Lord, present in the Eucharist in solemn procession. We welcome the First Communion Children to take part in the 11.00 a.m. Mass and to dress up in their First Communion dresses and suits. These cost much money and it is good to get at least another occasion on which to wear and display them. Hopefully, next Sunday the weather will be as kind and conducive to outdoor activity as First Communion Sunday 2016 was.

We are fortunate to have an ideal venue to process to and a suitable distance to make for a worthwhile procession. We will process from the parish church to the Convent Chapel for Benediction. The altar servers will lead the procession, followed by all the First Communion Children and their families to the Convent Chapel. By participating in the procession we are saying that our faith has a place in the market-place and not just something that we leave inside the walls of the church or outside the wall of our parliament. Our prayer-life should flow out into our world of work and recreation and vice versa. We should be prepared to wear it on our sleeve and not be ashamed to take our faith with us to the market place. By participating in the procession we are making a statement that many in prominent positions would prefer not to hear or notice.

**First Communion Children 2016:** Doireann Keating; Caoimhe Kelly; Jack Kennedy; Jack Lennon; Alfie Lynch; Leona Lyons; Colin Maher; Zak O'Halloran; Donagh O'Neill; Jason O'Reilly; Rachel Phelan; Cathy Power, Edmund Power; James Power; Luke Power; Richard Power; Tom Power; Lily Quigley; Neil Quigley; Rosie Roche; Shona Ryall; Zara Ryan; Kellise Scott; Joseph Moran; Adam O'Dwyer; Andrew O'Halloran; Adam Aylward; Caleb Bergin; Kian Bergin; Joseph Butler; Naoise Brett; Alex Brudell; Farrah Ryan-Burke; Ali Bryan; Rickard Burke; Rocky Carthy; Eva Conboy; Aoibhne Corcoran; Saoirse Doran; Aidan Dunlop; Mia Dunne; Robbie Jackman; Christian Tierney; Joey Tobin; Naka Varga; Nyah Vaughan.

**Congratulation to all 46 (one more than a year ago) children who received their First Holy Communion** last Sunday and a special word of thanks to their teachers, Mr. Mark Kelly & Ms. Sarah Tyrell for the commitment and dedication shown in preparing the children for First Penance and First Holy Communion. We thank all the teachers who came on board with their different areas of expertise - music, choir, instruments, art work etc.- making First Communion Day really memorable. We thank the Lord for the wonderful weather. On First Communion Day. A word of thanks also to the Parents Group who helped with the monthly Masses preparing the children and to the families for their input into the programme.

**Callan Tidy Towns (CTT)** Having secured an endeavour award in 2015 for its efforts, Mike Nolan of CTT is asking all property owners, businesses and residents alike to play a role in making Callan a cleaner, tidier and litter free town. We are seeking volunteers to paint the phone exchange at the fair green, spray/pull weeds on all kerbs and footpaths in the town, someone to plant the entrance to Avondale. We also ask everyone to look at the roadside of their boundary wall to see if it could be improved as it was noted in the 2015 report as an area that needing improvement. As always a lick of paint can make all the difference. Thanks to Joe and his crew on the sweeper and Declan Nolan for all his work to date and Johnny Proctor for his sterling work at the Grotto. With more volunteers we could do much more! See what you can do, don't wait for someone else - just do it! For anyone interested in

becoming a volunteer email; [lowrysfurniture@gmail.com](mailto:lowrysfurniture@gmail.com) or phone 087 9484376. Regards, Mike Nolan,

**Blessed Edmund Rice Parish Pilgrimage to Knock** – Thur. 23 June 2016. Bus leaving from outside parish church at 7.45 a.m. sharp and arriving back at 10.00 p.m.. Names to **Nellie Lynch 7725309 or Gretta Griffin.7728197 please.**

**Word of thanks to all who contributed to the Easter Offering Collection for the support of Priests.** If you have still to do so you can drop in your envelope to the collection basket at weekend or directly into the parochial house letterbox.

**Wanted: electric hob:** If you are changing your kitchen or discarding a hob in good working order or know of somebody doing so, please call **7725287.**

**Papal Visit to Ireland in the pipe-line?** It has long been speculated that Pope Francis would visit Ireland and the most likely time would seem to be late August 2018 to coincide with the World Meeting of Families, 22-26 Aug. 2018 in Dublin. Out of the last eight three yearly such meetings the Pope has attended six of them. However, much will depend on the pope's state of health and mobility at the time. Papal visits are normally only confirmed a few months prior to their taking place.

**Mount Carmel Home & Mount Carmel Voluntary Housing** are in the process of updating its waiting lists of people seeking accommodation in either the Home itself and in the adjacent bungalows. Accommodation in the Home is single occupancy while in the Bungalows is both single and double. Interested parties should contact the Manager, Mount Carmel tel. 056-7725301.

**Repeal of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution (opening the doors to abortion legislation) very low in people's priority recent poll shows:** A recent Behaviour & Attitudes Poll commissioned by the Sunday Times revealed that merely 5% of voters saw repeal of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment as

priority. The poll was objective and open-ended. It did not present respondents with a list of options but gave them 'free rein to mention the specific issues the Government should address' in the next one year or two. 68% of the 898 voters polled put healthcare as the priority, with 51% raising the issue of homelessness and local authority housing as a close second. **Only one in 20 or 5%** of those polled mentioned abortion legislation as a priority. Opinion polls are very fickle instruments and lend themselves to being hijacked by an interested party. This was not so with the Sunday Times Poll. It came with no hidden agenda.

We have heard very little of this opinion poll in the Irish media and very little from people in high places giving the impression that the opposite was the case. David Quinn writing in the **Irish Catholic, 19 May 2016, p. 9** poses the question: 'is there real, deep-seated public demand to remove the Eight Amendment? The answer is no. If there were, it would have been raised regularly at the doorsteps during the recent General Election and it wasn't'. The only valid conclusion is that the issue is politically-driven and not by from voters on the doorstep. While a 'pro-repeal stance' on the matter of the Eight Amendment could not necessarily be blamed for alienation of voters, it is worth noting, nevertheless, that the political party that was most vocal in calling for its repeal fared poorest in the recent election.

Kicking the can down the road and leaving it to a Citizens' Assembly to make recommendations is an abdication of political responsibility. The very term 'Citizens' Assembly' confers on the body a dignity it does not deserve – it implies that it is responding to the demands of citizens when in fact the opinion polls show that the said citizens amount to no more than 5%. When there is a genuine public demand for something politicians will hear about in their regular clinics.