

## Callan Parish Bulletin

**Readers:** 6.30 p.m. Aislinn McGrath; 8.30 a.m. Bridie Bergin; 11.00 a.m. Colm Keher

**Eucharistic Ministers:** 6.30 p.m. Nellie Lynch & Bernie Butler; 11.00a.m. 11.00 Margaret Nolan, Geraldine Collins & Mary Horgan.

**Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice** Thur. 5 May: To mark the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice this year Mass will be celebrated in the Westcourt on Thur 5 May 7.30 p.m.. All are welcome. Kind regards, Br. Damien Brennan.

**Callan Parish website defunct:** Please note that the [callanparish.com](http://callanparish.com) website has not been in use for several years now and is long since out of date. It is stranded in space spurning all rescue attempts and though viewable from mother earth refuses to take any terrestrial instructions. Please ignore it. Our weekly Newsletter now appears on the diocesan website instead – under Callan Parish. Please inform relatives and friends of Callan accordingly.

**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.

**Week for First Friday calls:** the sick and housebound will be visited during the coming week.

**Collection to help refugees from Syria, Iraq & the Ukraine:** In response to our Holy Father's appeal for help for those displaced by war, conflict

and persecution a collection was taken up last Sunday. One can still contribute to this great humanitarian tragedy unfolding only a few hours from us by plane by putting his/her donation in an envelope marked 'Refugees' and dropping it into the collection box at weekend Masses or into the presbytery.

**Bl. Edmund Rice:** Born in Westcourt, Callan in 1762 Edmund Rice came from a well-to-do background. The historian Daire Keogh paints a comprehensive picture of his considerable means - "A combination of fortune and business acumen allowed Rice amass a considerable fortune. He benefited greatly from the agricultural boom, and in 1787 he acquired the family holding in Ballykeefe on the death of his father. Seven years later he inherited his uncle's thriving mercantile business in Waterford ... by 1802 he possessed a large private fortune. Rice had a deep mistrust of the banking system ... the gradual repeal of the penal laws allowed him to invest his profits in landed property... in 1815 he held house property and as much as 1,500 acres in his own right, spread over the counties of Kilkenny, Tipperary and Laois. .. he owned the Garter Inn at Callan, ten houses in Waterford and three on St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. The property had a capital value of £50,000 and rent alone could earn its owner as much as £5,000 each year, the equivalent of one quarter of the total spent by the Catholics of Waterford building their magnificent cathedral" (*Edmund Rice and the First Christian Brothers, 2008, p. 91*).

He invested these resources in the building and running of schools for poor Catholic boys who otherwise stood no chance of gaining an education which Rice saw as the only escape route from poverty. He opened his first school in Mount Sion in Waterford in 1801.

Prior to this time education was pretty much the preserve of the wealthy. The privileged classes could afford to hire their own teachers

to tutor their children (the phenomenon known as 'hedge schools') but the children of the tenant farmer, the labourer and the destitute were denied any such luxury. The Primary School System established by the British Parliament in the early 1830s was viewed with suspicion and distrust because of a Protestant Parliament underpinning its establishment. The Bishops were divided on the issue. Was human ignorance to be preferred to putting one's mortal soul in danger! Into the breach came the newly founded religious orders, most notably the Sisters of Mercy founded in 1833 and the Christian Brothers founded by one of Callan's best known sons, Blessed Edmund Rice. He had opened his first School in Mount Sion, Waterford in 1801 and was continuing to open schools throughout the country. Thanks to the pioneering efforts and dedication of the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers Callan would soon claim its place at the top table of Catholic education. The Christian Brothers opened their school in Callan 'for the education of boys' in 1868 only to be followed five years later in 1873 by the Sisters of Mercy opening their own school 'for the education of girls'.

#### **Important dates in 2016:**

First Holy Communion: Sunday 15 May, 11.00 a.m.

Cemetery Masses as usual: Kilbride – Frid. 24 June, 8 p.m.;

Coolagh – Frid 1st July 8 p.m.;

Newtown: Friday 29 July 7.30 p.m..

Whitechurch: TBA by Fr. Jim Greene

Please let family members and neighbours know in good time.

**Vocations Day:** The next Ossory Diocesan Vocations Information day will take place on Saturday May 14th 2016. I know that you have many items for your parish newsletter but I would be grateful if you could put

the following in the parish newsletter for the weekends of April 30th/ May 1st and May 7th/8th. Perhaps you could also mention the day in your pulpit announcements. When: Saturday May 14 Where: The Chapter Room, St. Mary's Cathedral. Kilkenny Time: 10. 30 am ; Information: Fr. Willie Purcell; Email [ossoryvocdir@gmail.com](mailto:ossoryvocdir@gmail.com) Mob: 0876286858 Facebook: *ossoryvocdir Fr. Willie Purcell*, Number of diocesan priests decrease by 50 per year: Statistics recently released for the ten year period 2004-'14 show that the number of diocesan priests in Ireland has continued to decline at a rate of c. 50 per year. In 2004 there were 3,241 diocesan priests in Ireland; in 2014 that number had fallen to 2,627, many of whom are now retired or have passed retirement age. This is not surprising. If we look at the death notices in the paper each day there is a constant stream of notices for priests and nuns.

**Mount Carmel April 2016 Draw Results:** €200 Bridie Bergin & Bridie Metcalf; €100 each: Denis Gorey, Burnchurch; Richard Burke, Cork; €30 each: Mary B. Butler, Knock; Ruth, Claire, James Saunders-Somers, Coolagh; Liam O'Halloran, Green Lane; Eileen Ronan, Westcourt; Patsy Lehart, Kilmanagh; Richard Wallace, Ballyhall; Elena Saunders, Coolagh; Bernie Dunne, Coolaghmore; Annie Dermody, Kilbraghan; Fr. Denis Purcell, Mt. Carmel.

A new year is about to begin; thank you for your support over past year and hopefully you will stay with us for the coming year also. Your promoter will be making contact with you shortly.

**A Night Prayer:** "Give peace Lord, to those who are troubled, comfort the sorrowful, strengthen the weary, bless the dying and grant eternal rest to those who have died this day and to all our faithful departed".