



Callan Parish Newsletter

Vol. 18, 18 Sep 2016 Price 25c.

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. Molly Foley & Brenda O'Brien; 11.00 a.m. Frank & Anastatia Kania & Mary Horgan.

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Padhraic Moran; 8.30 a.m. Rachel Hogan. 11.00 a.m. Colm Keher.

Important celebrations coming up in the parish:

Ash Wednesday – March 1st, 2017;

Easter Sunday – 16th April 2017;

First Holy Communion – Sunday 14 May;

Confirmation : Sunday 2nd April 2017.

Cemetery Masses: at the usual times and dates - as in 2016 and previously.

Free Dementia Workshop in Butler House, Tues. 20 Sep. 7-9. Call Jillian for tickets 056-7800508 in order to secure your free place.

Camphill Open Day in Ballytobin: Coming up this Sunday, Sep. 18th, is Camphill Open Day in Ballytobin, 2-5 p.m.. All the usual stalls - fun & games, food, teas & coffee, wheel of fortune, vegetables, crafts, fun-games, raffles. Come along and meet neighbours and friends and the people who live and work in Camphill.

Coming up: Mount Carmel Golf Classic: Callan Golf Club, Frid./Sat. 30/1 October 2016 – contact Robert Woodcock to get on timesheet, or as a sponsor to sponsor a hole or prize : tel. 087 -6592977. Teams of four €60.

Non-golfers and those who cannot make it on the day might consider sponsoring a hole etc. You can support also by buying a Raffle ticket(s) for this worthy cause – at Mount Carmel or Golf Club or from Committee Member

Life in Callan, 1825-'45: About two years ago **Pierce A. Grace, Professor of Surgery** at the Graduate Entry Medical School of the University of Limerick, published a compact and well researched little book on daily life in Callan in the two decades immediately prior to the Great Famine. This was the very period during which the parish church was under construction. At the time the outer boundary of the town and liberties of Callan incorporated the following areas: Tinnamona, Prologue, Cannafahy, Bolton, Drimeen, Minauns, Clashacollaire, Blackstaff, Haggardsgreen & Westcourt Demense. Inside that boundary lived approx. 6,000 people. In 1821 the population of Callan and its liberties was **5, 678** and in **1831** had increased to **6,111**. The same kind of population figures were repeated throughout the country i.e. the pre-Famine population for any area was about three times what it is today. A report in 1837 notes the considerable emigration from the town. 97% of the population described themselves as being Catholic.

Significance of the toll booth standing at entrance to Fair Green:

Many may be wondering what on earth the little box-like structure with slated roof and green door at the entrance to the Fair Green is supposed to be or what purpose did it serve. It bears testimony to Callan as a noted centre of local trade and commerce. Fairs (hence the Fair Green) were held several times a year in the town as well as regular weekly markets. Markets took place on Tuesdays and Saturdays at the market-house on Green St., built in 1793. A large pig market on Mondays, from January to May, attracted buyers from Waterford, Kilkenny, Carrick-on-Suir and Clonmel. The Corporation / Commissioners of the town (those entrusted with the task of governance) raised their revenue by levying tolls on the produce offered for sale at the fairs and markets. This explains the vital importance of the little green toll booth at the entrance to the Fair Green. It was the venue where one encountered the dreaded taxing master. Today it is a protected structure. It is part of our Callan heritage, telling its own story.

The collection of the tolls was frequently the subject to considerable abuse. Items such as turf, furze and linen goods which should have been toll-free were levied as were cattle passing through the town. There was no by-pass in those days. The tolls were often levied well outside the limits of the town with women and children being searched for fear they were smuggling in hens or eggs for sale and evading the toll. The tolls were charged every day except Sunday and were greatly resented by the population. In 1835 a parliamentary commission recommended their abolition but they probably continued to be gathered as a valuable source of revenue for the Town Commissioners for many years after that.

Pope Francis canonizes Mother Teresa of Calcutta: On Sunday 4th Sep. 2016 Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa of Calcutta a saint at a special ceremony in St. Peter's Square in Rome i.e. a mere 19 years after her death. Pope was particularly happy to do so during this Jubilee Year of Mercy because Mother Teresa was the eloquent model and

living witness of mercy in her own life. She is often referred to as "saint of the gutters" because of the many people and particularly children that she rescued from the slums and gutters of Calcutta. The pope described her as 'that generous dispenser of divine mercy in all aspects of her life. She made herself available to everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was ceaselessly proclaiming that the unborn are the weakest and smallest, the most vulnerable. She bowed down before those who were spent and left to die on the side of the road, seeing them in their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of the world, so that they might recognize their guilt from the crime – the crimes – of poverty they created. For Mother Teresa mercy was the 'salt' that added flavour to her work; it was the light that shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed.

We are all good at responding in spurts of mercy e.g. at times of famine, earthquake etc. when the occasion demands it but Mother Teresa devoted her whole life to these works of mercy. Her ministry was to offer gratuitous love free from every ideology and without distinction of language, culture, race or religion. All people were share the same dignity in her eyes. The Church now proclaims that poor and those that society discards have a voice at the top-table in heaven in the person of St. Mother Teresa.