

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Lizzy Keher; 8.30 a.m. Lisa O'Neill; 11.00 a.m. Joe Kennedy.

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 p.m. Molly Foley & Brenda Farrell; 11.00 a.m. Olivia Quirke, Mary McGrath & Paul Clarke;

Talk by Dr. Fergus Heffernan: "Learning to Live Life in the Blue Zone" is the title of a talk by Dr Fergus Heffernan to be held at St. Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Wednesday, 8th February at 8.00pm. Admission is €10 and all proceeds go to the Irish Pilgrimage Trust which brings children with special needs to Lourdes each Easter.

Westcourt News: Monthly Mass for the blessings and canonisation of Bl. Edmund Rice will take place in B. Edmund Rice Chapel on this **Mon. 6 Feb. at 7.30 p.m.**. Callan Historical Society is organising the liturgy. All are welcome.

Adoration / Rosary when there is a funeral: funeral Masses usually take place at 11.00 a.m. or 12.00 noon. More often than not the remains arrive in before Mass. People coming to the funeral often arrive beforehand. Relatives and funeral people often arrive with wreathes and symbols for the procession etc. Out of respect for the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary and in order to allow the funeral people to take their places uninhibited we are moving Exposition & Rosary into the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on such days. The liturgy does not permit a number of activities to be going on in the same place at the same time. We are fortunate to have a very appropriate alternative venue to cater for all eventualities.

February 1st in our pre-Christian, Celtic Tradition: The Feast of St. Brigid, Feb. 1st coincides with old Celtic Festival of Imbolg (meaning 'in the belly') was the festival of the springtime, a festival looking forward to fertility – the time for tilling the land and getting

things ready for the crops; it was also the time when the first of the spring lambs began to appear and when the fishermen were able to return to the sea after the winter storms. It was a time when the whole of nature was 'pregnant' again and about to give birth provided the gods were on side. Each festival had its own unique rituals aimed at winning favour with the gods. These rituals often took the form of visiting wells or springs, the ultimate source of all fertility being water. Tying a piece of cloth that had been in contact with a wound around a bush was an ancient Celtic tradition - the 'raggedly bush' tradition). It was taken over by Christians and became the blessing of a piece of flannel with water drawn from St. Brigid's Well. This probably explains the proliferation of St. Brigid's Wells. Nearly every parish has one. The first church in Callan was 'the Church of Brigid' or Kilbride. Callan as the town bearing that name did not come into existence until 1208 and could only boast of its first church from c. 1215 onwards. Incidentally it was called the Church of the Assumption also as it still is today.

Thur, 2 Feb.: Candlemas Day: the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It is the day when we bless candles that we use in our churches through the year and in our homes also, especially at times of bereavement and illness. It is customary for people to present candles for blessing on this day for use in the church over the coming year. People may also like to take home a few blessed candles and have them near at hand in time of emergency.

Frid. 3rd February – Feast of St. Blaise – throats will be blessed at the 10.00 a.m. Mass on the day and at the weekend Masses next weekend 4/5 February.

Recent death: Paddy Condon, Abhainn Ri & Kilbricken – funeral prayers 8 p.m. at his Abhainn Ri residence, Thur. 2n Feb.; removal before funeral Mass at 11.00 a.m. in parish church Frid.,

3rd Feb. followed by burial in Newtown Cemetery.

Sr. Eileen Glynn on Mission Appeal: A Sister of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary will be visiting the parish to speak at all Masses this weekend on behalf of their missionaries. She will gratefully accept whatever financial support you can give her in support of their various missions in different parts of the world.

Closing date for enrolment applications to Bunscoil McAuley-Rice for September, 2017 was 1st February. Contact 0567725674 or mcauleyrice@gmail.com for forms if you still need to enroll your child.

Cathedral Draw Results, Jan. 2017: €2000 : Fr. Noel Maher, Aghaboe; **€1000** Msgr. Curry, London; **€500 Teresa Duggan, Westcourt Demesne, Callan; €300 each**: Breda Kelly, Borris-in-Ossory; Ferghal Brennan, St. John's; **€200 each**: Siobhan Walsh, St. John's; Mary Murphy, St. Mary's; **€100 each**: Liam O'Brien, St. Canice's; Eileen Daly, Borris-in-Ossory; Ann Kennedy, St. Mary's. **Kilkenny Carer's Support Group, Tuesday 7th February, 3.00-4.30pm** at The Village Day Centre (behind the Village Inn Pub). Information and support for past/present carers of people with Alzheimer's/Dementia. Everyone welcome. Drop in to group or for more information call 056 7771230.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11 February: This Saturday is International Day for the Sick, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The shrine of Lourdes is dear to many Irish People - that place of pilgrimage where we take our sick and invalids. We mark this day by celebrating the Sacrament of Sick at our Sat. 6.30 p.m. Mass. Formerly we associated this sacrament with the dying and we called it Extreme Unction or Last Anointing. The Church's understanding of this sacrament has changed radically in the past 50 years. It is now once again the Sacrament of the Sick. There is often perceived ambiguity about whom it is intended for. How ill

does a person have to be in order to receive it? The Church celebrates this sacrament for those seriously ill, for those about to undergo surgery and for those of advanced years even though they may not feel ill in any way. The benefit of the doubt always goes to the person. In the interests of the integrity and authenticity of the liturgy this sacrament is not conferred on younger people in the fullness of health. However, we do recognise that younger people can suffer from serious illness without it being obvious to others. They too are certainly fit subjects to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. If in doubt about the seriousness of the illness the Church advises to celebrate the sacrament.

The fact that the Lord is the Healer par excellence does not mean that we can leave everything to him without doing anything to help ourselves. God's grace is a two-way process. He can act only provided we come to meet him a some little bit of the way. He does not dispense with our feeble efforts no matter how insignificant and hopeless they might appear to us. Think of the miracle of the loaves. The Lord insisted on taking the few loaves the disciples had to offer. He valued their input. He values our input too when we turn to him in apparently hopeless situations. He does not lift us out of our sea of self-pity without our engaging in the process. We ourselves can assist in our healing process in and through our prayer, our participation in the Mass retreats and pilgrimages etc.. **Ossory Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017:** The annual Ossory pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Monday, 22 May until Saturday, 27 May inclusive. Bookings for all intending to travel may be made by contacting Eleanor (Monday-Friday) at Glenmore parish office Glenmore County Kilkenny, telephone **051 880414**, email glenmore@ossory.ie Price €775 pps