

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Recent death: Michael (Micky) Power, Kyle, Coolagh – died on 12 March; funeral on 14 March 2017 R.I.P..

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 p.m. Richard Lynch & Bernie Butler; 11.00 a.m. Olivia Quirke, Geraldine Collins & Mary McGrath.

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

Weekend 18/19 March: 6.30 Aoife Lynch; 8.30 a.m. Paddy McGuire; 11.00 a.m. First Communion Parents.

Parish Vigil: Mon. 10th April in St. Kieran's College, 7.30 p.m.-10.00p.m.. If you would like to spend some time with the Lord as we begin Holy Week what better way than to go along to the vigil of prayer and reflection. **If interested please give your name to Joan O'Keeffe, Brigid O'Leary or Fr. Dalton or drop it into Brigid O'Brien in the sacristy.**

Masses during Lent: Mon. - Frid. 8 a.m. & 10.00 a.m. each morning. In the event of a funeral occurring, the funeral Mass (usually at 11.00 a.m.) replaces the 10.00 a.m. that particular day & but the 8 a.m. goes ahead as normal.

Stations of the Cross: each Sat. night during Lent immediately after the 6.30 p.m. Mass. This popular Lenten devotion takes 10-15 minutes in all.

St. Patrick: Born in Wales in the early 5th century into a well-to do family. His father was a deacon in the local church. As a young man Patrick was captured by marauding Celts in one of their frequent incursions into mainland Britain. He was brought to Ireland and sold as a slave. There he

was sent to tend sheep on Sliabh Mish in Co. Antrim. As a young man Patrick was neither devout nor studious. Finding himself on the mountain with nothing but his sheep he had lots of time to think. He began to think about God. In his little book (**The Confessions**) written in very basic Latin, he tells us that he prayed a hundred times a day and as often at night; he felt neither frost nor rain. After six years he made his escape and caught a boat back home to Wales. By this time God's grace was at work in his life and Patrick had changed into becoming religious person. He studied and became a priest and some time later he made his way to France or Gaul as it was then called, where he continued his studies at the monasteries of Auxerre (near Tours) and Lerins (near Cannes). While in France he was ordained a bishop and was constantly hearing the voices of the pagan Irish calling on him 'to come and walk among them once more'. Patrick interpreted this voice as coming from God and so he set sail for Ireland to bring the Good News of Christ to the pagan Irish. His first target was to convert King Laoghaire of Tara to this new faith. He lit a fire on the hill of Tara (the Easter Fire which we light on Holy Saturday night is attributed to Patrick's fire) without realizing that this too was an important pagan festival. The king was furious when he heard about it and summoned Patrick to explain himself. According to tradition he used the shamrock to explain to the king the mystery of the Trinity i.e. three persons on the one God. That Christians worship. This was what made Christianity both novel and unique. Our pagan ancestors had a multiplicity of gods – the sun, moon etc. that they worshipped. The king was suitably impressed and submitted to Patrick for baptism. This gave Patrick a free hand in travelling the length and breadth of the land organising and co-ordinating the spreading of the Good News to the people. He had the king's blessing. He made Armagh his base and this explains why even today the Archbishop of Armagh is considered the Primate of All Ireland while the Archbishop of Dublin is described as the Primate of Ireland. Other places associated with St. Patrick include Croagh Patrick that he is said to have climbed in search of solitude and Lough Derg where he regularly adjourned to to fast and pray.

Our Emigrants: As we approach St. Patrick's Day we are conscious of our emigrants who have been instrumental in making this day an international event. For a small nation located on the edge of mainland Europe we have exercised enormous influence around the world thanks to our emigrants and their fidelity to the faith of St. Patrick. At this time of year we remember those emigrants who did not make it and who are now living in poor, dismal conditions in tenement flats in London, Manchester, Birmingham etc.. Our second collection this day is for our emigrants, especially those living in poor conditions and often to ashamed to seek help from their families.

Body Mend: Physical Therapy & sports injury clinic, Callan Medical Centre. We treat toe pain to neck pain and everything in between. Don't let pain get in your way. Call Tracy today 086-3727035 or 056 7725237.

GROW: Are you struggling with anxiety or depression? finding life difficult? feeling down? in need of support? GROW is here to help you. GROW is a *community*-based mental health organisation which holds weekly meetings in your local community. GROW meetings provide help and support to anyone experiencing mental health difficulties or struggling with any aspect of their mental wellbeing. Meetings are confidential and no referral is necessary, simply come along. GROW promotes breaking social isolation and promoting social connectedness and is centred around the idea that '*I alone can do it, but I cannot do it alone*'. For Kilkenny Carlow Groups: Tuesday @ 10am, Grow Office, Ormonde Home, Barrack St Kilkenny Tuesday @ 7.45pm, St Catherine's Social Service Centre, Joseph's Road, Carlow. Wednesday @ 8pm, Grow Office, Ormonde Home, Barrack St Kilkenny. Friday @ 11am Ceart/Grow Group, Grow Office, Ormonde Home, Barrack St Kilkenny Kind Regards Margaret Power

How and when the use of Irish declined / disappeared: People often wonder how native language disappeared and survives today only in a few isolated pockets of Cork-Kerry, Galway Mayo and Waterford etc.. We often blame the Great Famine for the disappearance of Irish but for all

practical purposes English has taken over few decades earlier. By 1801 the Irish language had been abandoned nationally by the Catholic gentry, the church and the middle classes. English was the language of law, politics, the pulpit and commerce. All newspapers, government reports, court hearings and preaching were delivered through the medium of English. Business was transacted in English though Irish was still in use 1822 on the fair-day in. 50% of the population still spoke Irish in 1801 though they were admittedly the poorer people and mostly rural dwellers. This explains the survival of Irish place names and field names in rural areas right up to the present day. Hopefully we will continue to cherish and hand on this part of our gaelic legacy to our children. The introduction of the state-run national school system in 1831 did not include Irish. Irish was introduced into the school curriculum after Independence, 1921-'22.

Trocaire: Lent is synonymous with the Trocaire Box. It is our opportunity to help the starving people of the Sudan. Famine is raging in that part of Africa right now due to both drought and war. We're told that the average household wastes €700 worth of food every year. Think of how many lives could be saved if we were more discerning in our food purchasing. We're told that we should not do our grocery shopping when hungry ourselves. We tend to over-buy and consequently waste much good food. Trocaire boxes are available at the end of the church. The late Bishop Casey founded **Trocaire** more than 40 years ago and through it the people of Ireland have helped massive numbers of people. Please take home a Trocaire box and put the extra you would spend on food that you do not need into it.