

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

EASTER TRIDUUM: HIGH POINT OF THE WHOLE CHURCH

YEAR: The Easter Triduum (Holy Thurs. – Easter Sun.) is the summit of the entire Church's Year. No other celebrations may replace the liturgies of these days. No funeral Masses for instance are permitted (Holy Thurs. – Holy Sat.). The present Holy Week Liturgies came into being in 1956 – Celebration of the special Mass of Lord's Supper replaced regular Mass on this day; the Celebration of the Lord's Passion replaced the Stations of the Cross; the Easter Vigil replaced the Holy Sat. Morning Prayer. We encourage everybody to make a special effort to participate in these liturgies of Holy Week. The said liturgies are celebrated only on these Three Days and are intended to bring out in a unique way the unity of the parish gathered round the priest(s) in celebration.

How the liturgy of Good Friday came into being: The practice of kissing the Cross on Good Friday dates back to middle of the 4th century. According to tradition the Empress St. Helen discovered the remnants of the true Cross in 320. During Holy Week pilgrims flocked to Jerusalem to walk in the footsteps of the Lord and pay homage to the true Cross. On Good Friday morning they gathered on Golgotha of Calvary to pay homage to the Cross on which Jesus had been crucified. The true Cross was mounted on a stand on Golgotha where the crucifixion had taken place. Sentries equipped with whips were put guarding the Cross to prevent overly enthusiastic worshippers from taking bites from it. They gathered again in the early afternoon during which the story of the Passion was read. Thus we can see the essential elements of the Good Friday Liturgy gradually taking shape in Jerusalem as early as the second half of the 4th century.

In the West Christians were happy to settle for a liturgy of the word on Good Friday – the Passion Narrative and + Song of the Suffering Servant from the prophet Isaiah.

If churches happened to be lucky enough to have laid hands on a relic of the true Cross a ceremony of veneration of the Cross soon developed. In 7th century Rome for instance on Good Friday the pope processed barefooted from the Lateran Basilica to the Basilica of the Holy Cross. The relic of the Holy Cross was venerated there by both the clergy and all the people. During the veneration the two O.T. passages and the Passion Narrative according to St. John were read. The service concluded with the reading of the solemn prayer of the faithful and the distribution of Holy Communion. Thus, by about the year 650 the liturgy of Good Friday had already taken on the shape it has today. It had gradually evolved to respond to the needs of the people and this explains why it has remained so popular right up to the present day. Pre-designed liturgies rarely achieve the same appeal or popularity.

Good Friday Fast: There is evidence dating back to the 2nd century of Christians observing a complete fast on Good Friday and Holy Saturday – taking neither food nor water. Pregnant women and the sick were allowed bread and water.

HOLY THURS. April 13, 7.30 p.m. – liturgy of Lord's Supper followed by Eucharistic adoration and concluding with night prayer at 9.20 p.m... Washing of feet, re-commissioning of ministers of the Eucharist (all Eucharistic Ministers asked to attend for re-commissioning) & Members of Baptismal Team. **Reader: Tommy Quinlan**

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14 : Celebration of Lord's Passion at **3 p.m.** – **Readers:** Lizzy Keher (Reader + Others); Maria Murphy (Narrator); Solemn Prayers: Lisa O'Neill.

7.30 p.m. Diana Tobin (Reader + Others); Colm Keher (Narrator); Solemn Prayers: Aoife Lynch + Patrick Lydon (Prayers) - incorporating the **Camphill Community Choir** . **Good Friday** is one of the two days left in the Church's year of **fast and abstinence** i.e. abstain from meat and eat a modest amount otherwise. Give to Trocaire what you save on food.

HOLY SAT. : April 15 ; **Easter Vigil 8 p.m. takes the place of regular vigil Mass. No 6.30 p.m. Mass on Holy Saturday.**

Readers: No 1 O.T. (Genesis) Ailis Carey; No. 3 O.T. (Exodus) Joe Kennedy; No. 7 O.T. (Prophets) Pat Bacon; N.T. Ailis Carey.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 16: regular Mass schedule. Parish Choir will sing at 11.00 a.m.

liturgy. **Readers:** 8.30 a.m. Colin Ahern; 11.00 a.m. Olive Power.

Easter Mass in Coolagh deferred to Easter Sunday morning at 9 a.m.. Newtown at the usual time of 9.30 a.m..

War of Independence Memorial Mass: Bl. Edmund Rice Memorial Chapel, Westcourt Easter Monday, 17 April, 7.30 p.m., followed by tea/coffee in Westcourt Visitor Centre. All are welcome.

Trocaire Boxes: forgotten or neglected to make Lent special! There is still time to make up lost ground. Put something extra in your Trocaire Box 2016 is focusing on the effects of climate change on peoples already on the brink of starvation e.g. Southern Sudan Clean water to drink and water for crops and livestock is the big challenge facing people living in already desert-like conditions. Things are getting worse for them. **Please use special envelope and convert smaller coins into notes if at all possible. Parishioners of Callan contribute €3,000 -3,300 to Trocaire last year.**

Blessed Edmund Rice Parish Pilgrimage to Knock – Thur. 25 May 2017. 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 Lenten Station Envelope & 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.

Happy Easter: I would to wish all parishioners a very happy Easter and to thank you for your support over the past year. We all need a lift at this time of year and particularly in the light of recent tragedies. The core message of Easter is one of hope – the triumph of the forces of good over the forces of evil and adversity.

Word of thanks: to all who contributed to the collections for the support of the priests (active & retired) and the parish over the past year.

Bus outing: A bus outing to **Kilmainham Jail, Arbour Hill, and Collins Barracks** organised for members of Callan Heritage Society & Callan and Active Retirement - Saturday 29th, April departing from outside Callan Parish Church at 8.00 AM. The cost is €25 for bus and admission to all three venues. Contact the Heritage Society or the Retirement Group.

Meeting: The next meeting of Callan Heritage Society -Monday 10th of April at 8.00 PM at old CBS School, West Street.

Book Launch: A book launch in Callan Workhouse on Sunday afternoon the 7th of May at 2.00 PM - written by two very accomplished Australian ladies Elizabeth Rushen and Kathlyn Gibson. **Anastasia: From Callan to Stockyard Creek** is the amazing story of Anastasia Burke from Kyleveagh Commons, Callan who emigrated to Australia in 1855 and became a very successful mine and property owner in Victoria, as well as being a major supporter of Irish causes.