

Callan Parish Newsletter

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Padhraic Moran; 8.30 a.m. Lisa O'Neill; 11.00 a.m. Mairead Carey.

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 p.m Breda Butler & Sadie Bacon; 11.00 a.m Kathleen Function, Paul Clarke & Olivia Quirke.

Blood Transfusion Service will be in Callan Parish Hall on this Tues. **6 June, 4.30p.m. – 8.30 p.m.** . 3000 units of blood per week are needed to meet hospital and emergency needs. If eligible to give blood please make a special effort to come along to give it. One never knows when oneself or a loved one may need blood.

Examination Time once again: It is that time of year when Leaving & Junior Certificate Examinations take centre stage for many families. We wish all our exam students well and pray that the Lord may pour out his abundant wisdom and insight upon all of them as they begin their exams next week.

New Principal & 2 new Vice Principals: The new School Year 2017-'18 will see changes in key members of staff at both our second level schools: We congratulate Ms. Mary O'Keefe on her appointment as Principal in Colaiste Brid, succeeding Mr. Pat Power; and Mr. Michael Rice succeeding Mr. Jackman as Deputy Principal in Colaiste Eamon Ris. A new Deputy Principal will shortly be appointed to Colaiste Brid.

Examination Time: Prayer to St. Joseph of Cupertino for success in examination: O great St. Joseph of Cupertino who obtained from God to be asked at your examination, only the questions you knew. Grant that I like you, may succeed in the examination I am about to undertake. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. O St.

Joseph of Cupertino pray for me. O Holy Spirit of Wisdom enlighten me and fill me with all knowledge and understanding. Re-activate within me now those gifts that I received at Confirmation, and that to-date I may not have fully appreciated or used. Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for me. O Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust in you. Immaculate Heart of Mary pray for us. St. Joseph of Cupertino pray for us.

Blessed Edmund Rice Parish Pilgrimage to Knock: Our annual pilgrimage to Knock took place last Thursday 27 May. Fifty pilgrims (only one unoccupied seat) made the journey. It was both an enriching and enjoyable experience for all. We were blessed with wonderful weather - the warmest day of the year to-date. One could be forgiven for thinking that it was in Lourdes we were rather than Knock given the unbroken sunshine and the heat. For some reason the number of pilgrims in Knock on the day were double what we have been accustomed to in recent years. We joined in the 3.00 liturgy of Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick and then had our own special group Mass at the Chapel of the Apparition before departing. We stopped in Moate on our way up for refreshments and on our way back for dinner. A special word of thanks to the pilgrimage organisers Nellie Lynch & Gretta Griffin and to pilgrims from neighbouring parishes and our newcomers this year.

Ordination Golden Jubilees: Next weekend, 10/11 June 2017 four of our priests in the Diocese of Ossory will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their ordination. All four: **Msgr. Michael Ryan, P.P., Castlecomer; Fr. Tom Murphy, P.P., Ballyragget; Fr. Pat Comerford P.P., Freshford & Fr. Pat Dalton, P.P., Gowran.** -were ordained by Bishop Birch on the second Sunday of June 1967. All four are still active in ministry but needless to say the demands of parish life weigh heavier as the years build up. Little did they or

anyone else think that in the past twenty years just about four priests altogether would be ordained for our Diocese. Currently we have one seminarian studying in Maynooth and the prospects of another come September. Some missionary orders who played a major part in evangelizing Nigeria are now talking of importing Nigerian priests to evangelise us. Ireland is now mission territory. Our newly appointed Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Ojolo hails from Nigeria and in all likelihood was educated by Irish Missionaries. Given his key role in the appointment of bishops it is highly unlikely that we will have a new bishop for at least a further year. He will have his own way of doing things probably very different to his predecessor Archbishop Charlie Browne. He has moved on to Albania.

Pallotine Priest to be ordained on Sat. 17 June 2017 in Slieverue. Liam O'Donovan SAC, a native of Slieverue Parish, will be ordained as a member of the Pallotine Fathers (same Order as Bishop Freeman SAC). We wish him well and pledge to keep him in our prayers.

Parish Trocaire Donations: remarkably consistent over the years: There is a remarkable consistency in our Lenten Trocaire Donations over these past two years: **€3,116 (2016) & €3,191 (2017)**. These are the exact figures as they came in the form of big and small donations. I'm sure a certain amount came from the same people each year but when all was tallied together the final figure worked out remarkably similar despite the wide variation of sources and amounts etc. On behalf of Trocaire I would like to say a sincere word of thanks to all who authenticated their Lenten fast through their Trocaire contribution. Needless to say your generosity will go towards relieving hunger and hardship among the most needy of our world.

Unveiling of James Hoban Plaque: The James Hoban Societies of Ireland and the United States in association with Kilkenny County Council (Chairman: Councillor Matt Doran) cordially invite you to attend the Unveiling of the James Hoban Heritage Marker by Judge Irvin Condon, President of the James Hoban Society of the United States honouring the area native who designed, built and rebuilt The President's House in Washington DC on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the completion of the 1814-1817 rebuilding. See you at Green Street, Callan, outside Super Valu on Monday June 5, 2017 at 10.30 a.m. Special guests: Master Joseph Condon; Mr. Harry Cale III; Mrs. Beth Cale Light refreshments to follow. Information and queries: 089 252 0576

Bike Week 2017 takes place from June 10th to June 17th. Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership have organised a full range of activities for everybody, including a 40k, 20k and 10k cycle for families (June 14th at 6.45pm). For more details see www.krsp.ie or www.bikeweek.ie Also details from Seamus on 087-3567884 Kind regards, Seamus Nugent, Active Travel Officer, Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership, John's Green House, John's Green, Kilkenny, 056 7794957 Or 087 3567884

Word of thanks to all who contributed towards the Easter Offerings Collection for the support of the Priests of the Diocese, active and retired. If you have still to do so you can drop in your envelope to the basket collection at weekends or directly into the presbytery at any time. Your support is very much appreciated.