

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Recent death: Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Collins Park – died 13 August 2017; funeral on Wed. last. RIP

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Aoife Lynch; 8.30 a.m. Laurie Grace; 11.00 a.m. Colm Keher

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 p.m. Breda Farrell & Brenda O'Brien; 11.00 Geraldine Collins & Mary Horgan.

WMOF Pilgrimage to Knock. The people of Danesfort Parish have arranged a coach to Knock Shrine for the highlight of this year's Annual Novena. **Join us on Monday, 21st August – the actual anniversary of the apparitions at Knock** – for the official launch of the World Meeting of Families 2018 programme '*Amoris: Let's talk Family, Let's be Family!*'. Families representing each diocese in the country will travel to Knock for this special day. During the concelebrated Mass, led by Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, a newly commissioned Icon of the Holy Family will be unveiled and anointed following which, the Icon will travel to each diocese around the country as part of the WMOF2018 celebrations. Details of pick-ups, times and cost are available from Fr. Dan Carroll on 087 907 7769.

Callan Macra na Feirme 70th Anniversary Celebrations: This year, Callan Macra na Feirme celebrates its 70th Anniversary in style with a gala banquet in the Springhill Court Hotel on the 26th August 2017. The night kicks off with a drinks reception at 7:30pm followed by a meal and music 'til late by the White Diamonds. Callan Macra are also delighted to welcome IFA president Joe Healy as a special guest on the night. The Club would like to extend a very warm welcome to all members, especially past members, to join us in celebrating 70 great years of Callan Macra. Tickets are €35 and are available from Jim Power (086 0607896).

Macra Monster Raffle to renovate Macra Hall: In conjunction with these celebrations, Callan Macra is also organising a Monster Raffle to fund the renovations of the Macra Hall. Great prizes are on offer including a €500 Meubles voucher; an overnight stay in the Springhill Court Hotel; 6 month membership to Fennelly Fitness; 5 bags of Calf Meal - €70 (Bretts); afternoon tea at the Springhill Court Hotel; John Lockes Gym Membership - €250; load of firewood worth €150; double set of LED Lights and Guards - Dooley Bros; €50 Red Mills Voucher; KWS Welding Mask - €95; €30 Kilkenny Building Supplies voucher. A special word of thanks to all businesses that have kindly sponsored the prizes. Tickets €5 each are available from Callan Macra members until the draw, which takes place at the Gala Banquet on the 26th August. Your support would be greatly appreciated to ensure that the Callan Macra hall remains at the centre of the Club's activities for the next 70 years.

What needs to be said and said again and again about

suicide: We're all too aware of the phenomenon of suicide. It affects all age groups and all social classes. Many families have been directly affected by suicide. Fr. Rolheiser, an American priest and spiritual writer and a regular contributor to the *Irish Catholic* makes some very useful observations in the *Irish Catholic* of Aug. 3, 2017, p. 27 with regard to suicide.

1. First in most cases suicide is the result of a disease, a sickness, an illness, a tragic breakdown within the emotional immune-system or simply a mortal biochemical illness.
2. In most suicides the person dies as does the victim of any terminal illness or fatal accident, not by his own choice. When people die from heart attacks, strokes, cancer and accidents, they die against their will. The same is true of suicide.
3. We should not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of a suicide victim, believing as we used that suicide is the ultimate act of despair. God's hands are infinitely more understanding and gentler than our own. We need not worry about the fate of any one, no matter the cause of death, who leaves this world honest, over-sensitive, over-wrought, too bruised to touch and emotionally crushed as is the case with most suicides.
4. We should not unduly second-guess ourselves when we lose a loved one to suicide. What might I have done? What I did? If only I had been there at the right time? Rarely would this have made a difference. Most of the time we weren't there because the person who fell victim to this disease did not want us to be there. He or she picked the moment, the spot and the means precisely so we wouldn't be there. Suicide

seems to be a disease that picks its victims precisely in such a way so as to exclude others and their attentiveness. This is not an excuse for insensitivity, but is a healthy check against false guilt and fruitless second-guessing. Suicide is a result of sickness and there are some sicknesses which all the love and care in the world cannot cure.

5. Finally it is incumbent upon us, the loved ones who remain here to redeem and reclaim the memory of those who die in this way so as not to let the particular manner of their deaths become a false prism through which their lives are now seen. A good person is a good person and a sad death does not change that. Nor should misunderstanding”.

Teach Tom “Out of Darkness”, Community Walk. Sunday 10 Sep. 2017, 6.30 a.m.commencing from McDonagh Junction. Its purpose is to help to give light and hope to people who feel unable to cope with the pressures of life. **Registration: €10. Contact Amy: 086 2073220.**

The Serenity Prayer: (attributed to the 20th century American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr). It is a prayer used by many in daily life and has been adopted by the AA and self-help other groups etc..

The original and complete version by Niebuhr runs as follows:

“God give me the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, the courage to change the things which should be changed and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the

other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next, Amen.

South Kilkenny Historical Society - Heritage Week 2017 event: Local History Mystery Tour of Kilmacow; Date: Sunday, August 27th, 2017 : Meeting time and place: 2pm, Kilmacow Sports Complex

Lecture Aug. 20th, 6 p.m. in Rising Sun, Mullinavat: Irish conscientious objectors in New Zealand by Peter Burke (New Zealand Journalist). All are welcome.

Fr. Jim Greene, Missionaries of Africa returns to his assignment in his Society House in the Old City of Jerusalem. Things have been tense there of late between the Israeli and Palastinians. He has been home on holidays over these past few weeks. We wish him a safe journey and thank him for his help during his sojourn with us.

Word of thanks to all who have already supported the June Envelope collection for the Support of Priests, Active & Retired. If you have forgotten to do so you can still drop the envelope to collection box at Mass or directly into the presbytery.