

# CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Recent death: Michael Kennedy, London, U.K. and formerly of 27 Green St., Callan.** Funeral to take place in Callan early next week.

**Ministers of the Eucharist:** 6.30 Patricia Corcoran & Molly Foley; 11.00 a.m. Geraldine Collins & Catherine Lanigan.

**10.00 a.m Monday morning Mass** this week moves across the road to the hall in order to allow the sound and electrical technicians time to install a new PA system in the parish church. It is hoped that the changeover can be carried out in one day.

**Rosary & Prayers for the Dead during November:** Each Sunday of November 3 pm in Kilbride. All are welcome.

**Holy Hour of Adoration – Feast of Christ the King:** St Joseph's Young Priests Society has been facilitating Forty Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's Cathedral culminating on the Feast of Christ the King over the past number of years.

This year, together with the Director of Vocations, Fr. Kieran O'Shea, C. C., St. Joseph's

Young Priests Society is inviting all 42 parishes of the diocese to host one Hour of Adoration on Sunday next, the Feast of Christ the King. In this way the whole diocese will be praying in unity and a greater number of people will have the opportunity to become involved.

**Adoration will take place in the parish church in Callan beginning c. 3.45 p.m. i.e. after the cemetery prayers in Kilbride and continue until 5 p.m.. People are welcome along for all of it or for part of it. Please feel free to drop in and say your special words of thanks to the Lord for the year just ending.** Traditionally on the final Sunday of the Church's Year people gathered in prayer to thank God for graces and blessing he poured out upon them over the year just ending. This year St. Joseph's Young Priests Society asks that people pray in particular for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and that our Diocese may soon have a new bishop to lead us.

**Current state of vocations in Ireland:** In September 2017 less than 10 aspirants began their studies for the priesthood in Maynooth College and that was for the whole of Ireland. The total number of seminarians in Maynooth right now is about 40. This is a startling statistic when almost every day we read in death notices of one or more priests not to mention religious sisters and brothers Right now in our own diocese 6/7 parish priests will have reached the age of retirement (75) by next summer. Previously when there was an abundance of clergy priests were happy to remain on beyond retirement age depending on their health but today the ever increasing demands of ministry as the numbers of priests continue to shrink means that the prospect of retirement has suddenly become much more attractive. Priests often refer to the burden of

circulars ending up on their desks, schools and BOMs, updating of policies and increased regulation in the Charity Sector as well as the unrelenting avalanches of new apps that those charged with administration are expected to be familiar with are proving too much for those who set out on their ministry long before the computer was even dreamt of. Older people can master a certain basic quota of IT but cannot keep pace with the level of technological change coming at them every day. They did not grow up with it like today's toddlers.

**New Presider's Chair ready for delivery:** A newly executed Presider's Chair utilizing some of the marble salvaged from the section altar rails removed some years ago is ready to be installed in the next week.

**November the Month of the Holy Souls:** Some people like to do something special for the Holy Souls e.g. abstain from alcoholic drink; make a special effort to get to Mass at the weekends or even during the week also; visit the church or cemetery and say some prayers of their choice e.g. Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory be to the Father; a decade of the Rosary or 5 decades. In the past these practices were referred to as gaining indulgences on behalf of our loved ones. Today the Church understands indulgences as our way of helping our loved ones in and through our prayers and Masses to attain that state of eternal peace and happiness in that all of us long for.

**Phoenix Park now the likely venue for the farewell Mass of Pope Francis.** Earlier Croke Park was being mentioned but a

recent survey revealed that 40% of those surveyed expressed an interest in attending the papal Mass. If these statistics hold up Croke Park would not be capable of holding the crowd. It is understood that the Government is currently liaising with Church authorities with regard to the use of the Phoenix Park as a possible venue. Many of the people who made up the 1.5 million when Pope John Paul II visited in October 1979 are still with us and would probably like to witness another papal visit in their lifetime.

**Coolagh Christmas Card Games for hampers and hams** etc. get under way in Coolagh Hall on Thur. Nov. 23 at 8.30 p.m.. If you are not a card player you can still support us by buying a ticket or two for our draw which takes place on the last Thur. before Christmas

**Coping with Christmas (Morning Workshop):** Facilitated by the Recovery College South East, Greenshill, Kilkenny on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December or Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10am – 1.30pm. This workshop will help you to thrive, not just survive the Holiday Season.

For further information and bookings, visit our website on [www.recoverycollegesoutheast.com](http://www.recoverycollegesoutheast.com) or contact us at the Recovery College at 056 7703666

**The Thukolo Gospel Choir** will be joined by other musicians and singers in presenting a fundraising concert at St. Fiacre's Church, Kilkenny at 7.30pm on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Funds raised will help towards bringing young people with special needs to Lourdes at Easter 2018 Tickets at €8 are available at the door on the evening. We would very much appreciate your support.