

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Recent death: Ignatius Rice, Convent View - funeral Mass on this past Monday, 18 Dec. 2017 15 Dec., 11.00 a.m. in parish church followed by burial in Kilbride; **Annie Hayden, Lismolin (101 years)**, aunt of Mary O'Sullivan, Mill St. – funeral in Ballingarry on Thur. last.

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 Brenda Farrell & Patricia Corcoran; 11.00 a.m. Catherine Lanigan & Olivia Quirke

Christmas schedule in the parish: Sun. 24 Dec. Christmas Eve: 6p.m. family Mass of Christmas – as this Mass tends to be noisy and overcrowded we ask as many as possible to wait for the **Night Mass of Christmas 9 p.m. (with parish choir and** preceded from 8.30 p.m. onwards by carol singing.

Coolagh & Newtown both at 7.30 p.m.. (No Sat. Evening Mass in Coolagh or Sunday morning Mass in Newtown – Christmas Eve Masses at 7.30 p.m. in each church replace them. Christmas Day Masses in Callan 8.30 a.m. & 11.00 a.m. available for anyone wanting an extra Mass over Christmas).

Monday, Christmas Day: Parish Church 8.30 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.;

Tuesday, St. Stephen's Day, 10.00 a.m.:

Deceased since Christmas 2016: Sr. Noirin de Butleir, Convent of Mercy; Claire Costigan nee Reid, Westcourt; Mort Leahy, Mill St.; Nan Dargan, Newline; Ann Doyle nee O'Connell, Rice Park; Ann Gibbons, Lucan & Ibizia; Paddy Condon, Abhainn Ri & Kilbricken; Seanie Fitzpatrick, Collins Park; Hannah Ruth, Avonree; John Butler, The Minauns; Larry O'Brien, Mallardstown; Michael Power, Kyle, Coolagh; Anthony Fitzgerald, Bauntha; Eva Staunton nee Connors, UK; Nell Corrigan, Garryricken; Kathleen Barry, The Meadows; Veronica Murphy, Collins Park; Seamus

Byrne, Knockbutton; Jim Galvin, Scaugh; Ann O'Shea nee Bergin, Mill St.; Bridget Brennan, Tullamaine; Tommy Lonergan, Screhen; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Collins Park; Niall Byrne, Clonmel Rd.; Patti Stapleton, Clonmel Rd.; Frances Brennan, Collins Park; Sr. Catherine Grainger, Convent of Mercy; Michael Kennedy, London & Green St.; William Cooke, Rice Park; Joe Mansfield, Green St.; Ignatius Rice, convent View;

Mount Carmel December 2017 Draw Results: €200 Louis Tyrell, Ballylarkin; **€100 each:** Deirdre Ryan, Moanmore; Kitty Egan, Butlerswood; **€30 each:** Olive O'Leary, Minauns; Mary Rowan, Ahenure; Eileen O'Connell, Clonkil; Fr. Fergus Farrell, P.P., Windgap; Pierce Barry, Mt. Carmel Bungalows; Kate Nolan, Knockreagh; Kit Moore, Mellows Park; Siobhan Burke, Mt. Carmel; Liz Hogan, Tinnamona; Noel Carroll, Tinnamona. Promoters' Prizes: **€15** Tom O'Shea; Jim Ryan; Mary Clancy; Residents' Draw: **€20:** John Maher; Helen Sweeney; Fergus Hogan.

New ambo, new presider's chair and a new sound or system: The past year has witnessed the arrival of all of the above items. The stand from which the word of God is proclaimed is called the **ambo or lectern**. Together with the tabernacle and the altar it ranks as one of the most important pieces furnishings in the sanctuary and in the church. It is often referred to today as 'the Table of the Word' with the altar being described as 'the table of the Eucharist'. Since the Second Vatican Council (1962-'65) and the use of the vernacular (local language) in the Liturgy the proclamation of the word of God has taken on a new importance and dignity. It is fitting therefore that the place from which the word is proclaimed should be a fixed and dignified structure so that the attention of the faithful can be easily directed to that place. The new ambo arrived just days before Christmas 2016.

A **new matching presider's chair** arrived just in time for the First Sunday of Advent 2017. This item of furnishing resulted also from the reforms of the liturgy sanctioned by the Second Vatican Council. Prior to that time there was little scope or need for a presider's chair as the priest saying

Mass with his back to the people did not at any time sit down during the Mass. Both the ambo and chair make use of some of the marble salvaged (the little pillars) from the sections of altar rails removed a few years ago in order to allow for easier access to the sanctuary and show off the delicately executed mosaic on the sanctuary floor.

The time was now right to update **the sound or PA system**. This was done in early December. The sound system now is the most up-to-date on the market. The one thing that is certain is that if somebody has difficulty in hearing the reader or celebrant it is not the fault of the system.

Christmas: how the Feast of Christmas came about: It is often said that if Christmas did not exist we would have to invent it. In the case of Christmas this might well sum up how the festival came about in the first instance. The gospels have several stories associated with the birth of Jesus but none of them are bold enough to put an exact date on the event. This probably explains why it wasn't until about 350 A.D. that Christians first began to celebrate the Feast of Christmas. It is generally accepted that this date was borrowed from an old pre-existing pagan festival dedicated to the 'sun-god or the unconquered sun'. During the week we had the shortest day of the year when the sun was at its lowest in the sky. People are generally in low spirits and need something to give them a lift. The Roman Emperor **Aurelian**, being an astute politician was intent on keeping his subjects happy. What better could he do than decree a feast to the 'unconquered sun god' in the **year 274**. He wished to re-assure his people that the dark, dreary days of December would soon pass and the sun would rise high in the sky once again. In due course Christians took over this festival and pencilled it into their calendar as the birthday of Christ on Dec. 25th.

St, Vincent de Paul says thanks: The local St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank sincerely all who contributed so generously to last weekend's Christmas Collection. It will all be put to good use. Those seeking assistance from the SVP should call the confidential **number 085-**

2490029. The local SVP designated members, being the best qualified to assess the situation on the ground, will make the arrangements best suited to the circumstances. In this way assistance duplication will be avoided.

Happy Christmas to all: I would like to wish all our parishioners and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year. As we get older the years seem to pass more quickly. The year just ending will no doubt leave behind a mixture of happy and sad memories for many. We must soldier on, however, and that is what Christmas is all about - it is above all a celebration of hope. I would like to thank all of you for your help and support over the past year – pastoral, financial and spiritual. What the future holds in store we can only guess but the one thing we can be certain of is that it will bring more changes. We pray and hope that Christmas will be a happy time for all families and that no accident or injury may come the way of anybody during these festive days. Finally we wish all our **www readers of the Callan Parish Newsletter** a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We will be remembering all of you wherever you are in our prayers and Masses over the festive period. Hopefully our Newsletter helps to keep you in touch with home.

'Celebrate your Christian identity': British Prime Minister Mrs. May is not ashamed of her Christian faith but is committed 'to jealously guarding the right to stand up for her faith at work and in public places'. Mrs. May is an active member of the Church of England.