

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Recent deaths: Canon Tom Murphy, Rathmolylan, Ballycallan

Parish – priest of the Archdiocese of Glasgow since his ordination in June 1948 & uncle of Fr. Philip O'Halloran MHM, Westcourt. Retired as parish priest at the age of 75 but stayed on as assistant priest for a further 5 years. Retired back to Ballycallan about 13 years ago and supplied in parishes locally for about 10 years. Funeral on Wed. last in Ballycallan Church and burial in Ballykeeffe.

John Joe Bergin, John St., Kilkenny and formerly of Coolagh Flags –

worked as sacristan in St. John's Church, Kilkenny for several years. On his retirement about 10 years ago he became a Member of the Third Order of St. Francis at the Friary, Kilkenny. Funeral in St. John's Church on Thur. 11 Jan. 2018 followed by burial in Kilbride.

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Colm Keher; 8.30 a.m. Lauri Grace; 11.00 a.m. Joe Kennedy.

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 a.m. Patricia Corcoran & Brenda O'Brien; 11.00 a.m. Geraldine Collins & Olivia Quirke.

New Bishop appointed to Ossory: All were delighted with the news on last Wednesday morning that Pope Francis had appointed Monsignor Dermot Farrell, parish priest of Dunboyne, Co. Meath to the See of Ossory. The announcement was made simultaneously at St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny and at Vatican City 3 Jan. 2018.

Speaking in St. Mary's Cathedral on the day of his appointment the bishop-elect said: "It was with enormous surprise that I received Pope Francis' invitation to serve the priests and people of the Diocese of Ossory as bishop. I am humbled by this call from the Church. I have been a priest for over 37 years; half of that time in parish ministry where I have always been very happy and fulfilled. Of course, this is why I became a priest in

the first instance: to work with people, in their service, in the service of the Lord, and of his gospel, of Christ's good news about God, about us, and about our world.

This request was made to me a just few days before Christmas, a time when Mary's "yes" to God fills the Scripture readings of those final days of Advent. What strikes me most is Mary's extraordinary courage, and her absolute trust in the message of the angel. She was perplexed, she wondered what this greeting might mean, but she trusted totally in the goodness of God, and in his providence. She steps into the dark, the unknown.

Like Mary's decision, and most major decisions in life, being called to be a bishop is also a step into the unknown. If we are honest, to be called to be a bishop in the Ireland of today is even more a step into the unknown. It is also a call to trust in the Lord, and in the providence of God. I am glad to accept the call to serve here in Ossory, to be a pastor in this place, and to lead this community of faith.

Embracing this new role means that I will have a great deal to learn in the years ahead. It is going to take time. I will need the help and guidance of all the people of Ossory, the people in the parishes, my sisters and brothers in ministry, and our sisters and brothers in the other Christian churches and communities. The service of communion includes recognising or discerning the diverse gifts which the Spirit has given to everyone thereby making it possible for those gifts to be grown and placed at the service of all.

I would be grateful if you would remember me in your prayer as I begin my ministry as bishop, among you and with you."

From my time working at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, I had contact with many people from the Diocese. Over the years, I made many trips to this beautiful city and its surrounds. The names of many places in Kilkenny have been emblazoned in my mind by the commentaries of Mícheál O'Hehir and Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh over the years — places like Ballyhale, Clara, Dunamaggan, Freshford, Glenmore, Tullaroan etc.. They linked the names of the great Kilkenny hurlers down through the years to their clubs, most of

which I now discover coincide with the names of parishes. In this context, I shouldn't omit Seir Kieran which has produced its own share of renowned Offaly hurlers".

Monsignor Farrell was born in Castletown-Geoghegan, Co.

Westmeath on 22nd November 1954 . He was ordained priest for the Diocese of Meath on 7th June 1980 and has served in Mullingar and Tullamore parishes as curate, as well as at Maynooth College first as lecturer in theology and later as President for 10 years, Irish College Rome and Dunboyne Parish where he has been parish priest for the past 10 years. He is currently Vicar General (i.e. second in command) in the Diocese of Meath. Hence, he comes to us with a very impressive and comprehensive CV. We wish him well in his new ministry as bishop of our diocese and pledge him our support in our prayers and our unconditional collaboration.

Dates for your diary in 2018:

First Confessions: Thur. 8 March 2018, 7.30 p.m.;

First Holy Communion: Trinity Sunday 27 May 2018, 11.00 a.m.;

Confirmation: Sunday 29 April 2018, 11.00 a.m.:

Confirmation Enrolment Sunday: 25 February 11.00a.m.; 3 preparation evenings: Mon. 26 Feb.; 5th March & 12 March 8-9 p.m.. Confirmation Retreat – after Easter holidays; Ceremony of Light : Sunday 22 April 11.00 a.m.

Please refrain from parking in front of parish bungalow or in gateway as bungalow is currently being use by wheelchair people needing free access at all times for wheelchair bus and ambulance services.

Sign of Peace suspended at Mass for the duration of the Aussie

Flu: Many people have been hit by the Aussie Flue since Christmas. We hear daily about the overcrowded trolleys in our hospitals. A number of dioceses have already asked that we suspend the handshake-sign –of-peace while the flu' remains a threat. We will do so in Callan Parish until we are assured that the threat of contamination has well passed.

Joe Lyons Greengrocer Christmas Raffle Results: Large Hamper (Pat Kealy, West St.); Medium Hamper: Kathleen O'Donoghue, Ballyhall; Bottle of Whiskey: Orla Vaugham, 'the chipper'; Christmas Plant: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Bridge St.; Bag of Potatoes: Joe O'Brien, Green Lane.

Word of thanks: Our celebration of Christmas went very well with large crowds participating in all our Christmas celebrations. A very special word of thanks to all our choirs, cantors and musicians for making Christmas really special for all of us. The general feeling abroad is that the church attendance this year was as large if not larger than in recent years. This in itself proves that Christmas without the Christ-child is utterly empty if not a contradiction.

A special word of thanks to all who contributed towards the upkeep of the priests, active and retired, and the support of the parish running cost and maintenance. Some make their annual contribution to the parish at Christmas time. People are often curious about church collections – are they dwindling with falling church attendance? Christmas is a good barometer to go by. The most recent Christmas plate collection figures from each of the 3 churches. **Parish Church €2665 (2017) & €2660 (2016); Coolagh: €540 (2017) & €445 (2016); Newtown: €235 (2017) & €320 (2016) . Recent death:** Eithne Morris, Modeshill – died Wed. Jan 10th; funeral 11.00 a.m. Sunday 14 Jan. 2018 in Callan ParishChurch.