

CALLAN PARISH NEWSLETTER 25/2/18

Readers: 6.30 p.m. Colm Keher; 8.30 a.m. Lauri Grace; 11.00 a.m. Confirmation Parents.

Next Friday is the 1st Friday of March: sick & housebound will be visited as usual during the coming week.

Masses during Lent, Mon. – Frid: 8am & 10am each day, unless there is a funeral, in which case the funeral Mass replaces the 10am. The 8am Mass goes ahead as usual.

Consecration of Bishop-elect Dermot Farrell will take place in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 11 March 2018 at 3 p.m.. The organising committee has informed us that 8 people from each parish are being invited to this event. It will take about two hours and the cathedral can be cold at this time of year. If you are interested in attending please let me know as soon as possible so that it can receive the formal invitation for admission.

The national collection for World Meeting of Families 2018 will take place at all Masses this weekend on 24th/25th February 2018. I encourage you to do all you can to promote this collection. If for some reason you are unable to make this collection this weekend I ask you to please do so as soon as possible. Mgr. Michael Ryan, Diocesan Administrator.

The right to life & the 8th Amendment: For months now we have been hearing about the forthcoming Referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment to our Constitution. This Amendment was inserted into the Constitution in 1983 in order to safeguard the life of the unborn. Much of the debate to-date has concentrated on the mother's right to life and her right to choose. The voice of the defenseless unborn risks being unheard or getting lost because it cannot obviously speak for itself.

Church teaching has always been clear and consistent when it comes to discussing the dignity of human life. By virtue of their common humanity, a mother and her unborn baby have an equal right to life. . The Church has never taught that the life of the child in the womb should be preferred to that of a mother. This aspect of the Catholic Church teaching is presented inaccurately.

There are times, however, when things can become complicated e.g. when the pregnant mother becomes seriously ill and requires treatment which, as a secondary effect, can put the life of the unborn baby at serious risk. **Such treatment is always ethically permissible** and is perfectly in accordance with church teaching. Medical intervention may indeed result in the death of the unborn child as a secondary effect even though every effort is being made to save the life of both mother and child. In this instance the intention is to save both lives even though it can be foreseen that the unborn would be unlikely to survive e.g. ectopic pregnancy. Here one does not directly intend to end the life of the unborn baby. Abortion by contrast is the direct and intentional killing of the unborn baby and is always seriously (intrinsically) wrong even if it is foreseen that the baby will not survive for long after birth. One must never set out with the intention of terminating human life because human life is sacred and only the creator of human life may take it away.

Do miracles still happen in Lourdes? Hundreds of thousands (perhaps even millions) of people visit Lourdes each year. Many come in the hope of being cured of their illness. Recently the Bishop of Beauvais formally announced the 70th recognized miracle in the 160 years of Lourdes since Our Lady appeared to Bernadette in 1858. Miracles are forensically scrutinized before being approved as a miracle. All medical interventions have to be excluded as the possible source and explanation of the extraordinary healing. The healing has to be physical – psychological healing is too difficult to verify – and of such a kind that there is no other possible explanation. The person healed was a French Franciscan Sister who had been partially paralyzed for more than 20 years despite repeated

surgeries. She made a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2008, the 150th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady. A few days later after returning to her convent a voice from within told her to remove the various medical devices from her body that she was using and suddenly she discovered that once again she could walk unaided. The investigation process is painstaking and most thorough.

Ossory Lourdes Pilgrimage 2018: The annual Ossory pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Tues, 22 May until Sun. 27 May inclusive. Bookings for all intending to travel may be made by contacting Eleanor (Monday-Friday, except Wednesdays) at Glenmore parish office Glenmore County Kilkenny, telephone **051 880414**, email glenmore@ossory.ie
Price €785 pps or just €10 more than last year.

Women's' World Day of Prayer : Prayer Service to mark Women's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday, 2nd March 2018 in St. Canice's Cathedral at 7.30 p.m.. All welcome. Regards. Noreen Bergin

Diocesan Draw – new year beginning: the Draw in support of the Cathedral Restoration Fund begins its 4th year of operation in March 2018. Over the past three years the draw has yielded **€370,000** towards the project. Tickets cost **€120** per year with prize money of **€6,000** per month. Callan Parish has had its share of winners in the early years of the draw years – some claiming the larger prizes. Our luck was more modest in past year but who knows the tide may again be about to turn in our favour. Tickets available from Fr. Dalton + other local promoters.

Still wondering what to do for Lent:

1. Hold on for an extra 10 minutes after the Sat. 6.30 p.m. Mass for the Stations of the Cross. Walk with Jesus in his sufferings.

2. Self –denial: Lent is traditionally a time of self-denial i.e. denying oneself something in order to make reparation for past sins and failings.

Many people give up drink or cigarettes. These are good in themselves in that they are beneficial to our health. **They have spiritual value only to the extent that we give to charity what we save through denying ourselves. The Trocaire Box** is the best reminder of all of this aspect of Lent. Trocaire boxes are available at end of each of the churches. Please take one home and encourage your children to contribute their share as well. It is a character-forming habit that will serve them well in life and help us wage war on our inherent inclination towards selfishness and putting ourselves first all the time.

Open the Scriptures: Read a few verses of Scripture each day and mediate on them.

1. **A time for rediscovering the Lord:** Over the course of the past year we may have lapsed from the practice our faith and failed our children in this regard also. Lent is like a parish mission extending over a period of six weeks – a time for re-establishing and rekindling contact with one's God and one's Church. During Lent the Lord reaches out the hand of welcome to all who for one reason or another may have strayed from his ways. A very worthwhile Lenten exercise would be to bring ourselves and our families to church each Sunday (Saturday evening) during Lent. Better still come as a family.

2. **Spend more quality time with the children.** Turn off the television, the iPads, the Tablets and play-stations and talk to one another instead. Anything that promotes real human, person-to-person communication can only do good. Switch off apps. We have been hearing much debate and discussion about the dangers of allowing our children unsupervised access to snapchat, youtube and other apps that they can reach on a smart phone. Lead by example. Switch off you mobile or confine its use to a set period each day. Use the time saved to communicate with other members of your own family.