

Callan Parish Newsletter

Recent deaths: Bridget Roche, Collins Park - prayers in Molloy's Funeral Home 8 p.m. Mon. 9 April; removal to parish church Callan for funeral Mass on Tues. 10 April at 11.00 a.m. (no 10.00 a.m. Mass on Tues.);

Paddy Walsh, Cotterstown, Windgap – prayers at his residence Thur. 5 April; funeral Mass in Windgap Church Frid. 12.00 noon followed by burial in adjoining cemetery.

Coming up: Months Mind Mass for Fr. Joe Delaney, former parish priest of Callan – Sat. 21 April 6.30 p.m. .

Word of thanks to all who attended our Holy Week Ceremonies and those who took an active part in their celebration – our parish choir who enhanced every liturgy with music and singing; our readers, eucharistic ministers; our sacristan who prepared the church, those who prepared all the bottles of Easter Water, our altar servers; those who helped out in any way.

A special word of thanks to all who have contributed to the Easter Envelope Collection for the support of the priests, active and retired. You can still do so by dropping in your envelope to the collection basket at Mass or directly into the parochial house next to Mount Carmel.

Trocaire Boxes: If you have forgotten to obtain or use a Lenten Trocaire Box you can still do so. There are still a few Trocaire boxes left at the end of the church. Trocaire was established by Bishop Casey back in the early 1970s to support Third World Projects. Please support Lenten Alms. It brings in about €1.6 million each year and goes towards helping the poorest of the poor. It is carefully

supervised and monitored by the Irish Bishops Conference so as to ensure that the money donated ends goes towards the most deserving cases. I have frequently come across Irish missionary priests who have been helped by Trocaire funding to establish a health clinic, sink a well, pay school fees for children that could not otherwise afford to stay on in school + other humanitarian projects.

Results of St Mary's Cathedral Draw, March 2018: €2,000 Fr. Larry O'Keeffe, Mooncoin Parish; €1,000 Seir Kieran National School, Seir Kieran Parish ; €500 Philomena Phelan, Callan; €300 Fr. Martin Delaney, Rathdowney; €300 Martin & Anglea Kirwan, Borris-in-Ossory; €200 Kitty McEvoy, Johnstown; €200 Dorothy Gorey, Tullaroan; €100 Margaret & Tony Butler, St. Mary's; €100 Alice Skehan, Lisdowney; €100 Cathedral Fund, St. Patrick's

Poor Clares, Galway: We are hosting a vocations' workshop on Saturday, 21st of April 2018. We would be very grateful if you would consider promoting it in your parish newsletter and/or social media pages. Assuring you of our prayers. Wishing you a blessed Paschal celebration and Eastertide. Sr. Faustina Grealy, Vocations Director, Poor Clare Monastery, Galway

Mission Appeal this weekend 7/8 April: A Group of Missionary Sisters will be in the parish on mission appeal at all Masses this weekend. They will be explaining the kind of work their Sisters do and hoping that you can help them through your prayers and financial support.

Referendum to Repeal the 8th Amendment: As we all know we will be asked to vote on the future of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution on the last Friday of May. A recent Supreme Court Decision informed us that this was the sole protection the child in

the womb presently has in our Constitution. Should we opt to repeal it we are denying the unborn any legal protection and by the same stroke of the pen opening the door to legal abortion. Even though the advocates for repeal are pointing to the limited circumstances in which abortion will be permitted, we know from the experience of other countries that in time these boundaries will be pushed out to allow for a more and more liberal abortion culture. As we try to make up our minds on this agonizing question we are being bombarded with a never ending stream of information and misinformation. We should beware that there is no shortage of misinformation out there intent on misleading us. I expect that much of the campaigning vis-a-viz the 8th Amendment will be left by our politicians to the media and social media. We must never forget that here we are dealing with two lives, both of equal dignity. Much of the debate to-date has been focusing on the rights of one life while failing to appreciate the equal dignity and the rights of the unborn life. We can easily be misled into thinking that having to prefer one life to another is a daily occurrence. Recently I heard a medical clinician, who had 40 years practice in the delivery room, saying on the radio that he had never come across a single case of conflict where the life of the unborn child constituted a threat to the life of the mother. Could it be that 8th Amendment might often be used as a convenient cover-up for medical mistakes or could it be that some of our medical professionals are failing to interpret or understand the law as it now stands. Law by its very nature can be intricate and must be interpreted. It can be a dangerous instrument in the hands of one lacking legal expertise. Hence, we engage lawyers to look after our legal matters rather than trusting our own limited knowledge. Church teaching on abortion is clear and unalterable – **the direct and intentional taking of a human is always gravely wrong** and can never be permitted. However, in some instances

the death of the unborn **may result indirectly** from medical intervention to save the life of the mother e.g. treatment for cancer. Here the intention is to save the mother's life even if the death of the unborn child is foreseen as the inevitable side-effect or consequence of such intervention. In Catholic moral teaching this is known as the principle of double effect.

Pope Francis teaching of abortion is clear and unequivocal. He tells us "Abortion isn't a lesser evil, it is a crime. Taking one life to save another, that's what the Mafia does. It is a crime. It is an absolute evil" (26 Feb 2016). "It is necessary to affirm our solid opposition to any direct offence against life, especially when innocent and defenseless, and the unborn child in its mother's womb is the quintessence of innocence. 'Therefore from the moment of conception life must be guarded with the greatest care while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes'" (11 April 2014).

Prayer for fine weather.

Heavenly Father, you have created all things and we depend upon your loving goodness and generosity. You have given us the earth to till it, to care for it and provide us with food for the eating. We humbly ask you to give us fine weather so that our animals may have feeding, and that the new crops may be planted. May we once again enjoy the beauty of nature and the countryside. Give peace of mind and re-assurance to those who work the land. For your goodness Lord we thank you, and in you O Lord we put our trust now and forever, Amen, Alleluia.