

Callan Parish Newsletter

Recent deaths: Sean Ronan- Ballyline - funeral in Folkstown last week; Paddy Rochford, Coologue - funeral in Mullinahone last week; Michael Kehoe, Ahenure House, Ahenure - died recently in Australia.

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

Ministers of the Eucharist: 6.30 p.m. Nellie Lynch + another; 11.00 a.m. Mary McGrath & Olivia Quirke.

Readers: Delaney Family (Months Mind); 8.30 a.m. Tommy Quinlan; 11.00 Confirmation Children.

Bishop Farrell comes to Callan on parish visitation, Wed. 25 April: As Bishop Farrell is unavailable for Confirmation in Callan due to having to be present in another parish for Confirmation on the day in question he has very graciously agreed to come along to meet the Confirmation Children on the Wednesday beforehand. He will be the chief celebrant at the 10.00 a.m. Mass in the parish church on Wed. 25 April. The pupils from Bunscoil McCauley Rice School 2nd-6th class will be present and participating. Parents / families of the children (Confirmation parents or otherwise) are more than welcome to come along and meet our new bishop as indeed is anybody else who can make it on the day. Bishop Farrell will spend most of the day in the parish visiting the schools (blessing the newly refurbished St. Brigid's College), the Religious Institutes and nursing homes. We extend a

warm welcome to our new bishop. He has been here already for Fr. Delaney's Funeral a few weeks ago.

Confirmation: On Sunday 29 April we have Confirmations in the parish at 11.00 a.m. Mass. People not directly involved in the Confirmation might choose another Mass. We have 45 pupils making their Confirmation. On this Sunday April 22 we have our Liturgy of Light in preparation for Confirmation at the 11.00 a.m. Mass.

Blessed Edmund Rice Parish Pilgrimage to Knock- Thur. 31 May 2018. Bus leaving from outside parish church at 7.45 a.m. sharp and arriving back at 10.00 p.m.. Names to Nellie Lynch 7725309 or Greta Griffin. 7728197 please.

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Dear colleagues,

I can confirm that the Ossory pilgrimage to Lourdes is now fully booked. I wish to thank you all for your assistance in promoting the pilgrimage. I would also remind priests travelling on the pilgrimage that they need to complete an application form as this constitutes the contract and is a pre-requisite for any form of insurance claim. Again thanks for all your help, Tony O'Connor.

Vigil for Life: Fr. Sean Kelly here in the Capuchin Friary. We are planning an All Night Vigil for 'The Protection of Life' in our Friary Church on Friday 4th May beginning at 8pm and would be very grateful if you could invite your parishioners to join us on the night in prayerful support for the unborn. If you are able to we would love to have you concelebrate the 8am Saturday morning Mass which concludes the All Night Vigil. Thanking you in advance. Seán. Br. Seán Kelly, OFM, Cap (Provincial Vicar & Novice Director)

Final call for Trocaire Boxes: Most of our Lenten Trocaire donations have now come in. There may still be a few Trocaire boxes out there that you are forgetting to return. Please do so within the next week so that we can send on the money to Trocaire.

Cemetery Masses 2018 – usual times and dates

- Kilbride – Frid 29th June 2017, 8 p.m.
- Coolagh – Frid 6 July 8 p.m.;
- Newtown: Friday 27 July, 7.30 p.m.
- Whitechurch – TBA by Fr. Jim Greene

Please let family members and neighbours know dates and times in good time

South Kilkenny Historical Society lecture: Putting Ireland on Four Wheels. Speaker: Mr Austin O'Sullivan. Date: Thursday, 26th April 2018, Time: 8pm. Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall (opposite church). Admission: €5 (members and students free). All are welcome.

Cardinal Archbishop of Utrecht (Holland) was in Waterford in the past week. He delivered a public lecture in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan on Monday night last on 'what the Irish Church could learn from the recent history of the Church in Holland'. The Church in Holland has much in common with the Church in Ireland. The Catholic faith and its practice were still strong in Holland until the early 1960s. Today's practice rate is estimated at about 16% among those professing to be Catholic. From the mid 1960s onwards secularism (those who feel no need for God in their lives) and individualism began to take hold and those not deeply grounded in their faith began to fall victim to these new ideas. In the past Holland like Ireland was a country with many

vocations and a very strong missionary tradition. Dutch missionaries went to Africa in large numbers. Many religious orders of priests and sisters were founded in Holland.

The Cardinal told his audience that he inherited a diocese that was in the brink of bankruptcy. The first thing he had to do was to stabilize diocesan resources and make redundant a large number of people employed by the diocese when resources were plentiful and large numbers were churchgoing and supporting the church.

A dwindling number of priests and a proliferation of emptying churches forced the Cardinal into many unpopular but necessary decisions. He closed 75% of the churches (7 out of 8 in one area), designating the one being retained in each area as a "Eucharistic Centre" i.e. the one where the Eucharist would be celebrated. A certain number of additional churches were retained for funerals and weddings only. As we mark Vocations Sunday with one seminarian in Maynooth and 6-8 of current parish priests over 75 could we be heading down a similar road?