



PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET

Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy
with Calary

DECEMBER 2015

JANUARY 2016



Rector:
Rev William Bennett 087-9480317

Layreader
Caroline Tindal

Parish Administrator:
Karen Reynolds 087-2866889

Parish Office:
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Parish Websites:
www.newcastleparish.org
www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org
www.calaryparish.org



**For everything there is a season, and a time
for every purpose under heaven: Ecc 3:1**

When I came to these three churches I introduced myself as a non-practicing layreader. Having struggled with mental health issues from time to time I had found teaching as much stress as I could cope with, and so had done little by way of church work for the previous couple of years. However to my surprise I did get a new lease of life in the setting of these churches and so returned to lay reading.

In all three of the churches more people took the trouble to comment positively on my efforts than I have experienced elsewhere. As I facilitated several series of bible studies, led worship and preached it was the exceptional level of encouragement which kept me going and enabled the Lord to squeeze an extra six years out of me and I praise Him for that.

However I have struggled a bit over the past year and as 70 approached was praying for guidance as to whether or not it was time to ease up a bit more. As some of you are aware the Lord answered my prayer in a rather dramatic fashion when least expected at a communion service.

I have therefore decided to cease to be attached to these churches as a layreader in any formal way. They do say that the easiest way to make God laugh is to tell Him what your future plans are so I will not say that I will never preach or take a service again but if I do it will be on a one off basis as and if I feel so led.

I will of course continue to be a member of one of the churches for the foreseeable future. Thank you for all of your love and fellowship in the Lord.

God Bless you all.
Michael.



Christmas

Services

13th December

19.00 Newcastle Carol Service

20th December

12.00 Parish Centre Nativity Play
19.00 Calary Carol Service

22nd December

09.00 Newcastle St Francis NS
Carol Service

Christmas Eve

23.30 Newcastle Holy Communion

Christmas Day

09.30 Calary Holy Communion
10.45 St Matthew's Holy Communion
12.00 Newcastle Family Praise



Centre Outing



We're off on a shopping trip to Blackrock on Tuesday 1st December. As usual we will enjoy afternoon tea on the way home, and, who knows, maybe a little something to warm us up! Meet at the Parish Centre at 11am. Please let Karen know if you intend to come along.

Carol Singing



Warm up your voices and come and join us for carol singing around the village on Wednesday 16th December. Meet at the garage at 7pm. Hot chocolate and treats in the Parish Centre afterwards.

Christmas Lunch

The annual festive lunch will take place on Thursday 17th December in the Parish Centre. Book your seat early as this is a popular event. Party hats at the ready!

Hospital Carols

We'll be singing carols in Newcastle Hospital on Sunday 13th December at 3pm. It would be lovely to have a good crowd to join in the singing.

Creche

We're looking for parents to go on a rota to re-start the crèche for pre-school children during services at Newcastle Church. Talk to Karen or William if you can spare a Sunday per month.

Coffee

Last coffee morning of the year will be on Tuesday 22nd December. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year on Tuesday 12th January.

Breakfast

Everyone is welcome to drop in to the Parish Centre for breakfast on the last Thursday of the month before church assembly.

Drama

Time to tread the boards again. It's hoped to stage a play in the Parish Centre in Spring 2016. If you would like to take on a role, big or small, please let Karen know. It makes it a lot easier to write/choose a play when you know how many actors you have.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LANTERNS
TO THE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN NEWCASTLE CHURCH
TO LIGHT CANDLES FROM THE BETHLEHEM FLAME**

CHRISTMAS OLD AND NEW!



**FLORAL ART DEMONSTRATION
Given by Sheila Cleary, Church Organist**

Newcastle Parish Centre

Friday 11th December 10am-12 noon

Including coffee/tea and mince pies

**All arrangements looking for
a home for Christmas!**

Admission: €10

In aid of Fields of Life



DECORATION OF CHURCHES

**Newcastle Church
Saturday 12th December
2-4pm**

**St Matthew's Church
Christmas week**

Please help by supplying flowers and arranging

TAX CERTIFICATES

If you haven't returned your completed CHY4 tax certificate yet, please complete and return it to me as soon as possible so that I can make a claim to Revenue on behalf of the Parish for the 2014 tax year. Last year the Parish received over €9000 back from revenue for 2013; this helps enormously in running the Parish.

Andy Sleeman

Baptisms at Newcastle Church

18th October 2015

Jack Joseph and Harry Thomas Patrick sons of *Nichola and Fergal O'Dwyer*, 17 Castlemanor, Newcastle, Co Wicklow.

We pray that these children will bring joy and happiness to their family and grow up to honour the promises made for them at baptism.

Thanks!

To you all in the Parish I wish to say a heartfelt thank you for your support and prayers for my son John during his recent surgery in Beaumont Hospital—it was much appreciated. We are living in hope that it was a success but only time will tell, so I have to stay on my knees for a bit longer!

God Bless,
Jane O'Herlihy

Monthly Church Review

As usual I will be collecting the annual subscriptions in January for 2016's monthly Church Review. If you would like to be included for next year's issues please contact Pauline at 087-9535981

Prayer Space

Prayers

Blessings

Reflection

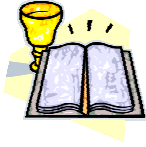
**Mondays
9—9.15am**

**Parish Centre
Sitting Room**

All welcome

CALARY NEWS

Communion Lunch



Calary will be hosting a Communion Lunch at 12.00 on Wednesday 16 December. Everyone is welcome to attend but we would ask that you let Ethni (2863890) or Charlotte (086 8354394) know if you will be joining us so that we are aware of the numbers who will be coming and also if you need a lift.

Living in the Light:

The United Dioceses will officially launch its year of 'Come & C' at 3pm on 12th December in Castleknock Community College, Dublin 15 with a multi-faith all age service that will include music, readings, testimony, creative activities and prayer space where you can take time out to hear how God wants you to be His light within your community.

The service forms part of a year long

programme of occasional songs of praise type events. Each service will bear the unique mark of the host community with the service on 12th December reflecting the diverse, multi-cultural and multi-faith environment that can be found in this vibrant and fast-growing part of Dublin.

Sunday School:

Sunday School continues in Calary Church Room during Sunday Service,



*Carols
by Candlelight*

**Calary Church
Sunday 20th December at 7pm**

**Followed by refreshments in the Church Room
All friends and neighbours welcome.**

DECEMBER 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
		<p>1 Parish Centre Christmas Outing</p> <p>Time Out</p>	<p>2 Holy Communion Junior Choir Parents & Toddlers Bowls Match</p>	
<p>6 Calary: HC St Matthew's: MP Newcastle: HC Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7 Prayer Space Parents & Toddlers Staff Xmas Lunch Table Tennis Choir</p>	<p>8 Coffee Bible Club</p>	<p>9 Holy Communion Junior Choir Parents & Toddlers</p>	
<p>13 Calary: MP Hospital Carols Carols at Newcastle</p>	<p>14 Prayer Space Parents & Toddlers Table Tennis Choir</p>	<p>15 Coffee Time Out</p>	<p>16 Holy Communion & Lunch at Calary Junior Choir Parents & Toddlers Carol Singing</p>	Ch...
<p>20 St Matthew's: MP Nativity at Newcastle Carols at Calary</p>	<p>21 Prayer Space Parents & Toddlers Christmas Party Table Tennis Choir</p>	<p>22 Coffee St Francis Carols Castle Kidz Christmas Party</p>	<p>23</p>	New...
<p>27 Calary MP St Matthew's MP</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

2015



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>Bowls</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Junior Film Club</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Bowls</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Sheila's Christmas Flowers</p> <p>Youth Club Christmas Party</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Junior Film Club</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Bowls</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Sunday School Xmas Party</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Newcastle: HC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Calary: HC</p> <p>St Matthew's HC</p> <p>Newcastle: FS</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>31</p>		

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

For many reasons 2015 will go down in history as remarkable. When I think of this past year there have been many positives but, sadly, the outstanding impressions were made by the negatives. Those negatives, as far as we in the west are concerned, have mostly been to do with pictures of thousands of lives being lost in the quest for freedom. We have all seen the look of desperation on the faces of many who took to the high seas with their families with many never reaching dry land again. Those who got to leave Syria are probably those who could afford to pay their way while millions who could not afford to pay are left to suffer in brutal situations. Then there were those, mostly Christians, who were afraid even to join the long queues to escape.

The terrifying events in Paris bring home to us in Europe the seriousness of what evil people are capable of. Operating in the name of religion these ISIS terrorists have become a total embarrassment to the Muslim world and show us the danger of 'religion' that has all to do with radical belief without God. We have firmly recorded in history many unfortunate examples of misguided religion, or religion used as an excuse for carrying out horrific events. This has been true on many occasions using Christianity as a smoke screen for personal gain or the advancement of misguided philosophy.

The horrific events in Paris will be imprinted on our minds for a long time. Any ordinary, thinking and reasonable person must be taking these, and many other events in the year 2015, very seriously. The situations which hit our screens or reached newsprint in Europe and America represent only a fraction of the millions of people suffering in horrific situations. Unfortunately, it seems that some people are counted more worthy of drawing the world's attention than others. Questions like 'What is our world coming to' or 'Where is God in all the suffering' are questions often asked!

Jesus entered a world that was in turmoil. People were satisfied with their religion but did not want the challenge which Jesus brought. His philosophy was based on love and that extended far beyond his own people - 'love your enemies' was a step too far for many of his hearers! I believe that the great challenge to people of faith today is to get back to taking the commands of Jesus seriously, to take his example of caring for people regardless of their background, and of spending hours in serious prayer communing with the Father.

As we celebrate Christmas and the coming of a saviour I hope and pray that we will know his peace as we endeavour to open to his love and obey his commands.

With very best wishes to all our parishioners and readers for a happy and peaceful Christmas and 2016

William

Clubs and Organisations

CHOIR NEWS

The Choir is now in full swing rehearsing for Advent and Christmas. This has been a busy term for us. Earlier in November the choir was invited to sing at Mass in Newcastle Hospital, remembering staff and patients who have died in the last year. We sang Schubert's German Mass, Psalm 23 - The Lord's my shepherd and Alleluia, opening our hearts to Him. The latter communion hymn we will introduce to the congregation in Newcastle on December 6th. Our presence and voices were much appreciated and we enjoyed the opportunity to do something in the wider community.

We will be singing each Sunday in Advent and on Christmas Eve with the exception of the Nativity Play service on the 20th. The Junior choir will

join us at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 13th to sing John Rutter's Cradle Song. I'm also delighted to welcome some extra voices in the choir to swell the sound for the Christmas period.

May you all have the peace and joy of Christ at this season.

Andy

BOWLS CLUB

Bowls will finish for Christmas on 17th. December and resume on 7th January. The TEAM have a match on 6th. so team members need to be aware that they will be required that evening.

The annual dinner was held in Greystones Golf Club. There was a great attendance and a good evening enjoyed by all.

TABLE TENNIS

Mondays in the Parish Centre from 8pm. All welcome.

TIME OUT

The last meeting of the prayer group will be on Tuesday December 15th. Meeting up again on Tuesday January 19th at the usual time of 8pm in the sitting room in the Parish Centre.

BIBLE CLUB

REVELATION

2nd and 4th
Tuesdays
8 - 9.30pm
Parish Centre

Starts 12th January 2016

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School class dates - 6th December 10th January (other Jan dates tbc)

The Nativity Play will be held on Sunday 20th December at 12 noon in the Parish Centre. The Junior Choir will also be performing. Please feel free to bring along all the family, it's sure to be good fun. Last practice for the play will be Sunday 6th December. It is very important that all the cast attend this practice.

The Sunday School Christmas Party will be held Saturday 19th December in the Parish Centre from 2-5 pm. There will be lots of fun and games and a

visit by Mr Claus if he can fit us in to his busy schedule. Invitations will be distributed over the next couple of weeks.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Karen K



JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir will be singing at the Carol Service in Newcastle, at the Nativity Play in the Parish Centre, and at the Family Service in January. Yay!

PARENTS and TODDLERS

The Parents and Toddlers Christmas party will take place on Monday 21st December.

After the Christmas break Parents and Toddlers will be back to normal on 11th January. Everyone with a baby or toddler welcome to drop in to the Parish Centre any Monday morning from 10am or on a Wednesday afternoon from 3,30pm.



YOUTH CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY!



FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER

8 - 9.30pm

PARISH CENTRE

Date for your Diary!

VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE



**Saturday 13th February
Parish Centre, Newcastle**

**Book now at the
Parish Office to
secure your ticket**

Last year was a sell out!



**QQI LEVEL 5 MAJOR AWARD
HEALTHCARE SUPPORT 2016**

COURSES ON OFFER

Care Skills	Care support
Work Experience	Communications
Safety and Health at Work	Occupational First Aid
Care of the Older Person	Palliative Care
Nursing Theory and Practice	Patient Moving and Handling
Activities of Living Patient Care	

COURSE DURATION

**These courses are delivered as separate modules
Subject to demand one day per week. Also subject to demand is the option to
complete any of the courses listed in the evenings.**

**Contact: The Training Unit on 057 93 22920
Email: training@carersireland.com**

Children's Page

COLOURING



What do you call an old snowman?

Water!

SERVICES IN JANUARY

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
Sunday 3 rd	Calary	9.30	WB	MP	<i>Jer. 31:7-14</i> <i>Eph.1:3-14</i> <i>John 1:10-18</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	MP	
Sunday 10 th	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	<i>Is. 43:1-7</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	<i>Acts 8:14-17</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	HC	<i>Luke 3:15-17, 22</i>
Sunday 17 th	Calary	9.30	WB	FS	<i>1Cor. 12:1-11</i> <i>John 2:1-11</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	FS	
Sunday 24 th	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	<i>Neh. 8:1-10</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	<i>1 Cor. 12:12-31</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	CT	MP	<i>Luke 4:14-30</i>
Sunday 31 st	Calary	9.30	WB	MP	<i>Jer. 1:4-10</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	MP	<i>1 Cor. 13:1-13</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	MP	<i>Luke 4:21-30</i>



Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday, with prayer for the sick, at 10.30am in St Matthew's, followed by a cup of tea / coffee in the McLean Room. All welcome!

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
Sunday 6 th	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	<i>Phil. 1:3-11</i> <i>Luke 3:</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle SS	12.00	WB	HC	
Sunday 13 th	Calary	9.30	WB	MP	<i>Phil. 4:4-7</i> <i>Luke 3:7-18</i>
	Hospital	15.00		Carols	
	Newcastle	19.00	WB	Carol Service	
Sunday 20 th	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	MP	<i>Heb 10:5-10</i> <i>Luke 1:39-55</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	Nativity	
	Calary	19.00	WB	Carol Service	
Christmas Eve	Newcastle	23.30	WB	HC	
Christmas Day	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	Family Praise	
Sunday 27 th	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	<i>1Sam 2:18-20,26</i> <i>Col. 3:2-17</i> <i>Luke 2:41-52</i>
	St Matthew's	11.00	CT	MP	



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