



PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET

Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy
with Calary

DECEMBER 2017



JANUARY 2018



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From the Rector

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I have just had a problem with my mobile phone. Me not understanding the dizzy heights of modern technology did something which meant I could not make outgoing calls, what I did I still don't understand! I asked Elspeth to call Vodafone and very soon I had a call from a very helpful lady working in Vodafone. This lady guided me through a long process and even though I had to keep saying 'I don't know what you mean' when she used technical terms she still remained most pleasant and helpful. When the job was done and service was restored I asked her what country she came from and she informed me she came from Cairo in Egypt, then she said she was calling from there.

What an amazing world we live in! Modern advances in technology, medical and scientific advances not even dreamed of twenty years ago and modern homes with trail blazing gadgets to entertain and make life easier and help us be much more efficient. We bend over backwards to insure 'political correctness' is adhered to and this is all seen as great advancement in our society and world. Of course we should treat all people with respect but have we gone too far with PC?

Can we say all our achievements have brought with them a happier society when people are more content with their advances? I don't think we can! Can it be possible that society in general has been led to find real meaning in the wrong places. When we have meaning and purpose to our lives then we have something to live for. This is what Jesus came for and what the real meaning of Christmas is all about.

'I have come that you might have life and life in abundance' (John 10;10). Unfortunately for the hearers of Jesus words then they seemed not to understand what he meant because they refused his offer. The good news of the Gospel is that we have been offered a life with real meaning and purpose, but, this is only ultimately found in Jesus. His offer of freedom from guilt, peace with God and our fellow people and an assurance of an eternity which we can't even imagine it is so beyond our wildest dreams.

This letter comes to you with very best wishes not only for a Christmas of peace but a life of peace, hope and joy as you find real meaning and faith in the one who not only was born at Christmas but who lived and died so he could give us hope as we accept him as our saviour.

Very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and blessed new year.

William



Christmas



Services

3rd December

15.00 Newcastle Hospital Carols

17th December

12.00 Parish Centre Nativity Play
19.00 Calary Carol Service

22nd December

19.30 Newcastle 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



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE BAZAAR
and
BIG CHRISTMAS SING

St Matthew's Church
Newtownmountkennedy

Saturday 2nd December

Bazaar from 3pm

Big Sing 5-6pm

Christmas Stalls
Santa 3.30-4.30pm



Featuring
The Stedfast Band
and Newtownmountkennedy
Primary School Choir

CHRISTMAS

LUNCH

AT THE PARISH CENTRE

Thursday 21st December

€10 per head

**Book your place with Karen
for an afternoon of food, festivity and fun**



**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 Box Appeal

It's that time again!

As usual there are boxes in the back of St Matthew's Church for anyone wishing to make contributions of food (non-perishable)

Please note: we cannot accept toys or books.

This food will be delivered to deserving families at Christmas by the Rector.

Our thanks to Jane O'Herlihy for organising again this year.

From the Registers

Funeral in Newcastle

2nd November 2017, Constance Patricia May Valentine

Large crowds attended the reception of Connie's mortal remains in Newcastle Parish Church on November 1st. and her funeral service and burial on the 2nd . Church music played a big part in Connie's life and Newcastle benefited from her using this talent for many years where she took up her place at the organ. A much loved and valued member of the parish and community Connie took her place at the organ after her marriage in 1962 and continued loyally until her health determined it was time to retire approximately six years ago. She was a keen bowler, enthusiastic badminton player, a founder member of the local country markets and also found time to help with the R.D.A. (Riding for the disabled)

We extend our sympathy to her son Peter, his wife Mary and their two boys, to her son Alan and family who live in England, and daughter Jane and family living in Kerry

Baptism in St Matthew's

5th November 2017, Leon Michael son of Sandra Simpson and Brian Kelly, Broomhall Crescent, Rathnew, Co Wicklow. We pray that Leon brings joy and happiness to his family and grows up to honour the promises made for him at baptism.

Wedding in Calary

28th October 2017, Edward Fox and Claire McMillan.

We wish Edward and Claire many happy years in their life together.



DECORATION OF NEWCASTLE CHURCH

THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER

10am—12 noon

**New arrangers, donations of flowers,
greenery, etc very welcome**

SING FOR CHRISTMAS

Ever wondered about joining the Choir?
Well now's your chance!

We have a short run into Christmas and a few easy pieces to perform and sing at the Carol Service and HC on Christmas Eve.

Mondays 8-9pm in the Parish Centre. We'd love you to come along.



Hospital Carols



Everyone is invited to sing Carols at Newcastle Hospital on Sunday 3rd December at 3pm.

Christmas Outing

We're off to town on an exciting Christmas outing on Thursday 14th December.

Shopping, pantomime, surprises and fun!



Coffee

The coffee mornings continue every Tuesday from 10.30am in the Parish Centre except for Tuesdays 26th December and 2nd January.

Time Out

The prayer group returns on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from January 2018.

Monthly Church Review

As usual I will be collecting the annual subscriptions in January for 2018's monthly Church Review. If you would like to be included for next year's issues please contact Pauline at 087-9535981

Parents and Toddlers

The group meets on Monday mornings from 10.30am—12 noon. All parents with newborns to playschoolers welcome for coffee, chat and play.

Sunday School

The Sunday School Nativity Play is on 17th December at 12 noon in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to dress as characters from the Nativity. Cup of tea after.

Reminder

A reminder to return your tax certificate form and sustentation if you haven't done so. Thanks!

CALARY NEWS

Communion Lunch

This year, the Christmas Communion followed by lunch in Calary Church Room is on Wednesday, 6th December at 11:30 am and everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Ethni (086 809 2211) or Charlotte (086 835 4394).



Calary Candlelight Carol Service

Calary's Candlelight Carol Service will take place on Sunday 17 December at 7.30 pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Church Room. If you would like to join us, we would be delighted to welcome you. The collection from the Carol Service will be going to Simon, which helps young people tackle homelessness, and Tiglin, which assists people to deal with different forms of addiction. This is a great opportunity for us to help people less fortunate than ourselves.



Parish Supper

Calary Parish supper on Friday 10th was a most enjoyable occasion where parishioners, locals, families and friends gathered in the Church room for a scrumptious meal, glass of wine and plenty of chat. These occasions are an important way of keeping communities together and ensuring that we all keep contact during the winter months. The proceeds from the raffle were sent to Holy Trinity Church of Ireland in Errislannan, County Galway, which had recently been vandalised.

Sustentation

Sustentations are what help for the upkeep of Calary Church and graveyard and we would be very grateful for payment of your amount for 2017 before the end of the year. If you haven't received a letter with these PINS, or if you would like to arrange to pay by standing order, please contact Charlotte (086 835 4394). Also, if you are a taxpayer and your annual contribution is over €250, Calary can claim back 31% in tax relief from the Revenue, which is a great benefit for parish funds.

Sunday School

Sunday School takes place every Sunday in the Church Room, except when there is Family Service.

Table Tennis

Table tennis takes place on Thursdays from 8 pm in Calary Church Room. Please contact Ethni Seymour (086 809 2211) if you would like to join us.



THANKS!

Thank you very much to all the parishioners who support Fields of Life in St Matthew's. The children are very grateful, as you can see from their letters. It costs €21 per month to cover a child's education, uniform and food.

If anyone would like to join in the sponsorship please contact June or Tony Noonan.



Many thanks to all those who have donated clothes, blankets, etc for the homeless to be distributed by Tiglin on the streets of Dublin.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

Rodney Evans

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Parish Day such a great success. Thanks to the large number of people who took part in the service, to those who helped set up for the meal, those who cooked the food, the ones who manned the kitchen, the washers-up, the take-down team, and finally all who came along. We couldn't have done it without you.



GLORIOUS AUTUMN

A big "THANK YOU" to all who came to my Floral Arranging morning on Thursday 26th October. It was a really enjoyable event and sincere thanks to all. A cheque for €630 for Fields of Life being the total proceeds from the event. Special thanks to Karen, Muriel and Mary for all their help before, during and after and also to Newcastle Parish for allowing me to use the lovely Parish Centre. Til the next time?! *Sheila*

Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle _____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ___"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider



SERVICES IN JANUARY

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
Sunday 7th	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	<i>Acts 19:1-7</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	HC	
Sunday 14th	Calary	9.30	NS	MP	<i>1 Sam. 3:1-20</i> <i>John 1:43-51</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	NS	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	NS	MP	
Sunday 21st	Calary	9.30	WB	FS	<i>Jonah 3:1-5, 10</i> <i>Mark 1:14-20</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	FS + Baptism	
Sunday 28th	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	<i>Deut.18:15-20</i> <i>1Cor. 8:1-13</i> <i>Mark 1:21-28</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	CT	MP	



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 3rd	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	<i>Is. 64:1-9</i> <i>1 Cor. 1:3-9</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	HC	
Sunday 10th	Calary	9.30	NS	MP	<i>Is. 40:1-11</i> <i>2 Peter 3:8-15</i> <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	NS	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	NS	MP	
Sunday 17th	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	MP	<i>Is. 61:1-4 & 8-11</i> <i>John 1:6-8 & 19-28</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	Nativity	
	Calary	19.00	WB	Carols	
Friday 22nd	Newcastle	19.30	WB	Carols	
Christmas Eve	St Matthew's	11.00	WB	MP	<i>Rom. 16:25-27</i>
	Newcastle	23.30	WB	HC	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
Christmas Day	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	<i>Is. 9:2-7</i> <i>Titus 2:11-14</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	Family Praise	
Sunday 31st	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	<i>Is. 61:10- 62:3</i> <i>Gal. 4:4-7</i> <i>Luke 2:15-21</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	CT	MP	