



PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET

Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary



DECEMBER 2023



JANUARY 2024



Rector:

Rev Ross Styles

087-9892941

Email: stylesross@gmail.com

Diocesan Layreader:

Caroline Tindal

086-2553001

Parish Administrator:

Karen Reynolds

087-2866889

Parish Office:

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01-2819300

Open Monday to Friday

Parish Websites:

www.newcastleparish.org

www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org

www.calaryparish.org

Dear friends,

As I sit and write this, Advent Sunday is not far away, a time of year I really love. Just before Advent starts, on Sunday 26th November, Christ the King Sunday, we are gathering at 11.30am for our Every Decade service, with lunch in the parish centre afterwards. Advent Sunday is the first Sunday in December and this Advent we are holding three Advent reflections, at 8pm in the parish centre, on Wednesday 29th November, Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 13th December, where we will explore scripture through the light of Advent, with accompanying refreshments!

Advent is a season when we concentrate on the coming light of our world. As the days draw closer and the evenings get darker, the brighter a light shines. That light is the coming of our Lord.

We are having a Christmas Communion Service in Calary, followed by lunch in the church room, on Wednesday 6th December at 11am. This is an opportunity to attend a Communion Service before Christmas and to bring along anyone who may not always be able to come to church on Sunday mornings with a social element of a festive lunch afterwards.

Christmas will be firmly on our minds as we gather in St. Matthew's church on December 9th, to enjoy some early festive fun with crafts, food, music and carols, the Wicklow Parkinsons Choir, plus a visit from Santa! We hope to raise funds for the Al Ahli hospital, an Anglican run hospital in Gaza that has been badly damaged.

It is always wonderful to gather as a community to celebrate this special time of the year. On December 10th, the Sunday Club will perform their nativity play in Newcastle church and the Junior choir will sing! At 5pm on Sunday 10th, our Community Crib is returning to Newcastle village, with community carol singing and hot chocolate! We will have our carol services on December 17th in Newcastle and December 20th in Calary.


In this season of Advent, may we progress in expectation to the joy of Christmas, the great gift that we receive in the birth of our saviour Christ, the light of the world. Let us reflect that light, that love and that joy into all aspects of our lives and our community. Jesus is the bearer of that light, his love is there for all, it is up to us to open the door and let it shine into our lives, into our world and into our communities.

Fiona, Ben, Ava and I would like to wish you, and all whom you love, a blessed and a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May the light of the Christ Child fill you with joy and peace.

God bless,

Ross



Can you help us?

Christmas Fair

This year we are hoping to raise much needed funds for the appeal for the dioceses of Jerusalem, to help those of all backgrounds in need. If you can donate time, baked goods, crafts, gifts, anything at all, please let Caroline 086 2553001 or Ross 087 9892941 know!
Thank you!!



Advent Reflections

Join Ross in the Parish Centre for discussion, reflection and refreshments.

WEDNESDAYS | 8PM



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

10th
DECEMBER

Family Service with Junior Choir and
Nativity by Sunday Club

Newcastle Church, 12noon
followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

and Youth Group Community Crib

Sun 10th Dec - 5PM

Hot Chocolate & Treats
Newcastle Village



Carols
by
Candlelight

Sunday Dec 17th | 7pm

Newcastle Church
Collection in aid of local charities

Wednesday 20th Dec. 7pm



**Calary
Christmas
Carol Service**

by candlelight

Collection in aid of local charities

Parishes of Newcastle and
Newtownmountkennedy with Calary

CHRISTMAS

Services

'For unto us a child is born'



Christmas Eve

Newcastle Church, 11:30pm - HC

Christmas Day

Calary Church, 9:30am - HC

St. Matthew's, 10:45am - HC

Newcastle Church, 12pm - FS



CALARY

Christmas

**Communion
Service and
Lunch**

**Wednesday 6th
December
11am**



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 9th December, 3pm-5:30pm

St. Matthew's Church

Newtownmountkennedy, A63 RC53

Hot Chocolate | Mulled Wine
Festive Music
Food | Crafts | Stalls | Special Guest!



Meet Santa



Join us for some early festive fun!
Hotchocolate, treats, gifts, crafts and lots more...
Including Santa!

St. Matthew's Church
Saturday 9th December 3pm - 5:30pm

A cartoon snowman wearing a blue and green striped scarf and a black top hat with a blue band, holding a small decorated Christmas tree. The background is blue with white snowflakes and a yellow star in the top left corner.

Sunday Club

Dec 3rd	Dress rehearsal	12 Pm
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We're going out

for

Christmas Lunch

at

The Wicklow Heather

Laragh

on

Tuesday 12th December

Book your place with Karen

087-2866889 ASAP!





*Pop Up
Tearoom*

**We're feeling 'Christmassy'
in the Tearoom!
Friday mornings
in the Parish Centre
10.30 am to 12.00 noon
Everyone very welcome!**

Come and enjoy a mince pie and a chat



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



DECORATE
t h e C h u r c h

**Newcastle: Friday 8th December
St Matthew's: TBC**



Christmas Box Appeal

Once again there will be boxes in the back of
St Matthew's Church for anyone wishing to make
contributions of food (non-perishable only)
Please note: we cannot accept toys or books.

This food will be delivered to deserving
families at Christmas by the Rector.
Thanks to Jane O'Herlihy for organising again.



Breakfast

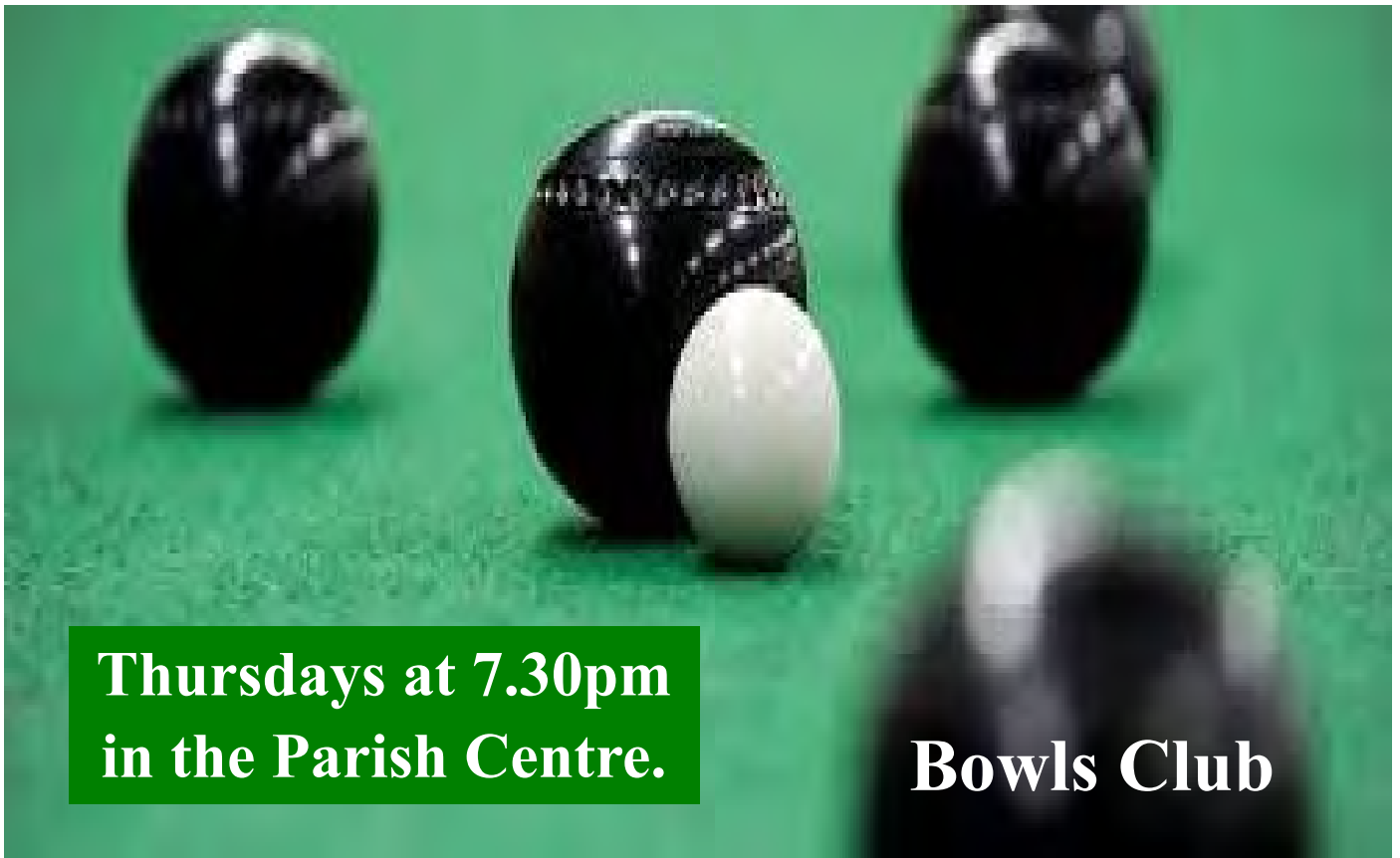
*Rector's
Breakfast*

*Tuesday's from
8:45
(termtime)*

Prayer Space

*Tuesday mornings from
9:15am*

Clubs and Organisations



**Thursdays at 7.30pm
in the Parish Centre.**

Bowls Club



TABLE TENNIS

Mondays 8pm

Parish Centre

Monday afternoon during term time:
Junior Infants - 1st Class 2:20pm-2:50pm
2nd to 6th Class - 2:20pm - 3:20pm

Junior Choir



Junior Table Tennis
Mondays 7 - 8pm
at the Parish Centre.
All aged 9 and over
very welcome!



Starting Jan '24!

YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH

group

1st year up!

YOUTH CLUB

Join us!

Newcastle Parish Centre

Friday 1st December



from 4th Class to 1st year

PINS

If you would like to receive PINS by post please forward €12 to the Parish Office. Remember you can receive PINS by email/whatsapp if you have given permission to be contacted in this way, or you can check it on the parish website if you are not in a position to pick up a hard copy

Monthly Church Review

As usual Pauline will be collecting the annual subscriptions in January for 2024's monthly Church Review. If you would like to be included for next year's issues please contact Pauline at 087-9535981

Monthly Church Envelopes

If you would like to join the monthly envelope scheme for your giving in church please contact Jean Harris at 085-7738218. Offerings given in this way can be recorded (in confidence) and are eligible for a tax rebate which the Parish can claim. Alternatively, if you do not wish to be included in the scheme for 2024 please let Jean know so that she can remove those envelopes from the order and save on costs to the Parish.



Cleaning and Flower Rotas

Rotas for putting in flowers and cleaning at Newcastle Church will be at the back of the church from January 2024.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked away in the background doing these tasks in 2023, making our beautiful church a lovely space for worship each Sunday.



Can you Help?

We always welcome extra help to spread the load. If you feel you could help out at any individual event in the Parish (such as the Theatre Dinner, Summer Fair, etc) please contact Karen in the Parish Office.

As you know, you can contact me by phone or e-mail at any time and we can meet anywhere for a chat or prayer but also I am in my office at the parish centre each Tuesday morning, please feel free to drop in and say hello!
Ross



NEWCASTLE BUMPER CHRISTMAS BINGO



Location: Newcastle Community Centre
Time: Saturday 9th December 2023 @ 19.30
€15 per person - All Welcome



Or support our monster raffle:
Raffle Tickets: €2 per strip / €5 for 3 strips
(Please write your name and phone number on back of strip)



All proceeds raised will go directly to **Newcastle Community Centre** a registered charity.



Wildlife in December

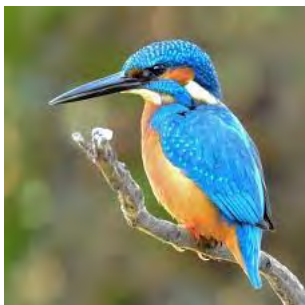
As temperatures drop, **red foxes** grow extra fur over the winter months to protect them from the cold, while **the stoat** changes the colour of its coat to fit in with a wintery landscape.

The scarcity of food resources bring more birds to garden feeders. On a cold night a bird can use up to 10% of its body weight, so high-fat foods are essential for survival. A good variety of food can attract a whole range of species. Try suet fat, fruit, seeds, kitchen scraps, crumbs, mealworms, sunflower hearts and peanuts alongside bird seed. Fresh drinking water will help on frozen days. It's important to be consistent with the food you provide as the birds will add you to their daily food-route, using vital energy to visit your feeder. Little songbirds like **blue tits** and **wrens** might use bird boxes to shelter in overnight.

Red squirrels are now at their most photogenic. Though they have adorable ear tufts all year, these become longer and even more extravagantly fluffy in winter, after the autumn moult. Despite their name, the squirrels' coat colour may vary a great deal, from brick-red to dark brown, often with blonde highlights in the ears or tail.



Ladybirds overwinter in huddles, occasionally dozens strong, and these may be seen in cracks in bark and walls, around window frames or under piles of leaves. You're most likely to meet seven-spot ladybirds and non-native harlequins, but others to look for include the black-on-yellow 16-spot ladybird. Some clusters seem very exposed, yet these beetles are toxic. The brighter the colours, the more toxic the species.



For some birds, freezing spells lasting any longer than a couple of days can be a major cause of mortality.

Kingfishers are particularly susceptible, as are **grey herons, barn owls** (because their rodent prey stays underground), and insectivorous species such as **goldcrests**. A big freeze sends their populations tumbling, though numbers recover after a run of mild winters.

Hazel trees already have male catkins – small and green at first, then swelling and opening in a blaze of yellow.

In Britain, the royal family – especially Queen Charlotte, wife of George III – helped to popularise the Germanic tradition of bringing an evergreen tree indoors to decorate at Christmas. It's less well known that the custom originally involved a **yew tree**, or just a solitary branch. Yew was used both in the British Isles, where it is one of only three native conifers, and in Germany, home to a wider range of species.



Non-alcoholic Mulled Wine

Ingredients

- 500ml pomegranate juice
25g golden caster sugar
handful of frozen blackberries
250ml apple juice
1 cinnamon stick
1 star anise
4 cloves
- 3 black peppercorns
1 orange, quartered

Method

Put the pomegranate juice, sugar, blackberries and apple juice in a saucepan.

Add the cinnamon, star anise, cloves, peppercorns and orange.

Heat gently until simmering.

Taste for sweetness, then strain into heatproof glasses.

COME AND
SING



SAT, 9/12



8PM



**ST PATRICK'S CHURCH,
GREYSTONES**

An evening



of fun &



Festive Crackers!

featuring the
COME AND SING CHOIR
and students from
TEMPLE CARRIG SCHOOL

€20

All proceeds go to
Wicklow Hospice and PICU Crumlin
in memory of **Lauren Boland**

For more info www.chrisholland.info

Newcastle Christmas Craft Fair 2023



Sunday 3rd of Decemer 12-4pm
Santa Claus will join us @ 2pm in
Newcastle Community Centre
Contact Orla 0874109160



Childcare

Playschool

Open 9am to 12 noon

5 days a week

Full-time and Part-time places

ECCE and non-ECCE

Excellent facilities indoors and outdoors

Afterschool

Open 1.20pm to 6pm

5 days a week

Full-time and Part-time

Limited places available

**For information and booking:
Phone Joanne at 087-7216929**

Merry Christmas

from Joanne, Irene and Nicola





Christmas Wordsearch



F
 Y
 C E R
 A K W
 H R N C N
 O O O T R
 A P L D J M K
 P E S K T A H
 U E C H R I S T M A S T R E E M D L O G I
 C J P E A C E S U A I Y J G M P F K M
 G X E S N E C N I K N A R F A B P
 C M Z S D R E H P E H S H T J
 N N V Y M Y R R H W X C P
 Y B A B R A T S I H A
 L M A N G E R H S J N
 N A T I V I T Y E E E G H
 B N N T T E A E M S E D
 E L D N A C P E U L W P
 Y B D O S N S D I J
 I N N L J G M R
 O H T V
 F O

WORD LIST

ANGEL
 BABY
 CANDLE
 CAROLS
 CHRISTMAS TREE
 DONKEY
 FRANKINCENSE

GOLD
 HOPE
 INN
 JESUS
 MANGER
 MARY
 MYRRH

NATIVITY
 PEACE
 SHEEP
 SHEPHERDS
 STAR
 WISE MEN

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
Sunday 3rd <i>Advent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	HC	Isaiah 64: 1-9
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	HC	Psalms 80:1-8, 18-20
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	HC	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37
Sunday 10th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	MP	Isaiah 40: 1-11
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	MP	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	FS + Nativity	2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8
Sunday 17th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	Service of the Word	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126
	Newcastle	19.00	RS	Carol Service	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Wed. 20th	Calary	19.00	RS	Carol Service	
Christmas Eve	Calary	9.30	RS	HC	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Canticle: Magnificat Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Eve	Newcastle	23.30	RS	HC	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)
Christmas Day	Calary	9.30	RS	HC	Isaiah 52: 7-10
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	HC	Psalms 98
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	Christmas FS	Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12) John 1: 1-14, (15-18)
Sunday 31st <i>New Year's Eve</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	HC	Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	HC	Psalms 148
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	HC	Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 1-14 15-21

SERVICES IN JANUARY

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
Sunday 7th <i>1st Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	CT	MP	
Sunday 14th <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	CT	MP	
Sunday 21st <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	HC	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	HC	
Sunday 28th <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	FS	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	FS	
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	FS	



**Holy Communion is celebrated every
Wednesday, with prayer for the sick,
at 10.30am in St Matthew's
Everyone is welcome to tea/coffee
in the McLean Room afterwards**

