



PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET
Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy
with Calary

Rector: Rev William Bennett 087-9480317



FEBRUARY 2012

Please send any items for inclusion in March PINS to:
information.pins@gmail.com

Items must be received by Tuesday 21st February for publication

Please note that times of services and events can vary.
 If you lose your copy of PINS check out the parish website:
www.newcastleparish.org www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org
www.calaryparish.org and click on 'Calendar of Events'.

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The old hymn reminds us of the importance of counting our blessings. In a climate like we are experiencing through our country, economy and Europe it is all too easy to allow our minds become focussed on the things that would depress even the strongest person. One good result from the present economic difficulties may well be that we are given this opportunity to focus on the most important issues of life, faith and eternity.

My experience is that when I focus on the difficulties and problems of life I feel almost overwhelmed, but when I do as the hymn says - "Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done" - my attitude changes to one of thanks to God who gives the grace to trust him as a good Heavenly Father who understands every need.

The challenge is to put God in his place in our lives and experience - He really makes the difference.

Remember:- "We are not what we think we are, but, it's what we THINK, we are!"

Wishing you a very happy 2012

God Bless,

William



PINS

You may have noticed a certain lack of brightness in this month's issue of PINS! As a cost-cutting measure, the Select Vestry has decided that the inside of PINS should be printed in black and white. The cover will remain in colour. PINS available on the parish website will remain fully in colour and you can view each month's copy online if you want to see the full-colour version (for instance to view photos).

N and N PARISH NEWS

Burial at Newcastle

14 December 2011, Mrs Ruby Eleanor Stringer, Leabeg, Newcastle.

Ruby's passing was peaceful at Airfield House Nursing Home, Greystones where she had been cared for following a long period in hospital as a result of a fall.. A faithful and loyal parishioner, organist and choir member Ruby was deeply involved in many areas of parish life including being a founder member of the bowls club and drama group. Dr Andy Sleeman has paid a fitting tribute to her in his choir notices in this issue of PINS. We offer our sincere sympathy to her sister Ruth, grandson Richard and her great circle of friends.

Coffee

Coffee (and tea) continues in the cottage every Tuesday from 10.30am. Call in for a chat, a cuppa, some toast or something sweeter. It's a must to keep up with what's happening in the parish and beyond!

Lunch

Lunch in the cottage this month will take place on Thursday 16th at 1pm. As usual it is a great help, for catering purposes, to know how many intend to dine. Contact Karen 087-2866889.

Parish Database

In order to improve parish communication, and to facilitate contacting parishioners about last-minute changes and arrangements, a database of e-mail addresses is being compiled. To be included, please e-mail the PINS e-mail address **information.pins@gmail.com** putting *Parish Database* in the subject line.

Fields of Life

We wish to thank everyone who has supported our children in Uganda in the last year. Their letters and Christmas cards are on view for all to read. We always need new sponsors. Contact Brian Harris at 2819709 or Tony Noonan at 2811954 if you would consider helping.

Contributions to Wells of Life are also always welcome.

Cottage

Due to the recent robbery in the cottage we are now without a hi-fi to play occasional music. (We really missed a bit of Christmas music at the annual Christmas lunch). If you have a spare working hi-fi which you don't need, we would be very glad to take it off your hands.

Contact Karen 087-2866889.

Help Wanted

The 2012 rotas for cleaning and flower arranging in Newcastle Church are now on the notice board in the porch. Please help if you can.

Newcastle Readers

Many thanks to all those who take a turn on the reading rota. There are quite a number on the list and quite a few young people too - so everyone only has to read about once in 3 months. Your willingness to take part provides a valuable contribution to the life of our church.

New readers always welcome. Contact Muriel Norse 086-8593936.

Charity Envelopes

There have been several enquiries about the absence of envelopes for donation to charity in the December issue of PINS. As people are under such a lot of financial pressure at Christmas time it was decided this year to delay these envelopes until Lent. Charities will still be extremely grateful for any donations at that time.

Church Cottage

Church Cottage has now been vacated. Before it can be re-let there is quite a bit of work to do to improve the accommodation for any future tenants. If you can volunteer your services please contact the Rector or either of the glebe wardens, Mervyn Garrett or James Norse.

Meeting of Select Vestry

Next meeting is Thursday 1st March at 8pm in the McLean Room.

Dates for your Diary

The drama group will stage this year's play in St Francis School hall on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th April. More details later.

General Easter Vestry: 26th April.

Clubs and Organisations

Bowls

Bowls continues every Thursday at 8pm in St Francis School.

Table Tennis

The table tennis club meets in the McLean Room (behind St Matthew's Church in Newtownmountkennedy) at 8pm on Mondays. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a game.

For more information contact Garth (087 0619528) or Heather (087 9422172)

Time Out

The Time Out group has been meeting for a few years now and some people may not know what it's all about. Time Out was started when an Alpha Course finished and everyone wanted to continue exploring the bible and what it means to be a Christian. The group now meets on a Tuesday in Rectory Cottage at 8pm when the evening starts with a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. This is followed by study and informal discussion on a given topic. We have studied various courses from both the US and UK which were DVD based. These involved watching a DVD and then discussing the content. However sometimes it was not limited to discussion—there have been instances of writing short plays, making snowflakes and colouring!

At the moment the group is led by Michael Croly and he has put together his own course looking at the book of Daniel. The study is now alternated with a prayer evening led by William, each taking place every second Tuesday. Everyone is welcome to come along any time, and there is no pressure to come every week. In fact it is very relaxed and no one needs to feel that they must contribute, or that what they have to say is silly or unimportant. (Over the course of Time Out all sorts of opinions have been expressed). Why not give it a try?

Youth Club

The Youth Club dates for February are Friday 3rd and Friday 17th . Meet at the cottage at 8pm. For information text Paul at 085 7871541.

Creche

The crèche is open in Rectory Cottage every Sunday during church service in Newcastle Church.

Sunday School

No Sunday School during half term or on Family Service Sunday.

Parent and Toddler Group

Everyone with a baby or toddler is welcome to come along to Rectory Cottage from 10.30am on a Monday morning for a play and a chat.

Information from Wendy 086-8478415

Choir

Since the last PINS we have lost another of our faithful organists, Ruby Stringer. Ruby played in Newcastle for many years. I think she felt a little daunted, with increasing deafness and arthritis, when asked to accompany the choir in recent years, but nevertheless she was very willing, as long as there were not too many sharps and flats (something I can empathise with). She regularly came to choir practices even after she had stopped playing the organ. She was quite forthright in her views and when I first introduced music during the communion service she told me “that will never catch on in Newcastle”.

Soundboards, the Diocesan Church Music Committee magazine recently conducted a survey of music in all the Parishes. Arising from that, the committee made the observation that just under 30 churches regularly sing the Gloria and/or Sanctus at the Eucharist - “The Sanctus (the proclamation of the thrice Holy God we worship) is one of the Judaeo-Christian tradition’s oldest hymns and, arguably, should take precedence over all other hymnody.In places where the Sanctus is not regularly sung, clergy and musicians should consider introducing it.” In line with that recommendation the Choir will lead the congregation in singing the Gloria and Sanctus to the congregational setting by Richard Shephard, recently introduced, starting on February 5th.

To mark the start of Lent, the choir will sing the Litany on the first Sunday in Lent (February 26th) to the 1544 plainsong setting of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, with 4 part harmony arranged by Edward Lowe from the beautiful five part setting of Thomas Tallis. Hardly anyone bothered to write music for the Litany after Tallis - his setting is almost universally sung.

The choir will be rehearsing each Monday evening at 8pm in Newcastle Church from now on. I would love to see a few new younger faces in the choir. Soprano, alto, tenor or bass are all welcome. Please do join us. While being able to read music is a help, being able to sing is more important as learning the parts is not difficult with others beside you. *Andy Sleeman*

Drama Group

It's drama time again and rehearsals are in full swing in preparation for two shows in April. The play this year is a light comedy and, as usual, features local luminaries. If you have talents to offer backstage, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Karen 087-2866889.

CALARY NEWS

Roundwood Historical Society

Danny Sheehy will give a talk on the recent yacht voyage he took part in to the west coast of Scotland, Shetland, the Faroes, Iceland and the Hebrides, following the route taken by Saint Brendan. The talk will take place at 8.30pm on Monday 30th January in Roundwood Parish Centre. Danny was born, raised and lives on the Dingle Peninsula and he gave an extremely interesting and entertaining talk in Roundwood on the Blasket Islands in October 2010.

After the Service

We continue to meet and have tea, coffee and juice after Service each Sunday. It gives a great opportunity for a chat and to catch up with friends. Come and join us.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held for children of all ages in the Church Room every Sunday, except when there is a Family Service.

Table Tennis

Table tennis is played in the Church Room every Thursday, with juniors between 7pm and 8pm and adults from 8pm on.

Kilmacanogue History Society

"In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry" is a talk on the most famous of the 19th century pioneering plant hunters. It will be given by Seamus O'Brien, head gardener at Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens, who, himself, took part in three expeditions to retrace Henry's routes. It will take place in the Glenview Hotel at 8.30pm on Tuesday 7th February. Entry is €3 or €2 for members.

Healing Service

Calary Church
Sunday 12th February at 7pm
Featuring guests from Roundwood



PINS by Post

If you would like to receive your copy of PINS by post, or to continue to do so, please let Karen know. The cost is €6 and this can be handed to Karen at church, in the cottage, or posted to Karen Reynolds, Sunrise, Newcastle, Co Wicklow.

Christmas Box Appeal



Thank you to everyone who contributed items to the Christmas Box Appeal at St Matthews Church..

There was a very generous response in these difficult financial times.

Thanks again to Marie Brassington for taking the time to organise this each year.

Christmas Quiz Results

First Prize: Michael Willis from Enniskerry
Runners-Up: Irene Croly from Kilcoole
Deirdre Pemberton from Newcastle

Congratulations!

Your prizes will be available in your local church.

JANET'S WELLS

Below are two photographs, one depicting a well which was drilled in memory of Janet Ashe (you can see the plaque in front of the well with her name on it) and one showing local people using one of the wells.





NOTICE BOARD

Newcastle Historical and Archaeological Society

The next meeting will be held in the Castle Inn
on Wednesday 8th February at 8pm

The Cyril Stringer Cup

Presentation of the Cyril Stringer Cup
will take place on Saturday 18th February
at 9.30pm in the Castle Inn

St Francis National School



The Parents Association of St. Francis School
will be holding a cake sale on Friday 10th February
from 1pm in the school hall.

Please come along.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Children's Page

Bible Word Search

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Cana, Deaf, Death, Demon, Galilee, Healing, Jairus, Leprosy, Mute, Nature, Samaria, Water

The Sunday School Teacher asked "Johnny, do you say prayers before eating?"
No, Miss," he replied. "We don't have to.
My Mum is a good cook!"

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	READING
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Sunday 5th

SS	Calary	9.30	MP	2Cor. 1:18-22
	St Matthews	10.45	MP	Mk. 2: 1-12
SS	Newcastle	12.00	HC	

Sunday 12th

	St Matthews	10.45	HC	Prov. 8: 1, 22-31
	Newcastle	12.00	MP	Coll. 1: 15-20
	Calary	19.00	Healing Service	

with guests from Roundwood

Sunday 19th

	Calary	9.30	FS	2Cor. 4: 3-6
	St Matthews	10.45	MP	Mk. 9: 2-9
	Newcastle	12.00	FS	

Sunday 26th

SS	Calary	9.30	HC	Gen. 9: 8-17
	St Matthews	10.45	FS	1Pet. 3: 18-22
SS	Newcastle	12.00	MP	Mk. 1: 9-15



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 and chat in the McLean Room. All welcome!

Tea and coffee are served in the McLean Room after each service in St Matthew's.



Some of the diners enjoying this year's Christmas Lunch in Rectory Cottage