

PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET
**Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy
with Calary**

FEBRUARY 2021



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Layreader:
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www.newcastleparish.org
www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org
www.calaryparish.org

We are delighted to welcome Ross, Fiona, Ben and Ava to Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary, and we pray that their ministry here will be a happy and fruitful one. Here is our new Rector's first letter for PINS.

From the Rector

It is a great pleasure for me to write my first piece for PINS! It is also a great pleasure and an honour to start as your new rector. Please forgive my many mistakes and any failure to remember names! Fiona, Ben, Ava, and I are all really looking forward to being part of your wonderful community of faith.

As I am the new kid and Covid-19 restrictions have limited our ability to meet each other face to face, I thought I might take this opportunity to properly introduce myself! My name is Ross Styles. I am originally from West Wicklow, but I met and married a beautiful Dublin girl, Fiona, and there we settled down! We have two children, Ben, 10, and Ava, 8. My background was in horticulture, where I worked in both the public and the private sector. My last 10 years prior to ordination were spent working for Dublin City Council Parks.

Shortly after our wedding in 2009, I approached Fiona and asked her if she would be happy if I explored my sense of calling further. With her fantastic support, I began the foundation course and went for selection for training to ordained ministry. I passed and began training part time for the masters in theology programme. I was ordained deacon in 2015 and spent two great years as part time deacon intern in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. I then spent over 3 great years as curate in the Christ Church Cathedral group of parishes and now, full circle, we are back in the Garden of Ireland! So, enough about me...

Arriving as your new Rector in the midst of level 5 lockdown is difficult. However, this difficulty is insignificant in light of what our society has faced, and is facing, as a result of Covid-19; for the many who grieve, for those who are still recovering from this terrible illness, for those who have lost their jobs and livelihoods. It seems to have been a long, bleak winter.

Yet as I sit and write this, January is drawing to a close and February 1st beckons with its glimpse of spring, even though it usually signals no change to the weather! However, the arrival of spring heralds new hope, new life in the natural world and, hopefully, new hope for us as the vaccine programme takes shape. February 1st also marks St. Brigid's Day. There is an old blessing attributed to St. Brigid:

May God bless the house wherein you dwell,
Bless every fireside, every wall and door,
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof,
Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy,
Bless every foot that walks its portals through,
May God bless the house that shelters you.

I hope that you, and all whom you love, are keeping safe and well in these difficult times. If there is anything I can do for anybody-shopping, pharmacy etc., or just a chat, please contact me on 087-9892941 or by email: stylesross@gmail.com.

May I wish you all every blessing this St. Brigid's Day, and I look forward to getting to know you all soon.

God bless,
Ross



The Institution
of
The Reverend Ross Styles
as
Incumbent of the Parishes of Newcastle
and Newtownmountkenedy with Calary
by
The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson
Archbishop of Dublin
and
Bishop of Glendalough
will take place on
Friday 12th February 2021
at 7.30 pm
in
Newcastle Parish Church

Due to Covid-19 restrictions this important event in the life of our parishes will take place behind closed doors.

It will be recorded and live streamed.

Thank You to Revd Niall Stratford

Thank you to Niall for looking after services in all our churches during the vacancy in the parishes. As it turned out, even more importantly, thank you to him and his family for producing services on YouTube Sunday after Sunday. They were greatly appreciated both by parishioners and by viewers far away, and gave a chance for parishioners to take part in some way. We hope Niall, Vivienne and the family will drop in to see us often in the future.

Thank You to Revd Nigel Waugh

Thank you to Nigel, our Rural Dean, for looking after the parishes so well during the vacancy. He was always available to offer advice and he hosted Select Vestry meetings both in person and on Zoom with expertise and good humour. Nigel officiated at several funeral services and we also appreciated the invitation to join in with Delgany church services online each Sunday. Likewise the Parish Administrator was grateful for his support and guidance on occasion.

Parish Office

The Parish Office is currently closed.
Karen is working from home each afternoon
and you can contact her as usual
by phone at 087-2866889 or
by email at nandnparishoffice@gmail.com

Services

Our churches remain closed for the foreseeable future and services will continue online. Details of these are sent out each week by email, text, whatsapp and facebook. If you would like to be added to any of these lists please contact Karen.

If you don't have access to online facilities, remember there are several TV and radio services available.

If you would like anything included in the March edition of PINS please send it to nandnparishoffice@gmail.com

FESTIVE BINGO 2020

The bingo night held online on Saturday 12th December was great fun and a lovely way to bring people together before Christmas. Both children and adults enjoyed themselves, with some winning fantastic prizes. Thanks to everyone who took part, sponsors of prizes and especially to Emma Stringer for organising the night. €922.18 was raised for parish funds

SANTA VISITS

Before he got too busy for Christmas, Santa visited some members of the Parish on Tuesday 22nd December. Aided by his driver Pauline O'Sullivan, and with Claire Adams and Karen Reynolds in a back-up car, he visited several homes bearing gifts. He even managed to pick up an old friend of the Parish along the way. Some photos opposite.



Giving

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parish financially during 2020. In a difficult year it was greatly appreciated and very much needed when there were very few services in church and with no means of fundraising in the usual manner.

Bank transfers were a life saver, but there have been several transactions with no names referenced. This is fine if you want to remain anonymous, but if you would like your giving recorded in confidence please ensure that you include your name.

Thanks

We would like to thank everyone from the Parish and local community for all your support on the passing of Mervyn (Garrett) on New Years Day. Thank you for all the cards, letters, texts, emails, and phone calls. And thank you to all of you who stood out on a very cold day to line the route to the church . It meant so much to us.

Anne, Karen and Maeve





SANTA VISITS 2020

CALARY NEWS

Supper Concert with a difference in support of Sr. Mary Killeen

Many people took part in the virtual super and concert organised for Sister Mary's work in the slums of Nairobi. The current amount of donations received is €3,945

Update from Mukuru

A miracle nearly happened for Christmas Day but it will be by the Twelfth day of Christmas.

The boys in the Rehabilitation Centre will have their first hot showers! There is great excitement – the installation is complete and just the final tweaks - 30 photovoltaic panels to provide enough electricity to heat water in the mammoth hotwater cylinder at no cost for 60 showers. Surplus electricity will be diverted to power classrooms and computers. Many thanks to those who generously supported Claire Chambers' Covid foiled skydive.

Pat Murray

Pat, who was a former neighbour of Calary Church and who used to come to concerts, died on 10 January and was buried in Calary Churchyard. Our sympathy goes to her children Cathy, Seán and Ed and also to her extended family.

Private Prayer

Prior to the reopening for religious services in December, Calary Church had been open on Sunday mornings for private prayer. In the current circumstances, with services reverting to online and the large number of people testing positive for Covid 19, Calary will not be reopening at present. This situation will be kept under review.

*Wishing you God's Blessing,
Peace and Good Health for 2021*



Star of Hope

Those driving from Kilmacanogue to Roundwood when it's dark may have noticed that there is a star shining at the top of Calary Church tower. This is the first time that this has appeared and thanks are due to Charlotte and Diarmuid for putting it in place. It is to remind us of all those who died due to Covid19 and that there were over 3500 empty places at tables this Christmas in Ireland alone. Also to remember and acknowledge all the Healthcare and Frontline workers who continue to put their lives at risk to keep us safe.

Mervyn Garrett

April 1933—January 2021



Due to Covid-19 restrictions there was a limited number of close family members in the church for Mervyn's funeral. This is the tribute (a little shortened) which would have been read in normal circumstances.

Dad was born in Kilcoole in the long low house on your left as you drive up the hill, the youngest of three brothers. The family moved across the road to Ballellis House on the death of his Victorian style grandmother, settling into life on the farm, his father working also as a wheelwright. He enjoyed his childhood, getting into all sorts of mischief (such as riding the local out of bounds donkey!), and riding his bike to school in Delgany National School each day with his brothers, Alfie and Arthur, and the children from the Hill family. This was followed by scholarships to Kilkenny College and Mountjoy School where he enjoyed playing rugby and cricket.

When he left school Dad joined the bank with stints in Dalkey and Letterkenny. He loved Letterkenny and Co Donegal, playing golf and enjoying the social life. He liked to return there and we had some lovely holidays as children getting to know the area. Still young and unmarried, he decided to go to, what was then, Rhodesia with a friend to find his fortune. It was not to be however—his brother Arthur was killed tragically in an accident with a tractor and he had no choice but to take on the running of the farm. His father died three months later.

Dad met Mum, Anne Johnston, at a friend's 21st birthday party. They were married in October 1958 and started married life living in Newcastle. Throughout their marriage they were a very hospitable and welcoming pair. Dad absolutely loved to play the host. There was nothing he liked more than having a party and he was matched by Mum's flair for cooking and throwing wonderful dinner parties. His enormous open fires, music, dancing, fun and generosity are still legendary

I was born in 1959 and Maeve followed in 1964. Dad loved us both and was proud of anything we did. Many was the night he drove to meet buses and trains, or rescued us when said buses and trains were missed. Family meant everything to him and as Maeve and I married and had our own families, his pride extended to our husbands Gerry and Niall, his eight

grandchildren Claire, Ross, Simon, Josh, Sam, Jordan, Ed and Billy, and his three great-grandchildren Ethan, Tilly and Arthur (whom he always called Art just as he'd called his own brother). One of his favourite sayings when he was thanked for helping one of us out was 'That's what families are for, to help each other out'.

Aside from Mum, his family, and entertaining, Dad's other love was sport. In his time he played rugby, cricket, golf, tennis, snooker, and boxed. He helped found the Alan Stringer Tennis Cup and was on the organising committee each time it was staged. He took part in the Cyril Stringer Snooker Cup. Maeve and I may have been somewhat disappointing as sports women but Dad made up for this by attending his grandsons' rugby, cricket, tennis and football matches, not to mention ferrying them to training.

Dad had his ups and downs in life like anyone, but he always picked himself up and started afresh. I don't think I have ever met anyone so determined and hardworking, not to mention focussed. In his time he was a banker, he was a farmer, he dabbled in property, he was an estate agent, he provided gardening services. He believed in never looking back, only forward.

With all Dad achieved in life, his greatest project was providing a Parish Centre for our parish of Newcastle & Newtownmountkennedy. From the moment that he and William Bennett agreed that a Centre was needed he didn't rest until it was completed. Having surrounded himself with an excellent committee, he proceeded to harass and badger planners, council officials, elected officials, engineers, builders, architects, and diocesan personnel until he had the glebelands rezoned, planning granted for a new rectory and parish centre, and the buildings finished and occupied. His phone bill was worthy of a call centre and the members of the Select Vestry felt the full force of his determination! All this while he was still working. He was so proud that the parish had a Parish Centre and dropped in most Fridays just to check that things were as they should be.

Dad finally retired at the age of 85 when he was struck down by lung cancer and given 6 months to live. He bravely faced a major operation to remove most of a lung and survived both the operation and the recovery period. It seemed unfair then that he was diagnosed with a brain tumour during lockdown and went through the slow losing of his physical powers, though his mind remained as sharp as ever. He died at home on New Year's Day with his beloved Anne, my sister Maeve and myself by his side. He remains in all our hearts surrounded by love. *Karen*



Winter Activities for Kids

Discover nature on a walk

While you're getting your daily exercise, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife. Even though it's winter, there's plenty to see and hear. Encourage your family to look out for:

- birds feasting on berries
- squirrels scampering up and down trees
- animal footprints in frost or snow
- the tuneful singing of a robin
- snowdrops popping up out of the ground.

Make your own woodland theatre

Is your family missing stage shows and musicals? Then have a go at transforming a shoebox into a mini theatre for youngsters to create their own plays. It's a wonderful way to encourage them to use their imaginations too. Paint a woodland backdrop and scenery, or use images cut out from magazines or old Christmas cards and glue them inside your box. Lay some fabric inside the base of your box to make the forest floor. To make your performers, draw or cut out pictures of animals and people. Attach them to sticks so you can easily move them around the stage.

Now you're ready for the show to begin!

Recycled feeders

If you want to avoid a sticky fat mixture, turn used cartons into seed holders.

Method

- About half-way up the sides, cut large, square windows into each side of an orange juice or smoothie carton
- Pierce a hole at the same height beneath opposite windows, making one pair of holes slightly lower than the other
- Thread long, thin twigs through these holes to make the perches
- Punch two more holes through the lip at the top of the carton to fasten string for hanging the feeder

Fill with a bird seed mix and wait for your feathered visitors.