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## **PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET**

**Parishes of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy  
with Calary**

# **FEBRUARY 2024**



**Rector:**

**Rev Ross Styles**

**087-9892941**

**Email: [stylesross@gmail.com](mailto:stylesross@gmail.com)**

**Diocesan Layreader:**

**Caroline Tindal**

**086-2553001**

**Parish Administrator:**

**Karen Reynolds**

**087-2866889**

**Parish Office:**

**Email: [nandnparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:nandnparishoffice@gmail.com)**

**01-2819300**

**Open Monday to Friday**

**Parish Websites:**

**[www.newcastleparish.org](http://www.newcastleparish.org)**

**[www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org](http://www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org)**

**[www.calaryparish.org](http://www.calaryparish.org)**



Dear friends,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

We enjoyed a busy and fun Christmas in our parishes this year, with a fantastic Nativity play by our Sunday Club, an excellent school performance by St. Francis' National School, the community crib created by our amazing Youth Group in Newcastle village, community carol singing, carol services in both Newcastle and Calary, midnight service in Newcastle and worship in all three of our beautiful churches on Christmas morning! My sincere thanks to everyone who decorated the churches so spectacularly, to our Senior and Junior choirs for their beautiful singing, to our readers, to our Sunday Club and Youth Club and their leaders, to Charlotte and Sheila for their wonderful organ playing and to everyone who attended our services. It was wonderful to be able to come together as a community of faith at this truly special time of the year!

A huge thank you to everybody who supported our collection for Gaza. We have raised nearly €5000, which is fantastic! Special thanks to Caroline for all the amazing work she did to make this happen!

A huge thank you also to Jane O'Herlihy and to everyone who collected and donated towards our Christmas box appeal.

Huge congratulations to Fred and Shana Rountree, who were married in Newcastle church on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We wish them every blessing for their future life together!

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of David Kearon. His funeral, a service of thanksgiving for his life, was held in Newcastle Church on Tuesday 2nd January.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Thomas Webster. His funeral, a thanksgiving for his life, was held in Calary Church on Saturday 27th January.

Our new prayer course will begin on Wednesday 7th February at 8pm in Newcastle Parish Centre. The course will run for 8 weeks, through Lent. The course follows the format of the Alpha course, offering a very gentle way to explore prayer. If you are free please do join us for prayer, fellowship and light refreshments! All are very welcome!

As part of a community outreach week, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February, some Transition Year students from East Glendalough School will be visiting parishioners. As they obviously don't have their own transport, this will be centred around Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy. I have created a list for them but if you would like to receive a visit, please do let me know. A huge thank you to the students involved, it is a project that I would love to see become a regular feature.

At 6pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February we are introducing a new monthly Youth Service, in Newcastle church. The service will be followed by food in the Parish Centre. This service will be initially lead by our confirmation class, so please do come and support them. All are warmly welcome!

Our new Senior Youth Group, for secondary school students from first year upwards, will begin on Friday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm. We held a preliminary brain storming pizza evening before Christmas and they came up with some great ideas, so watch this space!!

This year's walking challenge is a little gentler for me! It is also something everyone, if they wish, can get involved in! It will be "6k a day" for lent! That is roughly twice around the heritage trail in Newcastle each day! Or for me, from The Rectory, around the heritage trail, down to Newcastle beach for a stroll and back! If we do it, we each will have walked 276km by Easter, approximately the same distance as the length of 'The French Way' (The Camino from León to Santiago de Compostela!) Aside from the physical and mental health benefits, it is also a wonderful opportunity to commune with nature and with God. You can walk with me, alone or in a group and you can walk anywhere! As well as improving our overall health and well being I also hope to raise funds for works on Newcastle Church and for 'Jigsaw'. Jigsaw Wicklow is a free, non-judgemental and confidential mental health support service for young people aged 12 – 25 living, working or studying in Wicklow. They provide guidance and support for young people who are going through a difficult or distressing time. They also provide advice and guidance for anyone who is concerned about a young person in their life. If you wish to get a sponsorship form, they will be available in the parish office and at the back of each church or you can donate through all the usual ways, we will be sending details on WhatsApp and our social media pages. While we hope to

raise funds for two worthwhile causes, this is also a great opportunity to get us all out in the fresh air and support each other doing so. I look forward to dusting off my walking shoes and I hope that you'll join me!

As I sit and write these notes, the first of our daffodils outside the Rectory window are starting to emerge, heralding new hope, new life in the world. The snow drops are also peeping out too, though hopefully that's the nearest we'll get to snow!

As it wouldn't truly be Spring without a parish play, you'll be delighted to hear that Karen has put pen to paper, the actors are being assembled and 'Champagne Tours' is on the way! Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>, more details to come!

St. Brigid's Day, February 1st, marks a traditional start to spring, even though it usually signals no change to the weather! May I wish you all every blessing for this St. Brigid's Day and the year ahead:

*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.*

God bless,  
Ross

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



Parishes of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy  
with Calary

# PRAYER

8 weeks

# COURSE



**Wednesday 7th February to Wednesday 27th March**

**Time:** 8pm      **Venue:** Newcastle Parish Centre

Refreshments provided

**All are warmly welcome!**

Parishes of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy  
with Calary



# YOUTH SERVICE

**Sunday**  
**February 18th**

**Newcastle Church**  
**6pm**

Refreshments after in the Parish centre!  
All warmly welcome!

Parishes of Newcastle and  
Newtownmountkennedy with Calary



# 6K A DAY!

## Lenten Walking Challenge

Wednesday 14th February to  
Saturday 30th March incl.

For More Info

Call Ross 087-9892941 or e-mail the Parish Centre  
[nandnparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:nandnparishoffice@gmail.com)







# **SUPPER THEATRE**

**NEWCASTLE  
PLAYERS**

**PRESENT**

**CHAMPAGNE  
TOURS**



**Join us for a unique dining experience  
of fun, food, drinks and drama**

**Saturday 9th March 2024**

**Doors open 7.30pm**

**Tickets €35 from the Parish Office**

**Matinee Sunday 10th March 2024 at 5pm**

RECTOR'S

# Breakfast



Tuesdays, from 8:45

During Termtime

in the Parish Centre

All very welcome!

# Prayer Space

Tuesday mornings from  
9:15am



# Pop Up Tearoom



**Downstairs in the Parish Centre**  
**Friday mornings 10.30 am to 12.30 pm**



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

## **ADULT CLUBS**



**TABLE TENNIS**

**Mondays 8pm**

**Parish Centre**

Starting Friday 1st  
March!

# YOUTH group

1st year up!

*Parish of Newcastle and  
Newtownmountkennedy with Calary*



For children currently in 6th class and 1st year  
and to anyone who wishes to be confirmed.

February Confirmation class  
Sunday 18th February , 5:15Pm  
Followed by Youth Service and Refreshments!

# YOUTH CLUB

Join us!

Newcastle Parish Centre

Friday 9th and Friday 23rd February



from 4th Class to 1st year

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

# JUNIOR Choir



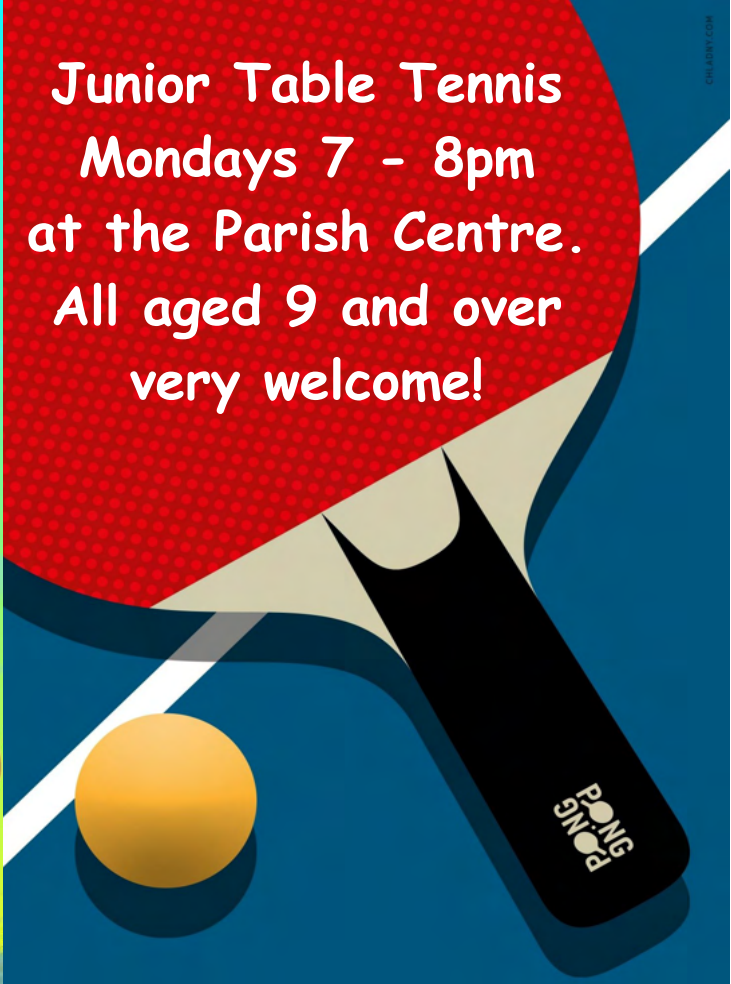
# Sunday CLUB



SUNDAY 4TH & SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY  
AT 12NOON, NEWCASTLE CHURCH

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR FUN,  
GAMES, CRAFTS AND MORE!!

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



## A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

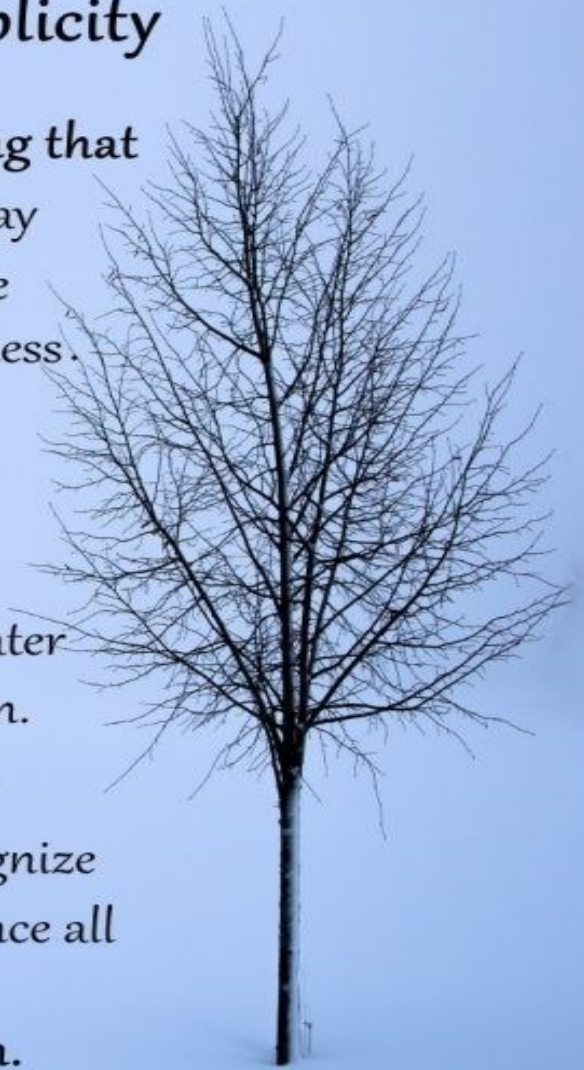
Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness.

Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.



# CALARY NEWS

## **Calary Christmas Communion**

16 people attended the communion service and lunch on 6 December giving us an opportunity to meet at the start of the festive season.

## **Candlelight Carol Service**

The service, which took place on Wednesday 20 December was a huge success with over 120 people joining us for singing and then tea and mince pies in the Church Room afterwards. This is the largest number who have attended the Carol Service for a long number of years.

## **Music in Calary**


The committee are currently working on the programme of concerts for 2024 and hope to have this finalised in the next couple of weeks.

## Rotas at Newcastle Church

The rotas for cleaning and flower arranging are up at the back of Newcastle Church. If you can push a vacuum cleaner or put a bunch of flowers in a jug—we want you! Please put your name on the list. Thank you.



**Jane O'Herlihy would like to  
thank everyone who donated  
to the Christmas Box Appeal**



*How to donate:*

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

IBAN IE61 AIBK 9335 5416 3871 12

BIC AIBKIE2D

Sort code: 93-35-54

Account number: 16387112

<https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/willsplayground>



*Fred and Shana's Wedding, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023*





# Wildlife in February

## Badger

Female badgers, known as sows, birth very early in the year, often in January or February. Though this may sound counterintuitive, it makes sense. Cubs born now will take their first wobbly steps above ground, blinking in the moonlight, in roughly 8-10 weeks' time – during the full flush of spring.



Earthworms, insects and a plethora of plant foods will be easy to find. These cubs will have the longest possible run-up to the autumn, when they must fatten up enough to tide them over the coming winter.

## Long-tailed Tit



One of the first birds you're likely to see gathering nesting material each year is the long-tailed tit. The female will usually be on a clutch of between eight to 12 eggs by March, or early April further north, but before that the extraordinary nest has to be made. Construction takes up to three weeks, longer than in most other small songbirds, and the male and female work as a team.

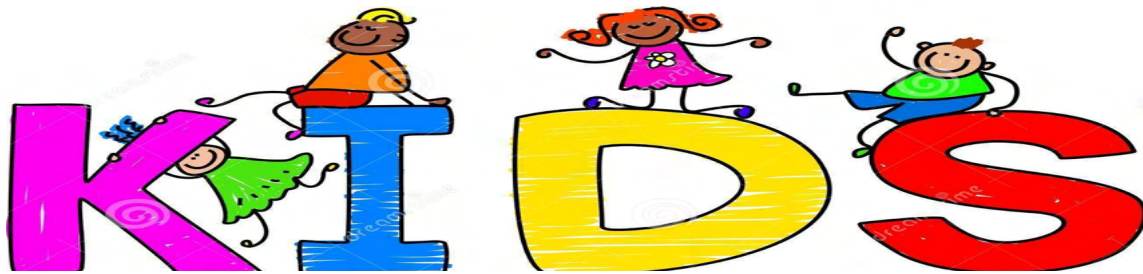
They select a site low down in a thorny bush or hedge or hidden among the tangled stems of a rose or some other climbing plant, then start to weave an oval-shaped ball from moss, adding a small entrance near the top. They cover the structure in crusty grey lichen for camouflage, line it with thousands of tiny white down feathers – as many as 1,500 – and bind it all together with spider silk. A masterpiece!

## Pine marten

Our winters are no great challenge for pine martens, which are adapted for much colder continental conditions in the boreal forests of the far north. Their 'flexitarian' diet means they can find plenty of food year round. But they do spend much longer in their dens.



One study in Poland found they were active just three hours a day in winter, compared to 12 hours in summer.



# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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

**LAMENTATIONS**  
**DANIEL**  
**SAMUEL**  
**JUDGES**  
**PSALMS**  
**RUTH**  
**LUKE**

**MICAH**  
**ECCLESIASTES**  
**JOB**  
**JOSHUA**  
**NUMBERS**  
**ESTHER**  
**MATTHEW**

**AMOS**  
**KINGS**  
**PROVERBS**  
**EXODUS**  
**GENESIS**  
**JOHN**  
**MARK**

# SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
<b>Sunday 4th</b> <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	MP	Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 Psalm 104: 26-37 Colossians 1: 15-20 John 1: 1-14
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	MP	
<b>Sunday 11th</b> <i>Sunday before Lent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	Service of the Word	2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS		
	Newcastle	12.00	RS		
<b>Ash Wed. 14th</b>	St Matthew's	10.30	RS	HC	Isaiah 58: 1-12 Psalm 51: 1-18 2 Cor. 5: 20b - 6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
<b>Sunday 18th</b> <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	HC	Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-9 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15
	St Matthew's	10.45	RS	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	RS	HC	
<b>Sunday 18th</b> <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	Newcastle	18.00	RS	Youth Service	Psalm 119: 17-32 Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Luke 13: 31-35
<b>Sunday 25th</b> <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	Calary	9.30	RS	FS	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38
	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 the McLean Room  
for tea/coffee afterwards.**

