



PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET

Parishes of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary

FEBRUARY 2025



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www.newcastleparish.org

www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org

www.calaryparish.org



Dear Friends,

As I sit and write these notes, the first of our daffodils in the rectory garden are starting to emerge, heralding new hope, new life in the world. However, they may have gotten their timing wrong, as it hasn't felt very spring like! Newcastle escaped the snow in January (much to all school children's regret!), though Calary had enough for everybody! The nearest we got to snow in the rectory were our beautiful snowdrops!

We enjoyed a busy and fun Christmas in our parishes this year, with an excellent performance by St Francis NS, the community crib created by our amazing youth group in Newcastle village, community carol singing, carol services in Calary and Newcastle, midnight service in Newcastle and worship in all three beautiful churches on Christmas morning. My sincere thanks to everyone who decorated the churches so spectacularly, to the Byrne family and Ed who put up and decorated the tree in Newcastle church, to Diarmuid and Charlotte who put up the 'Calary star', to our choir for their beautiful singing, to our readers, our Sunday club, youth clubs and their leaders, to Charlotte and Sheila for their wonderful organ playing and to everyone who attended our services. It was a great blessing to be able to come together as a community of faith at this truly special time of the year.

Thanks to Jane for organising the food collection before Christmas and to all who donated! It all went to a good home, thank you!

As a community we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Anne Garrett. Her funeral, a service of thanksgiving for her life was held in Newcastle church on Tuesday 7th January. We hold Karen, Maeve and their families in our prayers. We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Dorothy Guilford. Her funeral is on Thursday 30th January in Calary church at 2.30 pm. We keep all of her family and friends in our prayers. We were also deeply saddened to hear of the death of Iris Taylor. We hold her family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Heavenly Father, may all who mourn know your presence and your love, until we are all reunited in your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

We have a tea/coffee morning each Friday morning from 10:30-12pm,

please drop in for a chat if you are free. Also, if you can help out on Friday per month or on an ad hoc basis, please contact me or pop in and chat to one of our volunteers.

All groups and clubs are back in full swing, if you haven't tried one out, please do! New members are always very welcome, bring a friend!

A couple of dates for the diary! On Saturday 22nd February at 7:30pm we will hold our fashion event! It was a huge success last year! €20 for all the ladies, men's and children's clothes you can carry! Thank you to Kim for organising.

On Wednesday 5th March we will start our Lenten prayer course, it will run on Wednesday evenings from 5th to 16th March. It will be a relaxed and informative discussion with prayer and Lenten reflections. Refreshments will be provided! Everyone is warmly welcome!

We are looking forward to the 2025 Newcastle players supper theatre. Karen is currently working on a new play, more information soon!

Unfortunately a pipe burst in the boiler house in Newcastle church, leaving the boiler and the electrics under three feet of water! As a result, there will be no heat in Newcastle for the next few weeks. For February we will have united Sunday services in St. Matthew's, at 11am. My thanks to Ed, James, Peter and Robert for all they are doing to get this fixed!

Sunday 2nd February is Candlemas, marking the end of the season of Epiphany and the real end of Christmas! I have no more excuses now about new year resolutions!

As always, please call me if you would like to pray or chat or to arrange a home visit. My door is always open, my phone is always on and I am here to listen and help where I can.

As we enter the month of February, I wish you all every blessing for St Brigid's Day and the year ahead.

God bless,
Ross

Calary News

Our Carol Service on the Friday before Christmas was standing room only and we would like to thank all those who came and supported us. We raised €1,300 due to your generosity which was divided between Tiglin and Simon. We were joined by 6 members of the Steadfast Band and we would like to thank them and our soloists for helping us to “raise the roof”. Many thanks also to those who did the readings and to all who brought mince pies etc. for the refreshments afterwards.

It was wonderful to see a full Church for our service on Christmas morning with families home for Christmas.

Table Tennis

We have decided to start up table tennis again on Thursday nights at 7.30pm in the Church room. All welcome including beginners!

For more information phone Ethni on 086 8092211



Fashion Event

22nd February

7.30pm

Newcastle Parish
Centre

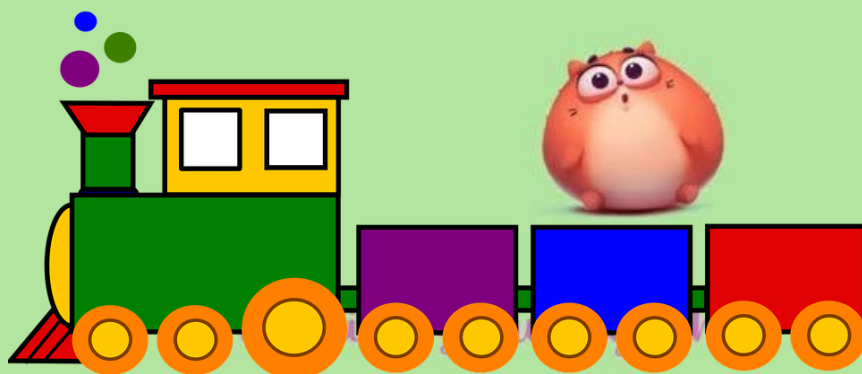
€20

Back by popular demand!
Come and browse through a huge
range of ladies, mens and childrens
clothes, shoes and accessories!
€20 entrance fee and take home
as much as you can carry!



Proceeds towards redevelopment of
Newcastle Playground
and Newcastle Parish

Stay and Play



WHEN: every Wednesday

*WHERE: Parish Centre, Newcastle,
A63X782*

TIME: 10.00~11.30

*FOR: newborns ~under 5's and their
adults*

*All welcome to this friendly, informal group.
Lots of fun for little ones while we grab a
cuppa.*

*Whatsapp/text 0860659637 for more info or just drop
in.*

No charge, donations towards tea and biscuits welcome

Talk on the humanitarian convoy to Ukraine in December 2023

Newcastle Parish Centre, Church Lane, Newcastle, A63 X782

Saturday 1st March at 7pm

by Sandy Blackley

In December 2023, Sandy Blackley, who has recently moved to Newcastle, Co Wicklow, was part of a convoy of 4x4 jeeps carrying Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine.

He received huge support both in cash and medical aids not only in the North Cork area, but from supporters throughout Ireland and abroad.

During the trip which involved 3000km driving through France, Belgium, Germany and Poland he sent back reports to his local newspaper which gave extensive coverage. On returning to Fermoy he put together an edited 45min presentation which has been received by three groups of 60 people in the North Cork area.

With the support of the Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary group of parishes he will be giving this presentation on Saturday 1st March at 7pm in the Parish Centre, Newcastle, A63 X782.

This is not a fundraising exercise but rather an opportunity to thank supporters and to keep the issue of Ukraine alive. No tickets are needed but there will be a basket at the door for contributions for a Ukraine Support group.

There will be refreshments following the presentation. To help with expected numbers for catering+ please RSVP to Sandy at atbco63@gmail.com or by text or WhatsApp to 086 8292863.





PLEASE JOIN US IN THE PARISH CENTRE
Tea, Coffee and treats!

FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM
10:30AM - 12PM

ALL WARLMY WELCOME!

IF YOU CAN HELP OUT ONCE PER MONTH OR ON AN AD
HOC BASIS,, PLEASE LET ROSS OR ONE OF OUR
VOULENTEERS KNOW!



Parishes of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy
with Calary

PRAYER

7 weeks

COURSE

Wednesday 5th March to Wednesday 16th April

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

Refreshments provided

All are warmly welcome!

Register of vestry persons

If you would like to be added to the register of vestry persons, please contact Ross for any information or a form. Only registered persons are eligible to vote at the annual Easter General Vestry meeting and only registered persons are permitted to stand for election to the select vestry. Thank you!

PINS

We are trying to cut down on our printing! Fewer printed PINS will be available. PINS is emailed and sent on WhatsApp, if you would like to be added to the parish WhatsApp and/or the email list, please contact Ross or the parish office. If you wish to have PINS by post each month, please contact the parish office. There will be an annual fee of €15 (for postage). Also, if you have something to put in PINS, please send it to the parish office before the 22nd of the month! Thank you!

Parish centre usage

A gentle reminder to all groups, clubs and those who use the parish centre, please ensure you leave it as you found it! Please do not use the dishwasher if you can not stay to drain it and please contact Ross or leave a message with the parish office before borrowing anything. Thank you!

Can you help?

Many hands make light work! Tea, coffee, flowers, help at special services / events, if you can help out with anything at all, it would be much appreciated! Please contact Ross for more information, thank you!!

Weekly church envelope scheme

They are ready for collection at the back of the churches!



Donate to Fields Of Life

You can help children in East Africa to thrive!

When you give to Fields of Life, you provide children in East Africa with access to quality education and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Thank you to those who already give to this worthwhile cause.

If you give annually please note that your contribution is due in February/March. If you contribute monthly, by bank transfer, please check that this will continue for 2025.

Please note that the monthly and annual contributions due have increased - for more information on this or if you would like start sponsoring a child, please contact June or Charlotte for Calary and the Parish office for St. Matthew's and Newcastle.

Thank you!



We're looking for a Junior Choir Teacher

**Monday 2:30-3:30pm & One
Sunday per month
11:30am-12:45pm**

**Please
contact Ross
on 087
9892941**

During termtime

Competitive rates of pay



Parish Centre Room Hire

Large hall with stage suitable for performances, seminars, parties, sport, dance and much more!

Also, a fully equipped kitchen, a youth room, sitting room and large conference room.

Wheelchair accessible.




**Contact the parish office for more details or to
view on 085-1640133**

Newcastle Parish Centre, Church Lane,
Newcastle, A63 X782

Clubs & Organisations

JOIN US FOR
BOWLS



BOWLS CLUB
THURSDAYS AT 7:30PM

PARISH CENTRE, NEWCASTLE

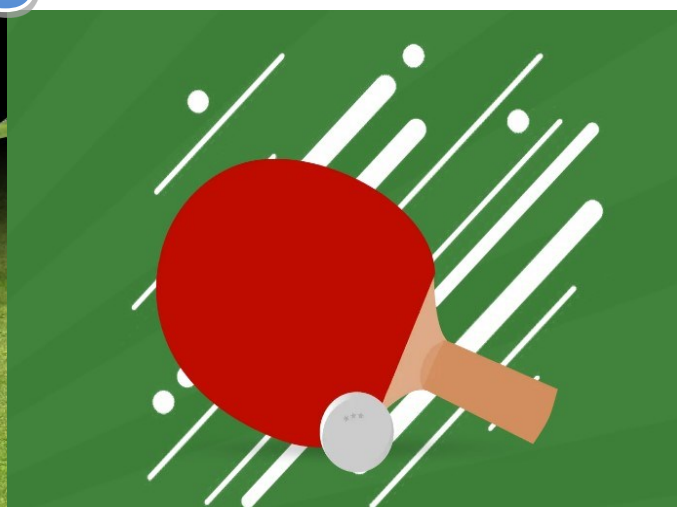



TABLE TENNIS

Junior Table Tennis Mondays 7-8pm
All children from 9 up welcome!

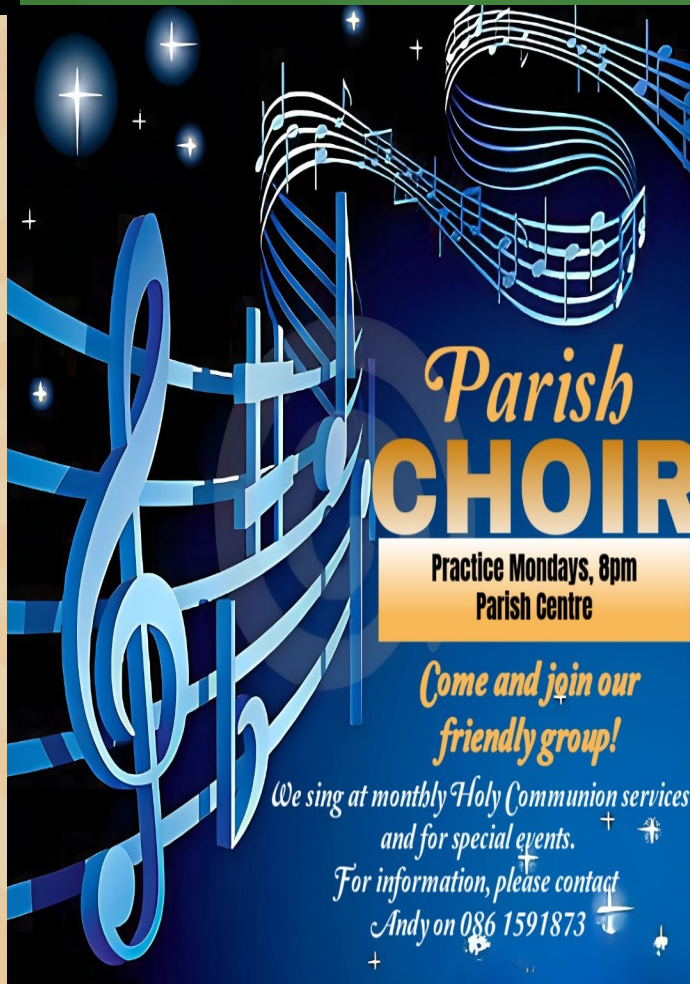
Adult Table Tennis Mondays 8-9pm
Parish Centre, Newcastle

RECTOR'S
Breakfast



Tuesdays, from 8:45
During Termtime
in the Parish Centre

All very welcome!



Parish
CHOIR

Practice Mondays, 8pm
Parish Centre

Come and join our friendly group!

We sing at monthly Holy Communion services and for special events.

For information, please contact Andy on 086 1591873

YOUTH CLUB

Join us!

Newcastle Parish Centre

February - Friday 7th & 21st

7:30pm - 9PM



from 4th Class to 1st year

Senior

YOUTH

Group

Sunday 9th February @
7pm - 8:30pm
Parish Centre

Karaoke & Pizza night!!

From 1st year up!

All warmly welcome!

SUNDAY

CLUB

FUN

GAMES

CREATE

Sunday 2nd & 16th February

St Matthew's Church at 11am!

Games

Treasure Hunts



Baking



Stories

Arts & Crafts

Come and join the fun!

Free Youth Guitar Lessons

Wednesday

7pm-7:45pm

Newcastle Parish Centre



Book Club

Wednesday 26th February

7:45-8:30pm

In the Parish Centre Youth Room

Refreshments provided!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

From 1st year students upwards!



If you would like to read along we are currently reading
Ready Player One by Ernest Cline!



St Matthews

Church cleaning and flower arranging

If you would like to help, it
would be greatly appreciated!
Please let one of our church
wardens know.
Thank you!



Newcastle Church

Church cleaning and flower arranging.

We'd be delighted with your help!

If you can help out, please add your name to the
rotas at the back of the church!

Thank you!



Around the Parishes Dec and Jan!



Carols by Candlelight in Newcastle



The Calvary star!



**Youth Group Nativity
in Newcastle village**

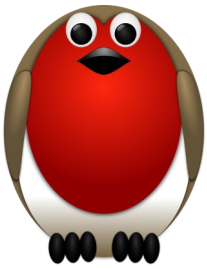




Beautiful Advent wreath and Christmas tree in St Matthew's church



Youth group Ice skating!



Sunday Club trees and bird feeders!



Puzzle Time

Consideration

Encouraging

Sensitivity

Thoughtful

Generosity

Compassion

Goodwill

Generous

Patience

Kindness

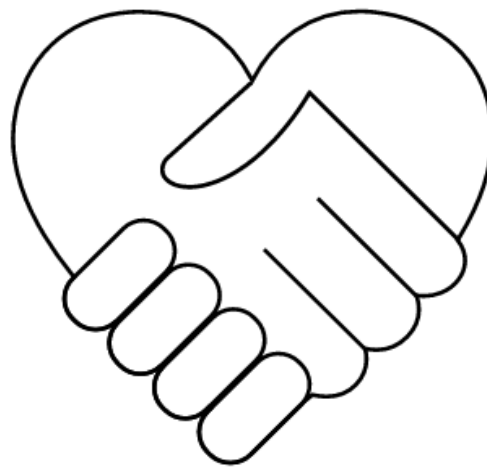
Empathy

Polite

Caring

Heart

Grace



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



Go for a walk as a family and use this guide to pray as you find each item



Bird - Thank God for promising to always be with us.



Bug - Ask God to heal those who are sick.



Red Flower - Ask God to protect those in the medical field.



Evergreen - Ask God to give leaders wisdom.



Nut/Seed - Ask God to take care of your family and friends.



Fallen leaf - Ask God to take care of your neighbors.



Butterfly - Ask God to use the church to share His love.



Yellow flower - Ask God to bring revival through this time.



CastleKidz Childcare

Parish Centre, Church Lane, Newcastle

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 places available

For information and booking:

Please contact Joanne on

087 7216929

Registered for National Childcare Scheme

Now taking bookings for September 2025

In honour of Carrot Cake Day! on February 3rd, 2025

Spiced Carrot & apple muffins

Ingredients

- 100ml rapeseed oil
- 100ml natural yogurt
- 50ml runny honey
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 200g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1½ tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 apple grated
- 1 carrot grated
- 50g sultanas, raisins, chopped nuts or seeds (optional)

Method

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a muffin tin with nine cases.

Mix the oil, yogurt, honey, eggs and vanilla in a jug.

In a bowl, combine the flour, bicarb, mixed spice and ¼ tsp salt. Pour the yogurt mixture into the flour mixture and add the apple and carrot.

Mix with a spatula until well combined, then spoon the mixture into the muffin cases.

Bake for 20-22 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the middle of a muffin comes out clean.

Leave to cool for at least 5 mins.

Can be stored in a tin for three days or frozen for two months; defrost overnight before serving.



ST. FRANCIS'
NATIONAL
SCHOOL



February is an exciting and busy month in St Francis'! They are continuing with their 'Air' theme and the whole school will visit Newcastle Airfield on the 5th February! They have had a talk by a storm chaser and will be visited by a retired pilot, they had owls in their classrooms and will have a kite making competition among other fun activities! On Friday 14th of February the PA and 6th class will host a 'Valentine's School Disco' funds go toward the 6th class end of year trip to Carlingford! Half term is from 17th-21st February. Our monthly whole school church assembly is on Friday 28th February in Newcastle Church at 9am and all are warmly welcome to attend!

Our Garden Birds

During the winter short days and long nights limit the time birds have to forage, while at the same time natural food becomes more scarce. Our garden birds have increasingly come to depend on the food we provide as an essential supplement to what they can find for themselves at this challenging time of year. According to bird conservation organisations like Birdwatch Ireland and the RSPB, it's a good idea to feed your garden birds throughout the year, but it's especially important to do so over the coldest, darkest months of winter (Dec – March). Small birds need to pack in enough calories during the few hours of daylight to see them through the long winter night ahead. Having a convenient, high-energy food source in your garden can literally mean the difference between life and death for some of them.

1. Place your feeders where you can see them

2. Once you start feeding, don't stop

3. Variety = diversity

If you want to attract more species the best way is to offer more variety in your feeders.

4. Quality, not quantity

Use a high quality bird seed mix it, generally has less "filler".

5. Don't forget the water!

6. Clean your feeders regularly.

7. Little and often

It's better to provide just enough food, and top up your feeders often.

8. If you see a sick or dead bird, do not touch it. Please report it to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine via their Avian Check app:

<https://aviancheck.apps.services.agriculture.gov.ie/report>



Pinecrest



Magpie



Field Sparrow



Robin



Blackbird



Sparrow



Redstart



Chaffinch



Blue Tit



Greenfinch



Jaybird



Great Tit



Blessing for St. Brigid's Day

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.

Amen.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

| DATE | CHURCH | TIME | ? | SERVICE | READING |
|--|--|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>Sunday 2nd</i> <i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i> | Calary United Service St Matthew's | 9:30 11am | RS RS | Holy Communion | Malachi 3: 1-5 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40 |
| <i>Sunday 9th</i> <i>The fourth Sunday before Lent</i> | Calary United Service St Matthew's | 9:30 11am | RS RS | Morning Prayer | Isaiah 6: 1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11 |
| <i>Sunday 16th</i> <i>The third Sunday before Lent</i> | Calary United Service St Matthew's | 9:30 11am | RS RS | Service of the word | Jeremiah 17: 5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6: 17-26 |
| <i>Sunday 23rd</i> <i>The second Sunday before Lent</i> | Calary United Service St Matthew's | 9:30 11am | RS RS | Family Service | Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-25 Psalm 65 Revelation 4 Luke 8: 22-35 |



Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday, with prayer for the sick, at 10.30am in St Matthew's.

Everyone is welcome for tea/coffee in the McLean Room after all services.

