



PARISH INFORMATION NEWS SHEET

Parish of Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy with Calary

MARCH 2013



Rector:
Rev William Bennett
087-9480317

Layreaders:
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Parish Administrator:
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Parish Websites:
www.newcastleparish.org
www.newtownmountkennedyparish.org
www.calaryparish.org



From the Rector's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

What a time we are living in! It surely has been, and is, a time of breaking records. Farmers will all agree that we have just experienced the wettest winter in living memory, in fact it has been the wettest for at least 100 years. As far as rain, flooding and drought are concerned it appears we can expect more of the same as global warming gets a firmer hold on our planet.

We are also experiencing a time of seismic change in many of the moral, cultural and social attitudes held for centuries. Long standing and seemingly solid structures around us like politics, financial institutions and religion, which were generally leaned heavily upon for security and identity, have come under severe strain and scrutiny. Words like paedophilia, incest and slavery were seldom heard, especially in religious circles. Now, unfortunately, the structures which were seen to provide society with stability, security and hope have been rocked to the core.

Many people have had their faith in God severely challenged by a totally unacceptable betrayal of trust by individuals in positions of power and masquerading as God's servants. Our hope and prayer must be that unfortunate individuals, who for years have lived in secret with embarrassment, stigma and shame, may find real acceptance, true Christian love and personal freedom from haunting memories of past experiences.

The example of Jesus is often far removed from what we who claim to follow him practice. The great problems we experience in society can usually be traced back to us straying far from the real gospel message. This message is a message of love demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our accepting of it also places the firm responsibility on us as we endeavour to follow him. This must affect our attitudes, standards, lifestyle and the way we treat others. Taking up 'The Cross' and following Him harks of very serious implications.

Our lifestyle, attitudes and relations with others should be guided by the greatest sermon ever preached, Matt. 5,6 &7, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The way Jesus would have us treat others, even our enemies, really brings a challenge. Perhaps the difficulties with the long-standing pillars of society would be non-existent if His words were lived out by us who claim to follow Him. God's standards don't change, people's do.

May we be willing to take up that Cross, whatever it means for us, to walk with Jesus even through the garden, to be identified with Him in His suffering and ultimately rejoice in the joy of the Resurrection.

God Bless,
William



NARNIA

Over 1,000 visitors have walked “through the picture frame” to enter the wonder-filled land of Narnia since the festival opened in Bray on Ash Wednesday, organisers have revealed. Narnia festival coordinator, the Revd Baden Stanley, said they have been delighted with the response so far.

“People have already visited from different parts of the country and have been amazed at what they have seen,” he said. “Particular favourites of the younger folk are Aslan the Lion, Eustace the Dragon and the White Witch’s sleigh. The older folk are enjoying the Waterfall and large ship. It seems we have captured a mood of wonder and optimism at a time when so many are struggling with huge daily issues.”

The Narnia Festival is being held in the Church of Ireland parish of Christ Church on Church Road, Bray, County Wicklow. It runs daily until Easter Sunday, March 31, (except on Saturday February 23, when there is a *Journey Through Narnia* Concert at 7.00 pm and Sunday March 3 when there will be a Confirmation Service).

For more information please visit www.christchurchbray.org or phone Baden on (087) 9484407.

Christening at Newcastle

17th February 2013

Faye Elizabeth Smyth,
daughter of Andrew and Julie,
Meadowlands, Prospect, Newcastle
Congratulations to Andrew and
Julie. We pray that Faye will grow
up to honour the promises made for
her at baptism and bring lots of fun
to her family.



Date for your Diary

The Annual Easter Vestry will be
held on Wednesday 10th April.
Keep the date free.

Coffee at the Cottage

Coffee at the Cottage continues on
a Tuesday morning. Drop in any
time from 10.30 and enjoy a warm
fire, interesting chat, a cup of
coffee or tea, toast and a range of
edible treats. Everyone welcome.

Lunch at the Cottage

This month's lunch will take place
at 1pm on 21st March and will
have an Irish theme. Book with
Karen to be certain of your place as
we have limited space and demand
is increasing. Cost is €7.50.

Quiet Time in Lent

Newcastle Church continues to be
open each Friday during Lent from
9am to 1pm for prayer and quiet
meditation.

Window in Newcastle Church

The stained glass window in the
chancel has been repaired. It's a
lovely job—have a look.

Trip to Israel

We wish the group travelling to the
Holy Land from 9th to 19th March
a safe trip and a memorable and
special time, especially Andy and
Cherry Sleeman, Sheila Cleary,
Marjorie Travers, and, of course,
their leader William.

EASTER PRAISE
NEWCASTLE BEACH 6.30am



Breakfast in the Cottage

Pop in to the cottage for breakfast from 8.40am on any last Thursday of the month before school assembly in the church

Coming Events

There are quite a few events planned for 2013, both social and fund- raising. The first half of the year will include a sing-along musical film night, a parish fair, a barbecue and a garden open morning. Needless to say, help with any of these events would be much appreciated. If you are planning an event for your group or club it might be best to check with Karen to make sure there are no clashes with dates.

Rotas

Thanks to Janet Johnston-Moore and Margaret Murphy for filling in the vacancies in the February rota. The March line-up of volunteers is sadly lacking. Please volunteer for cleaning or flower arranging in Newcastle Church. You never know, you may find you are an artist of a floral nature, and the cleaning is a couple of hours in the month. Many hands

Case of the Missing Key

The cleaning key for Newcastle Church is missing. If you used it or lent it to someone in the last quarter of 2012 please look it out and bring it back. You can't miss it—it's a huge heavy key with 'CLEANING' written on it.

Gospel Choir

There was a good turnout to hear the Wicklow Gospel Choir sing in Newcastle Church on Sunday 3rd February. Everyone agreed that it was an uplifting experience and a pleasure to join in the hymn singing. We look forward to a return visit.

Calling Gardeners

On the subject of upcoming events, if anyone is planting seeds, dividing plants, etc please keep some for the plant sale at the Parish Fair in May and again at the Open Garden in June. A little forward planning goes a long way.

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

Items must be received by MONDAY 25th March for publication

Clubs and Organisations

**Select Vestry Meeting
Thursday 21st March
at 8pm
in the McLean Room**

Bowls

The Bowls Club continues to meet on Thursday evenings in the School which may surprise anyone passing by who thought Bowls was a sober and serious game and hears the sound of hilarity issuing forth! We have fun, don't take it too seriously and enjoy each other's company.

However, the Club Tournament has begun and matches are being played as and when the competitors are around simultaneously and we aim to be finished by the beginning of May. Everyone plays in the Singles and the Mixed Pairs and a few matches have been played already.

We have a flourishing membership so the evening always start with general practice for all and the matches are usually played after the tea break.

If anyone would be interested in coming along to see how the game is played, they would be most welcome any Thursday at 8pm.

Creche

Creche is open in Rectory Cottage each Sunday during morning service in Newcastle Church. All pre-schoolers are welcome. As numbers attending have been very low since September there will be a meeting in the cottage on Monday 4th March at 7pm to discuss whether to continue with the current format of two volunteers each week, or leave the cottage open for parents to take their own children over during the service when needed. All views welcome.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held for children of school-going age in St Francis school during morning service in Newcastle Church on most Sundays, except during family service (see PINS for details).

Youth Club

8pm

Friday 1st March
Friday 15th March

Information

Paul 085-7871541



TENEBRAE SERVICE

Good Friday at 8pm

St Matthew's Church

Time Out

The Time Out group meets on a Tuesday night at 8pm in Rectory Cottage. Everyone welcome. There will be no meetings on Tuesdays 12th and 19th March.

Table Tennis

Table tennis continues in the McLean Room every Monday night from 8pm. Come and join the fun. Information from Heather at 087-9422172

Drama

In the manner of Groundhog Day, we hope to stage the parish play in late October. If you are one of our actors do not approach Karen if you hope to be away, sick, tired, studying, have a better offer, or up to any sort of skulduggery at that time. You could be inciting violence in the parish!



Walking Club

There is a small and interesting



group of people ready to put on their walking shoes and get fit. Due to work and social commitments we will make a start after summer time begins (March 31st), when we can head out in the lighter evenings. So still time to let Karen know at 087-2866889 that you want to join in with the craic.

Parent and Toddlers

Anyone with a baby or toddler is welcome to come to Parent and Toddlers on a Monday morning at Rectory Cottage from 10.30am. for tea, coffee, chat and a play.

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 in the McLean Room. All welcome!



CALARY NEWS

World Day of Prayer

This event will be held in Kilbride Church at 8pm on Friday 1st March. It will be based on a service devised by women from France.

Music in Calary

The programme of concerts for 2013 is being finalised and will be emailed to those on our list shortly. If anyone would like to receive emails about events in Calary, please let Derek know (details below).

Sunday School

Sunday School takes place every week, except when there is Family Service.

Parish Walk

There will be a walk round the reservoir at Roundwood after service on Sunday 24 March. More information will be available nearer the time, but all are welcome and can bring children, buggies and dogs as well.

Mothering Sunday

As with last last year, the men of the parish will be providing the after service food on 10th March.

Parish Supper

The next parish social event at Calary will be a supper on Friday 19 April. More information in next month's PINS.

Table Tennis

Table tennis continues every Thursday from 8pm.

On Monday 18 February, the Calary club hosted a social evening with their neighbours from Powerscourt. It was an extremely enjoyable evening with social table tennis and a delicious supper.



Annual Easter Vestry

The Calary Annual Easter Vestry will take place on Thursday 11t April. Please try to keep this date free in your diary.

Contact

If any Calary parishioner has anything that they would like to include in PINS, please contact Derek Neilson (01 2818118) or derekneilson@eircom.net



Traditional Irish Night

St. Francis' National School

Friday 15th March 2013 – 8pm

*Admission: Adults €10, Children €5,
Family price €25*

Bumper raffle on the night

All proceeds to St. Francis' National School



St. Francis' School Parents Association

PUB QUIZ & RAFFLE

**Friday 22nd March 8pm Sharp
The Castle Inn, Newcastle**

€20 per table of 4 or €5 per person (max 6 per table)



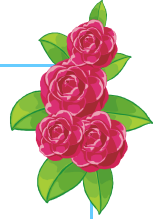
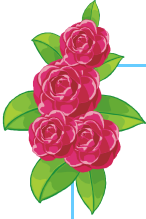
Don't worry if you can't get a full table together, come along anyway, as teams will also be made up on the night.

Bumper raffle.

All proceeds to St. Francis' National School



Children's Page



Good Enough

by *Belinda van Rensburg*

God wants me to be myself
For He created me this way,
And since God made me who I am,
Myself I'm quite content to stay.

In His eyes I'm good enough -
It matters not what others say;
I need not act as if I'm tough
Or copy other children's ways.

God doesn't care if I'm not cool -
If I'm not stronger; thinner;
In His hands I am a tool
To reach out to another sinner.

Though I am still young and small
In Jesus Christ I'm strong and tall;
So when people look at me
May it be God's own Son they see.

A little boy was attending his first wedding.

After the service, his cousin asked him,

"How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly.

"How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said.

*"All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said,
4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."*

SERVICES IN MARCH

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	?	SERVICE	READING
Sunday 3rd	Calary	9.30	WB	MP	<i>Is. 55:1-9</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	HC	<i>1 Cor. 10:1-13</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	HC	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>
Sunday 10th Mothers' Day	Calary	9.30	CT	MP	<i>1 Sam. 1:20-28</i> <i>Luke 2:33-35</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	CT	MP	
Sunday 17th St Patrick's Day	Calary	9.30	MC	FS	<i>Is. 43:16-21</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	MC	MP	<i>Phil. 3:4-14</i>
	Newcastle	12.00	MC	MP	<i>St John 12:1-8</i>
Palm Sunday 24th	Calary	9.30	WB	MP	<i>Matt. 21:1-11</i>
	St Matthew's	10.45	CT	MP	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	FS + Baptism	
Maundy Thursday 28th	Newcastle	20.00	WB	HC	
Good Friday 30th	St Matthew's	20.00	WB	Tenebrae	
Easter Sunday 31st	N/C Beach	6.30	WB	Easter Praise	<i>1 Cor. 15:19-26</i> <i>St John 20:1-18</i>
	Calary	9.30	WB	HC	
	St Matthew's	10.45	WB	HC	
	Newcastle	12.00	WB	Family Praise	