



PARISH OF CASHEL NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17TH DECEMBER 2017

FR. MERLYN KENNY-043 3325112

Third Candle - (Pink) The Shepherd Candle or the candle of Joy.



**Mass Times as follows:**

Saturday Vigil Mass: 8pm. Sunday: 10.30am.

Monday: 8pm. Tuesday & Thursday: Friday: 9.30am. No Mass on Wednesday.

**Masses for the Dead:**

Sat 16th Dec 8.00pm Frank Farrell, Derrygowan.

Sun 17th Dec 10.30am Nellie Brown, (1st anniv).

Mon 18th Dec 8.00pm James & Elizabeth Casey, Cornadough.

Also Elizabeth Casey, Carrowstrawley

Tues 19th Dec 9.30am Special Intention.

Thurs 21st Dec 9.30am Michael & Kitty Farrell, Longford.

Fri 22nd Dec 9.30am Special Intention. No 8pm Mass. Adoration as usual at 8.30pm

Sat 23rd Dec 8.00pm Mary Quigley (nee Moughty), Athlone, late of Dermacarr).

Sun 24th Dec 10.30am Mass for the people of the Parish.

Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass 8.00pm

Mon 25th Dec 10.30am Christmas Day Mass. No evening Mass.

**Confessions:** Newtowncashel Tuesday 7.30pm / Lanesboro Friday 7.30pm.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday 3pm-9pm and on Friday from 8.30pm-9pm.

**Rosary** continues on Saturday evenings at 7.40pm.

**New Roster:** The new Eucharistic Rosters commences with immediate effect. We sincerely thank all 26 Ministers for their service and dedication to this very special ministry. We welcome 4 new Ministers. Their commissioning service will take place on Sunday 28th January 2018 at the 10.30am Mass. After this service, these 4 new Ministers will take up their duty.

**Eucharistic Ministers' Roster:**

8.00pm Sat 23rd Dec Teresa Costello & Bernadette Farrell.

10.30am Sun 24th Dec Yvonne Kenny & Elizabeth Whittom.

8.00pm Sun 24th Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass - Monica Farrell & Kathleen Clarke.

10.30am Mon 25th Christmas Day - Oliver Costello & Teresa Farrell.

**Readers' Roster:**

8.00pm Sat 23rd Dec Gerard Brennan.

10.30am Sun 24th Dec Kate Bohan.

8.00pm Sun 24th Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass - Conor Skelly.

10.30am Mon 25th Christmas Day Joseph Kenny.

**County Longford Social Services** Church Gate Collection takes place this weekend.

**Reconciliation Service** in Newtowncashel Church on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm

**Priests present:** Fr. Michael Reilly, Fr. Tony Gilhooley & Fr. Merlyn Kenny.

**Reflection** - "Strongest Dad in the World" by Rick Reilly of Sports Illustrated

*Eighty five times* he's pushed his disabled son, Rick, 26.2 miles in marathons. *Eight times* he's not only pushed him 26.2 miles in wheelchair but also towed him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming and pedalled him 112 miles in a seat on handlebars - all in the same day. Richard also pulled him cross country skiing, taken him on his back mountain climbing and once hauled him across the U.S. on a bike. Makes taking your son bowling look a little lame, right? And what has Rick done for his father? - except save his life. The story began in Winchester, Mass., 43 years ago, when Rick was strangled by the umbilical cord during birth, leaving him brain-damaged and unable to control his limbs. "He'll be a vegetable for the rest of his life" Richard says experts told his wife Judy and himself when Rick was nine months old. Better to put him in an institution. But the Hoyts weren't buying it. They noticed the way Rick's eyes followed them around the room. When Rick was 11 they took him to the engineering department at Tufts University and asked if there was anything to help the boy communicate. "No way," Richard says he was told. "There's nothing going on in his brain." "Tell him a joke Richard countered. They did. Rick laughed. Turns out a lot was going on in his brain. Rugged up with a computer that allowed him to control the cursor by touching a switch with the side of his head, Rick was finally able to communicate. After a high school classmate was paralyzed in an accident and the school organized a charity run for him, Rick peeked out, "Dad, I want to do that." Yeah, right! How was Richard, a self-described "lazer", who never ran more than a mile at a time, going to push his son five miles? Still, he tried. "Then it was me who was ...." Richard says, "I was sore for two weeks." That day changed Rick's life. "Dad," he typed, "*when we were running, I felt like I wasn't disabled anymore*." And that sentence changed Richard's life. He became obsessed with giving Rick that feeling as often as he could. He got into such shape that he and Rick were ready to try the 1979 Boston Marathon. "No way," Richard was told by a race official. The Hoyts weren't quite a single runner, and they weren't quite a wheelchair competitor. For a few years Richard and Rick just joined the massive field and ran anyway. Then they found a way to get into the race officially. In 1983 they ran another marathon so fast, they made the qualifying time for Boston the following year. Then somebody said "Hey, Richard, why not a triathlon?" How's a guy that never learned to swim and hadn't ridden a bike since he was six going to haul his 110-pound kid through a triathlon? Still, Richard tried. Now they've done 212 triathlons, including four gruelling 15 hour "Ironmans" in Hawaii. It must be a killer to be a 25 year old getting passed out by an old guy towing a grown man in a dinghy, don't you think? Hey, Richard, why not see how you'd do on your own? "No way," he says. Richard does it purely for "the awesome feeling" he gets seeing Rick with a cantaloupe smile as they run, swim and cycle together. This year, at ages 65 and 43, Richard and Rick finished their 24th Boston Marathon, in 5,083rd place out of more than 20,000 starters. Their best time? Two hours, 40 minutes in 1992 - only 35 minutes off the world record, which, in case you don't keep track of these things, happens to be held by a guy who was not pushing another man in a wheelchair at the time. And Richard got something else out of all this too. Two years ago he had a mild heart attack during a race. Doctor's found that one of his arteries was 95% clogged. "If you hadn't been in such great shape," one doctor told him, "you probably would've died 15 years ago. So, in a way, Richard and Rick saved each other's life. Rick, who has his own apartment (he gets home care) and works in Boston, and Richard, retired and living in Holland, Mass., always find ways to be together. They give speeches around the country and compete in some backbreaking race every weekend, including this Father's Day. That night, Rick will buy his dad dinner, but the thing he really wants to give him is a gift he can never buy. "The thing I'd most like," Rick types, "is that my dad sit in the chair and I push him once."

**Moral:** Richard was a self-confessed lazy slob ... now he is a world renowned motivational speaker whose story will go down in history. The Lord who comes at Christmas has the power to transform my spiritual laziness. But will I allow the little baby in the stable move my heart like the child in this story did his dad's. If the great God of all Eternity dwelling in the defenceless tiny figure in the manger does not move me ... what will!