

*Anniversaries for Week Ending
February 21st & 22nd 2026*

Ballymurphy: Anniversary Mass:
**Margaret Dreelan & deceased members of the
Dreelan family**

Rathanna: Anniversary Mass:
Grazyna Jordon Woodlawn Borris

Borris: Month's Mind Mass
**Leo de Barra Mountmellick - formerly Upper
Cottages Borris**

**Bridget Murphy Ballinagrane
Bridie Doran Coonogue & deceased members of
the Doran family
John Joe Doyle Kilcoltrim
James Coady Jnr Upper Borris**

'A Time to Pull in our Nets and take stock'

A LETTER BY BISHOP DENIS TO THE PEOPLE & PRIESTS OF KILDARE & LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

February 2026

A few weeks ago, we welcomed the arrival of a New Year, many of us naturally look forward to what this New Year might bring. In 2022 the diocese took its theme from St. Luke's gospel, where the first disciples were asked to put out their nets for a catch (Luke 5:4). Now, early in 2026, we simply draw in the nets momentarily to reflect on what has been caught and to decide where our next journey might take us.

Sifting through our Nets

In the past year alone, we have seen twenty-five women and men commence formal training to become Lay Pastoral Ministers, specialising in either pastoral care or faith formation. In time they will support clergy and parish teams in many ways including sacramental preparation, catechesis, adult faith formation, liturgy, bereavement and funeral ministry and ministry to the elderly and the sick.

The past year has seen honest engagement by priests and deacons with a new language of 'Pastoral Area'. We welcomed the ordination last October of another five Permanent Deacons for service in our diocese. In June we hosted another very successful 'Parishes Alive' Day in

Carlow College, St. Patrick's. The theme was '*Moving Forward in Hope*' where parishioners learned from one another what gives life to their parish and what makes their parish distinct and special. Next June we will host the third in the series called '*Parishes Alive - Becoming Synodal*', with a particular focus on adopting a more Synodal way of being Church in the parish context.

In these early weeks of the New Year our Diocesan Pastoral Council is being renewed, our Council of Priests continues to grapple with matters of mutual concern to our clergy and people, and our Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation resumes training for various liturgical ministries following its very successful Liturgy Conference last September.

While rooted in the tradition of the Church, the call to Synodality from Pope Francis, and continued by Pope Leo, stands out as a seismic shift in how we are as Church and has inspired us to re-evaluate our mission, to haul in our nets, even if just for a moment.

Appreciating our Fishermen

As I travel around the diocese, visiting parishes, I meet many people and hear many things. I get a real sense of the gratitude among the people for their local priest. This gratitude translates to phrases like "he is our priest", "our man", along with the caveat "don't move him"! There is real affection for the local priest everywhere I go. While parishioners deeply appreciate their priest, the priest is equally appreciative of his

parishioners, and I hear this appreciation again and again at clergy gatherings.

With fewer priests it is increasingly challenging to provide a resident priest in every parish and there are a number of parishes now without a resident priest. I'm very conscious that there is a growing cohort of older men in active ministry; I want to assure them, this is not taken for granted and I know the affection and esteem in which each one is held.

As I have said on so many occasions, a priest is fully entitled to retire at 75, having given stellar service to God and His Church for so many years. Where a priest decides to retire, I will provide all the support I can to underpin this decision, including suitable accommodation.

While I acknowledge the work of these priests, we remember we have a shared responsibility to care for all our priests, especially our older men and I ask you to be reasonable in any requests made of the local priest; he will not and cannot reach on everything.

Letting our Nets down once again

The Final Document from the Universal Synod on Synodality emphasises a deeper understanding and appreciation of our baptism as a calling to be lived out fully and completely. As Church there will always be a need to refocus on our core mission, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. For too long we have been overly attentive to the 'maintenance' responsibilities to the neglect of evangelisation, spreading the Word. It is clear that all the baptised have a role in this

mission and we must do all we can to foster that sense of mission among all the faithful. All of us are called; all of us are chosen.

I see these as moments of transformation; with lay groups supporting the mission of the parish as clergy and laity work side by side, with an awareness of their baptismal calling. Out of this will emerge ministries to the bereaved and those in mourning; to our schools assisting in the sacramental programmes and to our parishes in the varied liturgical and pastoral ministries.

A New Language - Pastoral Areas

Pope Leo in speaking recently to clergy and parish representatives of the Diocese of Rome reminded them of the value of Pastoral Areas: “they are designed to better connect neighbouring parishes in a given territory with the centre of the diocese”. He went on to say, “we need to think and plan together, going beyond pre-established boundaries and experimenting with joint pastoral initiatives”. Our diocese of 56 parishes, 117 faith communities built around our churches, now consists of 11 Pastoral Areas, collaborative communities of 4 to 6 parishes.

A new model of Church is emerging with fewer clergy and greater lay involvement. It will no longer be possible to have a resident priest in every parish and diocesan appointments have become more challenging for me every year. I do not see this changing any time soon. Grouping parishes into pastoral areas allows for the considered deployment of clergy and lay ministers as well as providing improvements around training

and other supports. Already, it is so positive to see the richness of the collaboration of parish groups.

In Conclusion

Our diocese has a long and distinguished history of communicating our faith and staying connected to one another. The work of Faith Development Services along with the appointment of Pat Roche as Diocesan Director of Parish Development continues to emphasise the importance of supporting the local, while also being attentive to the bigger picture.

We should be under no illusion about the challenges ahead and the changes they will bring. With the reduction in the number of priests, it is not going to be possible to sustain the same number of Masses in every church. The Sunday Mass is what sustains a community, and we must consider a schedule of Masses that is more manageable for our clergy and our Pastoral Areas. I believe that lay led liturgies will become a feature of parish life now and into the future, giving parishioners a vital opportunity to come together in prayer.

I ask you all to continue to support and pray for our priests and parish groups and to be generous and welcoming to those who volunteer to take on additional roles in our parishes. May St. Brigid, St. Conleth, and St. Lasarian guide our next steps as we continue to put out our nets for a further catch.

Every blessing,

 Denis Nulty

Safeguarding

The Parish of Borris in common with all other parishes is committed to safeguarding the children of their parish.

If you are concerned about the welfare & safety of children or vulnerable adults contact:

Director of Safeguarding: Ms. Michele Hughes
Mob: 086-171 0643 or Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

Do you have a Notice for the Parish News?

If your group / club / organisation has a notice that they wish to be included in the Parish News please forward the details to borrisparish@gmail.com by 12 noon on Thursdays for inclusion in the following week's edition.

The Parish News can be found on the Parish Website www.borrisparish.ie and on various local Facebook pages. Inclusion in the Parish News is at the discretion of the editor. Fr Rory

Important Dates in the Parish of Borris 2026

Mass of the Holy Angels

Remembering children who died before and after birth

Wednesday 16th November
7.30pm
Sacred Heart Church Borris

Mass for those who Died during the Year

Wednesday 25th November
7.30pm
Sacred Heart Church Borris

First Holy Communion 2026

Saturday 9th May 11am St. Patrick's Church Ballymurphy
Saturday 16th May 11am Sacred Heart Church Borris

Cemetery Masses & Blessing of Graves*

Kiltennyel Cemetery

Sunday 21st June 12.30pm
Rosary & Blessing of Graves

Sacred Heart Cemetery Borris

Friday 26th June 7.30pm
Mass & Blessing of Graves

Clonagoose Cemetery

Friday 3rd July 7.30pm
Mass & Blessing of Graves

Rathanna Cemetery

Sunday 2nd August 3pm
Mass & Blessing of Graves

Ballymurphy Cemetery

Sunday 30th August 3pm
Mass & Blessing of Graves

****Subject to Weather on the Day/Evening***

Baptized and Sent

A programme of prayer and reflection on the Gospel Readings for Lent. **Continues on Thursday evenings in the meeting room above the Sacristy in Glynn Church from 7:30pm to 8:15pm.** An opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in the world of 2026. All are welcome. Programme.

Masses in our Deanery/Pastoral Area

Borris Parish Mass Times

Weekly Mass Times

Saturday	Ballymurphy	7.30pm
Sunday	Rathanna	9.30am
	Borris	11.00am
Wednesday	Borris	10.00am
Friday	Borris	7.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris each Wednesday after the 10am mass until 1.00pm.

Graiguenamanagh Mass Times

Saturday: **Mass in Duiske Abbey at 7.00pm**

Sunday: **Mass in Skeoughvosteen at 9.30am**
Mass in Duiske Abbey at 11.00am

Monday to Friday: **Mass in Duiske Abbey at 10am**

St. Mullins Mass Times 2026

Saturday: Mass in Drummond at 7.00pm

Sunday: Mass in Glynn at 10.00am

Wednesday: Mass in Drummond 9.30am

Holydays of Obligation Masses in Drummond at 10am

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in
Drummond Church every Thursday at 2-3pm.
The church is open every day for private visits.*

Paulstown Mass Times

Saturday: Mass in Goresbridge at 7.30pm

**Sunday: Mass in Goresbridge at 10.00am
Mass in Paulstown at 11.30am**

Bagenalstown Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

13th June 2026 for 5 nights.

Group Leader: Geraldine Monahan.

**For Information see the poster on the Notice Board in
Borris, Rathanna & Ballymurphy Churches.**

To make further enquiries contact Geraldine Monahan at
087 416 6808.

There is also info for making Bookings with:

Joe Walsh Tours 01 241 0800

or email: info@joewalshtours.ie

I look forward to joining this pilgrimage myself! Fr Rory

Borris Active Retirement

Borris Active Retirement group meet each Monday in the Library in Borris from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. New members are always welcome...from 55 years upwards! It may be a chance to get out of the house for an hour or two to meet and to chat with others, especially now as the long evenings draw in.

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme launched in March 2024 following the Government agreed actions arising from the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes and certain related matters.

The Payment scheme provides financial payments, and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland.

Eligibility criteria can be found online, (website below) or by post.

Visit: www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/

**Contact Helpline: 01 522 9922
(call to request application pack)**

*All applications are handled
with care, dignity and full confidentiality.*

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in our hour of battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.

Come and See

Men & Women, aged 18-40, interested in exploring the Carmelite Way of Life with Carmelite Friars and Nuns.

Where? Avila Carmelite Centre, Dublin, DO4 YF66.

When? 28th February 2026, 10:30am – 4pm.

COST FREE. Light lunch provided.

Please Register Before 25th February by email
opendayAvila@gmail.com

Nuns: www.carmelitesisters.ie

Friars: www.ocd.ie

Forever Fit Carlow

Balance and resistance training Borris, Myshall, Carlow & Tullow

Further information: Email: foreverfitcarlow@gmail.com
Phone: 085 801 4138

Family Carers Ireland

Family Carers Ireland have launched their Christmas Raffle and you could win €1,000 cash, €500 select hotels voucher or a hotel voucher.

Please support family carers in your community by purchasing a ticket at www.familycarers.ie/christmas

Thank You!

Ireland Reads Day

Ireland Reads Day takes place this Saturday 28th February, Exciting events are planned for all ages to celebrate reading, books, and literature right here in County Carlow.

On Saturday 28th February at 11am join Wibbly Wobbly Wendy for an interactive storytime in Carlow Central Library at 11am (No Booking Required), Wibbly Wobbly Wendy will

be getting up to her usual antics to entertain children aged 2 to 12 and their parents!

On Saturday 28th February at 12pm there will be a very special Lunchtime in the Library talk with crime author Patricia Gibney in Carlow Central Library's historic Shaw Room. Patricia is the multi-million-copy bestselling author of the Detective Lottie Parker series.

Booking is required for the Patricia Gibney talk. Email library@carlowcoco.ie to reserve your free seat!

Elsewhere in the county on the day, there will be a special Fairyland Stories & Rhymes session in Muinebheag library at 11am, kids 3+ & their parents/guardians (No Booking Required) and

Songs and Stories with Ali in Borris library at 11am, kids of all ages & parents/guardians (No Booking Required)

Library News

Get 7-day access to your local library, 8am to 10pm!

My Open Library is the self-service initiative that lets you use library facilities beyond regular opening hours from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week!

At participating libraries during these times, you can Borrow and return books; Read and Study in a quiet space; Access Wi-Fi and computers; Print, scan and photocopy; Use meeting Spaces

My Open Library operates 365 days a year and is simple and free to use, Register today at your local participating library.

My Open Library is operating in Tullow, Bagenalstown & Borris Library Branches,

For more info:

Drop in to Tullow Library
Or contact us on 059 913 6299

Drop in to Muinebheag Library
Or contact us on 059 912 9703

Drop in to Borris Library
Or contact us on 059 9170350

Epilepsy Awareness Day “Purple Day”

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy.
For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie.

**Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day)
will take place on
Thursday 26th March.**

Zumba Classes

Join the party! Get fit! Have Fun! Starting 17th February 2026 in Borris Town Hall from 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Adult Zumba Classes

For further information contact: **Sinéad on 086 229 4546**

Totus Tuus 2026 Fatima Pilgrimage

The **Totus Tuus Annual Pilgrimage to Fatima** will take place from **28th August to 4th September**.

Learn about the Fatima Message, the Rosary, the First Saturdays, the lives of the three visionaries, and visit the tomb and home of Blessed Alexandrina Da Costa, who lived solely on the Eucharist for 13 years.

The cost is €915 which includes, flights, half board accommodation, airport transfers, day trip to Balasar, trip to Valinhos and Adjustrel, trip to the Irish Dominican Sisters' Convent.

There are places available to fly from Cork Airport, and also from Dublin Airport. Limited places are available.

For more information call Damien on 087 20 49 048

Table Quiz

Garryhill ICA will host a Table Quiz in the Hunters Rest Fenagh at 8.30pm on Thursday 5th March 2026

All Welcome

Prizes galore

Radio Maria Ireland

Radio Maria Ireland is a Catholic Radio Station. It offers prayers, teachings, and music to deepen one's faith, and encourages us to keep growing in the faith on a daily basis.

We broadcast 24/7, on three pillars being that of

1. Prayer & Catechesis,
2. Music
3. Human Formation.

Further information can be found on www.radiomaria.ie.

You can listen to Radio Maria:

1. via Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210
2. Download our FREE App “RADIO MARIA IRELAND”

3. Streaming on our WEBSITE - www.radiomaria.ie
4. Via our 'Listen Live Radio' link on our Facebook Page.
 5. Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).
 6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death." 'Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.'

The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
 put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
 nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me again the joy of your help;
 with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
 and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given.

There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous.

Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.