

PARISH NEWS

The Baptism of the Lord 11th January 2015

Water of Life

Water, water everywhere! For a natural resource, water can be very controversial, even a political issue, as we have discovered in Ireland in recent years. After all, we need water to stay alive. And as we know, sadly there are people in many parts of the world for whom clean drinking water is a struggle.

Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Old and New Testament, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life, an opportunity for God to teach us something, as well as a means of cleansing or purification.

Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, when Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Water is a powerful symbol in Baptism; when the priest pours water over the child or adult being baptised, it is a sign that our sins are being washed away and that we are entering a new spiritual life. This gift is freely available to us throughout our lives. In today's First Reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'.

Collections: w/e 28th Dec 2014 & 4th Jan 2015 Envelopes €2020 Baskets €1255

No. Of Envelopes Returned 147 Direct Debits 9

Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish

Mass Schedule:

Mass at 7.30pm on Mon 12th Jan & Fri 16th Jan

Mass at 9am Tues 13th – Thurs 15th Jan Incl.

Visitation Of The Sick Fr. John will visit the sick on his list on Tuesday 13th Jan in the Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas and in Borris on Wed 14th Jan.

St. Vincent de Paul If you need help after Christmas with food or fuel, or if you would like someone to talk to or to visit you please contact your local St. Vincent de Paul at **086-1041800**.

The **Eist Carlow Cancer Support** Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9.30a.m. - 4.00p.m. daily. Please contact the Centre for further information at (059) 9139684 or e-mail eistcarlowcancersupport.ie

Borris Parish Website : www.borrisparish.ie Diocesan website www.kandle.ie
Parish Centre: The Parish Centre is open as usual Mon. – Fri. from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.
Phone 059 9773128; email borrisparish@gmail.com Closed Bank Holidays

Tax Refund – As a result of our claim under the scheme for tax relief for Donations to Eligible Charities for the tax year 2013, a refund of €10,335.21 (to date) has been paid into the parish account by Revenue. Thank you very much to all who contributed so generously to the parish funds and who co-operated to this scheme.

Christmas Day Collection for the Priests I would like also to thank all those who contributed so generously to the Priests' collection on Christmas day. This generosity is greatly appreciated.

Fr. John O'Brien P.P.

A **Training Night** for Leaders of the Confirmation Programme 'You Shall Be My Witnesses' shall take place in Ionad Dara, Goresbridge, on Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.30pm.

DANCE CLASSES: Social Beginners 6 week dance course commencing Thursday 22nd January 2015 8.00 to 9.00pm. Quick Step, Old Time Waltz, Jive, etc. Registration and course payment on the night. No Partner required. Get fit and learn to dance for that special occasion. Absolute Beginners. Great fun for all. For Information phone Fiona 0872727315, Academy of Dance, Green Lane Carlow.

Aspiro – Ireland's leading choir for children & young people finally recruiting new members in 2015. Classes resume Tuesday 13th January. Limited number of places available in all groups. New Aspiro initiative for Pre-School age 3+ started in September 2014 - contact info@aspirochoir.ie.

Blood Donor Clinic Wednesday 14th & Thurs 15th January from 4.30pm to 8.00pm in the Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge. The IBTS is at present experiencing difficulty in collecting enough voluntary blood donations in order to meet hospital requirements of 3,000 units of blood a week.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

NEW YEAR BLESSING

Thank you lord for giving me the brand new year ahead. Help me to live the way I should as each new day I tread. Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend. Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend. The year ahead is empty help me to fill it with good things. Each new day filled with joy and the happiness it brings. Please give the leaders of our world a courage born of peace that they might lead us gently and all the fighting cease. Please give to all upon the earth a heart that's filled with love. A gentle happy way to live with your blessings from above. The new year lies before you, like a spotless tract of snow. Be careful how you tread on it, for every mark will show. Birds singing their song loud and clear, announcing to the world a new year is here. I wish you health so you may enjoy each day in comfort. I wish you the love of friends and family and peace within your heart. I wish you the beauty of nature that you may enjoy the work of god. I wish you the wisdom to choose priorities for those things that really matter in life. I wish you generosity so you may share all good things that come to you. I wish you happiness and joy and blessings for the New Year. I wish you the best of everything that you so well deserve.

HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR