

PARISH NEWS

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th February 2017

Going Deeper

This Sunday we have a third extract from the Sermon on the Mount. It can appear at first glance to be a series of moral statements and rules from Jesus. On closer reflection we can see Jesus' message here is the call for each of us to 'go deeper'. The Scribes and the Pharisees followed the letter of the law but without depth. Jesus is clear that he has not come to demolish the law, rather, this whole passage is a call to a more profound reflection on our lives; not ticking boxes but moving towards a deeper change of heart in dealings with others. Jesus gives many examples of how people might do this: warning against the hypocrisy of offering gifts and rituals at the altar when we may have huge anger and resentment towards another. Is the real sacrament not in reconciling that relationship first? Which offering is more life-giving? It is not enough to 'not murder', but we must watch our anger which can lead to violence. Jesus is calling on people to watch their thoughts which can lead to serious actions like murder and adultery.

When we encounter Christ, the grace that this experience brings can make us aware of what is not ok in our lives. We are called to a radical conversion, a change of heart. And so we read today's passage with our hearts, not our heads. It may help to recall a time when you felt God's grace bringing you to a deeper realisation about your life.

Collections: 5th Feb Envelopes €597 Baskets €728

No of Envelopes 68 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Mon 13th Feb & Fri 17th Feb at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 14th - Thurs 16th Feb 9am
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 11th Feb Group 2

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION – Service of Light will take place for Confirmation Candidates on Wednesday 15th February in The Sacred Heart Church, Borris at 7.30pm

Message from Fr. John

Some of you have probably heard that I haven't been too well lately. Just to let you know it is not "fake" news, it is true. I have testicular cancer and next Monday I will go to Vincent's hospital to get 5 days of chemotherapy, then two weeks off, another 5 days and two weeks off and then another five days and two weeks off. The two weeks that I am off I will be resting in my house in Portlaoise. They are hoping after 3 months that it will be reduced to nothing. The oncologist I spoke with last week was very confident of the outcome and I am also very confident. I would like to thank you very much for all your best wishes and continue to pray for me. As Dr. Michael Byrne reminded me I am in the hands of a very powerful and good God.

God bless you and I will keep you posted on my recovery. Fr. John

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre: Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday - Friday
Phone 059 9773128; email borrisparish@gmail.com Closed Bank Holidays.

Dates for Your Diary

Confirmation Borris 1st April 11am
First Holy Communion Borris Sat. 6th May 11am

Inaugural Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017

Led by the Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin Most Reverend Denis Nulty
16th July 2017 - 5 Nights €719 per person sharing, Flights, Transfers Full Board & Accommodation included. Full details available at the Parish Office or Joe Walsh Tours
Dedicated Assisted Section for Sick Pilgrims, Pilgrimage Director Fr. Paddy Byrne

The **Ecumenical Carol Service** with Killedmond Church in St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna on Thursday 15th December raised €200 for the Jacket Off Your Back Charity, a Carlow based Charity for Homeless & Refugees.

Pre-Marriage Courses

Couples getting married in the Catholic Church are required to do a Pre-Marriage Course Accord Carlow are now taking bookings for the following courses: April 7th & 8th, May 5th & 6th, June 9th & 10th. Couples getting married this summer or early autumn should book one of the above now. There will be no courses in July & August. **Bookings can be made on www.accord.ie or for further information contact Mary at 059 9138738**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

World Day of the Sick Saturday 11th February

Illness, above all grave illness, always places human existence in crisis and brings with it questions that dig deep. Our first response may at times be one of rebellion: Why has this happened to me? We can feel desperate, thinking that all is lost, that things no longer have meaning...

In these situations, faith in God is on the one hand tested, yet at the same time can reveal all of its positive resources. Not because faith makes illness, pain, or the questions which they raise, disappear, but because it offers a key by which we can discover the deepest meaning of what we are experiencing...

For our loved ones who suffer because of illness we ask first for their health. Jesus himself showed the presence of the Kingdom of God specifically through his healings: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Mt 11:4-5). But love animated by faith makes us ask for them something greater than physical health: we ask for peace, a serenity in life that comes from the heart and is God's gift, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, a gift which the Father never denies to those who ask him for it with trust.

From the 2017 message, Pope Francis offers this prayer:

Mary, our Mother,

in Christ you welcome each of us as a son or daughter.

Sustain the trusting expectation of our hearts,
succour (help) us in our infirmities and sufferings,
and guide us to Christ, your Son and our brother.

Help us to entrust ourselves to the Father who accomplishes great things.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK