

# PARISH NEWS

## Second Sunday of Lent

12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**'Stand up. Do not be afraid.'**

The disciples will need to remember this advice from Jesus. There are much darker days to come for them, and they will need every bit of courage they can muster. As Jesus moves ever closer to death, they will be scared and will desert Jesus, Peter even denying him. We will make this journey alongside the disciples on Good Friday.

But they will remember the brightness of this day. When Jesus is transfigured before them on the mountain, his face shines 'like the sun' and his clothes are 'as white as the light'. White is the colour of heavenly garments – it is a sign that it is God who is speaking. It is this light that will carry them onwards, during their time with Jesus and through the dark hours leading up to his death.

The Transfiguration is recalled later in Mathew's Gospel, after Jesus rises from the dead. When the women go to the tomb, they are greeted by an angel whose appearance is 'like lightening' and his clothing 'white as snow'. The disciples are once again directed to a mountain location, where Jesus appears to them to pass on their mission and assure them of his presence with them always.

So we have two mountain tops, and two reassuring messages from Jesus. 'Do not be afraid. I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

**Collections:** 5<sup>th</sup> Mar Envelopes €470 Baskets €592  
No of Envelopes 71 Direct Debits 3  
Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish

**Mass Schedule:** Mass on Mon 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Mass Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> & Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March 9am

**Vigil Mass** on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Mar in Ballymurphy at 7.30pm. Mass in Rathanna at 9.30am & in Borris at 1pm (to accommodate the Parade) on **St. Patrick's Day Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Mar Group 2

Memorial Mass for **Breda Nolan** in B.V.S. on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Gym Hall.  
All Welcome

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

**Borris Parish Website:** [www.borrisparish.ie](http://www.borrisparish.ie) **Diocesan Website:** [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

### *Dates for Your Diary*

Confirmation Borris Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> April 11am

First Holy Communion Borris Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> May 11am

### **Confirmation Preparation 2017**

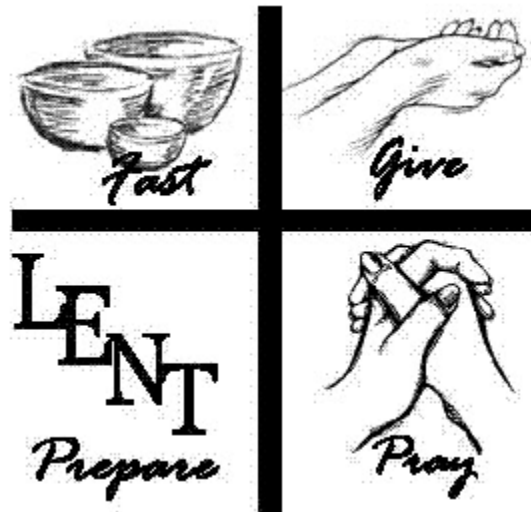
15<sup>th</sup> March Confirmation Penitential Service

## Inaugural Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017

Led by the Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin Most Reverend Denis Nulty  
16<sup>th</sup> 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

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

#### The Meaning of the Word Lent



The English word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten*, meaning 'Spring'. In other languages the word comes from the Latin, *Quadragesima* – a period of 40 days. In the Christian tradition the forty days is understood to refer to a time of intense prayer and preparation; we remember the biblical stories of Noah and the flood of 40 days, the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and Christ's forty day fast in the desert in preparation for his earthly ministry.

#### Things to know about Lent:

Lent exists for the sake of Easter! It is the forty-day period of preparation for the Church's celebration of Easter.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year, March 1) and ends before Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (this year, April 13).

Lent has six Sundays (Palm Sunday being the sixth Sunday.)

There is a double focus in Lent – **baptism** and **penance**. It is the final stage of preparation for adults who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil. For those of us already baptised it is a time to recall our baptism and prepare to renew it at Easter.

Lent calls us to a time of self-reflection, penance, and turning back to God as we ready ourselves to renew our baptism.

It is a time to reflect on God's word to us in our lives today, to **pray, fast** and reach out to others in **charitable action**.

We can look at Lent as a communal journey of the Christian community back to God...our **annual retreat** culminating in the joy of Easter.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK