

# PARISH NEWS

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## Rejoice!

In his poem *Japanese Maple*, Clive James offers a heartrending description of some of the beauty he observes during what he believes are his final days.

*You feel the drain  
Of energy, but thought and sight remain:  
Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see  
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls  
On that small tree  
And saturates your brick garden walls*

Faced with his mortality, the poet was able to celebrate and take pleasure in the simplest things. The poem radiates with acceptance and a certain contentment as he reflects on the world and its 'sweet beauty'. (A year later he wrote of his embarrassment at still being alive after the attention the poem garnered!)

Today is *Gaudete* Sunday; the day takes its name from the Latin *Gaudete* meaning 'Rejoice'. The first line of our Second Reading uses the word 'happy' twice and 'happiness' once. This happiness Paul speaks of is not a passing mood, but a deeper happiness and contentment, a peace of heart. Do we take the time to cultivate this deeper sense of happiness? It is something we can think about as we prepare for Christmas. It is not the gifts and festivities that will bring us true and lasting happiness.

**Collections:** 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. Envelopes €474      Baskets €519

No of Envelopes 66      Direct Debits 4

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

### Mass Schedule:

Mass on Mon 14<sup>th</sup> & Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 7.30pm

Mass at 9am on Tues 15<sup>th</sup> to Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Station Masses :** The Station Mass for the Borris area is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 7.30pm, the Station Mass for Ballymurphy is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 7.30pm and for Rathanna is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am

**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](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)

*There are Divine Word Missionaries Christmas Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquets for sale in the Parish Centre.*

**Carols By Candlelight** Join Borris Vocational School Choirs & The Borris Male Choir & The Borris Female Choir for A Magical Evening of Music & Song in the Sacred Heart Church , Borris @ 7.30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Visiting the Sick** Fr. John will visit the sick on his list on Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Ballymurphy and Rathanna areas and on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December in the Borris area.

**EIST Cancer Support Centre upcoming Events** EIST Celebration of Christmas Variety Concert in Arboretum Garden Centre Leighlinbridge on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm. For further details please contact the Eist Cancer Support Centre which opens at 10.00 am to 4 pm Monday to Thursday and 10.00 am to 1.00 pm of Fridays. Telephone Number **059 9139684**. Or check out our Facebook page or web site.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December** Ecumenical Carol Service with Killedmond Parish in Killedmond Church at 8pm.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** Penitential Service in The Sacred Heart, Borris, at 7.30pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December** Confessions on Christmas Eve The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.30 – 12.00 & Vigil Mass at 7.30pm

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

St. Patrick's Church, Ballymurphy 8.30am

St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna 9.30am

The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.00 am

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December** St. Stephen's Day – No Mass

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December** Feast of the Holy Family

St. Patrick's Church, Ballymurphy 8.30am

St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna 9.30am

The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.00 am

**Vigil Mass** St. Patrick's Church, Ballymurphy 7.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**January 6<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Epiphany**

St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna 9.30am

The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.00 am

**Carlow Choral Society** celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a special performance of Handel's Messiah by candlelight in Carlow Cathedral on Saturday, 12th December, at 8.00pm. Conducted by Niall Kinsella, with the Irish Choral Sinfonia and soloists, Sandra Oman, Raphaela Mangan, Julian Hubbard and Gyula Nagy. Tickets are €18 / €15 (concessions) and are available on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie) and on [www.carlowchoralsociety.com](http://www.carlowchoralsociety.com) and from choir members.

The new series of *What in the World?* starts on RTÉ One Television from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 11.15pm. Please consult the schedule at <http://www.rte.ie/tv/>

### *Vocation Views*

**Third Sunday of Advent (12/13/15)**

"What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18)

## *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

### **CHRISTMAS REFLECTION**

There is an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into the world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with special act of love to bestow. No one else can speak my message or sing my song, or offer my act of love. These are entrusted only to me. According to this tradition, the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love delivered only to a few, or to all the folk in small town, or to all the people in the whole world. It all depends on God's unique plan for each person. At this holy time of Christmas when we are recalling the fact that God so loved the world that he sent his Son into the world for us, I want to say Your message will be heard in many hearts, your song will bring warmth to the world and your love will brighten the darkness.

**John Powell S.J.**

*HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK*