PARISH NEWS

Fifth Sunday of Lent 13th March 2016 Open the Doors

Today marks the third anniversary of the election of Pope Francis. His papacy has been marked by a focus on openness, forgiveness, and mercy – a special year to receive blessing from God and remission of sins.

Some of us will make a pilgrimage during this year to one of the many holy doors in our cathedrals and churches. Pope Francis has called on Catholics around the world to use the occasion to open wide the doors of their hearts to forgive others and not to exclude them. 'When we go through that door, it is good to remember that we must also open wide the doors of our heart,' he said, suggesting that before passing through the Holy Door, people should pray: 'Lord, help me to open the doors of my heart!'

'The holy year won't be very effective if the doors of our heart do not let Christ enter, who pushes us to go towards others, to bring him and his love.

Therefore, as the holy door remains open because it is the sign of the welcoming that God himself reserves for us, so also our doors-those of the heart-must always be open to not exclude anyone. Not even those that bother me. No one!

It is very much in the tradition of today's Gospel, where we meet a Jesus who is merciful to sinners, and who challenges us all to look at our own attitudes and our tendency to judge others.

Collections: 6th March Envelopes €428 Baskets €582 No of Envelopes 56 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule: Mass 7.30pm Mon 14th & Fri 18th March Mass at 9am Tues 15th March

St. Patrick's Day Schedule: Vigil Mass in Ballymurphy on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm. Mass in Rathanna at 9.30am & in Borris at 1pm (to accommodate the parade) on St. Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March.

Masses during Lent will be at 7.30pm on Mondays & Fridays and at 9.00am from Tuesday to Thursday. There are many positive ways of marking Lent as special. Some possible ways are:

- For those who travel to work, to make the effort to get up half an hour earlier to attend Mass
- ❖ For those who are retired or unemployed, to make an effort and make a daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament
- For families, to say the Rosary together daily or even a decade a day.

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.
The Parish Centre will be **closed** on Friday 18th March, and also from Good Friday 25th March to Tuesday 29th March (Incl).

Attention All Eucharistic Ministers During Holy Week on Holy Thursday we will have a special commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. At the end of the commissioning we will issue certificates to all our Eucharistic Ministers.

On **Wednesday 16th March at 8.30pm** we will have a Refresher Course for all our Eucharistic Ministers. The meeting will take place in the Parish Centre.

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Catholicism Journey Around the World and Deep into the Faith - Join us every **Monday** night during Lent for this incredible Journey on DVD in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris after the 7.30pm Mass.

<u>Pilgrimage to Medjugorje & Dubrovnik from the 14th. September – 21st. September.</u> If you are interested in taking part in the pilgrimage we would appreciate if you could let Tully's know as soon as possible as they need to make reservations in the hotels etc. Phone Donna (059-9136100) in Tully's Travel Carlow.

Trocaire "He went off, went off weeping, carrying the seed. He comes back, comes back singing, bringing in his sheaves." Psalms 126:6. Many people in Kenya have sown their crops not knowing if there will be a harvest to bring in to feed their families. However your support has ensured that with irrigated lands many farmers there are now able to sow in confidence of harvesting a good crop. Joseph Iriri is one of those farmers who has seen his family transformed because a Trócaire irrigation scheme means he can not only feed his children but now afford to send them to school. Find out more at www.trocaire.org

Pre-Marriage Courses

Couples getting married in the Catholic Church are required to attend a Pre-Marriage Course If you intend to get married this summer or early autumn 2016 you should now book a Pre-Marriage Course Accord Carlow have places available on the following courses at St Catherine's Community Centre Carlow April 8th & 9th, May 6th & 7th, June 10th & 11th .There will be no courses in July & August Booking can be made on line at www.accord.ie or phone Mary at 059 9138738 for further information



A Message to You from Bishop Denis

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to come to Carlow for this year's celebration of the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral. During this Mass the Holy Oils that will be used across the diocese in baptisms, confirmations, ordinations and anointing of the sick will be blessed and the priests of the diocese will renew their vows of ordination. We will be led in song on the night by the Diocesan Choir, and I am delighted that many of our young pilgrims going to World Youth Day this Summer will be with us also. I look forward to meeting and saying hello to as many of you as possible after the

Mass over a cuppa next door in Carlow College. So put the date in your calendar because your presence will make all the difference! +Bishop Denis

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This week we will celebrate the fifth-century mission of Patrick to the Irish. But, like any vocation, or way of life, Patrick's sense of mission only unfolded gradually. He tells us in his *Cofessio*: 'I was not quick to accept what [the Lord] showed me, and so the Spirit prompted me. The Lord was merciful to me a thousand times, because he saw in me that I was ready, but that I did not know what I should do about that state of my life.....I was not quick to recognise the grace that was in me'.

Lord, help us to recognise the grace that is in each one of us.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK