

PARISH NEWS

Third Sunday of Advent 14th December 2014

'A witness to speak for the light'

There is so much darkness around us: in the Church, in the troubled parts of the world, in our own families and even in our own hearts. It is easy to become cynical. The Gospel today tells us that John the Baptist was someone who was 'a witness to speak for the light.' He gave hope to people. We can think of many people in society today who witness to the light. One that comes to mind is Malala Yousafzai. Malala was shot by the Taliban on her way to school in Pakistan. She was targeted for speaking out on the rights of women to education. She has said: 'We realise the importance of our voices only when we are silenced. I was shot on a Tuesday at lunchtime, one bullet, one gunshot heard around the world.' Malala was in her chemistry class when she heard she was to be the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. She celebrated by going on to a physics class.

Look around your families and communities and you will see many who witness to the light. We each have the capacity to do the same, however dark the situation may be. The Gospel challenge is to bring hope and good news. We should take example from the Malala's of the world.

'They bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light always shines, a light that darkness cannot overpower, and therefore we can all believe again.' **Michel de Verteuil**

Collections: 7th & 8th Dec 2014 Envelopes €496 Baskets €667

No. Of Envelopes Returned 70 Direct Debits 6

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

Mass Schedule: Mass at 7pm on Mon 15th Dec. & 7.30pm on Fri 19th Dec.
Mass at 9am Tues 16th to Thurs 18th Dec (Incl.)

There are **Divine Word Christmas Cards & Christmas Bouquets** for sale at the Parish Centre.

Visitation of The Sick Fr. John will visit the sick people on his list on Tuesday 16th Dec. in Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas and on Wednesday 17th Dec. in the Borris area.

St. Vincent de Paul are having their church gate collection in the Parish this weekend, please give generously. If you need help at Christmas with food, toys, fuel, or if you would like someone to talk to or to visit you please contact your local St. Vincent de Paul at 085-1381113.

What in the World? The RTE series on globalisation, poverty and human rights is back on Monday 1 December and continues every Monday until 22 December.

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.

Station Masses On Sat 13th Dec. the people of Ballymurphy Station area will be remembered in the 7.30pm Mass. On Sun. 14th Dec. the people of Rathanna Station area will be remembered in the 9.30am Mass. Borris area Station Mass is on Friday 19th December at 7.30pm. There is an envelope in your boxes for these Masses.

Christmas Penitential Service is on Monday 22nd December in The Sacred Heart Church at 7.45pm

Ecumenical Carol Service The annual Ecumenical Carol service arranged by Rathanna & Killedmond will take place on Monday 22nd Dec. at 8.30pm in Rathanna.

The 1st Anniversary Mass of Margaret Doran , Walshestown, is in St. Patrick's Church , Ballymurphy on 13th Dec. at 7.30pm.

The **Eist Carlow Cancer Support** Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9.30a.m. - 4.00p.m. daily. The Centre offers support to people and their families who have received a cancer diagnosis including Counselling, Reflexology, Yoga etc. The Centre also runs a walking programme 'Strides for Life' at the St. Laurence O'Toole Athletic Club each Thursday morning at 11.00a.m. The Centre offers Yoga on Wednesdays at 11.00a.m. and Pottery on Thursdays at 11.00a.m. Please contact the Centre for further information at (059) 9139684 or e-mail eistcarlowcancersupport.ie or drop in any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Vocational School Carol Service will be held in The Sacred Heart Church on Monday 15th Dec. at 7.30pm. All Welcome.

Borris National School Concert Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm in The Sacred Heart Church, Borris. All welcome.

Youth 2000 Ireland will be hosting their annual Christmas Retreat in Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th December 2014. Over 500 young people from across Ireland (aged 16-35) are expected at this donation only event, with all newcomers very welcome. This is a great opportunity to find out what your faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. Free buses available. Online booking necessary, see www.youth2000.ie or phone 01 6753690.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Sisters of St. Peter Claver

Just a few words to thank you once again for accepting us some months ago with Mission Appeal. We and the Missionaries are very pleased with the outcome and with gratitude for everything we are happy to include your Parish in our Christmas Novena Of Masses that will be celebrated from 16th-24th December by the Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga of Kampala, Uganda. May you receive all the graces you need from the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

We remain yours in the Lord Jesus,

Sisters of St. Peter Claver

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK