PARISH NEWS

World Day of Migrants & Refugees 15th January 2017

It's hard to know what, or who, to believe anymore. During the recent US presidential race, 'fact checking' became something of a buzz word. After each of the major debates, newspapers and news sites churned out articles investigating the validity of the candidates' claims. Research was rapidly carried out, sources were checked, statements from the past were dragged up to prove or disprove many a point. With the internet making it possible to 'fact-check' in mere minutes, it is so easy to be caught out. Those in public life have to be more careful than ever that they are speaking the truth, that they are not contradicting what they have said previously, and that they can bring up their statements with authoritative evidence.

John the Baptist may not have been subject to such rigorous 'fact checking', but he was at pains to explain the source of his authority: 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven... I have seen and I am the witness'. John knew that people might not immediately take him seriously, so twice he emphasised that he did not know Jesus himself. He was not out to trick or mislead people. We can believe what this first witness says about who Jesus is, because his words come directly from God.

Collections: 8th Jan Envelopes €288 Baskets €969

No of Envelopes 65 Direct Debits 3

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Mon 16th & Fri 20th Jan at 7.30pm

Mass Tuesday 17th - Thurs 19th Jan 9am Ballymurphy Servers Sat 14th Dec Group 1

Back open on Monday 23rd January 2017

Fr. Rory's email address is rorypmnolan68@gmail.com – the wrong email address is on the Parish Calendar for 2017

Eucharistic Ministers – A meeting for Eucharistic Ministers will take place in Sacred Heart Church at 7pm Wednesday 18th January.

Blood Transfusion Service – Clinic on **Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th** January from 4.30pm-8pm in the **Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge**. It is important that we all remember that patients always need our blood and this need never stops regardless of what else is going on in the world.

Aspiro – Ireland's leading choir for children now recruiting new members. Come join us as we prepare for our 20th Anniversary celebrations 2017-2018, contact us info@aspirochoir.ie, or ph 085-7451111. Classes resume Tuesday 17th January. Limited number of places available in all groups.

Pre-Marriage Courses

Accord Carlow are now taking bookings for the following courses Jan 27th & 28th, Feb 10th & 11th, Mar 10th & 11th.

Couples getting married in the spring or early summer 2017 should book a place on one of the above courses.

Bookings can be made on line at www.accord.ie or for further information phone Mary at 059 9138738

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Lamb of God

Say a prayer today for the Church in Syria which is being decimated by five years of war. It was the Syrian Church in the seventh century that gave us the prayer Lamb of God which we recite three times at Sunday Mass. A timely prayer for mercy and peace to prevail in face of the pervasive warring 'sin of the world'.

Not the Lamb, 'meek and mild' of Blake's poem of Innocence, in Mass today, but the 'Lamb who was slain', mentioned thirty times in the Apocalypse, and identified by Philip in Acts 8 as the Suffering Servant for the benefit of the open minded and enquiring Ethiopian.

John the Baptist was the first to say Jesus is the Lamb of God, the first to say in a universalist way that Christ would take away not only Israel's sin but the sin of the whole world. His weapons are mercy and peace. Spread them widely.

Fr. David ORiordan Ladysbridge & Ballymacoda Diocese of Cloyne

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK