

# PARISH NEWS

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
17th August 2014

If it is a test, the Canaanite woman passes with flying colours! Her faith is impressive. When Jesus ignores her initial appeal, she tries again. And when he knocks her back, she replies with a witty retort: 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.'

I always find this exchange amusing. At first reading, it seems that the woman has got one up on Jesus. He attempted to fob her off, and her quick wit has caught him out. We can imagine him chuckling as he concedes 'Woman, you have great faith'.

But the exchange also makes me wonder: what was Jesus really up to? By the end of the conversation, he is clearly impressed with the woman's faith, her wit and her wisdom. But why the test? Why does he try to fob her off, and why the dog reference?

In the Gospel, Jesus often tests his followers. He certainly tests Peter and the other disciples. He challenges them to think, and to come up with the right answers. Perhaps he is testing not only the woman's faith but also his disciples'. In using the analogy of a 'house-dog', he may well be giving voice to the thoughts of his disciples. They would have little time for this Canaanite woman, a Gentile. They certainly would not have expected her to demonstrate such faith.

Perhaps it was an exchange that would come back to them at a later date as they expanded their mission to the Gentiles. Paul would later talk of God's mercy 'to all mankind' (see today's Second Reading). A far cry from 'house-dogs'!

**Collections:** 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014 Envelopes €502 Baskets €531

No. Of Envelopes Returned 61 Direct Debits 5

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

**Mass Schedule :** Mass at 7.30pm on Mon.18<sup>th</sup> & Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

Mass at 9.00 am Tues 19<sup>th</sup> to Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. (Incl.)

The **Mass on Tinnecarrig Rock** will take place on Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014 at 2pm Plenty of free parking next to the Cross. Tea & chat after Mass in Moloneys Clubhouse. Everyone very Welcome.

**Anniversary Mass** for Fr. Nicholas Moore will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. in the Sacred Heart Church Borris at 7.30pm.

**Charismatic Meeting** A charismatic meeting organised by the Polish Community will be held in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris, on Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. at 7.30pm.

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

Diocesan website [www.kandle.ie](http://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](mailto:borrisparish@gmail.com) Closed Bank holidays.  
**The Parish Centre will be closed from Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Aug to Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug (Incl.) Back open on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 9.30am**

**Eist Cancer Support Centre** -The Eist Cancer Support Centre will close for two weeks from Thurs the 31st of July at 4pm and will re-open Tues the 19th of August at 9.30am  
Should you need any support during that time, please contact the Irish Cancer Society on 1800 200 700 Eist Cancer Support Centre Carlow, The Waterfront, Mill Lane, Carlow Town 059 91 39684  
[www.eistcarlowcancersupport.ie](http://www.eistcarlowcancersupport.ie) Visit us on facebook

**CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL** and the Road Safety Authority have arranged the “**Check It Fits**” service team in Carlow and Tullow next week. Parents are urged to have their child’s car seat checked free of charge to ensure they are correctly fitted in:  
SuperValu, Sandhills Shopping Centre, **Carlow** on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August from 10am to 5:30pm and SuperValu, Bridge Street, **Tullow**, Co. Carlow on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August from 10am to 5:30pm.

**Sponsored Walk, Kilkenny to Bennettsbridge - Nore Valley Walk**, Sun 24<sup>th</sup> August in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. Walk starts at picnic tables in Maudlin Street (bottom of hill) @ 11am sharp. Registration @ 10.30am. €10 entrance fee which goes directly to the charity. Length – 11km each way – 3.5-5 hrs (both ways). Option of one way - lifts can be organised back to Kilkenny  
Contact Aoife 085 8107890 or [charitywalk14@gmail.com](mailto:charitywalk14@gmail.com) for further details or for a sponsorship card

**County Carlow Women's Network** with the Support of the Carlow Local Sports Partnership are offering a 6 week cycling programme for Women for all ages around Carlow starting on Monday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am – cost €35 which includes bike hire and instruction. No experience necessary it is a chance to try something new, have some fun and get comfortable on a bike. Contact Olive on 087 6165690 to reserve your place as limited numbers available.

**Camino de Santiago** For those who are travelling with us on the Camino - we will have a get-together on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August @ 8.30pm in the Sacred Heart Church Borris.

### ***THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***

#### **BICYCLING WITH GOD**

At first I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like the Prime Minister. I recognised his picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know him. But later on when I began to think for myself and trust my inner person, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that God was on the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that he suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since. God makes life exciting!

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points. But when he took the lead, he knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at breakneck speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, he said: "Pedal!" I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?"

He laughed and didn't answer and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared!" he'd lean back and touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, God's and mine. And we were off again. He said: 'Give the gifts away: they're extra baggage, too much weight So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received and still our burden was light.

I did not trust him at first in control of my life. I thought he'd wreck it. But he knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion.

**AND WHEN I'M SURE I JUST CAN'T DO ANY MORE, HE JUST SMILES AND SAYS, "PEDAL!"**

***HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK***