

PARISH NEWS

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

17th December 2017

Light and Darkness

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church...We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend.... They bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.

Michel de Verteuil

Collections: 3rd Dec Envelopes €601 Baskets €696
No of Envelopes 45 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Mon 18th & Fri 22nd Dec at 7.30pm
Mass Tues 19th – Thurs 21st Dec at **10am**
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 16th Dec **Group 3**

Confessions in Sacred Heart, Borris from 11.30 – 12 noon every Saturday morning. All welcome.

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre: Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday - Friday
Phone 059 9773128; email borrisparish@gmail.com Closed Bank Holidays.

Safeguarding: If you are concerned about the welfare & safety of children or vulnerable adults contact the **Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Ms. Joan Treacy**

Mob: 085-8021633, e-mail – dlp@kandle.ie

Visiting The Sick Fr. Rory will visit the sick on his list on **Thursday 21st December** in the Rathanna & Ballymurphy areas and on **Friday 22nd December** in the Borris area.

LOCAL ARTISTS RELEASE CD FOR CHARITY EIST

Eist While We Sing Together is a CD released to raise funds for the Cancer support group Eist; this CD is a celebration of life, love and support which Eist provide to many families and individuals. Eist While We Sing Together is a collection of songs and tunes by various local groups and artists both young and old.

The courage and determination of two beautiful women Lisa Grennan and Eileen Barcoe both members of our Lunetuners Tunes group inspired this CD to become a reality. The CD will be on sale from **Monday 18th December** from members of all the choirs in the area, Brophy's, Charlie Nolan's, Borris Service Station, O'Shea's Centra and in our Parish Centre at a cost of €10 or two for €18. All monies raised will be donated to Eist Carlow. This would make a perfect Christmas gift while supporting a very worthy cause.

BORRIS PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

Station Masses

Ballymurphy – Sat 16th Dec

Rathanna – Sunday 17th Dec

Borris – Sunday 17th Dec

CAROL SERVICE: ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE WITH ST. FORTCHERN'S IN **KILLEDMOND CHURCH** ON MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 7.30PM

OTHER LOCAL PARISHES:

BAGENALSTOWN SUNDAY 17TH DEC 7.30PM

ST. MULLINS TUESDAY 19TH DEC 8.30PM DRUMMOND

GRAIGUENAMANAGH TUESDAY 19TH DEC 7.00PM

GORESBRIDGE WEDNESDAY 20TH DEC 7.30PM

CONFESSION TIME: SACRED HEART CHURCH SAT 23RD DECEMBER 11.30AM – 12 NOON

MASS TIMES:

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL SUNDAY 24TH MASS SACRED HEART BORRIS 7.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BALLYMURPHY 9.30AM

ST. FORTCHERN'S RATHANNA 9.30AM

SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS 11.00AM

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY 26TH & WEDNESDAY 27TH NO MASS

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Child in a Manger

Child of the Earth, struggling to birth.

Child of the Manger, surrounded by danger.

Child of the stable, without hearth or table.

Child of the hay, there he must stay.

Child of the night, hidden from sight.

Child of the day, for those gone astray.

Child of the cold, for the young and the old.

Child of the stars, for those behind bars.

Child of the wind, for those who have sinned.

Child of the hills, walk with us still.

Child of the sky, for those who must cry.

Child of the road, to carry our load.

Child of the street, who washes our feet.

Lord,

bless the children born tonight and all those waiting to be born

in difficult and trying circumstances.

Fr. Michael Maginn

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK

