

PARISH NEWS

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th January 2016

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

During this past year we have watched, in almost disbelief, as hundreds of thousands of people flee their homes in Syria and other parts of the world. The image of three year old Aylan Kurdi, washed up on a beach last August as his family attempted to reach safety, caused complete outrage around the world. For a while we reacted and acted and called for an immediate response from our governments. Not since WWII have so many people been forced from their homes. So much can be said today about this crisis and we must continue to ask ourselves: how can we respond?

We must always be ready to welcome the refugee and migrant. Our faith is one of hospitality, compassion and mercy. In the Gospel today, Mary urges the disciples to 'do whatever He tells you' and we see Jesus perform a sign that shows he has come for the transformation of that which causes barriers to God's Kingdom. The refugee crisis may challenge us but as people of the Gospel of Mercy, we must respond:

'Mercy nourishes and strengthens solidarity towards others as a necessary response to God's gracious love...Each of us is responsible for his or her neighbour: we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. Concern for fostering good relationships with others and the ability to overcome prejudice and fear are essential ingredients for promoting the culture of encounter, in which we are not only prepared to give, but also to receive from others. Hospitality, in fact, grows from both giving and receiving.'

Pope Francis

Collections: 10th Jan Envelopes €664 Baskets €644

No of Envelopes 123 Direct Debits 11

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

Mass Schedule : Mass 7.30pm Mon 18th & Fri 22nd Jan
Mass at 9am Tues 19th Jan – Thurs 21st Jan

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.

An Invitation to all!

Opening of Jubilee Door in Kildare

Parishioners across the diocese are warmly invited to join Bishop Denis for the opening of the Jubilee Door in the Church of St Brigid, Kildare Town on Sunday, January 31st. The liturgy will begin at St Brigid's Well at 10 am with prayer and a solemn procession to the Church of St Brigid where Bishop Denis will formally open the door and preside at the 11 am Mass. Free parking available in the National Stud from 9.30am to 2pm. See kandle.ie for more details on this event and on the Year of Mercy.

**OFFICIAL JUBILEE DOORS & PILGRIMAGE ROUTES FOR KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN DIOCESE
DURING THE YEAR**

Church of St Fintan, Mountrath – beginning at St Fintan's Well, Mountrath
(Open from April 3, 2016)

Duiske Abbey, Graiguenamanagh – beginning at St Moling's Well, St Mullins
(Open from September 11, 2016)

Catholic Schools Week 2016 begins on January 31 and ends on February 6. The theme for this year is 'Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy.'

Borris Parish Website : www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

St. Vincent de Paul The Borris Branch of St. Vincent de Paul wish to thank all those who donated so generously in their Church Gate Collection before Christmas. If anyone is in need of help with food or fuel please contact the local St. Vincent de Paul on 086-0579532

Accord Carlow Pre-Marriage Courses

Couples getting married in the Catholic Church are required to attend a Pre-Marriage Course. Places available on the following courses - Jan 22nd & 23rd, Feb 5th & 6th, March 11th & 12th at St Catherine's Community Centre, St Joseph's Road, Carlow

Please book on line at www.accord.ie or phone Mary at 059 9138738 for further information.

Tom Finnegan of Iona Institute and Kate Bopp of Family & Life will speak at a Pro Life talk in defence of the 8th Amendment chaired by Paddy Manning at Lawlors Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare on Thursday January 21st at 7:30pm. All welcome

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Prayer for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
Let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:

let everyone who approaches them feel sought after,
loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us
with its anointing,

so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,

You who live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK