

PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18th December 2016

While Luke focuses on the birth of Jesus from Mary's point of view, Matthew's Gospel tells the story from Joseph's. Joseph must have been extremely confused when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He plans to quietly 'dismiss' her so as not to put her in danger. Mary's options were bleak without Joseph; her fate is very much in his hands. He is immediately obedient and says yes to his call. Joseph welcomes Mary and gives this child the name he is instructed: Jesus.

We hear very little about Joseph in the Gospels and he is sometimes a forgotten figure in the Jesus story, yet his decision to follow God's call is hugely important as he fulfils his promise to protect his family and this will mean later leaving their homeland, becoming refugees fleeing the terror of Herod.

Each time God speaks to Joseph, it is through his dreams. The Word of God which comes to Joseph gives him a new meaning and a new mission in life. Today, can you reflect on how God speaks to you? In what ways do you hear God's word? And when you hear God's word, what is your response? When you have said 'yes', where has that led you? Today we can pray for those who are faced with tough decisions and who must chose the more difficult path. It requires strength and bravery.

Collections: 11th Dec Envelopes €1000 Baskets €872
No of Envelopes 56 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Monday 19th & Fri 23rd Dec at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 20th - Thurs 22nd Dec 9am
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 17th Dec Group 2

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.

The Parish Centre will be **closed** from Monday 26th December to Monday 2nd January (Incl.)
Back open on Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Divine Word Missionaries Christmas Cards & Christmas Mass Bouquets are now for sale in the Parish Office

Visiting The Sick Fr. Rory will visit the sick on his list on **Monday 19th** December in the Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas and on **Tuesday 20th** December in the Borris area.

Borris St. Vincent de Paul Church Gate Collection St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who supported the Annual Collection in the parish of Borris, Ballymurphy and Rathanna. Your donations are greatly appreciated. You can contact SVP on 0860579532. Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.
Catherine Byrne, VDP President

Trócaire is hoping for the usual terrific support from parishioners for the Trócaire Gifts and Christmas Appeal. The gifts make a huge difference to the lives of families and communities in some of the world's poorest countries and start from as little as €5 for olive trees for Palestinian families. To find out more, buy a gift or make a donation log on to trocaire.org or call 1850 408 408.

BORRIS CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2016

STATION MASSES	BORRIS	16 TH DECEMBER	7.30PM
	BALLYMURPHY	17 TH DECEMBER	7.30PM
	RATHANNA	18 TH DECEMBER	9.30AM

CAROL SERVICE: ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE WITH KILLEDMOND CHURCH IN ST. FORTCHERN'S CHURCH, RATHANNA THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7.30PM

CONFESSION TIME: SACRED HEART CHURCH SAT 24TH DECEMBER 11.30AM – 12 NOON

MASS TIMES:

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS SACRED HEART BORRIS 7.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BALLYMURPHY 9.00AM

ST. FORTCHERN'S RATHANNA 9.30AM

SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS 11.00AM

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY NO MASS

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

VIGIL MASS THURSDAY 5TH JAN 2017 ST. PATRICK'S BALLYMURPHY 7.30PM

FRIDAY 6TH RATHANNA 9.30AM

BORRIS 11.00AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent -- December 18, 2016

"When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him." Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood?

If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood contact: Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill

vocations@kandle.ie www.kandlepriest.com

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