

PARISH NEWS

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th February 2017

Turn the other cheek

Today we hear and read one of the most famous passages in the Gospels: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. It is a radical text and not so easy. How can we be expected to love those who have hurt us or done harm to us? Anthony de Mello, an Indian Jesuit who wrote many books on spirituality, spoke often about the concept of 'loving enemies'. When someone hurts us, when someone triggers emotional pain in us, de Mello suggests that we try to come to the realisation that we are 'standing before our benefactor'. The situation is a reminder that we are still to grow and we are hurt because someone has not met our expectations. It is these expectations that we must let go of. We can learn from the other who has wronged us: how has this affected me? What do I need to let go of?

The teachings in this passage are radical and go against what we hear around us in our world like calls for retribution and revenge. However Jesus has high expectations of his followers, to go against the grain. Jesus is not encouraging passiveness. He is inviting people to a 'third way': to make a non-violent stand when faced with persecution. By 'offering the other cheek' we allow for the potential of conversion of the other to a realisation of what they have done. The easy option is to retaliate, to not see our brother or sister standing before us. We can offer them an opportunity to see our own sacred humanity. 'Loving our enemies' is a call to constantly move towards restoring relationships, offering mercy and peace.

'An eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind'.

Gandhi

Collections: 12th Feb Envelopes €496 Baskets €499

No of Envelopes 65 Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Mon 20th Feb & Fri 24th Feb at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 21st - Thurs 23rd Feb 9am
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 18th Feb Group 2

Message from Fr. John

I'm getting on very well with my treatment. My first session finished on Friday and I then have two weeks recuperation in Portlaoise where I will have to be careful with infection. My address is: 20 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise. Then on 26th I am back in for my second session. I have 4 sessions in all. Thanks for all your prayers and good wishes, it is very much appreciated.

Fr. John

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** on Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th February – back open on Monday 27th February

Dates for Your Diary

Confirmation Borris Sat. 1st April 11am
First Holy Communion Borris Sat. 6th May 11am

Confirmation Preparation 2017

1st March Confirmation Preparation Mass (Ash Wednesday)
8th March Confirmation Preparation Mass
15th March Confirmation Penitential Service

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Inaugural Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017

Led by the Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin Most Reverend Denis Nulty
16th July 2017 - 5 Nights €719 per person sharing, Flights, Transfers Full Board & Accommodation included. Full details available at the Parish Office or Joe Walsh Tours
Dedicated Assisted Section for Sick Pilgrims, Pilgrimage Director Fr. Paddy Byrne

Pre-Marriage Courses

Couples getting married in the Catholic Church are required to do a Pre-Marriage Course. Accord Carlow are now taking bookings for the following courses: April 7th & 8th, May 5th & 6th, June 9th & 10th. Couples getting married this summer or early autumn should book one of the above now. There will be no courses in July & August. **Bookings can be made on www.accord.ie or for further information contact Mary at 059 9138738**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

GOD GAVE US...

God gave us the seasons each with its own beauty and reason, each meant to bring us a blessing, a joy, and a feeling of love. God gave us dreams each with its own secret, each sent to give us feelings of inspiration, hope, and tranquillity. God gave us the sunshine, the rainbows and the rain, the beauty and freedom of nature to teach us the wisdom of gentle acceptance. God gave us miracles in our hearts and lives, little things that happen to remind us we're alive. God gave us the ability to face each new day with courage, wisdom, and a smile from knowing that whatever sorrow or pain we face, He abides with us securely in our hearts. Most of all, God gave us friends to teach us about love and guide us through this world, always available to help us forward towards a greater understanding and a greater sharing and giving of love.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK