PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2015

Take a breather

Grant peace;
For a space let there be no roar
Of wheels and voices, no din
Of steel and stone and fire.
Let us cleanse ourselves from the
Sweat and dirt,
Let us be hushed.....

From 'Retreat' by Richard Aldington

Let us be hushed. In all the madness of the festive season, we need some peace and quiet and time to reflect. Mary was caught up in the excitement of being pregnant, and wonderment at what the angel told her. She went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Perhaps she needed a bit of 'head space' to reflect on everything that was happening. And then we have this precious moment when Elizabeth greets her, and describes how the child in her womb leapt for joy. Like Elizabeth, we await the arrival with joy. Like Mary, we are filled with wonder.

As we count down to Christmas, we may need a little time out. Make a little space to pray and reflect today. Wrap up warm and head out for a walk, visit your local Church in the quiet of the afternoon, or take a few moments to yourself at home to get away from the noise.

Collections: 13th Dec. Envelopes €399 Baskets €870
No of Envelopes 64 Direct Debits 5
Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish

Christmas Week Mass Schedule

Mass on Mon 21st Dec. at 7.30pm

Monday 21st December Ecumenical Carol Service with Killedmond Parish in Killedmond Church at 8pm. Mass at 9am on Tues 22nd & Wed 23rd Dec

Tuesday 22nd December Penitential Service in The Sacred Heart, Borris, at 7.30pm

Thursday 24th **December** Confessions on Christmas Eve The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.30 – 12.00 & Vigil Mass at 7.30pm

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

St. Patrick's Church, Ballymurphy 8.30am, St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna 9.30am, The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.00 am

Saturday 26th December St. Stephen's Day – No Mass

Sunday 27th December Feast of the Holy Family,St. Patrick's Church, Ballymurphy 8.30am,St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna 9.30am,The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.00 am

Vigil Mass St. Patrick's Church, Ballymurphy 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th January

January 6th Feast of the Epiphany

St. Fortchern's Church, Rathanna 9.30am

The Sacred Heart Church, Borris 11.00 am

Station Masses : The Station Mass for the Borris area is Friday 18th Dec. at 7.30pm, the Station Mass for Ballymurphy is Saturday 19th Dec. at 7.30pm and for Rathanna is Sunday 20th December at 9.30am

Visiting the Sick Fr. John will visit the sick on his list on Tuesday December 22nd in the Ballymurphy and Rathanna areas and on Wednesday 23rd December in the Borris area.

Webcam The webcam is up and running again in the Sacred Heart Church, we have had some problems with it lately. Apologies for any inconvenience.

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.

The Parish Centre will be closed from Wed. 23rd December to Mon. 4th January Incl. Back open on Tues. 5th January.

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Reach Out Campaign Next weekend at all the Masses we will distribute the Reach Out Campaign for this year which will overlap with the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The gift will include a Christmas card & greeting from our Bishop Denis Nulty. Along with this we will distribute a candle & our Parish Christmas Card & greeting. Our Parish Calendars will be available also for collection. Don't forget to collect your gifts at the end of Mass & collect one for your neighbour aswell.

Christmas Collections The envelope (green) and basket collections at all Masses on Christmas Day and the Vigil Mass will be for the priests of the Parish. We would ask you to be as generous as possible, as the clergy fund (for which these collections are) has decreased considerably in recent years. I would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support and generosity in these difficult times.

Fr. John O'Brien P.P.

Don't Miss The Irish Catholic Special Souvenir Edition on December 17th, themed **The Church & The Rising**, 40 pages complete with historic photographs and maps. Available in the Churches this weekend and from Kiernan's shop, Borris.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR LOVED ONES

For those who have an abundance of love, a bounty in heart and home, keep them mindful of the world's poor, lift their voices often to you in gratitude, loving God.

For those who carry hurts and angers and other heartaches, help them to feel the peace, which only you can give and the grace to let go of long burdening memories.

For those who struggle with the lack of this world's riches, those who know what unemployment and empty pockets feel like, gift them with a counting of blessings which are often hidden and far more valuable than earthly treasure.

For those whose faith has grown dim and whose sense of you seems far away raise in their hearts a great yearning for you that will not cease and a desire for the truth that cannot be ignored.

For those who are tired, weary, worn from a constant generous giving of their lives in love, be their energy and enthusiasm, be a great and deep spark of light and happiness within them.

For those who grieve the goodbye of a loved one and whose hearts are very lonely this time of year, touch them with dear memories and transform the inner missing and heartache into a vision of what lies far beyond this time and space.

For those, whose lives speak of growing old, bless again and again with peace and serenity, let them know, what gentle witnesses they are to all of us who still ponder the meaning of life and growth.

And finally, O God, for those with young eyes, keep their hearts full of wonder, and thank you for slipping some of their delight and simplicity into our own hearts each time we celebrate the Christmas moment.

Amen.



HAVE A WONDERFUL

CHRISTMAS