

PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent 21st December 2014

Yes, mother

We sometimes distance ourselves from the real encounter here. As Margaret Silf notes, we sometimes 'put Mary into a glass case, surround her with flowers, and avoid the personal consequences of this moment.' And there could have been severe consequences for Mary, even death by stoning. Mary's yes is an example of completely surrendering to God's will. She surrenders her motherhood, her entire life to God.

We can think today of those who mother against the odds in our world. In places where there is no food, no clean water, the threat of disease, of torture; those who watch their children suffer from addiction or violence. And we remember those who are the Angel Gabriel's of the world, bringing good news and hope that 'nothing is impossible'.

'Hail Mary, woman of Nazareth, home maker, cleaner, preparer of food, fetcher of water, God is with you in your everyday excursions in this ordinary town. . Blessed are you among women and blessed indeed are women in their everyday lives, in the confines of family life, in the ambivalence of decision making, in the silences and blessed are the fruits of all our labours'.

Janet Lees

Collections: 14th Dec 2014 Envelopes €805 Baskets €652

No. Of Envelopes Returned 62 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule:

Borris area **Station Mass** is on Friday 19th December at 7.30pm.

Masses as Normal weekend of 20th/21st

Mass on Mon 22nd at 7.30pm followed by **Christmas**

Penitential Service at 7.45pm

Mass on 23rd Dec at 9.00am

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass on 24th Dec. at **7.30pm**

Christmas Day Masses : Ballymurphy 8.30am, Rathanna 9.30am & Borris at 11am

No Mass on Fri 26th Dec,

Masses as Normal weekend of 27th/28th

No Adoration in The Sacred Heart Church on 24th & 31st December

St. Vincent de Paul If you need help at Christmas with food, toys, fuel, or if you would like someone to talk to or to visit you please contact your local St. Vincent de Paul at **086-1041800**.

The incorrect number was printed last week.

Christmas Collections The envelope and basket collections at all Masses on Christmas Day and the Vigil Mass will be for the priests of the Parish. There is an envelope in your box for these occasions. 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.

Borris Parish Website : www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan website www.kandle.ie

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 Tuesday 23rd Dec to Friday 2nd Jan 2015 (Incl). Back open on Monday 5th January.

Ecumenical Carol Service The annual Ecumenical Carol service arranged by Rathanna & Killedmond will take place on Monday 22nd Dec. at 8.30pm in St. Fortchern's, Rathanna. Donations will go to Carlow/Kilkenny Homecare Team.

The **Eist Carlow Cancer Support** Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9.30a.m. - 4.00p.m. daily. Please contact the Centre for further information at (059) 9139684 or e-mail eistcarlowcancersupport.ie

Aspiro breathing life into music. Peace came down. A night of music and carols with special guests Liam Lawton, Karen Kelly, Carlow Choral Society, Carlow Gospel Choir, Anam Cairde and Professional Chamber Ensemble on **Sunday 28 December at 8.30p.m.** in Carlow Cathedral. The event is in aid of the Eist Cancer Support Centre and the Delta Centre Carlow. Tickets €10 each and €30 for a family of four are available from the Eist Centre and Newsworld Burrin Street Carlow.

A Training Night for Leaders of the Confirmation Programme 'You Shall Be My Witnesses' shall take place in Ionad Dara, Goresbridge, on Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.30pm.

There are **Divine Word Christmas Cards & Christmas Bouquets** for sale at the Parish Centre.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

SIX GIFTS THAT DO NOT COST A EURO

THE GIFT OF LISTENING... But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

THE GIFT OF AFFECTION... Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER... Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT... A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

THE GIFT OF A FAVOUR... Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION... The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

This year our parishes are reaching out with a gift of '**Chamomile Seeds**'. Putting Christ in our hearts, being planted and rooted in Christ, is our source of peace and hope.

'And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow will he not much more look after you.' (Mt 6:28, 30)

The seeds will be distributed in all the Parish Churches this weekend. 2015 Calendars will also be available in the Parish Churches from this weekend.

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS