

PARISH NEWS

First Sunday of Lent
22nd February 2015

Times of Trial

Today's Gospel tells us (briefly) of Jesus' temptation by Satan in the wilderness, a time which seems to set him up for his public ministry. The account is at the very start of the Gospel of Mark, which was written for the early Christians who had been through a painful experience of persecution. Perhaps these followers of Jesus would have been comforted to know that Jesus too had been through harrowing times.

Around the world there are many who still suffer for their faith. In many parts of the world, admitting to one's faith as a Christian can lead to persecution, homelessness, torture, imprisonment or even death. Yet there are brave men, women and children who continue to profess their faith and to meet together to worship, in spite of the dangers facing them. Pope Francis has continually called for an end to Christian persecution, particularly in the Middle East where over 250,000 Iraqi Christians have been forced to flee their own country.

This Lent, why not make a special effort to remember and pray for those who are suffering for their faith in different parts of the world?

'The news coming from Iraq pains me. Lord, teach us to live in solidarity with all those who suffer... An appeal to all families: when you say your prayers, remember all those forced from their homes in Iraq.'

Pope Francis

Collections: 15th Feb 2015 Envelopes €556 Baskets €557

No. Of Envelopes Returned 70 Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule:

Mass at 7.30pm on Mon 23rd Feb & Fri 27th Feb

Mass at 9am Tues 24th to Thurs 26th Feb Incl.

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Masses during Lent will be at 7.30pm on Mondays & Fridays and at 9.00am from Tuesday to Thursday. There are many positive ways of marking Lent as special. Some possible ways are:

- ❖ For those who travel to work, to make the effort to get up half an hour earlier to attend Mass
- ❖ For those who are retired or unemployed, to make an effort and make a daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament
- ❖ For families, to say the Rosary together daily or even a decade a day.

The Little Purple Book for Children is a book for Lent which explains all about lent to children with Lenten Games, Puzzles & Quizzes. It is available in the Parish Centre, cost €3. It would make a lovely gift from grandparents or parents to children.

Trocaire “With justice he **will** judge the poor of the people, he **will** save the **children** of the needy and crush their oppressors.” *Psalms 72:3-4*. Trócaire’s Lenten campaign 2015 highlights the injustice faced by many in the developing world who have to cope with drought & increasing temperatures because of climate change. The very people who have done least to cause this situation are the ones suffering most. To find out more visit trocaire.org/lent

Dates for Your Diary

Weekend Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick & Knock Sat 27th - Sunday 28th June 2015 €100 per person, includes bus, dinner & bed & breakfast in hotel. **If you are not interested in climbing Croagh Patrick you will have the opportunity to visit Westport on the Saturday, and Knock on the Sunday.**

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

Committee for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Our Bishop recently met with this committee and has asked us to promote Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our Parish. This would be a wonderful opportunity for people to dedicate more time to prayer during Lent. We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all day Wednesday in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. If you are interested in participating please contact Fr. John or the Parish Centre.

Polish Charismatic Meeting will be held in the Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 24th February at 7.30pm. All Welcome.

Polish Mass will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 28th February at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Finance Committee Meeting on Monday 23rd February in Parochial House at 8.30pm

SYNOD on the FAMILY

As you know Pope Francis has convened a synod to reflect on the mission of the family in the world today. Pope Francis wants all of us to be engaged in this process. Last year we organised a public meeting in our parish which was well attended and we submitted the responses to the questionnaire that was sent out to us. We are now in the second stage of preparation for this Synod and another questionnaire has been sent out to us.

We have organised a public meeting for **Wednesday 4th March at 8pm** in the Parish centre in Borris. The purpose of this meeting is to pray for the family and the synod and to answer the questionnaire that has been sent out to us. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please let us know or just turn up on the day. This is a way of making sure that your voice is heard. If you would prefer not to attend this meeting you can download the questionnaire from the diocesan website (we have a few copies in the Parish centre as well), fill it out and send it back to Bishops’ house Carlow. The questionnaire has to be returned before the 13th March.

Thank you for your participation in this process.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK