## PARISH NEWS

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

### Reaching out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

Collections:16th DecemberEnvelopes €329Baskets €698No of Envelopes 65Direct Debits 4Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish.We would like to wish all parishioners a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

#### BORRIS PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2018 CONFESSION TIMES:

SACRED HEART CHURCH Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 11.30AM - NOON SACRED HEART CHURCH Christmas Eve 24th DECEMBER 11.30AM – 12 NOON Service of Reconciliation (Penitential Service) 23<sup>rd</sup> December Bagenalstown 7.30pm **MASS TIMES:** 

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL Monday 24TH MASS SACRED HEART BORRIS 7.30PM CHRISTMAS DAY

> ST. FORTCHERN'S RATHANNA 9.30AM ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BALLYMURPHY 10.00AM SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS 11.00AM ST. STEPHEN'S DAY 26TH & Thursday 27<sup>TH</sup> ~ NO MASS

Mass as normal Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm Masses as normal w/e 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> December Mass Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm No Mass Tues 1<sup>st</sup> to Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> January Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre:

#### New Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1.00pm to 4.00pm Tuesday & Thursday

The Parish Centre will be closed from Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January. Back open on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 9.30am

Phone 059 9773128; email <u>borrisparish@gmail.com</u> Closed Bank Holidays. **Safeguarding:** If you are concerned about the welfare & safety of children or vulnerable adults contact the **Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Ms. Joan Treacy** Mob: 085-8021633, e-mail – <u>dlp@kandle.ie</u>

**Christmas Mass Bouquets:** There are Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards now available in the Parish Centre.

#### Trocaire Christmas Appeal

'Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name.' Psalms 74:21.

Millions of people have had to flee conflict in South Sudan and Yemen. In one area alone in northern Uganda 33,000 mainly women and children from South Sudan have taken refuge. They have witnessed and experienced the worst kind of violence and have arrived traumatised and broken. Trocaire's Christmas Appeal will help these people and many others rebuild their lives. Visit www.trocaire.org to find out more.

#### Christmas Concert

St Clare's Church, Graiguecullen December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Featuring Graiguecullen/Killeshin Parish Choirs, the Poor Clare Sisters and the Killeshin Pipe Band. Free entry, collection during concert for SVP.

**Borris Mixed National School Christmas Concert** will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in The Sacred Heart Church, Borris.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



#### Announcing The Ideal Christmas Gift !!

The Three Tenors ~ Saturday 16th February 2019

Back by popular demand in Concert in The Sacred Heart Church, Borris

Tickets will be on sale from next week. Please contact the Parish Centre for further details.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK