

PARISH NEWS

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Day 25th December 2016

If you were to put together a guest list for the birth of the Messiah 2000 years ago one might expect political leaders like Caesar Augustus and religious leaders such as the chief priests and the Pharisees to be included. Yet for Luke, the shepherds are some of the first to welcome Jesus into this world and are the first 'preachers' of the Good News. Many would find it completely shocking that Shepherds would be included. It was a disreputable trade and shepherds were considered 'unclean' because of their profession. At first they were terrified, but the angels reassured them: 'do not be afraid'. The response of the shepherds was immediate: 'let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing which has taken place'.

The poor, the marginalised, the outcast will be the first to experience the abundance of God's hospitality through Jesus and the shepherds come in their name. We are told that people were amazed by the shepherds and their words. Their journey didn't end in Bethlehem, for them it was perhaps only the beginning as they returned 'glorifying and praising God'. We are invited to Bethlehem today, to open up our hearts to the one who has come to bring hope and joy. And we return, like the shepherds, 'glorifying and praising God for all they have seen and heard'. We must allow that love to penetrate our hearts and celebrate with our family and friends the joy that lives amongst us. And when we have finished celebrating we remember the real work of Christmas begins once again:

'When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone. When the kings and princes are home. When the shepherds are back with their flocks. The work of Christmas begins; to find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the hungry; to release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among people; to make music in the heart.'

Howard Thurman

Collections: 18th Dec Envelopes €934 Baskets €667
No of Envelopes 76 Direct Debits 4
Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish

Mass Schedule: Mass on Fri 30th Dec at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 27th - Thurs 29th Dec **10am**
Ballymurphy Servers Christmas Day 25th Dec Group 1

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

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** from Monday 26th December to Monday 2nd January (Incl.)
Back open on Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Divine Word Missionaries Christmas Cards & Christmas Mass Bouquets are now for sale in the Parish Office

Message from Fr. Pierce

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas & Blessed New Year. Thanks to the Parish & Fr. Rory for the beautiful gift for my Golden Jubilee and thanks for all your support over the years.

Fr. Pierce

BORRIS CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2016

STATION MASSES	BORRIS	16 TH DECEMBER	7.30PM
	BALLYMURPHY	17 TH DECEMBER	7.30PM
	RATHANNA	18 TH DECEMBER	9.30AM

CAROL SERVICE: ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE WITH KILLEDMOND CHURCH IN ST. FORTCHERN'S CHURCH, RATHANNA THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7.30PM

CONFESSION TIME: SACRED HEART CHURCH SAT 24TH DECEMBER 11.30AM – 12 NOON

MASS TIMES:

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS SACRED HEART BORRIS 7.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BALLYMURPHY 9.00AM

ST. FORTCHERN'S RATHANNA 9.30AM

SACRED HEART CHURCH BORRIS 11.00AM

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY NO MASS

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

VIGIL MASS THURSDAY 5TH JAN 2017 ST. PATRICK'S BALLYMURPHY 7.30PM

FRIDAY 6TH RATHANNA 9.30AM

BORRIS 11.00AM

Borris St. Vincent de Paul Church Gate Collection St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who supported the Annual Collection in the parish of Borris, Ballymurphy and Rathanna. Your donations are greatly appreciated. You can contact SVP on 0860579532. Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.
Catherine Byrne, VDP President

Fr. Rory's email address is rorypmnolan68@gmail.com – the wrong email address is on the Parish Calendar for 2017

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Child in a Manger

Child of the Earth, struggling to birth.
Child of the Manger, surrounded by danger.
Child of the stable, without hearth or table.
Child of the hay, there he must stay.
Child of the night, hidden from sight.
Child of the day, for those gone astray.
Child of the cold, for the young and the old.
Child of the stars, for those behind bars.
Child of the wind, for those who have sinned.
Child of the hills, walk with us still.
Child of the sky, for those who must cry.
Child of the road, to carry our load.
Child of the street, who washes our feet.

Lord,
bless the children born tonight
and all those waiting to be born
in difficult and trying circumstances.

Fr. Michael Maginn

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK