

PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Easter Day of Prayer for Vocations 26th April 2015

Shepherds who smell of their sheep

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, so named because of the excerpt from the Gospel of John in which Jesus speaks about himself as the 'good shepherd'. It is also known as a day of prayer for vocations. What makes a good shepherd? John tells us that the good shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. The shepherd is at the service of his sheep. What a simple yet profound model for those with leadership roles in our church, and indeed for all of us.

Pope Francis used quite a vivid image in this context a while back, calling on priests to be 'shepherds with the smell of sheep'. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, he places this responsibility on all of us: 'Each Christian and every community... all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries.' We cannot be at the service of people unless we know them, spend time with them and understand where they are coming from. We must be willing to serve, wherever help is needed.

A good shepherd does not remain indoors, watching from afar, hoping everything will be okay with his flock. He must be out among them in order to be able to protect and help them.

Mass Schedule:

Mass at 7.30pm on Mon 27th & Fri 1st May

Mass Tues 28th & Wed. 29th April

Confirmation on Thursday 30th April at 11.30am in The Sacred Heart, Borris.

Ballymurphy Servers Sat 25th April – Group 4

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. **Please book as soon as possible if you are interested in this pilgrimage as we need to finalise details. The deposit is €20 per person.**

Polish Mass Mass will be celebrated in Polish on Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris. All welcome

Vocations Preacher – There will be a vocations preacher at the Masses in the Parish this weekend as Sunday is the Day of Prayer for Vocations

Trocaire Collection – The amount collected to date is **€4,496** If there are any outstanding boxes you can drop them into the Parish Centre or give them to Fr. John but do not leave in the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

The Little White Book, a book of 6 minute reflections on the Resurrection Narrative according to John, is available at the back of the Churches or the Parish Office. Cost €3

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

Accord Pre-marriage Courses Couples getting married this Summer or Autumn 2015 should now book a place on either May 8th & 9th course or June 12th & 13th **There are no courses in July or August.** Bookings can be made on www.accord.ie or phone 059 9138738

The Eist Cancer Support Centre is open: Tues to Thurs from 9.30am to 4pm

We are having an Open Evening at **6.30pm** at the Centre on **Tuesday 28th April 2015**. We would like you to join us, as we not only want to thank you personally but also we would like to share with you our continued vision for Eist to serve our community.

Please contact us at: Eist Cancer Support Centre Carlow, The Waterfront, Mill Lane, Carlow Town

Website: www.eistcarlowcancersupport.ie 059 91 39684

Sisters from the Convent of St. Elizabeth in Belarus will be visiting the Parish on the weekend of 9th/10th May. They will be displaying Crafts and Religious Objects, the proceeds from which go to their work in Belarus. **‘The Convent has been supporting more than 200 orphans with special needs. Our assistance stretches from purchasing diapers for the bedridden children to their rehabilitation and socialization. Another big project started about ten years ago when the Convent established a rehab center where socially vulnerable and disadvantaged people may find support, spiritual care and protection. There are about 200 people undergoing rehabilitation at the center’.**

The Irish Cancer Society’s Care to Drive service is currently seeking volunteer drivers to drive local patients to and from their chemotherapy treatments. We are looking for volunteers to pick patients up at their homes, drive them to the door of the hospital, pick them up when they are finished their treatment and bring them home again. Volunteer expenses are paid. For more information or an application form, telephone Rebecca on 01 2316 642 or email transport@irishcancer.ie

Carlow Choral Society launch 50 years Exhibition Carlow College Tullow Street 1st to 4th May 10am to 6pm daily. Carmina Burana at Visual Sat May 9th tickets Box office.

We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year and hope you may be able to join us for a reception to launch our Exhibition of Memorabilia at 7.30pm on Friday 1st May in Tullow Street (opposite the Library) or any time over the weekend.

We are very grateful for your support over the years hope to see you over the weekend.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Message from Pope Francis for World Day of Prayer for Vocations (extract)

To offer one’s life in mission is possible only if we are able to leave ourselves behind. On this 52nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I would like reflect on that particular “exodus” which is the heart of vocation, or better yet, of our response to the vocation God gives us. When we hear the word “exodus”, we immediately think of the origins of the amazing love story between God and his people, a history which passes through the dramatic period of slavery in Egypt, the calling of Moses, the experience of liberation and the journey toward the Promised Land. The Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible, which recounts these events is a parable of the entire history of salvation, but also of the inner workings of Christian faith. Passing from the slavery of the old Adam to new life in Christ is an event of redemption which takes place through faith (*Eph* 4:22-24). This passover is a genuine “exodus”; it is the journey of each Christian soul and the entire Church, the decisive turning of our lives towards the Father.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK