

PARISH NEWS

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th June 2016

'Not a straight path'

The Gospel text today begins a new section of Luke's Gospel, one where there are many ups and downs for Jesus and the disciples as he 'set his face towards Jerusalem'. This journey to Jerusalem will not be a straight path for them. It will be filled with many banquets and opportunities for teaching but also filled with moments of rejection and struggle; and so it is for the Christian journey, it is not a straight path.

Why do the Samaritans reject him? There was no love lost between Jews and Samaritans and the disciples want to punish them. But perhaps the Samaritans were fearful of the consequences of associating with 'heretics' who were on their way to Jerusalem to challenge a particular system that held power over them. It is interesting how Jesus deals with the disciples who want to rain down fire on the Samaritans, he rebukes them and not long after this he will tell the parable of the Good Samaritan in which the Samaritan becomes the hero of the story. This has much to say to Christians today about the right kind of attitude towards those we consider to be 'heretics' or who differ in opinion from ourselves. Jesus respects their position and moves on to the next village.

The second part of the Gospel is harsh but reminds us that His call is one that radically uproots people and it is a difficult walk that should deeply challenge us if we are really living the message of the Gospel.

Collections: 19th June Envelopes €350 Baskets €700
No of Envelopes 61 Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Monday 27th June & Friday 1st July at 7.30pm
Mass on Tues 28th June at 9am
No Mass on Wednesday 29th & Thurs 30th June

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

*Fr. Pierce Murphy will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Ordination on Friday 24th June with a Mass of Thanksgiving in Ballinkillen Church at 7pm
Refreshments afterwards in the hall in Ballinkillen.*

Blood Donation Clinic - Thursday 23rd June 5.00pm - 8.30pm Abbey Hall, Graiguenamanagh.

Borris Parish Website : www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre: The Parish Centre is **closed** on Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th June, back open on Wednesday 29th. Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Phone 059 9773128; email borrisparish@gmail.com Closed Bank Holidays.

Graveyard Masses this Summer

Sacred Heart Cemetery Borris – Mass on Friday 24th June at 8pm

Clonagoose Cemetery Borris – Friday 1st July at 7.30pm

Rathanna Pattern : Sunday August 7th 3pm

Ballymurphy Pattern : Sunday August 28th 3pm

Special Pilgrimage Weekend – Starting Saturday 25th June – Walk to Holy Year Cross on Knockroe Hill with Rosary and Prayers for the Sick. Starting Point Shannon's Lane at 2pm
Sunday 26th June St. Fortchern's, Rathanna Church Mass with Prayers for the Sick usual time 9.30am

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

I have often tried to imagine the scenario of having to say goodbye from this Parish that I have come to love so much. When I was appointed to this Parish, it was made known to me that all my predecessors, moved to their eternal reward from here, so I was full sure that my destiny was set. I have the unique privilege of being the first Parish Priest to 'survive' this Parish. As I move to the Parish of Clonmore I have so many positive and happy memories of the years I spent here. Your kindness, outpouring of generosity, warm hospitality, constant support, care and love and prayers have always made me feel at home even though we know the healthy rivalry that exists between our two counties Laois and Carlow. Saying goodbye is never easy, but I must move on and the Lord has presented me with a tough challenge. This wonderful experience has made me feel very lucky and privileged to have known such a wonderful community. Over the past 14 years I have built a personal relationship with lots of people here, and these relationships have helped me mature as a priest and as a person and now the time has come for me to say goodbye. All of this makes saying goodbye much harder. Instead of saying goodbye I would prefer to say: I will see you again. We've had some challenging times together but the majority of times have been fabulous. I have felt so encouraged by so many good people here who form an integral part of the Church in this community and I would like to thank all those people who have shown me their support. One of the aspects that gave me a great sense of achievement was to be able to share the good times and the challenging times with so many good people. How many fond memories I have of singing and dancing with so many people celebrating at a wedding or party, at the birth of a new child, at some good news received. I have cried many times while accompanying those who stood at the bedside of a loving mother or father; I have learnt to be angry with those who received unexpected bad news. I have learnt to pray silently with mothers and fathers who were anxious over the wellbeing of their offspring. I have felt so useful when a troubled person came and asked me for some consoling words and humble advice. I would like to thank you so much for all you have done for me.

I am very proud of all the people in this community from Rathanna to Ballymurphy to Borris. People often said to me when I came to this community I landed on my feet; after 14 years I can definitely verify that. The dedication, kindness and hard work of this community are second to none. There are so many good dedicated people in the three churches who have stood with me. It would be impossible to name so many of you who have helped me to mature as a person and as a priest. Fr. Rory is a very lucky man and if you just give him half the welcome and support you gave me, he will be very happy and fulfilled here. I feel humbled to have worked with such great people and proud to have worked with you. I am very grateful to Doctor Byrne who has challenged me and kept me very healthy and I struggle to find sufficient words to express my gratitude to Dr. Byrne and Kathy. I enjoyed working in the schools with such wonderful and supporting staffs. I am very grateful to the support I have received from Fr. Shem and Fr. Pierce. I said I am facing a tough challenge in Clonmore and Ballyconnell, and Kilquiggan but when God gives you a cross he also provides you with the shoulders to carry this cross; and I know that I will have your prayers and best wishes as well. Be assured that I will keep you in my prayers and please keep me in yours. One of the reasons why I became a priest was to serve God and to accompany people on the pilgrimage of life. This is what I have tried to do here in this community, and this is what I will continue to do in my new assignment. Even though it is with a heavy heart this is a journey that I must take. I leave this community with high hopes, truly enriched and in good spirit. The Risen Christ calls all of us too give a perspective of light and hope to the pain experienced by so many good people in our community. I ask you to pray for me and to pray that I will have the courage to fulfil Christ's call and mission in my new assignment. All I can say to each and every one of you is thank you and 'Au Revoir' – until we meet again - and assure you that you will always be in my prayers.

Fr. John

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK