

PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

26th March 2017

We are not blind, surely?

What a convoluted Gospel we have today. The healing of the blind man unleashes a chain of chaos and confusion. His neighbours are dumbfounded, the Pharisees are suspicious and at war with one another, and the Jews are cynical, even calling in the man's parents as witnesses. The character of Jesus, and of the blind man, are called into question as everyone tries to figure out what has happened. Jesus and the man who has been healed are both accused of being sinners. The interrogators even ridicule the man, asking, 'Are you trying to teach us, and you a sinner through and through?'

But things are simple for the man who has experienced Jesus' healing. He knows what he has witnessed, and is ready and willing to attest to it. 'If this man were not from God,' he says, 'he couldn't do a thing.' He understands that his encounter with Jesus was extraordinary.

Jesus finally clears up the confusion, turning everything on its head, as is often his way. It is the man who had been blind who sees who Jesus is: 'Lord, I believe.' The Pharisees who think they see things clearly are the ones who are really blind to the truth. 'We are not blind, surely?' is the question facing all of us as we advance through Lent. Are we open to the Good News and the healing power of Jesus?

Collections: 17th/18th/19th Mar Envelopes €527 Baskets €1244
No of Envelopes 66 Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule: Mass on Mon 20th & Fri 24th March at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 21st - Thurs 23rd March 9am
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 25th Mar Group 4

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

Parish Centre: Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday - Friday
Phone 059 9773128; email borrisparish@gmail.com Closed Bank Holidays.

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Message from Fr. John

Once again I would just like to thank you all for your cards, prayers and best wishes. With such a multitude praying for me I know I am in good hands.

I am back in hospital for second session of chemotherapy it will only be 3 days this week as I got very sick after the first 5 days.

After first session the tumour has reduced by 25 % which surprised even the oncologist. I will have to wait and see how much it reduces this time. If it reduces by much more the oncologist said they would look at surgery to remove the rest.

Your prayers are working and giving me the encouragement and positivity I need to get through this. Everything is going very well. God bless all of you and your families. **Fr. John**

Dates for Your Diary

Confirmation Borris Sat. 1st April 11am
First Holy Communion Borris Sat. 6th May 11am



Another Date for Your Diary! Chrism Mass 2017

Monday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow.

Bishop Denis warmly invites parishioners from across the diocese to join him for this Mass during which the priests of the diocese will renew their priestly promises and the Oil of Catechumen, Oil of the Sick and Chrism will be blessed and consecrated for use in parishes in the coming year.

***Please come early to be sure of a seat!
Parking and refreshments afterwards in Carlow College.***

Inaugural Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017

Led by the Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin Most Reverend Denis Nulty
16th July 2017 - 5 Nights €719 per person sharing, Flights, Transfers Full Board & Accommodation included. Full details available at the Parish Office or Joe Walsh Tours
Dedicated Assisted Section for Sick Pilgrims, Pilgrimage Director Fr. Paddy Byrne

Confessions in Sacred Heart, Borris from 11.30 – 12 noon every Saturday morning. All welcome.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Carrying the legacy of the Jubilee of Mercy into this Lent

In the Jubilee Year **Pope Francis** taught us by word and deed about God's mercy. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy remain valuable and practical ways for us to be agents of God's mercy in the world. Lent can be a time to find simple ways of carrying out some of these works in our daily life. We might take a lead from the Pope and make the Fridays of this Lent, **Fridays of Mercy**.

***Feed the hungry, Counsel the doubtful
Give drink to the thirsty,
Clothe the naked,
Shelter the homeless, Comfort the sorrowful
Visit the sick, Forgive offenses
Visit the imprisoned, Bear wrongs patiently
Bury the dead, Pray for the living and the dead
Care for our common home, the earth***



HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK