

PARISH NEWS

Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

28th April 2019

A saint for dark times

It's perfectly understandable: Thomas is having trouble believing that Jesus has returned to be with his friends again. The disciples, who witnessed Jesus' arrest, torture, death and burial, are now talking about having seen Jesus in the flesh again. It sounds impossible. Thomas was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, so of course he is doubtful.

Thomas' moment of doubt earned him the nickname 'Doubting Thomas', and I sometimes think this is a little unfair. Or rather, I feel that Thomas' wobble of faith does not necessarily cast him in a negative light – it makes him easier to relate to. He is grieving after the death of his master and friend. He is not ready to hear the words of comfort and consolation offered by the others, when they tell him 'We have seen the Lord.' His pain is too deep. He can't believe it, or won't believe it, until he experiences it for himself. And when he does finally encounter Jesus, an agonising eight days later, his declaration of faith is swift: 'My Lord and my God!' We can almost hear the relief and joy in this exclamation.

We all know that life can be painful and messy at times. It can be hard to hang onto our faith when we are in pain, or grieving, or anxious. It might be difficult to accept the assurances of others that God is with us and will help us through it. We might also struggle to pray. In dark times, sometimes we just can't see the light. Thomas is a saint for those times of darkness and doubt. In our darkest days, may we, like Thomas, encounter the healing presence of the Risen Christ.

Borris Pilgrimage to Lourdes – Fr. Rory

19th July – 25th July 2019

Duration: 6 Nights in Hotel Solitude, Lourdes, Full Board Basis

Cost: €839 p.p.s. Includes transfers, taxes & travel insurance

Deposit €200 required by 26th April

To Book: Contact Tully's Travel, Carlow 059-9136100

Booking forms also available in The Parish Centre

Collections:

21st April

Envelopes €TBC

Baskets €TBC

No of Envelopes

Direct Debits

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

Visiting the Sick: Fr. Rory will visit the sick on his list on Thursday 2nd May in the Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas and on Friday 3rd May in the Borris area.

Mass Schedule:

Mass on Monday 29th April & Friday 3rd May at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 30th April – Thursday 2nd May at 10am

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre:

**The Parish Centre will be closed from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th April (Incl.)
Back open on Monday 29th April**

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

Safeguarding: If you are concerned about the welfare & safety of children or vulnerable adults contact the **Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Mr. Mick Daly** Mob: 085-8021633, e-mail – dlp@kandle.ie

Pilgrimage to Santiago

Including Walking the Camino

‘The Portuguese Way’

August 20th – 27th 2019

Fr. John O’Brien

Cost €890 p.p.s. Incl Transfers & Taxes

Fr. John O’Brien

Contact Tully’s Travel 059-9136100

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A Prayer for our Diocese

Gracious God,

Your Spirit has always been present to the Church as it adapted to changing pastoral needs and circumstances.

We ask you to send your Spirit upon the people of Kildare & Leighlin as we journey in faith through this time of transition.

Give us a spirit of openness,
that we might follow where you are leading.

Give us a spirit of courage,
that we might take the steps you invite us to take.

Give us a spirit of charity,
that we might journey together in mutual love and respect.

Bless us as a faith community who trace our origins to Brigid, Conleth and Laserian.

May we be outstanding in charity as St. Brigid of Kildare,

May we be constant in faith as St. Conleth of Old Connell,

And may we be wise and prayerful as St. Laserian of Leighlin.

May we respond to the call of our baptism,
to use our gifts in service of each other.

May each of us be a living witness to a kingdom of truth and freedom, justice and peace,
in our homes, in our parishes, in our diocese and in the wider world.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HAVE A WONDERFUL EASTER