

PARISH NEWS

Fifth Sunday of Lent

2nd April 2017

Come Forth Lazarus

In today's Gospel Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany, the Jews want to stone Jesus to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother Lazarus, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb. It appears as if there is no hope. Jesus weeps for his friend and for those around him.

Yet, surrounded by a culture of violence and despair, Jesus gives hope, compassion, and resurrection to those in turmoil. It is easy to say that nothing can be done when we are faced with difficult situations in our lives. Yet Jesus says 'Lazarus, come out' and to the people he says 'Unbind him, let him go.' It is a message for all of us to come away from a culture of death; to help unbind one another and to also allow ourselves to emerge from the tomb. We are called to take away the stone. Today's Gospel is a story of liberation. Jesus gives a new insight into the power of faith over death.

'Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hope is knowing that there is love, it is trust in tomorrow, it is falling asleep and waking to work when the sun rises. In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the eyes of another, it is to see understanding. As long as there is hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in his loving hands.'

Henri Nouwen

Collections: 25th/26th Mar Envelopes €345 Baskets €541
No of Envelopes 64 Direct Debits 5
Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish

Mass Schedule: Mass on Mon 3rd & Fri 7th April at 7.30pm
Mass Tuesday 4th - Thurs 6th April 9am
Ballymurphy Servers Sat 1st Apr Group 1

Attending the Sick Fr. Rory will attend the sick people on his list on Thursday 6th April in the Ballymurphy and Rathanna areas and on Friday 7th April in the Borris area.

Timetable of Ceremonies for Holy Week

No Mass 7.30pm Mon 10th April as Chrism Mass is being celebrated in the Cathedral in Carlow
Mass at 9am Tues 11th & Wed 12th April

Easter Penance Service on **Wednesday 12th April** at 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Church

Holy Thursday 13th April **No** morning Mass, Solemn Mass of the Last Supper at 7.30pm in Borris

Good Friday 14th April Day of Fast & Abstinence. Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm in Borris & 7.00pm in Ballymurphy.

Holy Saturday 15th April. At 11am we will have the *Blessing of Food for the Polish Community.*

Easter **Confessions** in Borris from 11.30am to 12noon. **Vigil Mass** at 9.00pm in Sacred Heart Church Borris

Easter Sunday 16th April Mass in Ballymurphy at **9.30am**, Rathanna at **9.30am** and Borris at **11am**.

Stations of the Cross for Our Time Good Friday morning @ 11.00am we will have a Community Stations of The Cross for our time. We will congregate in the Sacred Heart Church at 11.00am, we will then walk to the different localities and in each area we will have a different Station. We would encourage you to come along and join us in this community event.

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.***

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Word and Music this Lent

This year we are treated to the readings of Year A in our Sunday Lectionary – the collection of readings for Mass. As well as the annual account of the temptation of Christ in the desert and the Transfiguration – both this year from the Gospel of Matthew – we get to hear as a community the stories of the woman at the well, the curing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. These are powerful reminders of the gift of light, truth and life that comes to us from God through our baptism.

The music of Lent is sparse and unadorned, calling us back to basics and supporting us in word and tone on the journey we are making. We notice the absence of the Gloria and the Alleluia and we hold on to the prayer of the Lenten psalm refrains: *Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned – May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our trust in you – O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts – The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want – With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK