

PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

31st March 2019

The Elder Son

Sometimes we can be so familiar with a Gospel passage we tend to switch off after the first few sentences. That would be a shame, especially when the Gospel is one of the great blockbuster parables. The real challenge in today's Gospel is what happens after the lost son returns. The elder brother has 'worked like a slave' all those years and is understandably upset. The Father's welcome of the younger son would have been considered extremely foolish by those listening to this story. However, the Father makes it clear that his outreach to the younger brother will not change his love for the older brother. It will cost the elder brother nothing to reach out. We have nothing to lose in welcoming home the lost.

Today, we can try to place ourselves somewhere in this narrative: where do you stand? This Gospel shows us that God returns the lost to the community, regardless of the boundaries that we might put in place. Jesus teaches us a lesson in radical hospitality. No matter how far we wander from home, God is still a loving God. The elder brother has a choice: to come to the party or to sulk in the corner. Luke, excellent story-teller that he is, leaves the reader to decide the outcome.

'God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power ... that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live' (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 246)

Collections: 24th March Envelopes €500 Baskets €575
No of Envelopes 60 Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule

Mass on Monday 1st & Friday 5th April 2019

Mass on Tuesday 2nd - Thurs. 4th Apr. at 10am

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre:

New Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday, Wednesday & Friday
1.00pm to 4.00pm Tuesday & Thursday

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

Visiting the Sick: Fr. Rory will visit the sick on his list on Thursday 4th April in the Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas and on Friday 5th April in the Borris area.

MS Ireland Carlow Branch are holding their annual Church Gate Collection in Borris on Sunday 31st March. Please support this worthy cause.

The Eist Cancer Support Centre provides emotional support and practical help to anyone affected by cancer, their families and friends. The centre is currently running a variety of programmes including nutrition and mindfulness - please contact Eist at the Waterfront, Mill Lane, Carlow on 059 9139684 for further details.

Also the Women's Breast Cancer Support Group is held at the Centre every 2nd Tuesday from 7.30 - 9 pm. (12th and 26th March, 9th April).

Eist Cancer Support Centre, in conjunction with Brain Tumour Ireland, are hosting a Brain Tumour Support Group on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 from 7 to 9 pm. in their Centre at The Waterfront, Mill Lane, Carlow. This Support Group is for those diagnosed with a Brain Tumour and their families. For further details please call Eist on 059 9139684.

Towards Peace : Towards Peace is a service offering spiritual support to those who have experienced abuse perpetrated by Church personnel, individually or institutionally. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space for people and their families, whose spiritual life has been damaged by abuse. It is also a response to the continually growing understanding of the spiritual impact of the trauma of abuse. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion.

If you have been abused and would like a space to reflect on the impact of the trauma of abuse on your own relationship with God and spirituality, Towards Peace is here for you.
www.towardspeace.ie Tel: 01 505 3028. Mobile: 086 7710533 Up to twelve sessions are available and there is no fee.

An Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community

Praise and Worship Meeting for all Prayer Groups and Friends

Venue: Parish Center St. Peter and Paul's Church Portlaoise

Date: Saturday 30th March 2019

Start Time: 10:40am immediately after 10.00am Mass. Ends @ 12.15pm

Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill

Contact Michael Nerney for Details 086-8157305

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This Is the Time

In the spring, it is my job to envision fruitfulness and commit to it.

*It is my task to breathe in the air and perceive the earth and ripe, vulnerable seed,
To grasp the possibility.*

*In spring my work is to imagine and to dig and dig and feel and listen and smell
and taste.*

It is time to learn my desires and put them to work.

*Spring is the time to test my strength and stretch my thoughts,
To raise my arms, open my heart, invite sunlight, wind, downpour, silence, night, to
participate, then, in the world waking up.*

**Vinita Hampton, in Sacred Space: The Prayer Book 2018(from
www.sacredspace.ie)**

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK