

# PARISH NEWS

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

**We come in peace**

'God save all here' is a traditional Irish blessing, spoken on entering someone's home or arriving at a gathering. It was also used as a general greeting when entering a public house, and is often heard in films depicting life in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. Other variations traditionally spoken on crossing a threshold include 'God bless all here' or 'God bless all in this house'. While not in use as much these days, such greetings serve to set the tone for a visit. They indicate that the visitor has come in peace, with good wishes for all present – he or she bears no ill will to anyone. Today Jesus recommends a specific greeting for his disciples to use when entering a home: 'Peace to this house!' Whatever house the disciples go into, this should be their greeting. Like the traditional Irish blessings, these words set a tone, Jesus explains that if a person of peace lives in that house, 'your peace will go and rest on him'. The peace blessing offered by the disciples will spread to those they meet. Peace should be our number one consideration in our dealings with others.

**Collections:** 26<sup>th</sup> June Envelopes €564 Baskets €586  
No of Envelopes 55 Direct Debits 5  
Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish

**Mass Schedule:** Mass on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm  
Mass Tues 5<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> July at 9am

**Borris Parish Website :** [www.borrisparish.ie](http://www.borrisparish.ie) **Diocesan Website:** [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)  
**Parish Centre:** Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday - Friday  
Phone 059 9773128; email [borrisparish@gmail.com](mailto:borrisparish@gmail.com) Closed Bank Holidays.

## **Graveyard Masses this Summer**

Clonagoose Cemetery Borris – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30pm

Rathanna Pattern : Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> 3pm

Ballymurphy Pattern : Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> 3pm

## **REFLECTION**

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves: "who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people around you won't feel insecure. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

**Nelson Mandela.**

## *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*