

PARISH NEWS

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd November 2019

Zacchaeus

In today's Gospel we hear the familiar story of Zacchaeus. It is a story that may remind us of our childhood, our first confession, or, as in my case, it might bring a school song to mind that you can't get out of your head! As with all familiar Gospel stories, we are invited to read again with fresh eyes and hear again as if for the first time. For this story is very rich and we risk losing the meaning due to our familiarity with it.

Like many people today, Zacchaeus was a 'seeker'. We read that he was anxious to see what Jesus was like. Clearly, he was drawn to Jesus in some way, was searching for something or someone. Zacchaeus was an outcast, a tax collector, considered a sinner by the community. Yet Jesus reaches out to him in a gesture of hospitality and friendship. In return, Zacchaeus offers the strictest requirement, as noted in the Jewish scriptures, for restitution: 'four times the amount' of money he had taken from people. But notice that Jesus reaches out in love before Zacchaeus offers compensation for his crimes.

The encounter with Jesus has led Zacchaeus to be a witness to restoration and solidarity. He wants to *restore*

Justice where he has acted unjustly. Whether it was the crowd, greed, politics or corruption that was preventing Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus, he has been welcomed back to the table. Jesus is waiting to be invited to his home *today*. Complaints and negativity continue in the background, but none of that matters. This man is a 'son of Abraham'. It was the affection of Christ, not the condemnation of the town, that reversed the situation.

Who do you need to reach out to today in a similar way?

Collections:

27th October

Envelopes €tbc

Baskets €tbc

No of Envelopes

Direct Debits

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

Mass Schedule:

Mass on Monday 4th & Friday 8th November at 7.30pm

Mass Tuesday 5th - Thurs. 7th at 10am

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, email – dlp@kandle.ie

Borris Parish Website: www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Parish Centre: Mon/Wed/Fri 9.30 – 12.30, Tues & Thurs 1pm – 4pm

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

Yearly Envelopes *If anybody has not received a box of envelopes and wants one please call in/phone to the Parish Centre.*

Sacred Heart Church 2020 Celebrations

In 2020 our Parish Church in Borris, the Sacred Heart, celebrates its 200th Anniversary. We are looking for ideas on how to celebrate this as a Parish. We would welcome also old photos and stories about the Church which we can integrate into our celebrations. All of these can be emailed to a special email address borris2020@gmail.com **Fr. Rory**

The St. Willibrord Biennial Lecture- The Cult of Relics in Medieval Ireland: Power, Patronage and Devotion. We invite the public to join us for a free public lecture celebrating the Feast of St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg, First Apostle of the Netherlands, and his County Carlow Connection. By Dr Niamh Wycherley, Maynooth University. Thursday 7th November, 7.00pm in St. Laserians' Cathedral, Old Leighlin, Carlow. Free Admission, and all are welcome.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Family Carers Ireland – dates for your diary

Family Carers Ireland are holding our **Kilkenny Regional Forum** this Thursday, 31st October in Hotel Kilkenny. Registration is at 10.30am and will include discussion on our campaign in the wake of Budget 2020, as well as priorities for family carers ahead of the next General Election. Please contact our office on 056 7721424 to register your interest.

- We are holding a guided **Sound Meditation Session** on Wednesday, 6th November at 10.30am in our Resource Centre in the Springhill Clinic, Waterford Road, Kilkenny. The session costs €5 per person. Please contact our office on 056 7721424 to book, as there are only a couple of places remaining.
- Our Carlow support group meeting for **Relatives of a Loved One with a Mental Health Issues** is on Thursday, 31st October at 7.30pm in St. Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow.
- The **Carlow Carers Support Group** is being held on Wednesday, 6th November at 11am in the Cathedral Parish Centre, Carlow.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK