

PARISH NEWS

Second Sunday of Advent

6th December 2015

Be a signpost

How is your advent going? We're a week in already. Less than three weeks to Christmas and so much still to be done! Where to start?

If we have time to listen, there are some pointers in our readings today. Following the example of John the Baptist, our Advent task is to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. Of course in these busy weeks we have shopping to do, presents to buy, parties and festive gatherings to organise; these are important parts of our Christmas celebrations. But how are we preparing to meet Jesus this Christmas? Can we create space amid the hustle and bustle? And not just in our own personal lives – we are also called to be witnesses, to be the people who 'cry in the wilderness', announcing the good news to others. We must be signposts, our words and actions pointing towards Christ. Our task this Advent is to make Jesus known. In our dealings with others as we count down to Christmas, let us try to be like John the Baptist, pointing always towards Christ. Saint Paul's prayer in today's Second Reading is that our love for one another may increase more and more. Let love be your guide.

Collections: 29th Nov. Envelopes €1402 Baskets €738

No of Envelopes 79 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule:

Mass on Mon 7th Dec. & Fri 11th Dec. at 7.30pm

Vigil Mass in **Ballymurphy** also on Mon 7th at 7.30pm

Tues. 8th December The Immaculate Conception

Mass at 9.30am in Rathanna on Tues 8th Dec. & at 11am in Borris

Mass at 9am on Wed 9th & Thurs 10th Dec.

Papal Nuncio Visit The visit of the Pope's representative, Archbishop Charles Brown, to our Parish last Sunday was a wonderful occasion. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this occasion a great 'good news' story for our Parish and community. Archbishop Brown was very impressed with our Parish, our choirs, our schools and our sacramental co-ordinators.

Parish Centre: The Parish Centre is open as usual Mon. – Fri. from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

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

Borris Parish Website : www.borrisparish.ie

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

There are Divine Word Missionaries Christmas Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquets for sale in the Parish Centre.

Polish Mass Mass will be celebrated in Polish on **Saturday 5th December** in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris at 7.30pm.

Carols By Candlelight Join Borris Vocational School Choirs & The Borris Male Choir & The Borris Female Choir for A Magical Evening of Music & Song in the Sacred Heart Church , Borris @ 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th December.

Pre- Marriage Courses Any couple wishing to be married in the dioceses of Kildare & Leighlin are required to attend a Pre-Marriage course. The next two courses are on January 8th & 9th 2016 and January 22nd & 23rd 2016. Couples getting married in spring 2016 should now book on line at www.accord.ie or for further information contact Mary 059 9138738

EIST Cancer Support Centre upcoming Events EIST Celebration of Christmas Variety Concert in Arboretum Garden Centre Leighlinbridge on Friday 11th December at 8pm. For further details please contact the Eist Cancer Support Centre which opens at 10.00 am to 4 pm Monday to Thursday and 10.00 am to 1.00 pm of Fridays. Telephone Number **059 9139684**. Or check out our Facebook page or web site.

Carlow Choral Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a special performance of Handel's Messiah by candlelight in Carlow Cathedral on Saturday, 12th December, at 8.00pm. Conducted by Niall Kinsella, with the Irish Choral Sinfonia and soloists, Sandra Oman, Raphaela Mangan, Julian Hubbard and Gyula Nagy. Tickets are €18 / €15 (concessions) and are available on www.eventbrite.ie and on www.carlowchoralsociety.com and from choir members.

Visiting the Sick Fr. John will visit the sick on his list on Tuesday December 22nd in the Ballymurphy and Rathanna areas and on Wednesday 23rd December in the Borris area.

The new series of *What in the World?* starts this week on RTÉ One Television on Tuesday 1st December at 11.15pm. Please consult the schedule at <http://www.rte.ie/tv/>

Vocation Views **Second Sunday of Advent (12/6/15)**
'John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord.' Promote the gospel in our community (Luke 3:1-6)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
And have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Mathew from being enslaved by money;
The adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
Made Peter weep after his betrayal,
And assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
The words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
'If you know the gift of God!'
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
Of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
Let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they feel compassion for
those in ignorance and error:
Let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
So that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
And your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives
and the oppressed,
And restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

Pope Francis

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK