PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

6th March 2016

A New Creation

The parable of the prodigal son is so familiar to us, and when stories are familiar they can lose their meaning. But let us look a little closer at the context of the story. Jesus told this parable in response to some comments and complaints by the Pharisees and the scribes: 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' What would these detractors have made of the story, flying as it did in the face of their traditional morality?

What about the so-called sinners? The 'tax collectors and sinners' were already at ease in the company of Jesus; they were seeking him out to hear what he had to say, and he in turn was welcoming them. How this parable must have spoken to them! It wouldn't have been much of a stretch for them to compare the generous welcome and forgiveness of the father in the story to the treatment they were already receiving from Jesus.

One sentence strikes me from today's second reading: 'For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation'. The 'sinners' with whom Jesus associated were made new by his presence, just as the son in the parable was surely a changed man after his reunion with his merciful father. He was 'dead and has come to life'.

This familiar parable is not just about how forgiving and merciful God is. It is about how his mercy brings us to new life. If we, sinners, return to him and let him welcome us back, we are new creations.

Collections: 28th Feb Envelopes €615 Baskets €527

No of Envelopes 82 Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule: Mass 7.30pm Mon 7th & Fri 11th Mar

Mass at 9am Tues 2nd Mar - Thurs 10th Mar

St. Patrick's Day Schedule: Vigil Mass in Ballymurphy on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm. Mass in Rathanna at 9.30am & in Borris at 1pm (to accommodate the parade) on St. Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March.

Masses during Lent will be at 7.30pm on Mondays & Fridays and at 9.00am from Tuesday to Thursday. There are many positive ways of marking Lent as special. Some possible ways are:

- For those who travel to work, to make the effort to get up half an hour earlier to attend Mass
- ❖ For those who are retired or unemployed, to make an effort and make a daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament
- For families, to say the Rosary together daily or even a decade a day.

First Confessions First Confessions for First Communion Children will be held on Tues. 8th March Borris and Wednesday 9th March in Ballymurphy.

Attention All Eucharistic Ministers During Holy Week on Holy Thursday we will have a special commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. At the end of the commissioning we will issue certificates to all our Eucharistic Ministers.

On **Wednesday 16th March at 8.30pm** we will have a Refresher Course for all our Eucharistic Ministers. The meeting will take place in the Parish Centre.

Borris Parish Website : www.borrisparish.ie Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

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.

The Parish Centre will be **closed** on Friday 18th March, and also from Good Friday 25th March to Wednesday 29th March (Incl).

Catholicism Journey Around the World and Deep into the Faith - Join us every **Monday** night during Lent for this incredible Journey on DVD in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris after the 7.30pm Mass.

Sister Anne Carr of the **Medical Missionaries of Mary** will speak at the weekend Masses of **5**th/**6**th **March** in this parish as part of the Mission Awareness Programme.

<u>Pilgrimage to Medjugorje & Dubrovnik from the 14th. September – 21st. September.</u> If you are interested in taking part in the pilgrimage we would appreciate if you could let Tully's know as soon as possible as they need to make reservations in the hotels etc. Phone Donna (059-9136100) in Tully's Travel Carlow.

Trocaire "...but no one who drinks the water I shall give will ever be thirsty again...' *John 4:14*. Millions of farmers in Kenya suffer from a lack of rain due to the effects of climate change. Trócaire is installing irrigation systems and piping in drinking water to ensure farmers can grow enough to feed their families and there is clean water to drink without having to rely on the rain. Join the fight for justice at www.trocaire.org

Pre-Marriage Courses

Couples getting married in the Catholic Church are required to attend a Pre-Marriage Course If you intend to get married this summer or early autumn 2016 you should now book a Pre-Marriage Course Accord Carlow have places available on the following courses at St Catherine's Community Centre Carlow April 8th & 9th, May 6th & 7th, June 10th & 11th

There will be no courses in July & August

Booking can be made on line at <u>www.accord.ie</u> or phone Mary at 059 9138738 for further information

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

BLESSING PRAYER FOR MOTHERS DAY

God of love, listen to this prayer. God of Holy People, of Sarah, Ruth and Rebecca. God of Holy Elizabeth, mother of John, of Holy Mary, mother of Jesus, bend down your ear to this request and bless the mother of our family.

Bless her with the strength of you spirit, she who has taught her children how to stand and how to walk. Bless her with the melody of your love, she who has shared how to speak, how to sing and how to pray to you. Bless her with a place at your eternal dinner table she who has fed and nurtured the life that has formed within her while still helpless but embraced in her love. Bless her today, now, in this lifetime, with good things, with health. Bless her with joy, love, laughter and pride in her children surround her with many good friends.

May she who carried life in her womb be carried one day to your divine embrace, there, for all eternity to rejoice with her family and friends. This blessing and all graces, we pray, descend upon the mother of our family in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK