

# PARISH NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Day of Prayer for Vocations  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## The Good Shepherd

'The Lord is my shepherd.' How often have we sung this Psalm or heard it read and repeated the response? Its words are so familiar that sometimes we might not even think about what we are saying or singing. But the image of Jesus as shepherd is worth reflecting on, especially on this Good Shepherd Sunday.

Four years ago on Holy Thursday, Pope Francis caused a bit of a stir when he urged bishops and priests to get to know their flocks, and to be like shepherds who 'smell of their sheep': 'This I ask you: be shepherds, with the 'odour of the sheep', make it real, as shepherds among your flock.' The vivid image captured the imagination of many who heard it. But in evoking the metaphor of shepherd, Pope Francis was echoing the language of the Gospel extract we hear today, when Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

Jesus tells us that sheep recognise the voice of their shepherd, and that is why they follow him. This kind of trust could only be gained by a shepherd who handles his sheep, feeds them, and protects them – to the extent that he smells like them. That's how well Jesus knows us, and it is because of how intimately he knows us, how much he has sacrificed for us, and how well he cares for us, that we are able to love and follow him in return.

**Collections:** 30<sup>th</sup>Apr Envelopes €589 Baskets €697  
No of Envelopes 64 Direct Debits 4

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

**Mass Schedule:** Mass on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May & Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> May at 9am

## *Dates for Your Diary*

First Holy Communion Borris Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> May 11am

## Message from Fr. John

Thanks to your prayers and good wishes this week I begin my fourth and final session of chemotherapy. I will soon be able to look at this in the rear view mirror. They are planning surgery, I do not know when, I will meet my oncologist this week.

Once again thanks for all your prayers and good wishes, they are effective as I am doing very well. I will keep you up to date with any new developments. *Fr. John*

## Prayers In Cemeteries 2017

Kiltennel Cemetery: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June Rosary & Blessing of graves after 11am Mass in Borris

Sacred Heart Cemetery: Mass on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

Clonagoose Cemetery: Mass on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3pm

Rathanna: Sunday August 6th 3pm

Ballymurphy: Sunday August 27th 3pm

Annual Mass of the Sick Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm Borris

**Confessions** in Sacred Heart, Borris from 11.30 – 12 noon every Saturday morning. All welcome.

**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.

### **St Lazerian's House**

St Lazerian's House, Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown is holding the annual May Procession on Thursday 11th May at 3.30pm. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Declan Foley in the garden (weather permitting) followed by a procession to Our Lady's Shrine/Grotto. All children, families and friends from all schools receiving their Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The residents love seeing the children in their Holy Communion dresses/outfits as it brings back so many happy memories. All local people who would like to come are very welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards. We look forward to seeing you on the day. Marian Manning

**Lough Derg 2017:-** Season opens for One Day Retreats on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Retreats continue on May 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29. Advance booking is essential. Tel. 071 9861518 (from NI 0035371 9861518) or email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org). The Three Day Pilgrimage season begins on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, pre-booking not required. You are invited to walk in the spiritual footsteps of your ancestors and be part of the unbroken link of Lough Derg as a place of continuous prayer for over 50 generations (1,500 years).

**Solemn Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** Our 12th Solemn Novena continues on Monday 8th May. We invite people to place their petitions in the petition boxes in St Clare's Church, Graiguecullen. During our Novena, through the prayers of our Faith Community and the intercession of Our Lady we will ask Jesus to relieve whatever burdens we carry. The theme for this year's Novena is 'A time to pray, a time to heal'.

**Our guest speaker this week is: Fr David Collins, Franciscan Friary, Killarney**

### **Deirdre Ní Chinnéide at Knock Shrine**

The 'Resting in the Arms of God' workshop with Deirdre Ní Chinnéide will take place at Knock Shrine on Saturday 6th May in the Prayer Guidance Centre. This workshop invites you to come away from the demands of busy life and to listen and explore with others, the power and presence of God. Taking place 10am-4pm, fee €30 includes lunch at Knock House Hotel. To book your place call (094) 93 75355 or email [faithrenewal@knockshrine.ie](mailto:faithrenewal@knockshrine.ie)

## *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

### *For Vocations Sunday – 7<sup>th</sup> May*

*To be born is to be chosen. None of us is accidentally in the world. We are sent here because there is something special for each of us to do here that could not be done by someone else. One of the wisdoms of living a full life is to try and sense what it is you were sent here for and to try and let the hindrances that block you from that fall away so that you can claim completely the life that was so generously offered to you. We were all reared in a world that concentrated on sin and sinfulness, but I believe that when we come into the eternal world we won't so much be checked for our failures, but we will be asked whether we honoured the possibilities that were placed inside us when we were so carefully fashioned out of the clay. There are limitless possibilities within each one of us and, if we give ourselves any chance at all, it is unknown what we are capable of.*

*John O'Donohue, Walking in the Pastures of Wonder, Veritas*

## *HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK*