

PARISH NEWS

2nd Sunday of Advent
8th December 2019

Change of heart

'Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.' (Dave Barry)

We might recognise ourselves in the above statement! We are so used to the commercial side of Christmas – the frenzy of ads and gift-buying, the extravagant decorations and parties – that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating.

That's where John the Baptist comes in. We first meet John in Luke's Gospel, before he is even born: Elizabeth's pregnancy is announced at the same time as Mary's, though John will be born first. The next we hear of John, he appears as God's messenger (as we hear in today's Gospel), preparing the way of the Lord. His job is to set the stage for Jesus to begin his ministry, and his central message is repentance. The Greek word for repentance was metanoia, which literally means a change of heart, or turning one's life around. So John is inviting his audience to make a break with the past, turn to God, and go in a different direction. When Jesus begins his own ministry, his first message is the very same: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This is a fitting message as we enter the second week of Advent. As we prepare to welcome Jesus, we are invited to metanoia, or change of heart. As we ponder the mysteries of Christmas, we are nudged onwards in a new direction. This week, we could make a conscious effort to move away from the noise and lights of 'the mall', to still our minds, and to open our hearts to God's call.

'Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.' (Washington Irving)

Collections:

1st December

Envelopes €326

Baskets €684

No of Envelopes 51

Direct Debits 3

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

Mass Schedule:

Mass on Monday 9th & Friday 13th December at 7.30pm

Mass Tuesday 10th - Thurs. 12th at 10am

Visiting the Sick: Fr. Rory will visit the sick on his list for Christmas on **Thursday 19th December** in the Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas and on **Friday 20th December** in the Borris area.

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.

Rathanna & Killedmond Ecumenical Carol Service will take place in Killedmond Church on Thurs. 19th December at 7pm

Borris Parish Christmas Schedule

Station Masses:
Ballymurphy Sat. 14th December 2019
Rathanna Sun. 15th December 2019
Borris Sun. 15th December 2019

Confessions/Reconciliation Service

Penitential Service: Thursday 19th December 2019 Sacred Heart Church Borris at 7.30pm
Confessions: Sacred Heart Church Borris Sat. 21st December 11am – 12 noon
Sacred Heart Church Borris Christmas Eve 24th December 11am – 12 noon

Mass Times:

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Tuesday 24th December at 7.30pm Sacred Heart Church, Borris

Christmas Day
Rathanna 9.30am
Ballymurphy 9.30am
Borris 11am

NO Mass St. Stephen's Day 26th December
Mass on Friday 27th in Borris at 7.30pm Sacred Heart Church, Borris
Weekend Masses as normal

NO MASS in Borris on 30th & 31st December and 1st & 2nd January

Global Caring Film – Living in harmony with God's creation

CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration, based in Westminster) have produced another tv-quality film resource to help parishes respond to Pope Francis' urgent call to be at the heart of the ecological challenge facing our world today. It is an engaging short film including input from Bishop John Arnold, Dr Carmody Grey and an inner city school. It is a free online resource, Full details and a short trailer can be found at www.ourcommonhome.co.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

At Christmas time our thoughts go out
To loved ones far and near,
To those we still remember each day
Throughout the year,
At Christmas time we cherish hope
With love and joy to share,
And pray for peace to fill the world
For people everywhere.

Iris Hesselden

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK

