PARISH NEWS

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 9th April 2017

Today we read Matthew's account of the death of Jesus; yes it is the long Gospel but we should not miss out on the journey that spending time with this account offers. As you read perhaps you might notice the various characters and their roles, their words and actions. A good question to ask as we enter into this text is 'Where do I stand?' Are you looking on as a bystander, are you in the group of disciples or some other character: Pilate? Pilate's wife? Perhaps it is a more difficult journey as you relate to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, a Jesus who is 'grieved' because of many things: isolation, the disappointment he must feel because of the abandonment of his friends, betrayal, loneliness, mocking, torture? This is not an easy journey. We know the story does not end here, but for this week we enter into the reality of betrayal, trial, suffering and death. We might remember today those who stand for justice, those who are counter-cultural, those who stand against oppressive systems even though the path is often dangerous and lonely. We might recall times we were in despair.

Try to return to this text during the week, perhaps reading a small section each day as we continue to ask ourselves: 'Where do I stand?'

Collections: 2nd Apr Envelopes €521 Baskets €914

No of Envelopes 64 Direct Debits 5

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

Mass Schedule: See Below

Ballymurphy Servers Sat 8th Apr Group 2

Attending the Sick Fr. Rory will attend the sick people on his list on Thursday 6th April in the Ballymurphy and Rathanna areas and on Friday 7th April in the Borris area.

Timetable of Ceremonies for Holy Week

No Mass 7.30pm Mon 10th April as Chrism Mass is being celebrated in the Cathedral in Carlow Mass at 9am Tues 11th & Wed 12th April

Easter Penance Service on **Wednesday 12th April** at 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Church **Holy Thursday** 13th April **No** morning Mass, Solemn Mass of the Last Supper at 7.30pm in Borris **Good Friday** 14th April Day of Fast & Abstinence. Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm in Borris & 7.00pm in Ballymurphy.

Holy Saturday 15th April. At 11am we will have the *Blessing of Food for the Polish Community*. Easter **Confessions** in Borris from 11.30am to 12noon.**Vigil Mass** at 9.00pm in Sacred Heart Church Borris

Easter Sunday 16th April Mass in Ballymurphy at **9.30am**, Rathanna at **9.30am** and Borris at **11am**.

Stations of the Cross for Our Time Good Friday morning @ 11.00am we will have a Community Stations of The Cross for our time. We will congregate in the Sacred Heart Church at 11.00am, we will then walk to the different localities and in each area we will have a different Station. We would encourage you to come along and join us in this community event.



Another Date for Your Diary! Chrism Mass 2017

Monday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow.

Bishop Denis warmly invites parishioners from across the diocese to join him for this Mass during which the priests of the diocese will renew their priestly promises and the Oil of Catechumen, Oil of the Sick and Chrism will be blessed and consecrated for use in parishes in the coming year.

Please come early to be sure of a seat!

Parking and refreshments afterwards in Carlow

College.

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

Note from Fr. John

Just to let you know I am doing very well. I have finished my second session and the recuperation period went very well. Next Sunday I have to return for my third session, which could be my last depending on how much tumour is reduced.

I am doing very well and almost finished with this. Once again I would like to thank you for your prayers and support. I will continue to pray for you **Fr. John**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Kindness of Strangers – A Reflection for Good Friday

Remembering Veronica, Simon of Cyrene and the Women of Jerusalem Richard Dawkins and his ilk don't like it. They talk about the selfish gene. They are puzzled by random acts of kindness. Are such acts genetically predisposed in human beings? Or have they evolved with society? Well, neither sociology nor biology is of much concern to the woman standing by the side of the road with a burst tyre.

All she knows is that as soon as the car shuddered to a halt and she got out to see the damage, a young man standing there offering her help. She had already driven two hours in stormy weather and all she wanted was home.

Where did he come from, the red-headed stranger? She didn't know.

He steered the car to safety, and finding the spare wheel, jacked the car up and replaced it. Oh, and did I mention that he went to his house nearby for the hammer needed to knock off the damaged tyre? And that all this time it was raining. She wondered how she should thank him. She asked what she might do. He wanted nothing, saying simply that perhaps someone would look after his family in a similar manner one day if they should ever need it.

The sociologists can continue their research, the biologists can conduct their experiments, but there is a grace that flows from the 'kindness of strangers' that is not measurable by any such means.

It renews our trust. It restores our hope. It takes us home.

Anne Thurston, from Small Wonders, Veritas

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK