PARISH NEWS Second Sunday of Advent

9th December 2018

Make his paths straight

Preparing for the arrival of someone important takes care and attention. Think of a family preparing to welcome a loved one home from abroad, perhaps a son or daughter who lives in Australia or someone who has been off traveling the world. They get their bedroom ready, buy their favourite foods, perhaps put up banners or even organise a 'welcome home' party. It is all done with great excitement and love, and is a way of easing the path home for the traveller. Or imagine new parents preparing for the arrival of a baby. There are practical considerations such as buying nappies and clothing and getting a cot ready, and of course the nerves and excitement as they prepare to welcome the new arrival.

On a larger scale, when an important dignitary visits a venue or a country there is also a flurry of activity in preparation. We saw it in the painstaking arrangements made for the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland earlier this year. Such high profile visits often involve a literal preparation of the way - organising a welcome reception, planning the best route from the airport, clearing the streets of traffic, as well as much chatter and anticipation.

Today's Gospel brings these two types of welcome to mind. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by our actions, when we are generous with our time, patient with our families, and help those in need. And we do all these things with excitement and love, so that Christ will find the warmest of welcomes and a clear route into our hearts.

Collections: 2nd December Envelopes €490 Baskets €693

No of Envelopes 65

Direct Debits 4

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

Mass Schedule

Mass Monday 10th & Friday 14th Dec. at 7.30pm Mass on Tuesday 11th - Thursday 13th Dec. at 10am

Vigil Mass on Friday 7th December at 7.30pm in Ballymurphy Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday 8th December in Rathanna at 9.30am & in Borris at 11am

Visiting the Sick: Fr. Rory will visit the sick on his list in the Ballymurphy & Rathanna areas on Thursday 6th December and in the Borris area on Friday 7th December.

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

Parish Centre:

New Opening hours from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1.00pm to 4.00pm Tuesday & Thursday

Phone 059 9773128; email borrisparish@gmail.com Closed Bank Holidays. Safeguarding: If you are concerned about the welfare & safety of children or vulnerable adults contact the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) - Ms. Joan Treacy Mob: 085-8021633, e-mail - dlp@kandle.ie

Christmas Mass Bouquets: There are Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards now available in the Parish Centre.

Rathanna & Killedmond Ecumenical Carol Service will take place in Rathanna Church on Thurs. 13th December at 7.30pm

Donations received this year are for the New Carlow Hospice.

Kilkenny-Carlow Samaritans

Kilkenny-Carlow Samaritans have teamed up with KCLR for a day of action on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

We're calling on businesses, community groups, clubs, households and schools to take part in Samaritans Day by holding a fundraising and awareness event in aid of the charity.

The Samaritans are a 24/7 listening service and need your help to continue their great work through their Freephone number 116-123 and on-the-ground in Carlow and Kilkenny.

What can you do? A coffee morning, a jersey day in your office, a tea party with your neighbours or a small fundraiser... and in return we will give you FREE PUBLICITY for your organisation on the local airwaves with access to 70,000 listeners!

Our Samaritans Day will finish, quite literally, on a high note as we will be holding a KCLR Christmas Concert in Set Theatre that night with special guests including Dordan, Newfoundland, The Kalimbas, Davie Furey, Ryan O Shaughnessy, Tomas Jackman and a host of other musical stars.

If you would like to run an event you can register online with KCLR at https://kclr96fm.com/samaritans/

Accord Pre-Marriage Courses: Some upcoming course dates for 2019 are: January 11th & 12th, February 8th & 9th and March 8th & 9th.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Suess

... So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear. And he did hear a sound rising over the snow. It started in low. Then it started to grow. But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry! It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! VERY! He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes! Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise! Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small, Was singing! Without any presents at all! He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME! Somehow or other, it came just the same! And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow, Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so?" "It came without ribbons! It came without tags!" "It came without packages, boxes or bags!" And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store." "Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"...

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK