

*Anniversaries for Week Ending*  
*December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2025*

*Ballymurphy Anniversary Mass:*  
**Michael & Breda Kavanagh Ballyroughan**

*Rathanna: Anniversary Mass:*  
**Special Intention**

*Borris: Anniversary Mass*  
**John & Eddie Galvin Leighlinbridge**

**Michael & Josephine Hynes**  
**Scortreen Ellen Murphy Inch**  
**Kathleen Kelly 3 Woodlawn Park**  
**Mary & Kieran Casey Main Street Borris**  
**Stephen Nolan Clonagoose**  
**Helena Pietzale Poland**  
**Molly Dalton Borris**

***Anne McGee Knockmore whose funeral mass  
took place today/yesterday in Ballymurphy***

## *Safeguarding*

The Parish of Borris in common with all other parishes is committed to safeguarding the children of their parish.

If you are concerned about the welfare & safety of children or vulnerable adults contact:

**Director of Safeguarding: Ms. Ailish Higgins**  
**Mob: 085-802 1633 or Email:**  
**safeguarding@kandle.ie**

## *Visiting the Sick & Housebound*

Fr Rory will call to those on his list of Sick & Housebound for Christmas this coming week:

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Ballymurphy & Rathanna Area**  
**&**  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Borris Area.**

If you are aware of a neighbour or friend who might like to receive Holy Communion in their home please contact Fr. Rory in the Parish Office 059 977 3128 or 087 2714161

## *Department of Education Survey on School Patronage*

*What is the survey about?*

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

The Department of Education and Youth is asking parents and guardians as well as school staff and board of management members, those who will have children attending school into the future and the public in general to Have Your Say and participate in this short and confidential online survey on your primary school.

This is an important survey and is the first time that a survey of this scale is being run by the Department of Education and Youth. The survey asks a small number of questions, including the following:

"Would you prefer your primary school to be a co-educational school or a single-sex school?

Would you prefer your primary school to operate under a denominational (religious) patron or to operate under a multi-denominational (non-religious) patron?

Would you prefer your primary school to provide education primarily through the English language or through the Irish language?"

Where can I have my questions about the survey answered?

A comprehensive range of information has been made available at <http://www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey>.

The survey can be accessed at  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>

The survey closes on 16th December 2025.



The graphic features a background image of children in blue school uniforms with their hands raised in a classroom. Overlaid on this is a dark blue rectangular area containing text and logos. The text reads: "#HaveYourSay about your local Catholic school". Below this, it says "Participate before 16 December 2025 in the Department of Education and Youth's #PrimarySchoolSurvey". In the bottom left is the CEP logo (Catholic Education Partnership) with the text "CATHOLIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP". In the bottom right is a QR code with an arrow pointing to it from the text "www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/".

#HaveYourSay  
about your local  
Catholic school

Participate before 16 December 2025 in the  
Department of Education and Youth's #PrimarySchoolSurvey

CEP CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
PARTNERSHIP

[www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/](http://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/)

## *Christmas Mass Bouquet*

Give the gift of a mass this Christmas.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are now available in the Parish Office. Call in Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

## *Borris Active Retirement*

Borris Active Retirement group meet each Monday in the Library in Borris from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. New members are always welcome...from 55years upwards! It may be a chance to get out of the house for an hour or two to meet and to chat with others, especially now as the long evenings draw in.

## *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* *Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December*

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
is a Holyday of Obligation**

**Mass in Borris at 11am**

# *Masses for Christmas*

## *Borris Parish*

Masses in Borris Parish for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are as follows:

**Christmas Eve: Ballymurphy 7.30pm**

**Christmas Day: Rathanna 9.30am**  
**Borris 11.00am**

## *Bagenalstown Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026*

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 for 5 nights.**

Group Leader Geraldine Monahan.

**For Information see the poster on the Notice Board in  
Borris, Rathanna & Ballymurphy Churches.**

To make further enquiries contact Geraldine Monahan at  
087 416 6808.

There is also info for making Bookings with:  
Joe Walsh Tours 01 241 0800  
or email: [info@joewalshtours.ie](mailto:info@joewalshtours.ie)

**I look forward to joining this pilgrimage myself! Fr Rory**

# *Society of Saint Vincent de Paul*

## **Annual Christmas Appeal**

**The Annual Church Gate Collection for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will take place on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December.**

There will be collectors outside each of the churches in the parish that weekend. All donations will be gratefully received for this very worthy cause.

If you wish to donate to the appeal and will not be around that weekend please put your donation into an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal and leave in the collection boxes in any of the churches at any mass or drop it into the Parish Office.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Fr Rory

## *Forever Fit Carlow*

Balance and resistance training  
Borris, Myshall, Carlow & Tullow

Further information:  
Email: [foreverfitcarlow@gmail.com](mailto:foreverfitcarlow@gmail.com)  
Phone: 085 801 4138

## *Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel*

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in our hour of battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.

## *Masses in our Deanery/Pastoral Area*

### *Borris Parish Mass Times*

#### *Weekly Mass Times*

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Ballymurphy</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Rathanna</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
	<b>Borris</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Borris</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Borris</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Sacred Heart Church, Borris each Wednesday after the 10am mass until 1.00pm.*



### *Graiguenamanagh Mass Times*

**Saturday:** Mass in Duiske Abbey at 7.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass in Skeoughvosteen at 9.30am  
Mass in Duiske Abbey at 11.00am

**Monday to Friday:** Mass in Duiske Abbey at 10am

### *St. Mullins Mass Times*

**Saturday:** Mass in Glynn at 7.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass in Drummond at 10.00am

**Wednesday:** Mass in Drummond 9.30am

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in  
Drummond Church every Thursday at 2-3pm.  
The church is open every day for private visits.*

### *Paulstown Mass Times*

**Saturday:** Mass in Goresbridge at 7.30pm

**Sunday:** Mass in Goresbridge at 10.00am  
Mass in Paulstown at 11.30am

## *Sacrament of the Sick – Housebound*

If you are unable to attend Mass due to illness or frailty and would like to receive the sacraments in your home, please contact Fr Rory 059 977 3128 or 087 271 4161

I call to those who wish for me to visit them once a month, usually the first Thursday or Friday of the month. Zaneta, in the Parish Office, will contact you the day before I am due to call.

### **The Sacrament of the Sick; an explanation...**

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is exactly what it says. It is a prayerful celebration for someone or for a group of people who are ill and are blessed by the priest with Holy Oil. It is not a sign that someone is dying as it was perceived in olden times. It is not a magical ritual; the person doesn't automatically get better immediately after an anointing. God's healing and loving presence are called upon that the sick person might be raised up and restored to health.

### **Symbolism**

The words of blessing over the oil say it all. It is "oil intended to ease the sufferings of your people". Oil soothes and heals. Oil blessed for the sick is a sign of the Anointed One (Messiah) of God. The person so anointed receives the healing, saving power of the One who saves (Messiah).

## **Oil**

The oil that is used is Olive Oil. The Bishop and priests bless it at the 'Chrism Mass' on Holy Thursday in the Cathedral. The holy oils are then taken each year to each parish and hospital for use throughout the year in the Sacrament of the Sick.

## **How?**

A person is anointed on the forehead and the palms of the hands while the priest says: "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you by the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who heals you, save you and raise you up."

## **Who Can Be Anointed?**

Anyone in 'serious illness', those who are infirm, in advanced years, or anyone prior to surgery. *It is not only for when a person is in 'danger of death'.*

## *Do you have a Notice for the Parish News?*

If your group / club / organisation has a notice that they wish to be included in the Parish News please forward the details to [borrisparish@gmail.com](mailto:borrisparish@gmail.com) by 12 noon on Thursday's for inclusion in the following week's edition.

The Parish News can be found on the Parish Website [www.borrisparish.ie](http://www.borrisparish.ie) and on various local Facebook pages. Inclusion in the Parish News is at the discretion of the editor. Fr Rory

## *Borris Christmas Lights*

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances Borris Tidy Towns are unable to use the electrical connections that we have in our Fair Green for our Christmas Lights this year.

Recommendations and advice from three different electricians on Health & Safety and disrepair of the cable (which needs upgrading and replacing) means it is not safe to use the present system.

Replacement is unaffordable at this time.

We are looking at different ways around the problem and will be calling on all various businesses surrounding Borris for sponsorship.

We are hoping that businesses and houses in the town will make an extra effort to put up some outdoor lights and window lights themselves...Every light will bright up the street!

Lighting of the Christmas tree will continue as planned on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and we will use battery powered lights where we can

**Borris Tidy Towns Committee**

### *Family Carers Ireland*

Family Carers Ireland have launched their Christmas Raffle and you could win €1,000 cash, €500 select hotels voucher or a hotel voucher.

Please support family carers in your community by purchasing a ticket at [www.familycarers.ie/christmas](http://www.familycarers.ie/christmas)

Thank You!

## *Sunday Mass Readings for 3.12.25*

### *First Reading*

#### **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.**

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's nest; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

#### **The Word of the Lord**

### *Responsorial Psalm*

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.**

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.**

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name.

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.**

## *Second Reading*

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.**

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

**The Word of the Lord**