

*Anniversaries for Week Ending*  
*March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 2026*

*Ballymurphy: Months Mind Mass:*

**Mary Theresa Byrne Upper Rathgeran**

*Rathanna: Anniversary Mass:*

**Special Intention**

*Borris: Months Mind Mass*

**Theresa Kavanagh Inchaphooka**

**Michael Kavanagh Clonagoose**

**Kate Cox Station Road Borris & her parents**

**Peter & Sarah Doyle Ballyroughan**

**Patrick Redmond Ballymartin**

**Mary & John Kavanagh Ballinagree**

**Lorcan Murphy Ballycoppigan**

**Jeremiah & Julia Cosgrave; Tony & John  
Cosgrave; Maura Kelly**

**Mary & Paddy Mahon Lower Borris**

**Gerard Byrne Cournellan**

**Mary O'Shea Coolnamara & Fr Tommy O'Shea**

**Edward O'Connell Lacken Borris & all deceased  
members of the O'Connell family**

**Maurice & Anne Kelly Ballinagree & all deceased  
members of the Kelly Family**

## *'A Time to Pull in our Nets and take stock'*

### **A LETTER BY BISHOP DENIS TO THE PEOPLE & PRIESTS OF KILDARE & LEIGHLIN DIOCESE**

*February 2026*

A few weeks ago, we welcomed the arrival of a New Year, many of us naturally look forward to what this New Year might bring. In 2022 the diocese took its theme from St. Luke's gospel, where the first disciples were asked to put out their nets for a catch (Luke 5:4). Now, early in 2026, we simply draw in the nets momentarily to reflect on what has been caught and to decide where our next journey might take us.

### **Sifting through our Nets**

In the past year alone, we have seen twenty-five women and men commence formal training to become Lay Pastoral Ministers, specialising in either pastoral care or faith formation. In time they will support clergy and parish teams in many ways including sacramental preparation, catechesis, adult faith formation, liturgy, bereavement and funeral ministry and ministry to the elderly and the sick.

The past year has seen honest engagement by priests and deacons with a new language of 'Pastoral Area'. We welcomed the ordination last October of another five Permanent Deacons for service in our diocese. In June we hosted another very successful 'Parishes Alive' Day in

Carlow College, St. Patrick's. The theme was *'Moving Forward in Hope'* where parishioners learned from one another what gives life to their parish and what makes their parish distinct and special. Next June we will host the third in the series called *'Parishes Alive - Becoming Synodal'*, with a particular focus on adopting a more Synodal way of being Church in the parish context.

In these early weeks of the New Year our Diocesan Pastoral Council is being renewed, our Council of Priests continues to grapple with matters of mutual concern to our clergy and people, and our Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation resumes training for various liturgical ministries following its very successful Liturgy Conference last September.

While rooted in the tradition of the Church, the call to Synodality from Pope Francis, and continued by Pope Leo, stands out as a seismic shift in how we are as Church and has inspired us to re-evaluate our mission, to haul in our nets, even if just for a moment.

## **Appreciating our Fishermen**

As I travel around the diocese, visiting parishes, I meet many people and hear many things. I get a real sense of the gratitude among the people for their local priest. This gratitude translates to phrases like "he is our priest", "our man", along with the caveat "don't move him"! There is real affection for the local priest everywhere I go. While parishioners deeply appreciate their priest, the priest is equally appreciative of his

parishioners, and I hear this appreciation again and again at clergy gatherings.

With fewer priests it is increasingly challenging to provide a resident priest in every parish and there are a number of parishes now without a resident priest. I'm very conscious that there is a growing cohort of older men in active ministry; I want to assure them, this is not taken for granted and I know the affection and esteem in which each one is held.

As I have said on so many occasions, a priest is fully entitled to retire at 75, having given stellar service to God and His Church for so many years. Where a priest decides to retire, I will provide all the support I can to underpin this decision, including suitable accommodation.

While I acknowledge the work of these priests, we remember we have a shared responsibility to care for all our priests, especially our older men and I ask you to be reasonable in any requests made of the local priest; he will not and cannot reach on everything.

## **Letting our Nets down once again**

The Final Document from the Universal Synod on Synodality emphasises a deeper understanding and appreciation of our baptism as a calling to be lived out fully and completely. As Church there will always be a need to refocus on our core mission, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. For too long we have been overly attentive to the 'maintenance' responsibilities to the neglect of evangelisation, spreading the Word. It is clear that all the baptised have a role in this

mission and we must do all we can to foster that sense of mission among all the faithful. All of us are called; all of us are chosen.

I see these as moments of transformation; with lay groups supporting the mission of the parish as clergy and laity work side by side, with an awareness of their baptismal calling. Out of this will emerge ministries to the bereaved and those in mourning; to our schools assisting in the sacramental programmes and to our parishes in the varied liturgical and pastoral ministries.

## **A New Language - Pastoral Areas**

Pope Leo in speaking recently to clergy and parish representatives of the Diocese of Rome reminded them of the value of Pastoral Areas: “they are designed to better connect neighbouring parishes in a given territory with the centre of the diocese”. He went on to say, “we need to think and plan together, going beyond pre-established boundaries and experimenting with joint pastoral initiatives”. Our diocese of 56 parishes, 117 faith communities built around our churches, now consists of 11 Pastoral Areas, collaborative communities of 4 to 6 parishes.

A new model of Church is emerging with fewer clergy and greater lay involvement. It will no longer be possible to have a resident priest in every parish and diocesan appointments have become more challenging for me every year. I do not see this changing any time soon. Grouping parishes into pastoral areas allows for the considered deployment of clergy and lay ministers as well as providing improvements around training

and other supports. Already, it is so positive to see the richness of the collaboration of parish groups.

## **In Conclusion**

Our diocese has a long and distinguished history of communicating our faith and staying connected to one another. The work of Faith Development Services along with the appointment of Pat Roche as Diocesan Director of Parish Development continues to emphasise the importance of supporting the local, while also being attentive to the bigger picture.

We should be under no illusion about the challenges ahead and the changes they will bring. With the reduction in the number of priests it is not going to be possible to sustain the same number of Masses in every church. The Sunday Mass is what sustains a community, and we must consider a schedule of Masses that is more manageable for our clergy and our Pastoral Areas. I believe that lay led liturgies will become a feature of parish life now and into the future, giving parishioners a vital opportunity to come together in prayer.

I ask you all to continue to support and pray for our priests and parish groups and to be generous and welcoming to those who volunteer to take on additional roles in our parishes. May St. Brigid, St. Conleth, and St. Lasarian guide our next steps as we continue to put out our nets for a further catch.

Every blessing,

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✠ Denis Nulty

## *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. Ms Michele Hughes**  
**Mob: 086-171 0643 or Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)**

## *St Patrick's Day Parade*

**Borris St Patrick's Day parade committee are delighted to welcome back the parade once again for 2026 starting at 1.30pm.**

If you wish to enter a float, please inform the committee by email at [borrisstpatricksdays@gmail.com](mailto:borrisstpatricksdays@gmail.com) or 0872547175.

Prizes will be available for the best floats and also for the best presented 'St Patricks Day themed business or residence' that have emailed a photo of their residence or business.

Trad music will be played in the hall after the parade.  
Tea / Coffee and pastries available in the hall for €5.

## *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

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

### **Gospel Link: Who Belongs?**

This much-loved Gospel is a pivotal reminder as we make our Lenten journey that Jesus is the source of our life. It is the first of three Gospels from John we listen to in Lent that draw on central symbols in baptism – in this instance the symbol of water.

In the encounter between Jesus and the woman we see God's mercy in action. The woman is an outsider, left to draw water at the hottest part of the day, alone. Jesus actively reaches out to her, ignoring the social norms of the time that would keep her in isolation. And in doing so the woman comes to know Jesus as the source of our life, as the living water that dwells within us, as our saviour. Not only that, she becomes a messenger of that Good News.

In Jesus, all belong and all our renewed. As we welcome this reading into our hearts this Lent, may we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ who reached out to the marginalised and to those who felt on the outside, who shattered the narrow definitions of 'who belongs'. May we recognise, that, in Christ, we belong. May we welcome Jesus into the very circumstances of our life to heal us and bless us. May we recognise Jesus as our saviour who brings us to eternal life. And may we bring this good news to others without borders - recognising also when others are bringing it to us. (Julie Kavanagh)

*A Prayer to Reflect on for  
International Women's Day*

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace:**

- Bless all women who daily work to bring peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into ploughshares.

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love:**

- We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities. Help us to see and to face the discrimination against women in all the many forms it may take.

**Where there is injury, pardon:**

- Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.

**Where there is division, unity:**

- Forgive all women and men who let differences breed hate and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.

**Where there is darkness, light; where there is untruth, truth:**

- Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, and loneliness. May we stand with them in light to acknowledge their suffering and work to remove their burdens.

**Where there is doubt, true faith:**

- We pray for all women who live in fear. Help them to be empowered to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.

**Where there is despair, hope:**

- We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope.

**Where there is sadness, joy:**

- Help us to see the strength and goodness in all women and men. Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people.

**Amen**

***Credit: Loreto Educational Trust***

# *Important Dates in the Parish of Borris 2026*

## **Mass of the Holy Angels**

*Remembering children who died before and after birth*

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
7.30pm  
Sacred Heart Church Borris

## **Mass for those who Died during the Year**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November  
7.30pm  
Sacred Heart Church Borris

## **First Holy Communion 2026**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 11am St. Patrick's Church Ballymurphy  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 11am Sacred Heart Church Borris

## **Cemetery Masses & Blessing of Graves\***

### **Kiltannel Cemetery**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 12.30pm  
Rosary & Blessing of Graves

## **Sacred Heart Cemetery Borris**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm  
Mass & Blessing of Graves

### **Clonagoose Cemetery**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 7.30pm  
Mass & Blessing of Graves

### **Rathanna Cemetery**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 3pm  
Mass & Blessing of Graves

### **Ballymurphy Cemetery**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 3pm  
Mass & Blessing of Graves

*\*Subject to Weather on the Day/Evening*

## *Baptized and Sent*

A programme of prayer and reflection on the Gospel Readings for Lent. **Continues on Thursday evenings in the meeting room above the Sacristy in Glynn Church from 7:30pm to 8:15pm.** An opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in the world of 2026. All are welcome. Programme.

## *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*

<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Mass in Duiske Abbey at 7.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Mass in Skeoughvosteen at 9.30am</b> <b>Mass in Duiske Abbey at 11.00am</b>
<b>Monday to Friday:</b>	<b>Mass in Duiske Abbey at 10am</b>

*St. Mullins Mass Times 2026*

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

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

**Wednesday: Mass in Drummond 9.30am**

**Holydays of Obligation Masses in Drummond at 10am**

*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**

*Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place*  
*BALLYMURPHY SELECTED*

**Information Night:**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30pm**  
**Ballymurphy Community Hall**

**To:**

Explain Pride of Place; Themes to be judged;  
Outline how judging is assessed;  
Community-led approach reflecting ALL Ballymurphy

**Showcasing:**

People; Youth & Community Group Initiatives/Projects  
Heritage & History of the Village  
Sports & Physical Activity Groups  
Music & Art Groups  
Culture & Spirit that makes Ballymurphy

**All are Welcome to Come Along!!**  
**See you there!!**

*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 55 years 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.

## *The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme*

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme launched in March 2024 following the Government agreed actions arising from the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes and certain related matters.

The Payment scheme provides financial payments, and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland.

Eligibility criteria can be found online, (website below) or by post

**Visit: [www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/](http://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/)**

**Contact Helpline: 01 522 9922  
(call to request application pack)**

*All applications are handled  
with care, dignity and full confidentiality.*

## *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.

## *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

## *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!

## *Library News*

Get 7 day access to your local library, 8am to 10pm!

My Open Library is the self-service initiative that lets you use library facilities beyond regular opening hours from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week!

At participating libraries during these times, you can Borrow and return books; Read and Study in a quiet space; Access Wi-Fi and computers; Print, scan and photocopy; Use meeting Spaces

My Open Library operates 365 days a year and is simple and free to use, Register today at your local participating library.

My Open Library is operating in Tullow, Bagenalstown & Borris Library Branches,

For more info:

Drop in to Tullow Library

Or contact us on 059 913 6299

Drop in to Muinebheag Library

Or contact us on 059 912 9703

Drop in to Borris Library

Or contact us on 059 9170350

## *Epilepsy Awareness Day* *“Purple Day”*

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy.  
For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie).

**Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day)**  
**will take place on**  
**Thursday 26th March.**

## *Zumba Classes*

Join the party! Get fit! Have Fun! Starting 17<sup>th</sup> February  
2026 in Borris Town Hall from 7.30pm to 8.30pm

### **Adult Zumba Classes**

For further information contact: **Sinéad on 086 229 4546**

## *Totus Tuus 2026 Fatima Pilgrimage*

The **Totus Tuus Annual Pilgrimage to Fatima** will take  
place from **28th August to 4th September**.

Learn about the Fatima Message, the Rosary, the First  
Saturdays, the lives of the three visionaries, and visit the tomb  
and home of Blessed Alexandrina Da Costa, who lived solely  
on the Eucharist for 13 years.

**The cost is €915 which includes, flights, half board accommodation, airport transfers, day trip to Balasar, trip to Valinhos and Adjustrel, trip to the Irish Dominican Sisters' Convent.**

There are places available to fly from Cork Airport, and also from Dublin Airport. Limited places are available.

**For more information call Damien on 087 20 49 048**

### *Carlow Stroke Support Group*

**"The Carlow Stroke Support Group meet next Friday March 13th, 2-3.30pm, at St. Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow.**

Meetings are open to Stroke survivors and carers.

Further information text/call Lynda 087-7814697".

### *Radio Maria Ireland*

Radio Maria Ireland is a Catholic Radio Station. It offers prayers, teachings, and music to deepen one's faith, and encourages us to keep growing in the faith on a daily basis.

We broadcast 24/7, on three pillars being that of

1. Prayer & Catechesis,

2. Music
3. Human Formation.

Further information can be found on [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie).

***You can listen to Radio Maria:***

1. via Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210
2. Download our FREE App “RADIO MARIA IRELAND”
3. Streaming on our WEBSITE - [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie)
4. Via our ‘Listen Live Radio’ link on our Facebook Page.
5. Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).
6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area

***Grants available to Childminders***

Are you a Childminder in your own home?

Are you planning on becoming a Childminder in your own home?

The Childminding Development Grant of up to €1,000 is currently available for potential and existing Childminders

and assists Childminders to enhance the safety and quality of their childminding service through the purchase of toys, safety equipment, childcare and outdoor equipment and up to a max of €500 for IT equipment.

For a list of eligible items, to receive an application form or if you would like to attend an Online Information Session on the Grant on 5th March at 7-8pm, please contact Eilish at Carlow County Childcare Committee on 059 9140244 or email [info@carlowccc.ie](mailto:info@carlowccc.ie).

Grant applications close on Wednesday, 15th April 2026.

## *Carlow County Council Register of Electors*

Even if you receive a polling card, you now need to add your PPSN, date of birth and Eircode to the register.

You can update your details at [checktheregister.ie](http://checktheregister.ie) or by paper form.

If you need assistance, Carlow County Council Register Staff will be happy to help you on:

**059 9170332 / 059 9170308 / 059 9172448**

**or email: [register@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:register@carlowcoco.ie)**

## *First Reading*

### **A reading from the Book of Exodus.**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord.

'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.'

This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'is the Lord with us, or not?'

### **The word of the Lord.**

## *Responsorial Psalm*

**Response: O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

**Response: O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

**Response: O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

**Response: O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'**

## *Second Reading*

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

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

### **The word of the Lord.**