



BORRIS PARISH

*Anniversaries for Week Ending
August 22nd & 23rd 2026*

*Ballymurphy: Anniversary Mass:
Mass at 3pm Sunday in the Graveyard*

*Rathanna: Anniversary Mass:
Special Intention*

*Borris: Anniversary Mass
Special Intention*

We also remember...

John & Margaret (Maggie) Joyce Rathgeran
Margaret Murphy Upper Rathgeran
Margaret Flood Ballyglisheen
Michael Murray Waterford
William & Nora Dwyer and sons Paddy & Jim
Ballynattin

We pray for the repose of the soul of James (Jim) Doran
formerly of Walshestown, his funeral mass takes place
this Monday, 31st August at 12noon in St. Patrick's Church,
Ballymurphy, followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery.

Also, Joe Kealy of 175 New Oak Estate, Carlow, and
formerly of Ballymartin, Borris. Joe will repose at
Carpenter Bros. Funeral Home, Shamrock Sq.
(Eircode R93 C863) from 2pm on Sunday, August 30th
with removal that evening at 6.30pm to The Holy Family
Church, Askea arriving for Prayers at 7pm.
Funeral Mass on Monday at 11am, followed by burial
afterwards in St Mary's Cemetery, Carlow.

May they rest in peace

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

National Synodal Pathway Update

Preparations are continuing for the National Synodal Assembly, which will take place in October. Working groups from across the country are reflecting on the key priorities identified through the synodal process and helping to shape the next stage of the Church's journey in Ireland.

To learn more and view the latest video update from Fr Declan Hurley, Chairperson of the National Synodal Pathway, and Patricia Carroll, member of the National Synodal Pathway and Pastoral Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Dublin, please visit:

<https://theway.ie/the-irish-synodal-pathway-progress-and-purpose/>



Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin

Pastoral Letter – August 2026

Dear friends, I am writing this Pastoral Letter in response to the new reality that now faces us in Kildare and Leighlin Diocese. The decline in the number of priests, as some are recalled by their own orders or returned to their own dioceses, continues to present significant challenges. I am also very conscious of the age profile of our priests, many of them serving parishes, long beyond the acceptable retirement age in the secular world. While we continue to earnestly pray for vocations to the priesthood, we also must deal with these stark realities.

I acknowledge and appreciate that when a priest is moving on from a parish it can be difficult, both for the priest himself, and for parishioners with whom a relationship has been built. Following the recent announcement of diocesan changes, I want to once again thank all those priests involved in the changes this year for the great contribution they have made to their parishes and to their previous appointments – a contribution that is deeply appreciated by all.

Change is never easy, particularly when it involves those close to us or impacts our own lives in a very real way. This is very acute in the parish setting. Our diocese has 56 parishes and 117 churches who find their home now within 11 Pastoral Areas. This year's diocesan changes will require adjustments, greater

cooperation and a willingness to do things differently at Pastoral Area level.

The shortage of priests inevitably sharpens the focus on parish schedules and workloads. This will necessitate a deeper look at the sacramental activities in each parish, the Mass times, particularly where Mass times clash, optimum locations, the different chaplaincies (schools, hospitals, nursing homes etc) and how services can be delivered more efficiently by working more closely together. With any discussion on the number of Masses, there is also the fear of a reduction in income, so I thank you for your generosity and ask you to continue to find ways to support your parish. All this will have obvious implications for the individual parishes within each Area and I urge all priests and people to engage wholeheartedly in this process in which these difficult decisions are discerned and acted upon.

I am aware that our priests carry an enormous burden of responsibility and are expected to be available 24/7 to cope with all kinds of situations, meet all kinds of challenges and attend so many gatherings and functions beyond their normal sacramental duties – more than that could be too great a challenge. I ask parishioners not to make unreasonable demands or to have unrealistic expectations of their priest. The pastoral needs of parishes are centred around the sacraments and the Eucharist, and these must be the top priority of every priest.

I have ordained 16 permanent deacons, and we have 25 lay pastoral ministry students, who are about to begin Year II of their two-year Diploma. Both are and will be tremendous assets to parishes. Lay involvement, with the support of priests and deacons, is one way in which we can continue to nourish

the faith of all and sustain our parishes as vibrant faith-filled Gospel communities. Lay-led prayer services, funeral and baptism ministries, sacramental preparations and volunteerism around the liturgical life of the church are essential. Supporting each other in these tasks is double edged – priests/deacons need to allow and encourage lay involvement in an even greater way than is happening right now and lay people need to step up into greater roles.

I believe we must now pause and step back while thinking about more available and sustainable solutions, praying that the Holy Spirit will help us understand ‘What is God saying to the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin at this time?’

The synodal journey our Church has embarked on in recent years, reminds us that the most important sacrament is baptism – our baptism. It is out of a deeper and richer understanding of what our baptism means that we all begin to find our place in the Church today.

What we are experiencing in Kildare & Leighlin is no different to any other diocese in Ireland. However, we must never forget the Church belongs to Christ whom we serve and, as St. Oscar Romero reminded us, *“we may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own”*. I see this as a time that is certainly challenging but is also hope-filled. There will always be changes in life, but there are realities which do not change and that is our faith in God “who can do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine” (Eph.3:20).

+ Bishop Denis Nulty Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin

Diocesan Appointments 2026

Dear All,

Please see below announcement regarding Diocesan Appointments being published today.

I am pleased to announce today the Kildare & Leighlin diocesan clergy changes for 2026. These changes are challenging on all fronts, and I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the cooperation, generosity and understanding from all our clergy.

With a big reduction in the number of priests available this year, I am reminded of just how much each priest gives of himself when appointed to a parish. This is never taken for granted and we should always be thankful for their work and ministry.

Clergy who are moving and those who are taking on more, have my deepest respect and support. Going forward parishes will undoubtedly be without a resident priest and so with fewer clergy it is more important than ever to pray for our priests and to encourage vocations.

I am in contact with a number of international priests who hopefully will be in a position to take up appointments in the diocese over the coming months.

I ask you to keep all our priests and deacons in your prayers, to help them and to support them at this important time in our diocese. The changes come into effect on Friday 18th September next.

Fr. Tom Dooley, PP Portarlinton & Emo to retire.

Fr. Yanbo Chen, SVD CC, The Cathedral Parish, recalled by the SVD Order.

Fr. Theodore Tomasik, SVD CC, The Cathedral Parish, recalled by the SVD Order.

Fr. Erik Ebot, SVD CC, Portlaoise, recalled by the SVD Order.

Fr. Eugen Dragas Tamas, CC, Portarlinton & Emo returning to Iasi Diocese in Romania.

Fr. Ciprian Matei, CC, Portlaoise returning to Bucharest Archdiocese in Romania.

Fr. Joe O'Neill PP Kill to take sabbatical leave.

Fr. David Vard PP Stradbally taking personal leave of absence with my full support.

Fr. Pat Hughes, PP, Myshall & Clonegal, to become PP, Portarlinton & Emo.

Fr. Andy Leahy, CC, Myshall & Clonegal, to become PP Myshall & Clonegal while continuing to reside in St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan.

Fr. Yohan Fernando, CC, Naas, Sallins and Two-Mile-House, to become Adm., Kill while remaining part of the team in Naas, Sallins and Two-Mile-House Pastoral Area.

Fr. Piotr Jakubiak, Polish Chaplain, to become CC in the Portarlinton Mountmellick Pastoral Area, while continuing to support the Polish community.

Fr. Petru Medves, CC, Abbeyleix, Ballinakill & Raheen, to become also CC, Portlaoise. The three curates in Portlaoise (Fr. Adriano de Oliveira, Fr. Simon Jin and Fr. Petru Medves) will assist in ministry in the wider Pastoral Area.

As previously announced (which came into effect on 1st August):

Fr. Sean Maher, PP Balyna, appointed to the staff of the Seminary, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Fr. Brian Kavanagh, CC, Allen & AP Newbridge, to become PP, Balyna.

Bishop Denis Nulty.

Re. Vocations

As you can see from the appointments announced this week there are big changes in our diocese with regards to priests in active ministry. Between retirement, priests recalled to their home diocese, sabbatical and personal leave we are down, as a diocesan community, eight priests working in our parishes. In a very short time this will have a knock-on effect in all parishes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and support for me and ask that you continue to pray for all priests in our diocese.

Please continue to pray for vocations. Borris and the surrounding parishes have a rich tradition, rooted in faith, for priests and religious. Let us pray that, in a changing society, that the tradition doesn't end, that our faith may be increased in the face of change.

The call to priesthood and religious life begins in the home. I am greatly encouraged when I see families and young people come to mass each Sunday. Long may that continue and bear fruit in a living faith rooted in the love of God for each one of us.

Fr Rory.

Season of Creation 2026

Each year from **September 1 to October 4**, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

This year's theme is
“Living Water”

See www.seasonofcreation.org to access all the materials and to link to a live worldwide online opening prayer at 2pm Irish time on Tuesday, September 1.

Slí an Chroí, St Patrick's Kiltegan Autumn Grace Retreat

This weekend retreat offers an opportunity to look back on the year and on the journey of our lives, in the gentle light of God's grace.

Through guided reflection, prayer, silence, time nature and shared conversation.

**Friday 18th September to Sunday 20th September,
price €315 including accommodation and meals.**

Enquires to Michele Sinnott, slianchroi@spms.ie or
phone 089 4690508.

St Brigid's Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

**For Carlo Acutis one day retreat
Sunday 6th September 2026.**

Bus departure times:
Monasterevin 5am (Fitzpatrick's garage),
Kildare 5.10am (the Square),
Newbridge 5.20am (central bus stop),
Naas 5.30am (Post Office),
Sallins 5.40am (opposite the garage),
Clane 5.50am (opposite the church),
Kilcock 6.05 (church gates),
Maynooth 6.15am (main square),
M3 Park and Ride 6.30am,
Cavan 8am (Kiernan's Texaco service station).

**Arrive Lough Derg 9.30am
Depart for home 4.30pm.**

**Cost: €50 for island, includes a light lunch.
€50 approx. for bus.**

Pay the full amount in cash on the day
or by Revolut to [@deirdr4i54](#)

Booking essential to guarantee seat:

Telephone / text:
Deirdre 087 2467594 (after 6pm)
email: deirdregleeson@medwise.ie
Further details: www.loughderg.org

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 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 and on various local Facebook pages. Inclusion in the Parish News is at the discretion of the editor.

Fr Rory

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. Amen.

Important Dates in the Parish of Borris 2026

Ballymurphy Cemetery*
This Sunday 30th August 3pm
(Mass & Blessing of Graves)

**Subject to Weather on the Day*

Mass of the Holy Angels

Remembering children who died before and after birth

Wednesday 16th November

7.30pm

Sacred Heart Church Borris

Mass for those who Died during the Year

Wednesday 25th November

7.30pm

Sacred Heart Church Borris

Visiting Sick/Housebound

Fr Rory will call on those on the sick/housebound list this coming week.

**Thursday 3rd September:
Ballymurphy & Rathanna area**

**Friday 4th September:
Borris area**

If you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion in their home please contact Fr Rory or the Parish Office with your name and Eircode.

Irish Cancer Society Volunteer Driver Service

The Irish Cancer Society is **expanding the volunteer driver service** in the **Carlow** and Laois area, and we are seeking compassionate volunteer drivers to join our pool of drivers. We are specifically looking for drivers who can take patients to Naas Hospital, as well as St James' Hospital and the Mater Hospital in Dublin. Gifting your time means that cancer patients will have comfortable (one on one) transport to attend appointments for their lifesaving treatment.

If you can spare 2 days per month, have a valid driving license, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you are the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. Your generosity not only eases the journey for many during a challenging time but also offers comfort and support when it's needed most.

For more information and to become a volunteer driver, please contact Monica or Emily at volunteer@irishcancer.ie.

Best of Luck

To all our students who are beginning or have begun a new academic year we wish the best of luck. May the Lord bless and guide them and all staff in the coming year.

Masses in our Deanery/Pastoral Area

Borris Parish Mass Times

Weekly Mass Times

Saturday	Ballymurphy	7.30pm
Sunday	Rathanna	9.30am
	Borris	11.00am
Wednesday	Borris	10.00am
Friday	Borris	7.30pm

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 2026

Mass Times for the Year 2026

Saturday Night Mass:	Drummond at 7.00pm
Sunday Mass:	Glynn at 10am

Holyday of Obligation Mass: Drummond at 10am
Wednesday Mass: Drummond at 9.30am

Thursday: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
2.00pm Drummond

Drummond Church is open daily 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

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/

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

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

Delany Archive Heritage Week Lecture

The Delany Archive welcomes Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman for a Heritage Week lecture on “Catholic Churches and Chapels Before and After Emancipation”, including examples from churches in the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin. The lecture will be held at Carlow College, St Patrick’s (R93 A003) on 18 August at 7.00 pm.

All are welcome. Admission is free of charge and no booking is required. Further details at www.heritageweek.ie

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 Borris Library
Or contact us on 059 9170350

Basic Digital Skills for Beginners

Want to get more from your smartphone, tablet or laptop? Want to get more confident using the Internet - email, motor tax renewal, passport applications, banking etc? Want to learn how to navigate all of this safely and securely? Or maybe you know someone who does? Sign up for our FREE 6-week course in conjunction with KCETB Community Education. Your own device is required to take part.

Courses are ongoing at Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag libraries. Ask at the library desk for more details.

Drop in to Carlow Library
Or contact us on 059 9129705

Study Theology Online

Is this for you? **The Priory Institute** provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register now to begin on 19th September.

Find out more on our website, prioryinstitute.com

Accent Dance School

Every Thursday at 6.30pm in Borris Town all



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Phone: 085 801 4138

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.

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
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

MABS Money Advice & Budgeting Service

**South Leinster Money Advice & Budgeting Service
Carlow MABS
72d Tullow Street
Carlow
Tel. 0818 072 070**

Free, independent and confidential
Money Management and Advice Service

Assisting people in dealing with their debts, mortgage arrears and helping them manage their resources. MABS offers free Debt Relief Advice under Personal Insolvency options. Money Management Sessions provided for Transition/Leaving Cert Students and Community Groups.

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 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**

Jennifer Murnane O'Connor's TD Clinic

Minister of State Jennifer Murnane O'Connor's Clinics will now be held every 2nd Wednesday in The Family Resource Centre, Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown. Starting from Wednesday 18th March. Times are 10.30am to 12.30pm.

For further information, please contact the
Constituency office on 059-9170754
or email jennifer.murnaneoconnor@oireachtas.ie

Southeast Family Support Network

HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED BY ANOTHER'S DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE?

You don't have to face it alone. The Carlow Peer Family Support Group 'You Are Not Alone' is here for you. We offer a safe, non-judgemental space of understanding and compassion where you can:

Share your experiences. Meet with family members in similar situations and who 'get it'. Receive support that will support you to look at practical solutions and effective responses learning how caring for yourself can support the whole family.

Contract 085-7872730 or 086-6045805 for details

SUPPORT FOR YOURSELF CAN HELP THE WHOLE FAMILY

Readings for...
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
29th & 30th August 2026

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily
laughingstock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim:
'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about
him, I will not speak in his name anymore.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned
in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not
bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

So, I gaze on you in the sanctuary

to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

So, I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

Second Reading

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

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.