



BORRIS PARISH

*Anniversaries for Week Ending
5th & 6th September 2026*

Ballymurphy: Anniversary Mass:
Ben Dalton Ballymurphy

Rathanna: Anniversary Mass:
Tomas Quinn Spahill & his sister Maura Holly

Borris: Anniversary Mass
Ron Harrison Cournellan

We also remember...

Ann-Marie Murphy nee Ralph Kyle Ballymurphy

William & Nora Dwyer Ballynattin and their sons Paddy & Jim Dwyer

Michael Murray Waterford

Mable Phelan Ballymartin

Mary Nolan nee Curry Graiguecullen formerly Upper Cottages

Kathleen Byrne Ballyine

Patrick O'Higgins Rathanna

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

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.

Season of Creation Prayer



Creator God, Creator of life,
fountain of living water,
Your Spirit hovers over the waters,
breathing life into creation.

As we enter this Season of Creation,
open our eyes to the beauty of your Earth
and the cry of our common home.

Forgive us for the ways we have polluted your gifts
and neglected the vulnerable.

Flow through us with your healing grace.
Revive our commitment to safeguard your creation,
stand with those suffering from the climate crisis,
and walk gently on this earth.

May justice and peace flow
like a never-failing stream.

Amen.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to Fr. Seamus Whelan who has been home with us here in Borris for the last while.

He has been a great help to me within the Parish as he gave me a chance for some time off!!

We wish him well as he returns to Argentina and look forward, with the help of God, to seeing him home again soon in the future.

September Collection for The Support of Priests

The Autumn Collection for the financial support of Priests is taken up at this time of the year. For those who have the Box of Parish Envelopes there is a special envelope for this purpose.

There are also envelopes available in the Churches for this purpose that can be returned at any mass or dropped into the Parish Office.

If you wish to donate online via bank transfer the Bank Details are as follows:

Borris Parish Clergy Fund A/C:

IBAN IE38 BOFI 9065 1582 6735 66

BIC BOFIE2D

BANK OF IRELAND BAGINALSTOWN

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your continued financial and spiritual support of me as your Parish Priest. In times that are financially hard on so many your support of me is greatly appreciated.

Fr Rory

Bagenalstown & the Presentation Sisters

On **12th September** Bishop Denis Nulty will bless and unveil a plaque at the **6pm Mass in Bagenalstown Church**. This is to acknowledge the contribution of the Presentation Sisters to education and to Bagenalstown Parish.

All are welcome.

Grotto Mass Goresbridge

Mass will be offered at the Grotto of Our Lady in Goresbridge, Eircode **R95 EE94**, on Friday 11th September at 7.30pm.

All are welcome.

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

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.

Important Dates in the Parish of Borris 2026

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.*

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

Singing For Wellbeing started back in Borris Library Wednesday 2nd September, 9.45am to 10.45am, Email ckinsella@carlowcoco.ie or phone Borris Library at 059 9170350 to join up!

My Open Library operates 365 days a year and operates in Tullow, Bagenalstown & Borris Library Branches.

For more info: Drop in to Borris Library
Or contact us on 059 9170350

Rathanna Drama Group



Rathanna Drama Group will hold their AGM on Monday 14th September at 8pm.

New Members Welcome!

Forever Fit Carlow

Balance and resistance training
Borris, Myshall, Carlow & Tullow

Further information: Email: foreverfitcarlow@gmail.com
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

Accent Dance School

Every Thursday at 6.30pm in Borris Town all



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Call/Text: 087 361 4053

LIMITED SPACES – BOOK TODAY!

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PRO LIFE CAMPAIGN



BECAUSE LIFE IS A RIGHT

Please support the church-gate Collections before Masses in our Churches in Ballymurphy, Rathanna and Borris this weekend 5th/6th September 2026. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

prolife
campaign

Clifton House,
Lower Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2
01 6629275
info@prolifecampaign.ie
www.prolifecampaign.ie

Readings for...
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
5th & 6th September 2026

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name.

If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

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 letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal; you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.