

# PARISH NEWS

## Second Sunday of Advent 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014

### Prepare a way

John the Baptist is an interesting character. He wasn't someone who kept up with the latest fashion. We are told he wore strange clothes, ate insects and lived in the desert. And yet John was very popular as we hear that 'all of Judea' came to him. There was obviously something very attractive about John. People could see something in him; something that inspired them; something that gave them hope. John is clear that he is not the one they are looking for; rather he is someone who is pointing to the one they are looking for. John shows the way for people, he is a signpost to God.

The world says to God, 'we no longer need you, we know what is best'. And then we look at the wilderness of our modern world and hear the voice of one crying, 'Prepare a way'. How do we prepare for welcoming God's love into our hearts? God is crying out for us to welcome him again and again. It is us who are blocked; we put so many things in the way. John is urging us to clear the path, to let go of all the things that are preventing us from experiencing God's love. John is calling people out from despair into hopefulness.

**Collections:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2014 Envelopes €634 Baskets €544

No. Of Envelopes Returned 59 Direct Debits 4

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

**Mass Schedule: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Masses at 9.30am in Rathanna, 11am in Borris and 7.30pm in Ballymurphy on Mon 8<sup>th</sup>

No Mass in Borris on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, Mass at 7.30pm on Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Mass at 9am Tues 9<sup>th</sup> to Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dec (Incl.)

**Borris Parish Website :** [www.borrisparish.ie](http://www.borrisparish.ie)

Diocesan website [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

**Parish Centre:** The Parish Centre is open as usual Mon. – Fri. from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Phone 059 9773128; email [borrisparish@gmail.com](mailto:borrisparish@gmail.com) Closed Bank holidays.

**The Centre will be closed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Dalton's Square Borris** on Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

Christmas Music from 5.30pm. Carol singing by Borris Male Voice & Ladies Choirs, Borris National School Choir & Polish Carol Singers. Refreshments & Raffle. All welcome.

There are **Divine Word Christmas Cards & Christmas Bouquets** for sale at the Parish Centre.

**What in the World?** The RTE series on globalisation, poverty and human rights is back on Monday 1 December and continues every Monday until 22 December.

**Charismatic Meeting** – A Polish Charismatic Meeting will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Sacred Heart Church at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Station Masses** On Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. the people of Ballymurphy Station area will be remembered in the 7.30pm Mass. On Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. the people of Rathanna Station area will be remembered in the 9.30am Mass. Borris area Station Mass is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. There is an envelope in your boxes for these Masses.

**Christmas Penitential Service** will be held in Sacred Heart Church, Borris on Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 8pm.

The **Eist Carlow Cancer Support** Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9.30a.m. - 4.00p.m. daily. The Centre offers support to people and their families who have received a cancer diagnosis including Counselling, Reflexology, Yoga etc. The Centre also runs a walking programme 'Strides for Life' at the St. Laurence O'Toole Athletic Club each Thursday morning at 11.00a.m. The Centre offers Yoga on Wednesdays at 11.00a.m. and Pottery on Thursdays at 11.00a.m. Please contact the Centre for further information at (059) 9139684 or e-mail [eistcarlowcancersupport.ie](http://eistcarlowcancersupport.ie) or drop in any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Borris National School Concert Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in The Sacred Heart Church, Borris. All welcome.

Youth 2000 Ireland will be hosting their annual Christmas Retreat in Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Over 500 young people from across Ireland (aged 16-35) are expected at this donation only event, with all newcomers very welcome. This is a great opportunity to find out what your faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. Free buses available. Online booking necessary, see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or phone 01 6753690.

### *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

#### **TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

One Christmas carol never made any sense to me until this season. I didn't like it & even cringed whenever it came on the air. It was The Twelve Days of Christmas. How on earth was anyone to make sense out of ladies dancing, lords a-leaping, swans a swimming, & that goofy partridge who could never get down out of the pear tree? Then, a week before Christmas, I slipped into a local Catholic Church to pick up one of their bulletins. I often do this because I am interested in what other Christians are doing. In their bulletin was an explanation of the carol, which, with their permission, I adapt here for you. It is a story not just of a Christmas carol but of how creatively the Christian church has had to teach & spread the Gospel in times of persecution. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has 2 levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element of the carol is a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember: The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. Two turtledoves are the Old & New Testament. Three French hens stand for faith, hope, & love. Four calling birds are the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. Five golden rings recall the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5). Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments. Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. Finally, twelve drummers drumming symbolise the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

*HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK*