

Parish of Botha

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Parish Office

CLOSED

CHRISTMAS WEEK.

Re opens Monday 2nd

January 2023.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Our attention is now directed fully to the coming of Christ in the Christmas mystery. The preface calls us to wonder at this great happening, to prepare for Christmas in prayer and praise. The psalm tells us to purify our hearts as preparation. Prayer and reconciliation should be features of these days.

Masses for the Week

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 25th December **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
9.30am Mass

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 1st January **Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**
11.30am Mass **Months Memory:** Ronan Swift, Rosnarick Close.

Anniversary: Francie Reilly, Mill Green.

Sacred Heart Boho:

Sunday 25th December **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 11am
Mass.

Sunday 1st January **Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**
10am Mass **Months Memory:** Sarah McBrien, Toneel. **Anniversary:**
Charlie and Tommy Jones, Corr.

Recently Deceased: your prayers are requested for the souls of Joe Duffy, Tullycreevy and Leo McCauley, Crott. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Blessings: the well known Christmas song, *Jingle Bells*, can easily be reworded to reflect the stress of this time for many people:

*"Oh jingled nerves, jangled nerves,
hassle all the way,
oh what stress we feel inside
on account of Christmas day.*

*Dashing through the shops,
stretching out our pay,
buying, wrapping, tying, crying,
all for Christmas Day."*

The Christmas story reflects, not the hustle and bustle of this time but rather, the innocence of childhood, in the person of Jesus Christ, born into the world at Bethlehem. The Nativity scene reminds us of the birth of the Saviour of the world, and while we can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of pressure in advance of Christmas, hopefully we can see beyond this to the true message of the Nativity.

As we welcome those who have come home for Christmas, our thoughts are with those who cannot be here. We remember those who will struggle through these days because of illness, bereavement, estrangement from others, those who face financial difficulties and other demands.

Our churches have been prepared for the celebration of Christmas by many people, thank you to everyone involved. Thanks also to those who take part in the liturgies of this season and indeed, throughout the year. As we welcome the infant Jesus, may his presence inspire and enthuse us with the spirit of this day.

Christmas Crib Prayer

Filled with wonder at the nearness of our God in Mary's newborn child, may we now offer him our praise, worship and thanksgiving and give him the love and loyalty of our hearts. Amen.

Source: *The Veritas Book of Blessing Prayers*



Some Christmas traditions:

The date - The celebration of Christmas began in the 4th century. Winter solstice had been marked on December 21st and Church leaders decided they would order a festival of Jesus's birth around that time.

Christmas Carols - a song about the birth of Jesus, with the oldest being written in 1410. A Carol was strictly a song with religious content and not merely a holiday song, which many of today's secular songs are.

Boxing Day - this term is an English one for the day after Christmas. It comes from a custom started about 800 years ago, when churches would open their alms box (in which people had put their gifts of money) and distribute its contents to the poor.

Santa Claus - St. Nicholas was born in Turkey in the 4th century. Widely known for his love and generosity towards children. A shy man who wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. He climbed onto the roof of a poor man's house, dropping purses of money down the chimney, in order to help the man provide a dowry for each of his three daughters. They landed in the stockings which the daughters had hung by the fire to dry! In the 16 century, Dutch children would place their wooden shoes by the fire hoping that they would be filled with a treat. The Dutch spelled St. Nicholas as Sint Nikolaas, which becomes Sinterklass, and finally Santa Claus.

St. Peregrine Novena: Our next Novena Mass will be at 7pm on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Maria's Gospel Hour: Due to huge interest Maria will be starting a show on YouTube at 4pm on Sundays. Search "@mariadoherthy" on YouTube to watch on Christmas Day and New Year's Day onwards.

Derrygonnelly Harps GFC: It was with real sadness that our club committee and members heard of the passing of Joe Duffy, Monea. Joe's immediate and extended family members are very deeply involved in our club's activities, so we extend our most sincere sympathies to Mrs Marie Duffy, Joe's brothers and sisters, his children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The results from the club Lotto draw held on December 20th, will be in the next set of club notes. Draw in Doogies on Tuesday December 27th and in Old Pals Tuesday Jan 3rd. The club is also proud to announce that our Celebration Dinner Dance looking back on achievements in 2022 will take place in the Killyhevlin Hotel on Saturday January 21st. Tickets available shortly. Thanks to all of our club's volunteers, players, supporters and sponsors for your backing and encouragement during a momentous year for the club, with so much positive work to look back on. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Aisling Centre – 6th Annual Hope Healing Growth Day of Inspiration 7th January 2022. Crest Centre, South West College, Enniskillen. Attend in person or via zoom. Fantastic line up of speakers. Information and tickets available from the Aisling Centre 028 66 325811 <https://theaislingcentre.com/hope-healing-growth/> or Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/28897tmy>

Seeing your life through the Lens of the Gospel:

Matthew 11:25 (shorter form 1:18-25)

1. This prologue to John's gospel is a piece of poetry. Like all poetry one of the ways to enter into it is to read it a few times slowly and let the words and images speak to you.
 2. The prologue proclaims Jesus as the true light come into the world. How has Jesus, and the message of Jesus, been a light for you in your life?
 3. The prologue also affirms the transforming power of faith: 'to all who receive him....he gave power to become children of God'. How would you describe the difference it makes to you to have faith as part of your life?
 4. In Jesus we get a glimpse of God and of the love of God. But as 'Jesus people' in the world today we are also called to be witnesses to the light. Who has been a witness to you? To whom have you been a witness?
- John Byrne OSA