

# Parish of Botha

## Parish Priest:

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<http://bothaparish.com>

**Baptisms:** on the 1st Saturday of each month at 4pm in St Patrick's, Derrygonnelly.

## Parish Office Hours:

Monday and Thursday

6.30pm – 9.30pm

Wednesday

1.30pm – 9.30pm

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*In John's Gospel, the first thing that any human being says of Jesus is found on the lips of John the Baptist: Look, there is the Lamb of God. We think naturally and correctly of the Passover lamb and of the Passover, the feast which marks the liberation of Israel. To be set free is a wonderful experience and I could reflect on how I experience my freedom in Christ. From what have I been set free? (For example fear of death, the risk of absurdity, sins and false directions in life...) Even more important, for what have I been set free?*

## Masses for the Week

### Sacred Heart Boho:

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 10am Mass **Anniversary:** Charlie McGowan, Faugher.

### St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 11.30am Mass **Anniversary:** Patricia Johnston,

Rosnarick Close; Deceased of Derrygonnelly Harps and Boho St Fabers GFC.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January **St Anthony** 7pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 10am Mass.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 10am Mass.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 11.30am Mass. People of the Parish

### Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 10am Mass **Months Memory:** Joe Duffy, Tullycreevy.

**Baptism:** We welcome to the Christian world through the waters of Baptism, Cohen Charlie Jones. May he grow in faith.

## Prayer for Christian Unity

You made us, God,  
in your own image,  
and then became one of us,  
proud of those you have  
made.

Make us proud of being part  
of that worldwide family,  
and eager to discover and  
celebrate your image in  
every person, every culture,  
every nation that we are  
privileged to encounter.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** begins Wednesday 18 January until 25 January. The theme this year is "**Belonging: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice**". Here in Ireland, this year of 2023 marks the centenary of the formation of the Irish Council of Churches and the 50th anniversary of the Ballymascanlon Talks in 1973 which led to the formation of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. Today, these bodies for inter-church dialogue in Ireland enable Christians to pray and work together for peace, reconciliation and social justice throughout Ireland.

**Concern Collection:** the recent collection held in our parish raised a total of £921.04 and €41.20. Your generous response is greatly appreciated.

**Trocaire:** would like to sincerely thank the parishioners of Botha for their very generous support for the sale of Christmas Gift cards. Total raised was £2165.

**Catholic Schools Week:** begins Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January and runs until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The theme this year is connected to the process of synodality, with its three features being identified as helpful to exploring '**Walking Together in Faith & Love**': **Communion, Participation and Mission**. Resources can be found on <https://catholiceducation.ie/catholic-schools-week-2023-walking-together-in-faith-love-3/>

**A Fundraising Dance:** in Derrygonnelly Community Centre with **The Tumbling Paddies** on **Saturday, 4th February 2023**. Doors open at 8.30 pm. Tickets cost £15 and are available on Eventbrite or at the door on the night. Over 18's only. ID required.

**The Sacrament of Penance:** this is the second sacrament that we receive, usually at the age of seven or eight. It is a sacrament about healing, through the power of God to forgive sins. In scripture we read that Jesus teaches that there are two fundamental commandments which are central to the Christian faith – that we should love God and love one another. All his other teaching flows from this.

Many of us will have memories of attending regular confessions in the past, indeed weekly or certainly monthly confessions was the norm at one time.

Even though the Sacrament of Penance is about healing, reconciliation and forgiveness, it is often elicits a strong negative response from some people. Sadly, the majority of people today have given up the practice of confession of sin, yet more people partake of the Eucharist. Penance should be seen, not as punishment for sin but rather as an invitation to receive God's grace. There are countless moments of encounter with God in the Gospels where those involved received mercy for what they confess:

- Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19 1-10)
- The woman at the well (John 4: 1-30)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32)
- The woman in Adultery (John 8: 1-11)

God invites us to encounter him in the Sacrament of Penance through confessing the wrong we have done, by asking for forgiveness and in celebrating his forgiveness. It could be easy today to conclude that Confessions is a 'one off thing,' only celebrated by children in advance of the First Holy Communion. The Sacrament of Penance is an opportunity for all of us to have an encounter with God at this very deep level. Perhaps today, the biggest difficulty with this sacrament is in our understanding of sin. If we don't believe in sin, then we don't feel the need to confess. Please avail of the opportunity to encounter God in this moment of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness.

**Easy on the Kneasy:** is starting on Wednesday 18th January at 11.am in Derrygonnelly Harps Clubhouse. £3 per class and new faces very welcome.

**Boho Community Centre:** Crochet, chatter, knit and natter class will resume on Monday 16th January at 7.30pm. Boho Seniors' lunch will resume on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 1pm

### God Listens

I hear no voice,  
I feel no touch,  
I see no glory bright  
but yet I know that God is near,  
in darkness as in light.

God watches ever by my side and  
hears my whispered prayer.

A God of love for a little child  
both night and day does care.

Amen

**Derrygonnelly Harps GFC:** Jackpot £3500 £20 Jacqueline Whitely, Eoghan Cassidy, online. Brenda Carson, Garrison. Draw in The Linnet Inn tonight. Thanks to everyone who promotes and supports the Lotto.

The annual Ireland **Lights Up Walking Event** started on 11th January to coincide with the beginning of RTE's 'Operation Transformation' and the step challenge. Anyone willing to volunteer with registration from 11th Jan to 15th Feb will be most welcome. The lights will be on from 7pm - 8.30pm each Wednesday to allow people to walk around the pitch. weather appropriate clothing, footwear and torches are strongly advised.

The club is also taking part in the **My Life Every Step Counts - Step Challenge** starting Jan 11th - 15th Feb with the aim to get as many people in the community (you don't have to be a club member) to register under the club name and record your steps,

to achieve the target of over 4000km to be in with a chance at winning prizes for the club in the O'Neill's prize draw. **Dinner Dance 2023** on January 21<sup>st</sup> in the Killyhevlin Hotel to celebrate our Senior Ladies' successes at Fermanagh and Ulster level. Tickets are now available. Condolence to the family and friends of Margaret (Rita) Doherty, Mohill, Co. Leitrim on her recent death.

**Popes Francis prayer intention - January:** For educators - We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.