

Parish of Botha

Parish Priest:

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

Parish Website: The new parish website is now live and can be accessed at bothaparish.com

Parish Office Hours:

Monday and Thursday
6.30pm – 9.30pm
Wednesday
1.30pm – 9.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The experience of the man born blind helps our understanding of baptism. 'You went, you washed, you came to the altar, you began to see what you had not seen before. In short, your eyes were opened in the fountain of the Lord and by the preaching of the Lord's Passion. You seemed previously to be blind of heart: now you began to see the light.' So spoke St Ambrose to the recently baptised, recalling that experience to them.

Masses for the Week

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 19th March 10am Mass. People of the Parish.

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 19th March 11.30am Mass. **Months Memory:** Raymond Dundas, Knockmore Park. **Anniversary:** William and Jane Dundas, Knockmore Park; Owen Foy, Beagh.

Tuesday 21st March 10am Mass and Novena to St Peregrine

Tuesday 21st March 6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 22nd March 10am Mass.

Friday 24th March 10am Mass.

Friday 24th March **Sacrament of Confirmation** 6pm.

Sunday 26th March 11.30am Mass. **Anniversary:** Francis and Mary Ellen Dolan, Sandhill; Charles and Teresa Smyth, Main Street.

Sacred Heart Boho:

Thursday 23rd March 7.30pm Stations of the Cross.

Sunday 26th March 10am Mass. **Months Memory:** Phil Maguire, Mullaghmore. **Anniversary:** Lizzie, James and Patrick McGovern, Portmush; Aidan Maguire, Tullyholvin; William and Mary Carroll, Leitrim.

Recently Deceased: Your prayers are requested for the soul of Joan Reilly, Belfast formerly Maguiresbridge, May she rest in peace.

PRAYER FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Sacrament of Confirmation: We keep in our prayers the boys and girls who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday 24th March in St. Patrick's Church at 6pm.

Prayer for Pope Francis on the 10th anniversary of his Petrine Ministry – 19th March 2013

O God, the shepherd and ruler of all Your faithful people, mercifully look upon Your servant Pope Francis, whom You have chosen as the chief Shepherd to preside over Your Church. We beg You to help him edify, both by word and example, those over whom he has charge, that he may reach everlasting life together with the flock entrusted to him.

Lord Jesus shelter our Holy Father the Pope, under the protection of Your sacred Heart. Be his light, his strength and his consolation.

Our Lady of Divine Love, pray for him. St. Patrick, pray for him. St. Francis pray for him. St. Peter and all the saints in heaven, pray for him. Amen.



Parish Envelopes: new boxes of parish envelopes will be available from the beginning of April. The weekly envelope is the way by which most parishioners support the upkeep of the parish during the year. In recent years, with more people using less cash, a number of parishioners have set up a standing order through their bank account. Others make a one-off annual payment and some use the I-Donate facility on the diocesan website. Whichever way you support us, a sincere thank you for all you do. I encourage those who do not offer any support to the parish to begin now.

Parishioners avail of our churches and cemeteries, as well as our priest, at various times and sadly, many believe that they should receive everything without giving a little in return. We cannot run the parish on Hail Mary's alone and so I appeal to those who do not contribute to reflect on why not. There are many demands on all of you and your generosity and support is not taken for granted. As we begin another financial year, the refurbishment of the Sacred Heart Church looms large. While there have been several unforeseen delays to the project, work can only be successfully completed through the efforts and support of all of us. Thank you in anticipation of your continued goodwill and support.

Prayer to St Joseph Feast Day 20th March

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.

Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.

My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.



Derrygonnelly Harps GFC:

Jackpot £4400. £20 Catherine Armstrong, online, Raymond Jones, London, Senan Dundas. Draw in Doogies tonight. Thanks to everyone who supports and promotes the Lotto. If you would like to set up a regular entry or live away from the area then why not explore klubfunder.com to look at the online Lotto entry facility.

SMA Dromantine: Lenten Reflection Day Saturday 25th March 9.30am – 5pm led by Fr Des Corrigan SMA, Cost including lunch £35 Contact 02830821964

Accord NI Catholic Marriage Care Service: is recruiting Marriage Education Facilitators to provide Sacramental Marriage Preparation for couples in your diocese. For further details and an application form, please contact Brenda at 028 9023 3002 or email info@accordni.com

Seeing your life through the Lens of the Gospel:

John 9:1-41

A long story like the one we have today provides many different points of entry for prayer. Read the story and stay with what resonates with you. Some possible points of entry are:

1. The blind man was healed. Can you recall occasions when some blindness of yours was taken away and you could see in a new way? What was the experience like for you?
2. The Pharisees claimed to be the ones who could see, who knew where God was to be found, when in fact they were blind. It was the man born blind who showed himself open to see the hand of God at work in what happened. There can be some of each in us. What has helped you to be open to seeing the hand of God at work in your life? Who have been the Jesus people who have led you to this point.
3. The Pharisees seem to have had a collective blindness that blocked them from seeing what God was doing in Jesus. Perhaps in today's world you can see examples of collective blindness when people want to avoid an awkward truth, e.g. about the damage being done to our planet by human activity.
4. There are many characters in the story: Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents, and the Pharisees. Put yourself in the position of each one and see what you learn from identifying with them.

John Byrne OSA