

Parish of Botha

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Third Sunday of Advent

As we journey in advent and look forward to Christmas we celebrate our joy at the coming of the Lord. Joy, prayer and thanksgiving should characterise Christian worship. Because the man of integrity has come with good news for the poor, we can exult for joy. But his coming will mean that we also will practise justice and integrity.

Masses for the Week

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 17th December 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Philip Gallagher and Deceased of the Gallagher Family, Drumbeggar; Deceased of the McCaffery Family, Killyhommon; Joe Duffy, Tullycreevy and Deceased of the Duffy Family, Tullymargy; Leo McCauley and Deceased of the McCauley Family, Crott.

Sunday 24th December 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Sue and Anthony Magee and Deceased of the Magee Family, Loughan.

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 17th December 11.30am Mass. **Anniversary:** Mary and Tom Fee, Knockmore Park; Ciaran Fee, Dublin; Henry Dundas and Deceased of the McConnell Family, Derryvarmore.

Tuesday 19th December Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm.

Tuesday 19th December 7pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine.

Wednesday 20th December 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Paddy O'Dare and Deceased of the O'Dare Family, Rosnarick Close.

Thursday 21st December 10am Mass.

Sunday 24th December 11.30am Mass. **Months Memory:** Kathleen Gilroy, Lattonagh. **Anniversary:** Joe Maginnis and Deceased of the Maginnis Family, Drumgormley.

Sunday 24th December **Vigil for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 7pm.

Recently Deceased: your prayers are requested for the souls of Mary Burns, Lisdoonan; Patsy Haran, Portmarnock formerly Lisdead and Angela Quinn nee McCann, Dungannon, formerly Knockmore Park. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Mass Times:

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Christmas Eve Vigil 7.00pm

Christmas Day 9.00am

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Christmas Day 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: the season of Advent affords us the opportunity to prepare for the Lord's coming through the confession of our sins and the celebration of God's mercy. While the frequency of this sacrament has declined for most people, it is still important that we take the opportunity to celebrate it in advance of Christmas. The sacrament of Penance is available in St Patrick's on Saturday 23rd December 1pm to 2pm and on Christmas Eve following the 11.30am Mass until 1pm.

This week's Bulletin is sponsored by the Gallagher Family, Drumbeggar.

Trocaire thanks: Sincere thanks to all who supported this year's Trocaire Christmas Gift sales. The amazing total of £1820 was raised in Botha Parish.

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the feast of Christmas experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Parish Calendars: The 2024 parish calendar is now available at the back of our churches. Please take one for those who may be housebound.

Sunday Missals: a copy of the Sunday Missal 2024 is available for Readers of the Word in our churches. Readers are asked to collect a missal in the church sacristies.

Concern Collection: a collection will be taken up after Masses today **Sunday 17th December**. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Give the gift of Lough Derg this Christmas: The online Lough Derg Christmas Shop is now open at: www.loughderg.live/shop. The Christmas shop provides much needed financial income to support the mission and ministry of Lough Derg outside the Pilgrimage Season. Thank you for your support.

Parish Office: will be closed on Monday 18th December and also from Monday 25th December until Wednesday 3rd January

Trócaire School Volunteers: Are you a retired teacher or someone who has experience presenting to groups of school children? Do you have a passion for making this world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable? Trócaire is looking for volunteers to support our School Talks Programme for Lent 2024 in the Clogher Diocese Area. If you think you have the right skills and experience and will have a few free hours during Lent, then we would love to hear from you! For more information call Casey Schell on 02890 808033 or email casey.schell@trocaire.org

Mary's Meals Christmas Gifts Campaign: The Global School Feeding Movement Mary's Meals have launched our Christmas Gifts Campaign - giving gifts that have a real and tangible impact on those in need. From as little as €5.50, which will provide 50 meals for children in their place of education, we can play our part in changing the lives of those most in need. Visit marysmeals.ie to download a gift today or call 01-8535163/089-4339592.

The Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene



The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, "gentle and humble in heart" (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod's palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalised.

Pope Francis Admirabile Signum