

Parish of Botha

Parish Priest: Fr. Cathal Deery

Tel: 028 68641207

Email: frcathaldeery@clogherparishes.ie

Parish Office:

Tel: 028 68641889

Email: botha@clogherparishes.ie

Office Hours:

Closed until 3rd January 2024

Parish webcam: churchmedia.tv

website: <http://bothaparish.com>

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The season of preparation is drawing to a close. Like Mary, my getting ready involves deep listening to what God is asking of me now and an interior willingness to say: "Let what you have said be done to me." What is God asking of me now, as a person, in the family, at work, and indeed within the faith community of the church? Have I noticed a pattern of "nudges" from God calling me to a deeper, perhaps different engagement as a disciple? Are my gifts – tokens of God's grace – fully at the service of my neighbour?

Masses for the Week

Immaculate Conception Monea:

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

Monday 25th December **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 10.30am Mass

Sunday 31st December 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Bridie and Patsy Duffy, Castletown; James and Mary Greene, Killyveagh.

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

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.

Monday 25th December **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 9am Mass

Sunday 31st December 11.30am Mass. **Anniversary:** Frank, Cassie and Martin Gallagher, Fairview Park.

Recently Deceased: Your prayers are requested for the soul of Anna Monaghan, Irvinestown. May she rest in peace.

Christmas Greetings: as I put these few words together, it is December 21st, the shortest day of the year - the winter solstice - and the phrase, 'the dark days of Christmas', feels quite appropriate. As you read them, it is Christmas Eve, coinciding with the fourth Sunday of Advent and our focus has moved to the birth of the Saviour and Mary's place in the Christmas story. The Holy Family of Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus, draws us in to the mystery of God become man, the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Welcome to you all as you attend our Christmas masses, parishioners, visitors and those of you who have come back to your native place for this celebration. In the darkness of these days, we are mindful of those who might be struggling with Christmas - anyone who is lonely, ill, in despair of life, those that have experienced loss, people who may have financial struggles, families that find Christmas challenging for whatever reason. We also give thanks for all the good things that have happened during the year.

A sincere thank you to all who have prepared our churches for Christmas, and to all who serve in the many ministries in our parish.

May the Christ Child bless you with peace, joy and health during this Christmas period.

Fr. Cathal

St. Peregrine Novena: Our next Novena Mass will be at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Parish Office: Re opens on Wednesday 3rd January.

Eucharistic Adoration: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's on Tuesday 26th December. Adoration will resume as normal on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. As we begin

this new year perhaps you could commit to spending one hour each Tuesday in Adoration. If there is anyone who can give this time please contact the Parish office 028 68641889 or email botha@clogherparishes.ie

PTAA: Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next **Wednesday 27 December** and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am (Irish time) around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the announcing of his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for this coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Derrygonnelly Harps GFC: Jackpot £8400. £50 Martina Feely, Derrygonnelly, Trisha Gallagher, Milltown, County Cork, Kris Farrell, Derrygonnelly, E Burns, Boho, Luca, The Forge, Belleek, Martin Magee, Belleek and Padraig McGinley, online player. The promoters prize went to Mary Cox. Draw in Doogies next Sunday night. Thanks to everyone who supports and promotes the Harps Lotto. We are also holding a Christmas Sports Quiz on Wednesday 27th December at 6.30pm in the Community Centre. Entry is as teams of four and everyone is welcome. Best regards to all of our members and supporters for a restful, happy Christmas and New Year.

Aisling Centre's 7th Annual Hope Healing Growth Event:

Ripples of Hope - 6th January 2024 - 9.30 am – 3.30 pm – Crest Centre, South West College Lough Yoan Road, Enniskillen Limited number of tickets available - £25 in person attendance – virtual attendance free/voluntary donation Tickets available via [Eventbrite https://bit.ly/HHG2024](https://bit.ly/HHG2024)

The Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative (FRCI) Team:

are currently delivering a free programme of support called REAP, which supports economically inactive (those not in paid work) with short courses, qualifications, mentoring, coaching, health and well-being, support with CV's, application forms and interviews, work experience, etc. for more information Tel: 028 8224 6535 or 028 6632 6478. Email: reap@fermanaghomagh.com or Facebook REAP Employability Programme.

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

Prayer for those grieving at Christmas

Lord, not everyone feels joyful at this season. So many have lost loved ones during the year, and in many places, the winter cold blows its bitter winds into lonely hearts. This Christmas we pray for those who are grieving losses. Memories of happy times with loved ones in the past can send a rush of tears to those whose arms ache with emptiness. Lord, dry those tears with Your sweet words of comfort and cheer. Turn their sorrow into joy as only You can do. May the joy of your birth and the good news of your coming to earth as the saviour of the world cushion their grief this Christmas and bring peace to those who need it most. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.