

# Parish of Botha

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Office Hours:    Monday and Thursday 6.30pm – 9.30pm    Wednesday 1.30pm – 9.30pm  
Parish webcam: churchmedia.tv    website: <http://bothaparish.com>

## Second Sunday of Advent

*As Christmas approaches, we could ask ourselves: how can we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our saviour? The proclamation of John the Baptist points to the preparation that really counts: conversion of heart and life. The deeper meaning of metanoia is a change of vision, a radical new outlook, in the light of the Gospel. God is our compassionate Father, our Abba, who desires nothing less than our hearts, our whole selves. We are accepted and loved by him, while we are still sinners (Rm5:8). Receiving his forgiving-love means revolution in values, beliefs and direction in life.*

## Masses for the Week

### Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Sarah McBrien, Toneel.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am Mass. **Anniversary:** Frank and Josie Flood, Main Street; John Melanophy, Tobradan; Vera, Francie and Mary Kate Treacy, Rosnarick Close; Mollie and Packie Gallagher, Mill Green; Deceased of the Gallagher Family, Drumgormley and Stratore; Vincent Haren, Drumbeggan.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine. **Months Memory:** Mary McConnell, Mill Green.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December **St. Lucy** 10am Mass.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December **St. John of the Cross** 10am Mass.

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

**Baptism:** We welcome to the Christian world through the waters of Baptism Orlaith Pauline McHugh. May she grow in faith.

### Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Father, all powerful Lord of Light,  
May our Advent be a  
time of preparation.  
Help us reflect on the  
power of light  
to dispel darkness in  
our world and in our  
lives.



### Prayer for Advent

May God the Father, who loved the world  
so much that he sent his only Son,  
give you grace to prepare for eternal life.  
May God the Son,  
who comes as Redeemer and Judge,  
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.  
May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working  
the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ  
help you bear the fruits of holiness. 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.

## Christmas Mass Times

**St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:  
Christmas Eve Vigil 7.00pm  
Christmas Day 9.00am**

**Immaculate Conception Monea:  
Christmas Day 10.30am**

*Derrygonnelly Harps GFC:* Jackpot £8200. Johnny Elliott, Rosnarick Close, Tommy Kelly, Derrygonnelly and Mary G & Bale, Garrison. Draw in Doogies tonight. Thanks to everyone who supports and promotes the Harps Lotto. We are also holding a Christmas Sports Quiz on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in the Community Centre. Entry is as teams of four and everyone is welcome.

*Killyhommon PS Open Afternoon:* We invite our prospective parents and pupils to take the opportunity to come along to the school and see what we have to offer on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm.**

*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](mailto:reap@fermanaghomagh.com) or Facebook REAP Employability Programme.

*Give the gift of Lough Derg this Christmas:* The

online Lough Derg Christmas Shop is now open at: [www.loughderg.live/shop](http://www.loughderg.live/shop). Mass Bouquets, Christmas Cards, the limited-edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle, and a large range of Nativity Sets and other gifts. 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.

*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](mailto:casey.schell@trocaire.org)

*Mary's Meals Christmas Gifts Campaign* - With the cost-of-living crisis, times are that bit harder for us all. 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](http://marysmeals.ie) to download a gift today or call 01-8535163/089-4339592.

*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 in the Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick's on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.** Your support will be greatly appreciated.

*Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel*  
Mark 1:1-8

1. Mark opens his gospel by describing it as 'the good news about Jesus Christ'. Think of the different ways in which the gospel stories have been good news for you.

2. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?

3. John calls the people to repentance (a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change revitalised you?

4. John baptized people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolize our change of heart - write a letter, throw away our last cigarette, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

John Byre OSA