

Parish of Botha

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First Sunday of Lent

Lent coincides with springtime, and in fact, the word itself probably comes from the Old English lencten, meaning the lengthening of the days that occurs in spring. Spring is the time of new life and it uplifts people's spirit. Lent offers us the possibility to renew the life of the Spirit.

Masses for the Week

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 18th February 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Geraldine Cassidy, Killyveagh; Mark Gillies, Legland; Lawrence Magee, Leighan.

Sunday 25th February 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** Mary Conway, Enniskillen; Deceased of the Duffy Family, Enniskillen; Deceased of the Nolan, Marlow and Rasdale Families, Boho.

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 18th February 11.30am Mass. **Anniversary:** Raymond, William and Jane Dundas, Knockmore Park; Packie and Lena McKeane, Rosnarick Close; Bridie and John Kelly, Drumbeggan; Veronica Hoy, Knockmore Park; Deceased of the Hoy Family, Cosbystown.

Tuesday 20th February Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm.

Tuesday 20th February 7pm Mass and Novena to St. Peregrine.

Wednesday 21st February 7pm Mass.

Thursday 22nd February **The Chair of St Peter** 10am Mass.

Sunday 25th February 11.30am Mass. **Months Memory:** Kevin McGovern, Doagh.
Anniversary: Joe and Ita Corrigan, Drumary.

Recently Deceased: Your prayers are requested for the soul of Owen Jones, Drumma. May he rest in peace.

Do you want to fast this Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressure and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Wedding: Congratulations to Colleen Flanagan and Darren Sweeney, and also to Maggie Maguire and Ryan Muldoon who were married in St. Patrick's recently. May God bless them with health and happiness.

Immaculate Conception: please come along to help with hedge cutting and general tidy up of our cemetery on Saturday 24th February at 10 am.

Stations of the Cross: will be prayed each Wednesday morning after 10am Mass in St Patrick's.

Dromantine Summer Camp 2024: Registration goes live on Friday 1st March for players (11-16year olds) and the leadership team (17plus). Visit our website www.dromantinesummerncamp.co.uk to register for more information about camp

This week's Bulletin is sponsored in memory of Jamie Thompson, Enniskillen.

The Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration's Lenten Campaign: began on Ash Wednesday. You are invited to make this journey with us into the desert with Christ for 40 days during Lent. Find out more and sign up: <https://eucharisticadoration.ie/lenten-campaign-2024/>

The Novena of Hope at The Graan: is from Sat (6.30pm) 2nd March to Monday 11th March. Sunday services are 9am, 10:30am, 12 noon and 4:00p.m. Weekdays 12:30pm and 7.30pm except Wednesday 6th March, Mass at 11am and 7.30pm. Wednesday 6th March Service for the Sick at 2.30pm. Saturday 9th March Mass at 11am and 6.30pm. Saturday 9th Service for the Sick at 2.30pm. Sunday 10th March Masses are 9am, 10.30am, 12noon and 4pm. Monday 11th March (final day) services are at 12.30pm and 7.30pm. phone: 028 66 322272.

Prayer

God of goodness and mercy,

Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you.

Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you.

Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.

May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace.

Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father.

Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to you each day. Amen.

MARY - A Biblical walk with the Blessed Mother: an extraordinary study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. In St. Michael's Parish Centre on **Wednesday 21st Feb at 7pm and continuing every Wednesday for eight weeks.** smp.bible@outlook.com to register for this free DVD study, email or visit <http://tinyurl.com/mary-lent> for more information.

Derrygonnelly Harps GFC: Jackpot £9200. £20 Ryan Cox, Boho, Emmett McNulty, Belcoo and Francy Brennan, Belleek. Draw in the Doogies tonight. Thanks to everyone who promotes and supports the Lotto. Online entry is available via klubfunder.com The club's online Foireann system for collecting club membership has proven a very convenient way for players and families. Go to www.foireann.ie to register the fee remains unchanged. Condolences to the Jones family Boho especially Cathal and his sons, on the passing of Owen last weekend.

Fundraising Whist Drive on **Friday 1st March** at 8pm in Cashel Community Centre. Supper served with a raffle on the night. This event is supporting The Irish Pilgrimage Trust which brings children and young adults with special needs to Lourdes each year. For further details or to purchase raffle tickets contact Bernie Mc Nulty on 086 6039343.

Seeing your life through the Lens of the Gospel: *Mark 1:12-15.*

Jesus is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.

2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life.

3. *Repent and believe the good news* was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?

4. There is an immediacy about the call of Jesus: *'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'*. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say 'yes'?

John Byrne OSA

Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are a good reminder that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain a perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love – which is the definition of God. In pursuing that happiness, we find happiness. *Fulton J. Sheen*