

# Parish of Botha

Parish Priest: Fr. Cathal Deery    Tel: 028 68641207    Email: [frcathaldeery@clogherparishes.ie](mailto:frcathaldeery@clogherparishes.ie)  
Parish Office:    Tel: 028 68641889    Email: [botha@clogherparishes.ie](mailto:botha@clogherparishes.ie)  
Office Hours:    Monday and Thursday 6.30pm – 9.30pm    Wednesday 1.30pm – 9.30pm  
Parish webcam: churchmedia.tv    website: <http://bothaparish.com>

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Today's passage from John's gospel contains one of the most well known sentences of all scripture, the one which declares that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son. So in human terms, God's motive in sending Jesus among us is love. In other words, all God's actions towards us are inspired by love. This is good news and if we didn't know it before, now is the time to take this insight on board and let it begin to change us.*

## Masses for the Week

### Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 10th March 10am Mass. **Anniversary:** John and Ann Higgins, Castletown.

Sunday 17th March **St. Patrick's Day** 10am Mass.

### St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 11.30am Mass. **Months Memory:** Owen Jones, Drumma.

**Anniversary:** Francis and Mary Ellen Dolan, Sandhill; Carmel Meehan, Main Street; Bridget Gallagher (nee Gilroy) Lattonagh.

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

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7pm Mass and Novena to St. Peregrine.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 10am Mass.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 10am Mass.

Sunday 17th March **St. Patrick's Day** 11.30am Mass. People of the Parish.

**Recently Deceased:** Your prayers are requested for the souls of Anna Gallagher, Derryvarymore; Rita Maguire, Main Street and Eugene Dolan, Sydney formerly Derrygonnelly. May they rest in peace.

### Lenten Prayer

*My divine Lord, You freely chose to enter the desert for a time of prayer, fasting, and temptation. Your willing embrace of this moment in Your life is also an invitation to me to journey with You. As I begin this Lent, I firmly resolve to follow You into the desert. I resolve to endure a time of sacrifice, penance, and prayer. May I accompany You on Your journey to understand what You understood, endure what You endured, face what You faced, and overcome all that You overcame. Though I approach these forty days with a certain reluctance, please give me the courage to do what is necessary to make this a truly fruitful Lent. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**Baptisms:** We welcome to the Christian world through the waters of Baptism, Charlie Joseph Bird, Sadhbh Teresa Jones, Saórlaith Marie Magee. May they grow in faith.

**Cemetery Sunday** The annual blessing of the graves will take place after masses on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July in the Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick's. The blessing of the graves in the Sacred Heart cemetery will not take place on this date due to the work being carried out to the church.

**St. Patrick's cemetery:** the switch for the lighting in St. Patrick's cemetery has been relocated and is now found to the right of the main entrance **on the outside of the wall.** Please lift the cover, press the switch once and the lights will remain on for several minutes. They will go off on their own.

God himself needed a Mother: how much more so do we! Jesus himself gave her to us, from the cross: 'Behold your mother!' (Jn 19:27). He said this to the beloved disciple and to every disciple. Our Lady is not an optional accessory: she has to be welcomed into our life. She is Queen of peace, who triumphs over evil and leads us along paths of goodness, who restores unity to her children, who teaches us compassion.



Mary, take us by the hand. Lead us by the hand to rediscover the bonds that unite us. Gather us beneath your mantle, in the tenderness of true love, where the human family is reborn.

Pope Francis

**Parish Fundraising:** as the refurbishment work on the Sacred Heart Church continues, the parish fundraising committee has been looking at ways to raise the necessary funds to ensure its completion, while also meeting the repayments on the bank loan. It is hoped that parishioners will once again commit to setting up a Standing order through their financial institution to support the repayments. Many people had made a five year commitment to this in 2018 and we hope that you will do so again. Thank you to those who continue to have this arrangement in place with the parish. Over the coming weeks, parishioners will receive a call to encourage them to join up to this scheme. I make an appeal to as many as possible to sign up. I appeal especially to wage earners and to younger people who have joined the workforce in recent years. Further details will be given at the point of contact.

Some parishioners have enquired about sponsorship of items in the refurbished church. Please contact me directly on 028 68641207 or by email: [fathercathaldeery@clogherparishes.ie](mailto:fathercathaldeery@clogherparishes.ie)

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend:** – All married couples deserve a WWME weekend! Next weekend will be held in the Focolare Centre Prosperous, Co Kildare from **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**. Register online at [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)

**25<sup>th</sup> Pioneer National Ball:** An evening of celebration and fun on **Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Mass at 6pm in the **Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar**, followed by special guest speaker, dinner, music and dancing at the **Annebrook House Hotel, Mullingar**. Extra activities on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For details/ tickets contact Dermot 085-7201646 or Daisy 087-6544626"

**Clogher to Lourdes Pilgrimage:** takes place **5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July**. For more information and booking contact Pilgrimage Secretary: Mr. John Heuston Tel: 028 67724329 or Email: [john.cdp@btconnect.com](mailto:john.cdp@btconnect.com) If you wish to travel in the Assisted Pilgrim section of the Pilgrimage, special application forms are available.

**A St. Patrick's Way Pilgrimage:** experience in Downpatrick on March 16<sup>th</sup>, led by pilgrim guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly. Visit The Saint Patrick Centre, see IMAX film, and receive passport to walk with guides to Inch Abbey, Saul Church and St Patrick's grave. Lunch and bus transfers inc £35 pp. 9am-3pm More info contact the Centre 02844 619000 (The walk is approx 6 miles)

### Seeing your life through the Lens of the Gospel: John 3:14-21.

1. Jesus speaks of himself being *lifted up*, a term that can mean a physical lifting, or also exaltation. By this play on words the evangelist explains to us that Jesus' gift of himself in the passion was a glorious revelation of love, despite all its injustice and brutality. It is God's wish that everyone who believes in Jesus will have 'eternal life', that is a relationship with God that begins now and survives death.

2. We receive life from God when our faith enables us to trust in God's love for us. We give life to one another when the love between us is trustworthy. Recall memories of that kind of trustworthy love. For whom have you been able to be a 'Jesus person' and give a love that another could trust? Who has shown that kind of love to you and been for you a sacrament of God's love?

3. It would be very cushy for us if we could be a source of life to others without cost to ourselves. True life-givers know that they need the generosity of being *lifted up* by giving their lives so that others may have life. Recall when you had that generosity and give thanks for others who have been like that for you.

John Byrne OSA

This week, Irish bishops emphatically called for a ceasefire in Gaza, stating: "Let us all say: enough ... Stop the War! In saying this, we join with many in our parishes, together with all people of goodwill, in demanding an immediate end to the daily horror of killing, wounding and destruction of property and infrastructure there." visit the website link below to access the statement of the Bishops' Conference.

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/03/05/let-us-all-say-enough-stop-the-war-irish-bishops>