



Parish of Botha

Parish Priest: Fr. Cathal Deery Tel: 028 68641207

Email: frcathaldeery@clogherparishes.ie

Parish Office: Tel: 028 68641889 Email: botha@clogherparishes.ie

Hours: Monday and Thursday 6.30pm – 9.30pm Wednesday 1.30pm – 9.30pm

Parish webcam: churchmedia.tv website: <http://bothaparish.com>

Second Sunday of Christmas

Today's celebration coming as it does between Christmas Day and the Epiphany contains themes connected to these feasts. Though Christmas Day and the Epiphany form part of the Church's season of Christmas tide, there is a difference of emphasis. Christmas Day celebrated the coming of the Son of God as a human being and the Epiphany highlights the revealing of this truth to all the nations of the earth. Both themes are echoed in today's prayers.

Masses for the Week

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 5th January 10am Mass **Months Memory;** Mary McSherry, Castletown **Anniversary:** Charlie and Tommy Jones, Corr

Sunday 12th January 10am Mass People of the Parish

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 5th January 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Francie Reilly, Mill Green

Monday 6th January **The Epiphany of the Lord** 7pm Mass

Tuesday 7th January Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm

Tuesday 7th January 7pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine

Wednesday 8th January 10am Mass

Thursday 9th January 10am Mass

Sunday 12th January 11:30am Mass **Months Memory:** Owen McCormick, Derrygonnelly **Anniversary:** Patricia Johnston, Rosnarick Close

Recently Deceased: As a parish community we extend sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of John Murphy, Lisnaskea formerly Rosnarick Close and Teresa Foy, Ely Lodge. May they rest in peace.

Epiphany Prayer

God of gold, we seek your glory: The richness that transforms our drabness into colour,
and brightens our dullness with vibrant light;
Your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.

God of incense, we offer you our prayer:
our spoken and unspeakable longings,
our questioning of truth,
our search for your mystery deep within.

God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering:
the pain of all our rejections and bereavements,
our baffled despair at undeserved suffering,
our rage at continued injustice;
and we embrace you, God – with – us,
in our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss

What is a Jubilee Year?: Also known as a “Holy year”, a year of Jubilee is a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. It is a time of spiritual renewal, pilgrimage, and reconciliation that occurs every 25 years. The concept is rooted in the biblical tradition found in the Old Testament, where a jubilee year occurred every 50 years, and was marked by the forgiveness of debts, liberation of slaves, and the return of land to its original owners. The year 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The doors will be opened on Dec. 24, 2024, and closed on Jan. 6, 2026. The theme is centred around pilgrimage, as Pope Francis states “travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches.

Seekers of Hope

It's the whole world that comes with the wise men to the crib, drawing close to the infant God, That they might find in him meaning in life and the light for the living.

*We draw close, Lord,
With all those who have lost hope,
All those for whom faith is nothing more than a long night to be got through,
All those who have lost the taste for seeking and struggling.*

*We draw close, Lord,
With all those who are handicapped in body and mind,
With those who are paralysed in their suffering,
With those left to their loneliness,
Whom nobody ever comes to console.*

*We draw close, Lord,
With all those who have had their place taken,
With those living in poverty and hunger,
With those whose dignity has been trodden on,
With those who have forgotten the colours of peace.*

*We draw close with confidence
To you, child of the crib.
Look: we come seeking hope!*

Cardinal Suenens

Hope Healing Growth: – Aisling Centre Annual Day of Inspiration takes place on **Saturday 11th January**. Tickets on sale via Eventbrite bit.ly/HHG25 (free to attend virtually). For more information Contact infor@theaislingcentre.com or 028 66 3252811

Visitation of the sick: The elderly, sick and housebound will next receive a parish visit at the beginning of February.

Envelope Collection: Week ending **29th December**– Weekly offerings £2410.00 and €20 Renovation €2260.00 €15 Thank you for your generous support.

Points to Ponder

A new year has begun. It is a time of new beginning. The gospel reading is itself a beginning, the opening verses of the gospel of John. 'In the beginning was the Word'. This Word was God's self-communication, a self-communication that was so complete and perfect that it was itself God, 'the Word was God'.

This self-communication of God became human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. We celebrate the birth of Jesus because we recognize in this child the fullest possible self-communication of God. Jesus is the fullest Word that God could have spoken to us. We speak, we communicate, not just by our words but by the way we relate, by the way we live and, even, by the way we die. God spoke to us through the life of Jesus, and through his death and resurrection. God has said everything he wants to say to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, his Word. God and his Son, together, have sent us the Holy Spirit to help us plumb the depths of all God has said to us through Jesus. As Jesus will later declare in this fourth gospel, the Holy Spirit 'will guide you into all the truth... he will take from what is mine and declare it to you'. The Holy Spirit enables us to keep hearing the Word that is Jesus in all its richness, to hear it as a word for us here and now. At the beginning of this new year, we invite the Spirit to open us up more fully to the truth of this Word that became flesh in the person of Jesus.

Fr Martin Hogan



Open Day: in St Joseph's College on Saturday 18th January from 10.30am – 1.00pm, Principal's address 10.30am followed by guided tours of the school. **All primary 7 pupils with their parents/carers are invited to attend.**