



# Parish of Botha

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

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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our attention is now fully directed fully to the coming of Christ in the Christian mystery. The Preface calls us to wonder at this great happening, to prepare for Christmas in prayer and praise. The psalm tells us to purify our hearts as preparation. Prayer and reconciliation should be features of these days.

## Masses for the Week

### Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 21st December 10am Mass **Anniversary:** Joe Duffy, Tullycreevy – Sue and Anthony Magee, Leighan – Leo and Damien McCauley, Crott

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 9am Mass

### St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Henry Dundas, Derryvarymore – Deceased of the McConnell Family, Derryvarymore – Frank, Cassie and Martin Gallagher, Fairview Park – Mollie and Packie Gallagher, Mill Green – Deceased of the Gallagher Families, Stratore and Drumgormley

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 7pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 10am Mass

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December **Vigil for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 7pm Mass

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** 11:30am Mass Deceased of the Derrygonnelly Harps and Boho St. Faber's GFC

### Sacred Heart Boho:

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 10.30am Mass

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** 10am Mass **Months Memory:** Kathleen (Vera) Leonard, Brughas

**Christmas message:** On Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis marked the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Hope. His successor Pope Leo XIV will conclude this special year of prayer on January 6th 2026. Whatever about the effectiveness of this Jubilee year of prayer in the life of the Universal Church, it is my wish that, as we approach the Nativity of our Lord, it may be a time of hope for all of us. It is not easy to have hope, especially when we see the horrors inflicted on humanity through wars, natural disasters, famine and drought. In our own lives too, we struggle to be hopeful when we experience the challenges of illness, loss, the breakdown of relationships, pain and suffering. While many of us will wholeheartedly embrace the celebration of Christmas, it will be a difficult time for others. I am mindful of anyone who is not looking forward to Christmas, and pray that the love, support, encouragement and prayers of those around you may give you cause for hope.

Welcome to those coming home for Christmas, may your time be filled with the joy and hope that only God alone can bring.

Gratitude to all who prepare our churches for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, and to anyone involved in the life of the parish through various ministries, and to all who give of their time and talents. May the Christ Child allow us be a hope-filled and a hopeful people.

Fr. Cathal

**Recently Deceased:** as a parish community we extend sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Margaret McManus, Drumbeghan. May she rest.

## 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.



*Father, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Your Son, fill us with Your perfect love. Teach us to see others as You see them, to reach out in kindness, and to share the gift of Your love with those around us. Help us to live in a way that reflects your love. Amen.*

**Jubilee Year of Hope:** Bishop Larry Duffy will officially close the Jubilee Year of Hope in St Macartan's Cathedral on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025** at 12.30pm. All welcome.

### Thought for Today The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Idyllic pictures of the stable, with Mary and Joseph and the child, perfectly reflect the ideal Christmas, this happy and glorious expression of our joy in and gratitude for Christ's coming. In practice though the Christmas experience is all too often a tiring and testing time. We may well be exhausted from our preparations, irritated by family foibles, perhaps anxious about expense, nervously eager to make the day memorable. The shining light of Christmas may reveal an unseemly darkness. If we are to enter into the wonder of Christmas we must actively embrace the love that Jesus makes visible. If we do, we banish that dark side of all of us.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** the season of Advent affords us the opportunity to prepare for the Lord's coming through the confession of our sins and the celebration of God's mercy. **Fr Cathal is available for the Sacrament of Confession today after both masses, and on Christmas Eve from 10.30am to 11am.** You are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament as we journey through Advent waiting for the birth of Jesus.

**St Michael's:** Sacrament of Reconciliation available on **Tuesday 23rd December: 10.30am to 1.30pm and Wednesday 24th December: 10.30am to 2pm.**

**Sunday Missals:** a copy of the Sunday Missal 2026 is available for Readers of the Word in our churches. Readers are asked to collect a missal in the church sacristies.

**Praying for our priests:** during this Jubilee Year of Prayer in the Universal Church, you are invited to keep in your prayers the clergy of our diocese.

**Please pray this week for:**

**Father Michael McGourty**

Father Michael, a former PP of Irvinestown, continues to minister in the parishes of Belleek/Garrison and Bundoran.

**Clogher don Óige:** are accepting expressions of interest for young people (16yrs-18yrs) to travel to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage (3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026). **Closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025** at 12 noon. More information and online form at [www.clogherdonoige.org](http://www.clogherdonoige.org)

**Derrygonnelly Harps GFC:** Jackpot £3200. £20 Liam Flynn, Boho, Noel Boyle, Kinawley, and Kevin Meredith, online player. Draw in Old Pals tonight.

Thanks to everyone who supports and promotes the Lotto. Condolence to the McManus Family on the passing of Margaret McManus, Drumbeghan.



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*Sr Wendy Beckett*

**Parish Office will re-open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm**