

Parish of Botha

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First Sunday of Lent

The temptations in today's gospel are not at all temptations to this or that sin, but rather fundamental options for the direction of life. Jesus was tempted in the course of his ministry to choose another way of being God's prophet, the Messiah or anointed. In a less spectacular way, we too can be attracted by choices which shape the way our life unfolds. We ask ourselves, what do I live on? What's my true goal? Where is my nourishment? My humanity is more than food and drink. Only the Word of God truly nourishes and illuminates.

Masses for the Week

Sacred Heart Boho:

Sunday 22nd February 10am Mass People of the Parish

St Patrick's Derrygonnely:

Sunday 22nd February 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Paddy McLoughlin, Braade – Packie and Lena McKeane, Rosnarick Close

Tuesday 24th February Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm

Tuesday 24th February 7pm Mass and Novena to St Peregrine

Wednesday 25th February 10am Mass

Thursday 26th February 10am Mass

Sunday 1st March 11:30am Mass **Months Memory:** Carmel Corrigan, Fairview Park **Anniversary:** Tessie and Barney Flood, Sillees Grove – Joe and Ita Corrigan, Drumary

Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 1st March 10am Mass **Anniversary:** Elizabeth Greene, Mullykivet

Recently Deceased: as a parish community we extend sympathy to the family, relative and friends of Rose Bradley, London formerly Tully. May she rest in peace.

Temperance Pledge – Ceremony of Commitment

Priest: There are times in our lives when we need courage to do the right thing. Making a pledge not to drink alcohol until you are eighteen years of age and avoiding illegal drugs for life is one such occasion. We pray for the assistance of the Holy Spirit in what we are undertaking and now I ask you:

Priest: Do you promise with the help of God and the support of your family and friends not to take alcoholic drink until you are at least eighteen years of age?

All: We do....

Priest: Do you promise to keep off illicit drugs for life?

All: We do

Priest: to Parents, families and friends: Are you prepared to support and encourage these young people by your example and prayers?

All: We are

The Pledge

Lord God, for love of You and through concern for my family, my friends and my future happiness, and out of my wish to serve Christ more generously. I promise with your help, to abstain from alcoholic drink until I am at least 18 years of age and to keep off illicit drugs for life.

Cemetery Sunday 2026: The annual blessing of the graves will take place after Mass on **Sunday 12th July** in the Sacred Heart; after Masses on **Sunday 19th July** in the Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick's.

Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
and giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You by following His
example of suffering and make us worthy to share
in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your
Son. Amen.



Stations of the Cross: will be prayed during Lent after 10am mass on Wednesdays in St. Patrick's and on Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Sacred Heart. You are encouraged to take this opportunity to come together as we commemorate that final journey of Jesus on Good Friday.

Envelope Collection: week ending **15th February** Weekly Offerings £1635.00 and €1. Thank you for your generous support.

Altar Society March: **Derrygonnelly** – Breege McConnell and Nora Gordon. Collection after 11.30am Mass on Sunday 15th March in St Patrick's, Derrygonnelly. **Monea:** Collector – Anna McGrail **Boho:** Altar Society – Angela and Katie Gallagher. Collector – Shane McGullion.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign: in the season of Lent you are asked to support the work of Trócaire. The picture on this year's Trócaire box features a woman in Rwanda called Verediana, who has experienced the effects of war, loss and hunger. Together with her daughter Uwamahoro, and granddaughters Ineze and Vanessa, she struggles daily to survive. Families in Rwanda are experiencing the worst of the global climate crisis. Severe storms can easily destroy homes, schools and crops, and before people can recover, another storm sweeps in and brings further destruction.

Last year, Trócaire worked with more than 40,000 people in communities most at risk. This work can only continue through the support of people here. Please take a Trócaire box home with you and give what you can in support of this year's appeal. A Trócaire representative will speak at masses in the parish on Sunday 1st March.

'Bringing' SWAT to Stormont" - Monday 23rd February at 10:30AM. If you would like to be part of this vital day in our campaign please contact, Save our Acute Services Facebook page by DM or email: carmelimageesoas@gmail.com. Buses will bring those who require transport or make your own way and meet us at the Stormont gates at 10:30AM. Please spread the word and encourage any friends and family living near Belfast to also join us on the day.

Popes Intentions for March - For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Reflections

In the New Testament, the Greek word *baptizein* means to dip or to plunge. The Acts of the Apostles indicates that a laying-on of hands after the water rite was associated with the conferral of the Holy Spirit (8:14-20; 19:6).

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the hoped-for Messiah for his saving mission. Jesus asserts that this promise is now fulfilled in him. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism by John was the sign that he is the Messiah, the 'one who is to come.' He was conceived by the Holy Spirit; his whole life and mission are carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit whom the Father gives without measure.

The Hebrew word 'Messiah' means 'anointed one'. It is translated as 'Christos' in Greek. Christ means 'anointed one' and Christians are the 'anointed ones' who share in the messianic mission of Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we who are reborn in the waters of baptism are anointed to proclaim the kingdom of God. The anointing 'Christifies' those who receive it as it bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Also on www.synod.ie, see '**Baptised and Sent in Lent**' – an accessible and easily led prayer resource for groups and families with the Sunday Gospels during Lent.