

# 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)  
Parish webcam: [churchmedia.tv](http://churchmedia.tv)    website: <http://bothaparish.com>

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Laetare Sunday

How we respond to pressure can vary very much from person to person. In John's gospel there are two related stories of blind men being healed, one in chapter 5 and the other in chapter 9 found in today's reading. The man at the pool eventually betrays Jesus. The man born blind resists pressure and even grows on the strength of it. Part of his energy comes from his experience – no matter what others may say about Jesus, he himself once was blind now he sees! His courageous attachment to what he knows from his personal encounter with Jesus leads eventually to a full act of faith.

## Masses for the Week

### Immaculate Conception Monea:

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10am Mass **Anniversary:** John and Ann Higgins, Castletown

### St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Rita and Eamon Maguire, Main Street

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March **St Patrick Patron of Ireland** 11.30am Mass - **Day of Prayer for Emigrants**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10am Mass

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March **St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary** 10am Mass

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Owen Foy, Blaney – Charles and Teresa Smyth, Main Street

### Sacred Heart Boho:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March **St Patrick Patron of Ireland** 10am Mass - **Day of Prayer for Emigrants**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10am Mass **Anniversary:** Patricia Creamer, Enniskillen – William and Mary Carroll, Leitrim – Francis John and Rose McGuinness, Carrickbeg – John and Agnes Nolan – Brian and Margaret Marlow – Mary and Vincent Rasdale and deceased of the Rasdale Family, Legnagay

**Recently Deceased:** as a parish community we extend sympathy to the families, relatives and friends of Thomas Jones, Kilnamadoo, Paul Duffy, Kilnamadoo, Ellie Flanagan, Enniskillen and Niall Murphy, Enniskillen. May they rest in peace.

### Prayer for Mothers

Heavenly Father, We thank You for the gift of mothers, through whom Your love is revealed in so many ways.

Bless all mothers: those who are joyful, and those who are burdened, those expecting new life, and those who mourn a loss, those who nurture children now, and those who lovingly remember.

Grant them strength, patience, and joy in their vocation.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord, be their guide and consolation.

Let their sacrifices be honoured, their love returned, and their hearts filled with peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[norwichdiocese.org](http://norwichdiocese.org)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** will not take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March in St. Patrick's. Adoration will resume from 10am to 7pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Envelope Collection:** week ending 8<sup>th</sup> March Weekly Offerings £2175.00 and €44.50. Thank you for your generous support.

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

**Eucharistic Healing Conference: "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"** takes place in the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> (2 pm - 9 pm), Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> (9 am - 9 pm), and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (9 am - 4 pm). Weekend includes Holy Mass daily, Adoration, Confessions, Healing. Speakers include Fr. Enabong, Fr. Joseph Uchereve, Fr. John Keane, Aidan Byrne, Eddie Stones, Miss Collette Furlong, Deacons Thady O Connor & Don Devaney. Weekend Fee €50.00. contact 0863152460, 0861546099, 0877847304

### **Prayer for Emigrants – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**Bless all those who have left our country  
and now live in other lands.**

**Give them a strong faith so that they will always  
put their trust in you and make you known  
by the example of their lives.**

**Console those who are lonely because  
they are separated from those they love.**

**Help all missionaries who are working far from home  
to make your love known.**

**Bless our people overseas who are sick or in prison.**

**We pray for foreigners living in our country  
that they may experience our hospitality.**

**Grant your eternal welcome to our emigrants  
who have died and to all the dead.**

**Amen.**

*Leckpatrick Parish, Derry Diocese*

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July** - booking now open. Contact John Hueston at 028677 24329 or - [www.lourdes2clogher.com](http://www.lourdes2clogher.com). Pilgrim fare - €1,100 per person (excludes €40 coach transfer to/from airport). Assisted pilgrim fare €1,100 (Includes travel insurance & coach transfer to/from airport).

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** direct from Dublin **15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July**. Cost €795. Group leader Marian Kane. Call 0872713260 for more information.

**Clogher don Óige:** invite young people (15-17) to join them on pilgrimage to Taizé. **8<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> August**, €670, limited places available. More info at [www.clogherdonoige.org/taize2026](http://www.clogherdonoige.org/taize2026)

**Stroke Warriors:** coffee morning on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** at 11am in St. Macartin's Cathedral Hall. All proceeds in aid of Stroke Warriors. Everyone welcome!

**N I Blood Transfusion Service:** donation sessions will be held in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** 12.30pm – 19.00pm and **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** 12.30pm – 7.30pm. The link to book an appointment is: <https://nibts.hscni.net/online-booking-for-blood-donation-appointments/>

### **Points to Ponder**

The simple fact is that Jesus healed the blind man. Someone who previously could not see was blessed with the gift of sight. What happens after that in today's Gospel is a sharp warning against following the letter of the law but forgetting why we are following it in the first place.

It's true: what Jesus did would have been seen as contentious, and not only by Scribes and Pharisees. The religious laws and actions that the people of that culture followed were incredibly specific. Even now, for some modern-day religions, the punishments for what may seem like very small omissions are punishable by real and lasting violence, not least by being shunned by your own community, let alone physical violence. It was even worse then, though.

So, what Jesus did was extraordinary. He knew this. He understood that the repercussions of healing someone on the Sabbath would have led to hot and dangerous debate in the community. He didn't back down. The real blindness that Jesus is trying to heal is that of the Pharisees and Scribes. And this can invite us to question ourselves. Can our personal understanding of God, of Jesus, make us blind? Can the way that we might bend the Gospel so that we follow it in a more comfortable way undermine our status as Christians? Can we be pleasant to some but unpleasant to others, welcoming to some but dismissive of others? After all, what is a Christian but someone who follows Christ and tries to be his ambassador?

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to realign ourselves with Christ. How are we going to do this today?

*Mount St Joseph Abbey  
msjroscrea.ie*

**"[God] watched over me before I knew him, and before I learned sense or even distinguished between good and evil, and he protected me, and consoled me as a father would his son."**

**— Saint Patrick**