

Parish of Botha

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Hours: Monday 6pm – 9pm Wednesday 10.30am – 6.30pm Thursday 10.30am – 1.30pm

Parish webcam: churchmedia.tv

website: <http://bothaparish.com>

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Christian community must be seen to be one of forgiveness and mercy. If the Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy, who are we to be otherwise? We need to be conscious of our own weakness and failures so that we may not judge others harshly. We cannot pray the Lord's Prayer with unforgiving hearts.

Masses for the Week

St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 13th September 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Gerry and Margaret Dolan, Drumary – Kevin Gallagher, Derryvarmore – Joe McCabe and Deceased of the McCabe Family, Drumgormley

Tuesday 15th September Eucharistic Adoration 10am – 7pm

Sunday 20th September 11:30am Mass **Anniversary:** Michael Carroll, Tonagh – Oisín Flanagan, Drumgormley – Paddy, Rose and Jim Keenan, Rosnarick Close – Paddy O'Dare, Rosnarick Close – Deceased of the O'Dare Family – Denis Watters, Derrygonnelly

A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace. Pope Francis Laudato Si' (246)

Recently Deceased: as a parish community we extend sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Ann McGurn, Boa Island Road. May she rest in peace.

Baptism: We welcome to the Christian world through the waters of Baptism, Aoibheann Ellen Brough. May she grow in faith.

Wedding: Congratulations to Nicole Jones and Rhys Foster who were recently married in St. Patrick's Church. May God bless them with health and happiness.

St. Peregrine Novena: a 3 day Novena to the Patron Saint of those who have Cancer will take place from **Mon 5th – Wed 7th October** at 7pm, in Holy Cross Church Lisnaskea, guest speaker each night.

Envelope Collection: Week ending **6th September** – Weekly offerings £2755.00 and €12.90. Thank you for your generous support.

Annual Memorial Service: for all our dead will take place on **Sunday 8th November** at **3pm** in St. Patrick's Church Derrygonnelly. All the dead will be remembered but in particular those who have died since November last year.

Dates for Sacraments 2027:

Sacrament of Confirmation – Saturday 17th April at 11am in St. Patrick's Church.

First Holy Communion - Saturday 24th April at 11.00am in Sacred Heart Church for Killyhommon PS. and at 1.00pm St. Patrick's Church for St. Patrick's PS

Sacred Heart Carpark: anyone willing to help tidy up the planted area of the carpark please come along at 11am on Saturday 19th September.

Hope and Healing: After a sellout experience last year, Fr John Flanagan, Truagh Parish, returns to the Íontas Theatre, Castleblayney on **Tuesday 3 November** at 8.00pm, with Celebrating Hope and Healing, a fusion of reflections and music. Written and delivered by Fr. John, his heart felt reflections delve into the themes of hope, faith, forgiveness and inner healing, offering the audience solace and inspiration. The accompanying music is composed and arranged by Lauren Murphy, Truagh. Book with Iontas Theatre at iontascastleblayney.ie or ring at 042 9753400. Admission €10. Proceeds to the Homeless.

Thought for Today

As Catholics, we have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which allows us to experience God's forgiveness personally. It is a reminder of His boundless love and mercy. In turn, it should inspire us to be forgiving and merciful in our interactions with others. We must remember that forgiveness is not just a one-time act but a continuous disposition of the heart. Let us be mindful of the unforgiving servant in the parable and strive to be merciful and forgiving as our Heavenly Father is to us. In doing so, we bear witness to the transformative power of God's love and mercy in our lives and in the world. *Adam Eichelberger • assumptions.org*

Queen's Catholic Chaplaincy – We're back! - The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's reopens for the new academic year on **Monday 14 September**, with weekday Masses and our semester programme resuming. Our first Sunday Mass is 20 September at the new, **earlier time of 7.00pm**. New or returning student? Find out about what's on, ways to connect and get involved, and student accommodation at qubcatholic.org and on our socials. Staff and alumni are always welcome too. Visit our newly renewed Chaplaincy at 28 Elmwood Avenue for Mass, Confessions, or candle lighting — and call into Mosaic for some of the best coffee, hot lunches, and home-baked treats in South Belfast!

Coffee Morning: Garrison and Derrygonnelly Day Centre kindly invite you to The Bilberry Restaurant on **Saturday 19th September** from 10.30am – 12.30pm. Activities and draw on the day £1 per line.

Derrygonnelly Harps GFC: Jackpot £4600. £20 Philip McGlone, Boho, Teresa Walmsley, Enniskillen, and Pearse Martin, Lisnaskea. Draw in Doogies tonight. Thanks to all Lotto supporters, promoters and supervisors.

Points to Ponder

Readiness to forgive is taught by many of the great philosophies and religions of the world. Why? Because you can't be happy, or have any sort of inner peace, far less inner joy, if you refuse to forgive. Dwelling on past hurts, nurturing resentment, indulging simmering anger: these things can blight or embitter a person's whole life. Unfortunately though, as all of us know: sometimes forgiveness can seem very difficult indeed, even impossible. Perhaps this is so nowadays more than ever, because contemporary secular culture encourages us to think of ourselves as victims, who have a right to demand compensation and redress.

What though if we find it too hard? What if my brother really hurts or upsets me, and ever continues to do so? What if I have been so deeply wounded by someone that my life is effectively ruined? In that case, let us simply admit the impossibility of our task, and turn to God for help. O God come to my aid, we cry. 'Lord, help me to let go of this. If I can't forgive, then do you forgive in my place. Bless us both, Lord, so that each of us is able to receive the gift of your forgiveness.' We pray, we go to confession, and we come to Mass. Here the love and mercy of Jesus that flows from his sacrificial death are made present, and received in sacramental form. Here supremely we find the grace and strength we need, in order to let go of the debt we are owed: we, who have been redeemed from our own incomparably greater debt, through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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New Parish Office Hours: Mon 6pm – 9pm, Wed 10.30am – 6.30pm Thurs 10.30am – 1.30pm