

# Parish of Botha

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## The Ascension of the Lord

*We could ask, 'how is the Risen Lord with us?' The new testament and the church tradition offer a rich array of "presences," Christ is present in the neighbour in need, in creation, and wherever the disciples gather, in the word proclaimed, in the sacrament celebrated through the Holy Spirit. Perhaps we do not always feel this presence, but the words of Jesus are a guarantee that no matter what is going on in my life or my community or my church, he is with us, our Emmanuel.*

### Masses for the week

#### St Patrick's Derrygonnelly:

Sunday 24th May The **Ascension of the Lord** 11.30am Mass, **Anniversary:** Sean Gallagher, Drumbeggar; Betty McLoughlin, Braade; Peggy and Neil Jones, Jack and Mary Kate Murphy, Josie Flood and Dessie McCorry.

Tuesday 26th May 7.30pm **St Philip Neri** Mass and Novena to St Peregrine.

Wednesday 27th May Mass and Rosary.

Thursday 28th May 10am Mass and Rosary.

Sunday 31st May **Pentecost Sunday** 11.30am Mass, **Months Mind:** Jimmy Sheerin, Whitehill. **Anniversary:** Moira McGinley and deceased of the McGurn Family, Creamery Road, Grahame Whitmore, Walter Dunlop and deceased of the Hassard Family.

**Recently Deceased:** Your prayers are requested for the soul of Tommy Maguire, Derrylin. May he rest in peace.

**End of Year School Mass:** Bishop Larry Duffy and Fr Stephen Joyce invite all students, parents and school communities to join in an end of school year Mass from St Joseph's Church, Monaghan on **Thursday 28th**

**May** at 8pm. The webcam link is: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-josephs-church-park-street-monaghan>



*O Lord Jesus, I adore you, Son of Mary, my Saviour and my Brother, for You are God. I follow You in my thoughts, O first-fruits of our race, as I hope one day by your grace to follow You in my person into heavenly glory. Until then, do not let me neglect the earthly task which You have given me. Let me labour diligently all my life with a greater appreciation for the present. Let me realise that only by accomplishing true human fulfilment can I attain divine fulfilment and ascend to you at the completion of my work. Amen.*

**Parish Webcam:** there were some difficulties with online access to Mass last Sunday. Apologies to those who were unable to join in the Mass at 11.30am. I realise that there were technical difficulties from the Church Services network (the company that supplies the link). If, on any future occasion that you cannot access through the church services website please go to the Botha parish website and click on 'webcam', and hopefully that will allow access.

**World Communications Day:** The theme this year is about life becoming history through the stories we tell. The theme is drawn from the Book of Exodus; ‘That you may tell your children and grandchildren’ (Ex. 10:2). In this time of pandemic, we have many stories to tell. At this time too we can only marvel at the range of communications tools that are available to us and how these have enabled so many to be informed and stay connected. In many parishes we are witnessing the power that modern communications technology is bringing to us so that the Eucharist can be celebrated online and spiritual communion renewed. But, as Pope Francis says, the power of communications is about more than the means in which it is carried out. It must be about what we communicate; ‘the stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together.’ Each of us has a story to tell and telling it is never useless. Our own story becomes part of a greater story – just like the Scriptures – that enables us to see God in all things. To read Pope Francis’ message visit <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications.index.html>

**Laudato Si and Earth Day:** Today we also mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si. This theme calls us to reflect on how everything is connected. The anniversaries of Earth Day and Laudato Si call us to reflect, and to recommit ourselves to the Care of Earth, our Common Home. Each of us has a responsibility for this. How will our individual and collective choices and actions tell of our recognition of God, whose love gave birth to the universe and to earth, our beloved home? A Common Prayer for Laudato Si is available here <https://laudatosiweek.org/prayer/>

**Trocaire Lenten Campaign:** A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed towards this year’s Trocaire collection. While Lent was severely disrupted as a result of Coronavirus you nonetheless responded so well, donating £5855, a higher figure than last year. It is a great sign of a vibrant Christian community that people would respond so generously at a time when attendance at public masses has been suspended since mid-March. Your donations will, as always, make such a difference to the lives of so many people in poorer parts of the world. Thank you.

**Parish Contributions:** thank you to everyone who is continuing to financially support the parish at this time. Parish envelopes have been delivered to most homes in the parish. There are still some envelopes in Boho and Monea churches so if they can be taken, that would be great. Some parishioners have contributed using the Donate facility on the diocesan website. While this is a quick and efficient facility, it is important to say that there is a 5% commission being taken by **iDonate**, the company supplying the service to the diocese. Secondly, while parishioners are probably contributing in Sterling currency, the money is being paid back to our account in Euro. These two points are simply by way of letting you know, so that you are free to decide for yourself how you wish to contribute.

**Reek Sunday Pilgrimage 2020:** due to Covid 19 the 2020 National Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July has been cancelled. Archbishop Neary will celebrate the vigil Mass in Westport on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm which will be offered for the intentions of all who intended to make the pilgrimage. Prayer intentions can be posted to Westport Parish, Co Mayo. or email [reeksunday2020@gmail.com](mailto:reeksunday2020@gmail.com) This Mass will be live-streamed on the parish Facebook page ‘St Marys Church Westport’ which can be accessed on [www.westportparish.ie](http://www.westportparish.ie)