

BOHERLAHAN & DUALLA NEWSLETTER

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We remember in prayer

Sun 5 Jan 11.00am
Sat 11 Jan 7.30pm
Sun 12 Jan 11.00am

Boherlahan

Mattie Connolly, Ardmayle East
John, Elizabeth and Tom Connolly, Ardmayle East
John O' Connell, Ardmayle & **decd family members**
Also **Rose and J.J. McGrath**, Clonmore

Mon 13 Jan 7.30pm

Augusta Thabah, India

Sun 5 Jan 9.30am

Judy Frankovich, Racecourse, and her mother **Nell Flanagan**, Erry

Pray for: **Mary O' Connor (née Leahy)**, Bansha, who was interred during last week.



Dualla

Mon 6 January is the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, and a holyday of obligation. Holyday Masses on Monday only: Dualla 9.30am; Boherlahan 7.30pm. The great feast of the Epiphany recalls the adoration of Jesus by the Magi. They represent followers of neighbouring pagan religions who come to recognise in Jesus the one and only Saviour.

Epiphany Reflection: People find God in many different ways: through prayer, nature, love, sacraments and even suffering. Like the Magi, we find God in our own way. Each of us is following a personal star that leads to God. The Magi did not follow many of the ordinary routes that the people of their day travelled towards God. They embarked on their own way, and ultimately found God in a child. This kind of search in part and parcel of being human. When we are captivated by beauty, pray for another's health; show love to another; question the meaning of life; act for justice; and search for the meaning of suffering, we have touched something of the Divine. Without perhaps being aware of it, we are following our own star. All of us travel a road similar to that of the Magi whenever we follow the star of love, goodness, faith, courage, justice. The light of the star is the light of God. Jesus, once the child at Bethlehem, continues to reach out to people, finding them as they look for him. He found, and continues to find, people in religious and non-religious places. On this Epiphany, let us ask the Lord Jesus to keep us moving towards him.

(Donal Neary SJ, with slight adaptations)

New Year Good Wishes and Thanks: As priests of the parish, we wish to express sincere good wishes to all the people of the parish. We are indeed very grateful for the friendship, support and cooperation we receive from so many people. We have so many loyal, committed and dedicated people in the parish and we appreciate you all. Thanks to all who have helped in so many different ministries in the parish during the past year. We pray that all the parishioners of Boherlahan-Dualla will find good health, friendship, hope and peace in 2020.

Holy Communion Ministers (next weekend)

Boherlahan: Julia O' Dwyer; Mary Coman & Pat Maher
6 Jan 7.30pm Anne Flanagan
Dualla: Theresa Lawrence; Marie O' Gorman



Parish Envelopes and Annual Financial Report: The Annual Financial Report, Parish Calendar and Collections Envelopes have been distributed to the homes of the parish. If you did not receive yours, please let us know and we will rectify that situation. We sincerely thank all those who helped in the distribution. We are so grateful for the support and generosity of so many people in our parish.

Visitation of the Sick: Hospitals and nursing homes are no longer permitted to provide priests with a list of parishioners who are their patients or residents. This is due to the new law called General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If you have a family member in a hospital or nursing home who would like a visit from a priest, please contact either priest of the parish (see telephone numbers at the top of the newsletter).

Community Website: www.boherlahandualla.ie has photos from the Christmas Eve Gathering in the Parish Hall. The website can keep you informed about parish and community events. We like to receive notices, reports and photos about all that is going on in the parish, and are very grateful to all contributors. Please send whatever you can to editor@boherlahandualla.ie.

Dualla Car Park: plans for the proposed upgrade of the car park are on display at the entrance to the church, where they will remain for public consultation until 6 January. Your comments and suggestions will be most welcome.

Thought at the Beginning of a New Year: St Francis of Assisi once said: *'start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; before long you will find yourself doing the impossible.'*

Prayer for the Epiphany: God our Father, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. May we, through your grace, be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ each day. Amen.

Epiphany Home Blessing: A custom in homes of many countries including Austria, Czechia, Slovakia, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Sweden, is to inscribe the letters CMB above the front door, placing a cross between each letter, framed by the date of the current year: 20 + C + M + B + 20. This is done each year on January 6, the Epiphany, commemorating the wise men led by a star to the new born Jesus. Legend has it their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. Many people interpret the three letters as the initials of those names. In reality these letters originate from the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ bless this home). This religious custom expresses the belief that the Lord remains close to his people throughout the year.

World Day of Peace-1 January: 'Setting out on a journey of peace is a challenge made all the more complex because the interests at stake in relationships between people, communities and nations, are numerous and conflicting. We must first appeal to people's moral conscience and to personal and political will. Peace emerges from the depths of the human heart and political will must always be renewed, so that new ways can be found to reconcile and unite individuals and communities.'

(Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Peace 2020)

Safeguarding Policy in the Archdiocese and in the Parish: A concise policy leaflet is available in the church and on the Diocesan website. Our Parish Safeguarding representatives are Chris Hayes and Ann Marie Devane. The Diocese has introduced Child Friendly safeguarding leaflets and a poster, which can be found in the porch of the churches. The Church has a sacred obligation to ensure that children are welcomed, cherished and protected in a manner consistent with their central place in