

DUILLEOG - Paróiste Bhearna & na bhForbacha

25th December 2025
Christmas Day/ Lá Nollag

Vo. 37
Cycle A

No. 51/2
Year of Matthew

PARISH PRIEST: An tAth. Micheál Ó Braonáin – ‘phone 086 8338878 Email: miclbrennn3@gmail.com
PARISH OFFICE: Parish Secretary – Joan Concannon, ‘Phone 091 590956–Mon; Tue; Thur. and Friday–10am- 3pm
Parish Email: bearna@galwaydiocese.ie

*Lectio Divina: Last Sunday monthly at 5pm – Meeting Room in the Mainséar *Weekly Adoration in Furbo Church: Mondays @ 7pm
*Webcam for Mary Immaculate Queen Church, Barna: churchtv.ie/barna *Weekly Adoration in Barna Church: Weds. @ 3pm
*Webcam for Séipéal Réalt na Mara, na bhForbacha – churchtv.ie/furbo
*Gluten Intolerance: Low Gluten hosts are available on the Altars at Communion

Parish Office: Contact by ‘phone/email/post box for Mass Intentions and requests for Baptism/ Marriage Queries etc. Various cards for sale. Please note: The Post Box is on the wall at the right side of the Parish Office door. Please feel free to leave in any weekly envelopes, Messages, Requests etc. There is also a Post Box on the wall on the right at the entrance door to Séipéal Réalt na Mara. Boxes are opened daily.

***When sending an envelope for a Mass Intention, please write the name of the intention with the date on the outside. Thank You!**

Our Parish is committed to the protection of all children and young people in our churches. Please see Church Notice boards for contact persons.

The virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son
and they will call him
‘Emmanuel, a name which means
God-is-with-us’.



Christmas and Easter are the two Christian celebrations that epitomise the essence of Our God. The presence of God reaching out to his people was palpable in the lives of people during Old Testament Times, through the prophets, and through many other interventions. Christmas day, we read from Hebrews...

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets;

The writer goes on to say...

in these last days, he has spoken to us through the son. Hebrews 1:1

During the public life of Christ, the mind and heart of God was fleshed out in the witness and teaching of Christ. But in a certain sense, the nature of the Son of God, coming in the fashion he did, speaks volumes.

Within the tradition, we tend to speak of God in terms that you associate with power and might: All Powerful, Almighty, All Knowing, Glorious, All Merciful, Ever-lasting. For a person who might be feeling a bit timid and insecure, these terms are somewhat overpowering, overwhelming. But think of the Nativity scene. *In these last days, God has spoken to us through the Son.* He didn't come in a chariot of fire, nor did he come in a bullet proof monster of a car, with tons of security hovering, ever vigilant on land and air borne. He didn't speak, availing of the most sophisticated internet servers. No, his coming came in the form of total dependence and trust;

Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Pope Francis, who, last Easter Monday, surrendered himself to the loving embrace of the God he served, after, the day before, Easter Sunday having imparted his Urbi et Orbi blessing on the Global Community, he championed the notion of Synodality, the principle of people ‘walking together’ in unison for the greater good. It's through such participation that creative and healing power is to be found. This principal of Synodality is reflected so powerfully in the image of the Crib: the Christ child, totally entrusted into the loving care of Mary and Joseph, with members of the broader community coming in support; the shepherds and, more than likely, kindly women, coming with diapers, casseroles etc!!

At a global level, our world is presently so fractious and divided, consumed with looking after one's own plot, putting up barriers and the grabbing of land, committing the vilest acts in the name of security. How far has our world strayed from one of the most vital calls issued by Francis during his pontificate. The call was issued in one of his first encyclicals *Laudato Si*, Care for our Common Home. The call for the global community to work tirelessly together to preserve this precious planet or ours; our Crib, our Home.

I mentioned at the beginning, that Christmas and Easter were our two major Christian celebrations. Sadly, we also have our Good Friday; a sad reminder that the innocent is still victim to violent atrocities. We are witnessing so

much horror played out on a daily basis in so many contexts, it's hard to comprehend how people & nations in this day and age can still be drawn to so much hatred and ruthlessness., mindful of the horrors evidenced in history. Christmas is an iconic statement affirming the love of families across the globe; the love, joy, commitment required to make them havens of comfort and joy. The same can also be attributed to communities, and especially all who give of their time, gift and goodness at a voluntary level to provide opportunity for people to fraternally meet, compete, celebrate. We think as well of all who work in the healing service & security services. It's a time to pray for people in leadership, that they will govern with justice and fairness uppermost in their minds. We hold on to the concept of Easter, of being an Easter People, ever conscious of the need to keep the spark of *Hope* deeply rooted in our hearts.

*O come Emmanuel, O prince of peace
And teach us how to live in harmony
From judgements and from harm set us free
That all may live with dignity
Rejoice, rejoice all who on earth do dwell
To you shall come Emmanuel*



Christmas 2025

Dear Parishioner, This Christmas as we come to the end of 2025, we are particularly mindful of:

Family members who have returned - from other lands to spend precious time at home. Fáilte abhaile.

Parishioners and relatives who are unwell or housebound - May the healing presence of God, and the loving comfort of family, strengthen you in body and spirit.

Family members living in other lands - "Christmas is a time of absence, but also a time of presence". May you feel the blessings of the Feast as we hold you in our hearts.

Ar Dhéis Dé - Christmas is a time when we especially miss family and friends who are '*Resting with the Lord*'. Our thoughts and prayers are with parishioners who have lost loved ones especially during the past year. We think of the amazing men and women, who left their mark on the community and are now, sadly, no longer with us.

New-born Children and their families - As we celebrate the Birth of Christ, we share the joy of families blessed with newborn children. As they start out on their life's journey, may they and the many children in the parish, feel at home and safe in our community.

Céad Mile Fáilte to new families who have taken up residence in the parish during the year.

Schools - Once again, this Christmas, let us acknowledge the amazing service rendered by our schools. The deep commitment on the part of school staffs to maintain a vibrant space for students to grow in so many ways, is a blessed ministry.

Community - Our thanks and appreciation to the many clubs and organisations in the parish; especially to officers and officials who generously give of their time and expertise in order to provide others with an opportunity to participate and compete.

The Parish Community - I extend a word of deep gratitude to so many of you who faithfully give of your time and energy to enrich the life of the '*Praying Community*' and the other services we have to offer. Our two churches, are sacred spaces, enabling people to come for so many reasons. May you feel blessed in the service you so generously provide.

Supporting the Parish financially - On behalf of the community, and on my own behalf, I thank you for your generous financial support over the year. As you know, we rely on this support to maintain the services available here in Paróiste Bearna agus na Forbacha. The envelopes for 2025 will be available early in the New Year DV. As you know you can also support us through Direct Debit or I Donate or by making direct contact with the Parish Office.

The Church Building Fund - This fund which grew over the past 10 years enabled us to resurface the car park in Barna. We are currently planning to carry out major development, especially re-roofing the two churches. In order to do so, we will be asking households and businesses to support this initiative financially come next February / March.

I pray that you, and your families, will feel the presence and peace of God in your hearts this Christmas and throughout 2026.

Fr. Michael

CRIB COLLECTION: The crib collection this year will go towards the United Nations appeal for Children in Gaza.

BEARNA NA FORBACHA: BnF Sacar Annual Christmas Charity Match 2025

Our Annual BnF Ray Rooney Memorial Charity BnF Coaches match v Oughterard FC Coaches takes place over the Christmas period on Sunday 28th Dec at Astro na Forbacha K O 1pm. Charity designated for the game Hand in Hand.

"THANK YOU" Gruaig Galanta & Ailleacht, na Forbacha, sincerely wish all their customers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.