

DUILLEOG - Paróiste Bhearna & na bhForbacha

7th / 8th February 2026
Fifth Sunday in Ord. Time/An Cúigiú Domhnach Saor

Vol. 38
Cycle A

No. 6
Year of Matthew

Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking

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; Thursday and Friday 10am - 3pm
Parish Email: bearna@galwaydiocese.ie Web: barnafurboparish.ie

*Lectio Divina: Last Sunday monthly at 5pm – Meeting Room in the Mainséar *Weekly Adoration in Furbo Church: Mondays @ 7pm
*Weekly Adoration in Barna Church: Wednesdays @ 3pm. *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 giving an envelope for a Mass Intention, please write the name of the intention with the date of the intention 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.

Live Streaming in Church: Masses and Communion Services are live streamed on the Webcam in both Churches.
The camera is focused around the Sanctuary area.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – CHURCH OF MARY IMMACULATE QUEEN, BARNA, H91 A2T7 (Teampall Mhuire Banríon gan Smál)
All services available on webcam – church tv.ie/barna – and on local radio 106.6fm

Saturday 7 th February	6.30pm	*Christina Leonard, Sligo *Eamonn McHale, Aran Islands/Truskey West *Rita McHale Scott, Bournemouth (sister of Sheila McHale, Bournemouth) *Helen Rooney, Kingston	Rec. dec. 13 th Anniversary Rec. dec. 6 th Anniversary
Sunday 8 th February	12noon	*Gabriel and Christina Colleran, Truskey East *Eddie O'Reilly, Liosmór, Cappagh Road	Anniversaries 4 th Anniversary
Monday 9 th February	10am	*Michael Kennedy, Truskey West	Anniversary
Tuesday 10 th February	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Wednesday 11 th February	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Thursday 12 th February	10am	Mass	
Friday 13 th February	10am	Mass	
Saturday 14 th February	6.30pm	*Paddy Lally, Cappagh	Anniversary
Sunday 15 th February	12noon	*Marie and Jim Hernon, sons and daughters and their Grandson David *Maureen Hernon, Chicago	Anniversaries Rec. dec.

AIFRINN AGUS INTINNÍ NA SEACHTAINE I SÉIPÉAL RÉALT NA MARA, na bhForbacha, H91 NY09 (Star of the Sea Church, Furbo)
Na seirbhísí uilig ar fail ar webcam – churchtv.ie/furbo

An Domhnach 8ú Feabhra	10.00rn	*Máire de Burca, Seanafhraochóig	Céad Chuimneachán
An Mháirt 10ú Feabhra	10.00rn	Aifreann	
An Domhnach 15ú Feabhra	10.00rn	Aifreann	

Faith and the Human Condition

A topic of interest to me personally is the concept of Faith. Any of you might say, “sure, ‘isn’t that your area of expertise’ and you being a priest!!” I might cheekily reply, that faith is an area of interest to every person because it pertains to every individual and our quality of life. *Faith is a Human Universal*, every person has faith, of some sort. So, faith is not a topic confined within the reserve of religion and religious topics.

I touch on the subject, once again, as we welcome children who are preparing to receive Communion for the first time this coming April / May. They will lead us in prayer during the Pre-Communion Masses next weekend. A phrase I often use at a Christening is the hope that the ‘child will come to be at home within himself or herself.’ In other words, during their formative years the young person will learn the skills, wisdom, communitive skills, etc.; essential capacities that help a person be at home in this world of ours. Children coming for Communion with the local Christian Community, are already well on their way to acquiring these skills.

From a totally different angle, but somewhat related, I refer to an interview Bob Geldof gave on radio two weeks ago. When speaking about grief and bereavement he said:

‘My soul demanded love.
Life without love is meaningless.’

Then he quoted the final line from the poem An Arundel Tomb by Philip Larkin:
‘What will survive of usis love.’

A statement that came my way during my years of seeking, observing, wondering, experiencing, trying to make sense of ‘what’s it all about’ is a quite simple statement; ‘*The faith journey is a life long journey*’. What the statement

says to me is that, as I make my way through life, year after year, very little remains the same, people around me change, society, culture changes, patterns of life changes, and in the process, I change myself, at many levels; physically, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, all of which have to do with feeling secure, grounded. It's interesting that the symbol for Faith is the *Anchor*. It is a good symbol, it denotes an element of assurance, reliance, especially during times of threat or danger. But I hasten to say, that faith is much more than that. It's not just a quality that's related to security. It also has to do with 'quality of life'.

So, what it is? It's not a thing. You can't throw it away, put it in your pocket, lose it. Perhaps the best word to use in describing faith, is that it is a quality that dwells within a person, nebulous, but real. We could say the same about love, that it is very real, but hard to quantify.

James Fowler, who wrote the well-known book *Stages of Faith*. describing faith says that:

*Faith is a quality of the person.
Faith is a quality of human living.
At best it has taken the form of serenity
and courage and loyalty and service:
a quiet confidence and joy
which enable one to feel at home in the universe,
and to find meaning in the world and in one's own life,
a meaning that is profound and ultimate,
and is stable no matter what may happen to oneself
at the level of immediate event.*

Something that helps us feel secure in the universe, obviously is acquiring a certain wisdom, and a confidence in myself and my life journey. This wisdom, obviously has to grow, develop, form within my being. It is influenced from the earliest of times, by those who care for me, hold me, help me develop basic skills. My faith is nurtured through the living, and the quality of my living, *faoi scath daoine eile*, (in the shadow of other people). Think of the learning that happens within a child, by just playing with other children, being with adults, finding out how to do things, etc. It is also influenced by certain values I take to myself, from observing other people, especially people I admire and respect.

Because the way my faith is nurtured by so many factors and influences, I can say indeed that the Faith Journey is a life long journey, from the cradle to the grave. Even for seniors, with issues surrounding health, etc, the quality of my Faith can be severely challenged and in the process is influenced, reconfigured.

Next week I will stay with the same topic, and touch on Religious Faith.

Fr. Michael

Ministry of Catechist and the Permanent Diaconate - Would you be interested in serving in the Ministry of Catechist or the Permanent Diaconate in the Dioceses of Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora? As part of a dynamic and creative team, in union with priests, deacons, parish pastoral councils and others, catechists assist with the delivery of various faith development programmes and opportunities at both parish level and beyond. Permanent Deacons are ordained to a life of service in charity to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. They also provide a ministry of the Word in preaching in Church and officiating at certain liturgies, and Ministry of the Altar, in assisting the celebrant at Mass and preparing people for and officiating at Baptisms and Weddings. Both the Ministry of Catechist and the Permanent Diaconate involve a sizeable period of discernment and formation. For a conversation and further information please contact Fr Hugh Clifford, Tel. 091 637154.

Email catechistsdeacons@clonfertgalway.ie before 4th March 2026.

CLUB FICHEALL/CHESS CLUB Ranganna Ficheall I Halla na bhForbacha gach Dé Satharn.

Chess Classes every Saturday for 9 yrs – 17 yrs. from 2pm – 3pm;

7 yrs – 10 yrs. from 3.30pm – 4.30pm;

Tuilleadh Eolas/Contact 087-7208271.

HOME BASED COMPUTERS The Home-Based Computers programme is available county wide. It has been running successfully for over 20 years benefiting many individuals by allowing them to re-enter the workforce following an accident or period of illness. This course is available free of charge to all participants. A laptop is also provided free of charge for the duration of the course. It is delivered on a blended learning basis allowing people the ability to study from home three days of the week while also gaining support from tutorials two days of the week in one of our centres. Kevin Fitzgerald/086 043 2801/ kevin.fitzgerald@nln.ie