

DUILLEOG - Paróiste Bhearna & na bhForbacha

2nd/3rd May 2026

Vol. 38

No. 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter/An Cúigiú Domhnach den Cháisc

Cycle A

PARISH PRIEST: An tAth. Micheál Ó Braonáin – 'phone 086 8338878 Email: miclbrennn3@gmail.com
PARISH OFFICE: Secretary – Joan Concannon, 'Phone 091 590956 – Mon; Tue; Thurs. and Fri. 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 can be received from the Altar.

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 and the date of the Intention on the outside of the envelope. *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.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – CHURCH OF MARY IMMACULATE QUEEN, BARNNA, H91 A2T7 (Teampall Mhuire Banríon gan Smál)

All services available on webcam – church.tv.ie/barna – and on local radio 106.6fm

Saturday 2 nd May	6.30pm	*Sr. Frances Broder, Daughters of Charity, Dublin (<i>sister-in-law of Mary Broderick, Gleann na Coille</i>)	Rec. dec.
Sunday 3 rd May	12noon	*Denis Chambers, Woodfield *Joe Young, Fothraí Maola Thiar *Dorothy O'Brien, Gleann na Coille *Leo O'Dowd, Fothraí Maola Thiar	Anniversary Anniversary Anniversary Anniversary
Monday 4 th May Bank Holiday	10am	*Mass	
Tuesday 5 th May	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Wednesday 6 th May	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Thursday 7 th May	10am	*Mass	
Friday 8 th May	11.00am 3.00pm	Parish Confirmation – Scoil Naomh Séosaimh, Buaille Beag Parish Confirmation – Scoil Shéamais Naofa, Bearna Scoil Náisiúnta na bhForbacha	
Saturday 9 th May	6.30pm	*Liam Geraghty, Lacklea *Tim Hemon, Boston/New Village *Pat and Annie Flaherty, Cloughscoilte, also remembering their daughter Mary Higgins, Claregalway	First Anniversary 3 rd Anniversary Anniversaries
Sunday 10 th May	12noon	Ceremony of Light - First Holy Communion Scoil Naomh Séosaimh, Buaille Beag *Elizabeth Mellett, Roscommon *Ann Conneally, Dunmore	10 th Anniversary 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 3ú Bealtaine	10.00rn	<i>Searmanas an tSolais-Céad Comaoineach Naofa – Scoil na bhForbacha</i> *Caitlín agus Seán Ó Carra, Ceapach, Bearna and Gaillimh agus a mic ... Ciarán, Eoin, Colm, Pádraig agus a n-iníon Bríd agus *Brian Taylor (Colceathrair) as Londain *Hugh Greaney, Doire Locháin *Seosamh Ó Cualáin, Máire Ní Chualáin agus Máire Glennon, Coisméig Mór *Micheál de Burca, Seanafhraochóg *Seamus McCrudden, Furbo	Comóradh Báis Básaithe le déanaí 18ú Comóradh Báis Comóradh Báis Comóradh Báis Básaithe le déanaí
An Mháirt 5ú Bealtaine	10.00rn	Aifreann	
An Domhnach 10ú Bealtaine	10.00rn	<i>Searmanas an tSolais-Céad Comaoineach Naofa – Scoil na bhForbacha</i> *Tony Concannon, Baile na hAbhann *Rita agus Tom Flaherty, Poillíní *Mary Flynn, Baile na hAbhann	23ú Comóradh Báis Comóradh Báis Comóradh Báis

*Bring flow'rs of the fairest,
Bring flow'rs of the rarest,
From garden and woodland
And hillside and vale;*

The weather of the past two weeks or so, has surely lifted the hearts and minds of everyone.

After a tough winter, we are now gifted with blue skies and warmer weather as the month of May greets us. The hymn, *Flower of the May* is such a joyous hymn, full of colour and warmth, causing us to give thanks for the goodness of God's creation. The lyrics, in paying homage to Mary, also invite us to pause and bow to the beauty that surrounds us.

I still hold the memory of a 6th Year old student in S.N. Buaille Beag, commenting on the benefits of spending as much time as possible out in the fresh air, when she said, 'yes, go out and smell the flowers'. In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus addresses

his followers with the phrase 'yes there are many rooms in my Father's house'. Is it not the case that, in a sense, the beauty of God's creation could be classed as an earthly extension of this heavenly abode; perhaps the lawn, or the rockery. We sometimes hear the phrase, 'isn't it heavenly, or divine, this day... Heavenly indeed.

I'm not just referring to the bright summer months. Every season invites us to be touched soulfully by colour of many hues. It's almost as if nature has orchestrated itself in such a way as to ensure the presence of colour throughout the year. I'm always amazed with the emergence of the Daffodils beginning to stir before the end of December and then, managing to endure over so many weeks bringing us past St Patrick's Day, while the delicate Snowdrops appear for such a short while. Walking the path circling Reilig Réalt na Mara last week, it felt that Easter Lilies stood to attention, forming a guard of honour for the visitor. Presently, as we celebrated the advent of blue skies and warm weather, the Blue Bells, carpet the fields and roadways.

There is a lovely tradition of gracing Seipeal Réalt na Mara during special occasions with colour, and I never cease to wonder at the lovely display of flowers near the tabernacle in Barna Church and around the shrine of Mary Immaculate Queen. It's amazing how blossom and flower emerge punctually each year. The Cherry Blossom is presently delighting us with its all too brief appearance, before eventually enhancing the footpaths and roadsides with delicate petals of pink and white. A flower that surfaces all over Connemara each July is the Montbretia with its vibrant red-orange, spiky flowers. Of course, the Fuchsia ('Deora Dé' Tears of God) is ever present for so many weeks into the late Summer. Finally, we could say that the Autumn Leaves are also included in the orchestra as they display the most breathtaking range of rustic colours before they are finally loosened from their natural abode.

Niamh Horgan wrote a lovely piece for the Duilleog last November. To my delight, Niamh mentioned recently that she has another piece written for Bealtaine, and alleluia, Niamh did not disappoint.

The first of May is a major festival in the Celtic calendar,

heralding the end of the darkness of winter and the beginning of new life.

Just as Imbolg or St. Bridget's day marked or anticipate the coming of Spring, May Day celebrates the start of summer, albeit a little earlier than the true heart of summer. At Imbolg, we saw the stirrings of new life in the 'belly' of the earth, like the early stages of a pregnancy. Now, new life is coming into being all around us in the form of flowers blooming, birds building their nests and baby animals being born. Because of this, May was traditionally associated with fertility, motherhood and new beginnings and in the Catholic Church, of course, we devote this month to Mary, 'Queen of the May,' with many traditions to venerate Our Lady, such as the decorating of a May Altar with bluebells, primroses and other seasonal flowers.

Grottos and holy wells are also often visited and garlands with flowers at this time in homage to Mary.

Bealtaine was also welcomed with the lighting of bonfires, possibly symbolising the return of the sun after the dark winter months. People would drive their cattle through the smoke to purify them, dance around the bonfire and jump over the embers, all to 'cleanse' themselves and their livestock of negative influence and usher forth a prosperous summer.

Decorating May bushes with ribbons or shells, creating a straw 'babig na Bealtaine,' like our February 'Brideog,' and dancing around a colourful Maypole were also customs associated with Bealtaine.

Fr. Michael

MEET AND GREET The parish are hosting a Tea/Coffee event in the Cillín after the 12 noon Mass this Sunday 3rd May. *This is our first 'meet up' and we are hoping this will become a monthly event. All are welcome!*

MAY ROSARY Páidirín na Bealtaine ag guimhe ar son na síochána gach tráthnóna I Reilig Réalt na Mara ag 7 pm. Nó sa séipéal - ag brath ar an aimsir. **May Rosary** praying for world peace each evening I Reilig Réalt na Mara at 7 pm. Or in the church - depending on weather.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK on Sunday, 17th May 2026. We will gather as a Diocese at the shrine of Our Lady where we will be joined by priests and people from Clonfert. A bus will depart Galway Cathedral at 11.00am with a pick-up in Claregalway at approx., 11.45am. Please contact 0877573944 or 0872048497. Please see Poster.

BEARNA NA FORBACHA AONTAITHE Congrats to the BnF U15A Premier girls' squad who secured the U15 GFA Girls Premier/Championship Cup by beating Claregalway Cregmore FC 1-0 in a close encounter Final in Mervue in brilliant sunshine last Sunday. A brilliant squad of girls. Well done to all and the management team. Niall O'Ruanaigh, Runaí.

JOIN THIS YEAR'S YOUNG ADULT CAMINNO PILGRIMAGE (ages 18-35 - €699 PER PERSON), 11th - 20th July 2026 Includes flights, accommodation, and visit to Finisterre. Contact youthpilgrimage@clonfertgalway.ie See Church Poster.

CLONFERT, GALWAY, KILMACDUAGH AND KILFENORA DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026 The Pilgrimage will take place from 29th June to 4th July and will be led by Bishop Michael Duignan. Forms are now available in the Parish Office. The cost is from €995 per person sharing. Petition envelopes are available on the tables of both churches. Please send back to the Parish Office and these Petitions will be taken to Lourdes.