

DUILLEOG - Paróiste Bhearna & na bhForbacha

10th/11th October 2026

Vol. 38

Cycle A

No. 40

Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ord. Time / An tOchtú Domhnach Fíchead Saor

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.

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.

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!*

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

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

Sat. 10 th October	6.30pm	*Ralph O'Malley and his son David, Fothraí Maola Thoir	Anniversaries
Sun. 11 th October	12noon	*Tommy Walsh, Doire Crith, Furbo *Breege Kelly, Woodfield and her Son-in-law Eugene McCrossan, Lismore *Mary & Martin Conneely, Cappagh Road	First Anniversary Anniversaries Anniversaries
Monday 12 th October	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Tuesday 13 th October	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Wednesday 14 th October	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm)	
Thursday 15 th October	10am	*Paddy Hanly, Silver Strand	Anniversary
Friday 16 th October	10am	Mass	
Saturday 17 th October	6.30pm	*James and Delia Griffin, An Cnocán Carrach	Anniversaries
Sunday 18 th October	12noon	Tommy, Peter and Jim Greaney, Buaile Beag/Lacklea	Anniversaries

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 11ú Deireadh Fómhair	10.00rn	*John Cahill, Cnocán an Bhodaigh	Comóradh Báis
An Mháirt 13ú Deireadh Fómhair	10.00rn	Seirbhís Eocairsteach	
An Domhnach 18ú Deireadh Fómhair	10.00rn	*Bill Gavin, Boyne Hill House, Navan *Billy Greaney, Doire Locháin	Comóradh Báis Sú Comóradh Báis

AS A PARISH COMMUNITY, WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF:

*Martin Joe (Matt) Costello, Fothraí Maola Thoir. *Matt's funeral mass was celebrated on Friday evening.*

*Give him eternal rest, O Lord – **Suaímhneas síoraí tabhair do a Thiarna.***

EPILEPSY IRELAND will hold a Gate Collection after all Masses this weekend 10th & 11th Oct.

MISSION SUNDAY A Diocesan Collection for the Missions (Mission Sunday) will be taken up at Masses next weekend.

Spirituality of the Readings for this weekend, the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. John Foley, S.J.

You probably saw Babette's Feast, or at least have heard about it. An impoverished fine cook makes her way into a small town where the religion of the area made people hard and cold to each other, according to the movie, afraid to enjoy or even to relate to each other. Babette had only a small stash of possessions, but she was a top chef. So, she prepared, over many days, a huge, delectable, exquisite feast, serving after serving, all for the uptight townspeople. As they began to taste and enjoy, they began also to communicate in kindness to each other. They even danced!

I have heard people say that the movie promoted self-indulgence, and I do not endorse such a thing. But I do notice similarities to the huge feast we hear about in the First Reading.

It is the famous invitation from the Lord of Hosts, full of unstinting promise. "A feast of rich food and choice wines," Isaiah says. A great feast, a "groaning board" in medieval England, like the banquet in Babette's Feast.

Sunday's Gospel has a sumptuous feed too. The king gets his very best livestock fattened up, seasoned, readied for cooking, with invitations sent out. If you thought the people in Babette's town were reluctant, look what happened here. Some people refused outright to come. Others simply ignored the invitation as if it had not been given, and a number "laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them." The king punished these and then invited in street people.

Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.

But with so many people starving in today's world, how dare we fatten ourselves up with rich food and every other kind of riches? Shouldn't we much more becomingly abstain and deny ourselves? Isn't the "First World" currently fattening itself on food far more lavish than the ancient world could ever have imagined? Advertisements in the United States tell us we should luxuriate, should pamper ourselves, should not hold back. "Who says you can't have it all," they say. How are we to respond, we who try to be faithful to God and God's promises

But remember that Jesus both fasted and feasted. He abstained from food for forty days at the beginning of his public ministry, then later on said, mockingly, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners' (Mt. 11:19)." How would he have gotten such a reputation except by enjoying times at meals?

Which is it for us, then, fasting or feasting?

I think the answer is simple yet difficult to grow into. I think we are meant to receive humbly and to give to others as well. The mistake is to adopt a stance of only receiving (getting, grabbing) or on the other hand, only giving (giving, with nothing in return). Sunday's readings invite us to come into the kingdom, to open up, eat, enjoy what is there.

To receive as Jesus did.

He went deep, accepting all things as coming from God's hand. Then, when it was time to let go of it all—life, friends, peace and possessions—he did that with love.

Receive and give. Jesus wants us to receive his life and then give it out to the world.

Historical Cultural Context: John J. Pilch

Ancient Table Manners - Some background knowledge of meals in antiquity sheds light on today's parable. Meals reproduce in miniature the everyday social relations of a society. Who eats with whom at a given table reflects who can associate with whom in the larger society.

The Insults of the First Group

In today's story, a king is arranging a wedding banquet for his son. In any society, commoners will not likely be invited. Royalty associate almost exclusively with royalty or at least with VIPs. Among the king's invited guests are a landowner and a business person (v. 5), definitely members of the elite class.

Notice also the double invitation: "The king sent his slaves to call those who had been invited.... Again, he sent other slaves, saying... 'Come!'" (vv. 3-5). This was a common practice in antiquity. After the first invitation, the guests checked out who was invited or not invited, what kind of preparations were being made or not being made, and who was planning to attend as well as who was planning to stay away. This last point was particularly important. If key people decided to stay away, so would others.

The refusal of the invited guests to attend the king's wedding party shames him. For some reason the guests disapproved of the arrangements the king was making. They offer flimsy and insulting excuses, implying that tending the farm or the business is much more important than the wedding of the king's son. This is the traditional and indirect or face-saving method of turning down an invitation.

Other invited guests challenge the king's honour in a more direct fashion. They seize his slaves who bring the invitation, beat, and kill them. Clearly this action demands redress, and the king obliges (see v. 7).

First, he sends troops to kill the murderers and burn their city. This evens the score and solidifies the king's honour according to the rules of the honour and shame game. But then the king does something that breaks the rules. He invites nonelites to the wedding feast. Going to the palace, these people will enter a section of the city where they are rarely, if ever, seen.

Unexpected Invitations

The word in verse 9 translated as "main roads, main streets, or thoroughfares" actually describes the squares or plazas into which the streets run. These open spaces are common in Mediterranean cities. They are the normal places where the elite might meet and communicate with the nonelite. It is the place to see and be seen.

The king's guest list now is very unusual to say the least. In antiquity, meals were an exclusive affair. Inclusive table fellowship in the early Christian community caused problems, as Paul noted in his letters to Corinth (e.g., 1 Cor 11:17-34). People in a status-conscious culture such as this would feel more than uneasy with the royal banquet.

Jesus' parable was directed against his elite opponents from Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders. He contrasts their rigid observance of exclusivity with the open-hearted inclusivity expressed by the king: "Invite everyone you find" in the city square. Remember, parables tell how God relates to his clients ("the reign of God is like..."). The implication is that God's people ought to relate to each other in the same way. Do we?

Articles for the Sundays of the Liturgical year can be downloaded from Saint Louis University Liturgy Resources. This year the readings are from Cycle A.

Fr. Michael

CLUB IOMANAÍOCHTA / CAMOGAÍOCHTA BEARNA / NA FORBACHA Tá ár gcluiche cartáí ar bun aríst gach Céadaoin ag a hocht a chlog, i scoil nua na bhForbacha. Cead isteach €10. Our weekly annual card has returned each Wednesday at 8pm sharp i Scoil Nua na bhForbacha.

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.

BEARNA NA FORBACHA AONTAITHE - 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance - The Club's 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held on Fri. 23rd October in the Connemara Coast Hotel. Tickets €65 per person and students €55. Tickets will be available in Slemons in Furbo and Online or contact Niall Rooney on 087 2482639. *Niall O'Ruanaigh, Runaí*

ENGLISH GRINDS AVAILABLE Online English, Junior /Leaving Certificate, higher and ordinary level grinds available. Experienced teacher and state examiner, with over thirteen years expertise. Classes tailored to each individual's needs. Contact Paula on 0857881574.

CHRISTMAS TEDDIES The Bearna Knitting Group are again knitting teddies for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We would be very grateful to receive any knitting wool you have at home that you no longer need. The wool can be left in the box provided in Barna Church Porch. If you are a knitter, we would be delighted with your help to knit teddies. Patterns will be provided. Many thanks! Further info from Teresa @ 087 7984582.

"FÁILTE ISTEACH" annual Christmas wreath making workshops will take place this year over two weekends, Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd November, and Sunday 29th November at 2.00pm each day in the Priest's House, Furbo. Teas/coffees and refreshments will be served, creativity and conviviality guaranteed. Cost €30 to cover costs of materials only. Early reservations advised. For enquiries/bookings please contact Mary 086 3659842 or Maria 085 1111245. Thank you."