DUILLEOG - Paróiste Bhearna & na bhForbacha

21st/22nd November 2026 **Vol. 38** **Cycle A** **No. 46**

Feast of Christ the King – Féile Chríost Rí

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 and Saturdays after the 6.30pm Vigil Mass.**
***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, BARNA, H91 A2T7 (Teampall Mhuire Banríon gan Smál)

Saturday 21st November	6.30pm	*Ruth and Eddie Fagan, Freeport *Dr. Noel Farrell, Roscommon *Tom and Kathleen Donnelly, Barna Village *John & Mary Connor, Freeport, and sons Pat, Barney, Tom, Colm and Paddy *Della Costello, Woodfield	Anniversaries Rec. dec. Anniversaries Anniversaries Anniversary
Sunday 22nd November	12noon	*Berney McKeon, Buaile Beag *Dr. Patrick Naughton, Ballinasloe/Salthill *Dr. Billy and Kay Kenny, Barna Road *Ben Maguire *Bertie Devanney, Truskey East	First Anniversary Anniversary Anniversaries Rec. dec. 30th Anniversary
Monday 23rd November	10.00am	*Carmel Vahey, Cloonfad	Rec. dec.
Tuesday 24th November	10.00am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm locally)	
Wednesday 25th November	10.00am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm locally)	
Thursday 26th November	10.00am	Mass	
Friday 27th November	10.00am	*Two 'Get Well' Intentions	
Saturday 28th November	6.30pm	*Tim Hardesty, Dundalk/Minnesota *(brother of Bríd Fagan, Freeport)*	Rec. dec.
Sunday 29th November Family Mass ***First Sunday of Advent***	12noon	*Gay O'Brien, Corboley *Theresa Flaherty, Trá Bhán, Leitir Móir *David & Mary O'Flynn, Waterford	First Anniversary First Anniversary Anniversaries

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

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 22ú Samhain	10.00m	*Cliodhna Thornton, Coismeigmór *Simon Faherty, Kent, U.K. *Stevie Concannon, Doire Uachtair *Dec. members of Club Iománaíochta & Camógíochta Bearna/Na Forbacha.	10ú Comóradh Báis 3ú Comóradh Báis Aifreann Cuimhneachán Aifreann Cuimhneachán
An Mháirt 24ú Samhain	10.00m	Aifreann	
An Domhnach 29ú Samhain Aifreann donTeaghlach ***An Chéad Domhnach den Aidbhint***	10.00m	*Seán Ó Conghaile, Tuar Mhic Eadaigh/Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh	Aifreann na Míosa

DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN FAMILY SERVICES WILL BE TAKEN UP ON THE WEEKEND 28TH / 29TH November.

The Whole Truth

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Every year we read in the Preface of the Mass the words …

You anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son, with the oil of gladness
As king may he bring to your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love, and peace.

Thinking about these lines, what a world we would live in if the ways of human-kind were rooted in truth, justice and love; surely leading from that, peace would reign…*the Reign of God.*

On the question of truth, I'm reminded that people in a Court of Law are asked Do you solemnly swear that you will tell the truth, *the whole truth*, and nothing but the truth? So, there is truth, and there is the *'whole truth'*. It is possible to answer questions in court, but the evidence given may not be the whole truth in relation to an issue.

Over a month ago, I came across a short article written by Fr. Brendan Hoban, Killala Diocese, printed in the Western People, also available in the website the Association of Catholic Priests concerning the interview Patrick Kielty had with the actor/ producer Liam Neeson and Catherine Corless, in relation to the film ***'The Lost Children of Tuam***'. Hoban, is well known in the Catholic World. He has been, for over 15 years, one of the most ardent advocates for reform within the Church. His writings and books on this Church crusade are very accessible. He is a competent and straight talker. Along with this, he is an recognised historian of Diocesan Church History.

.

In his recent article Hoban is very critical of the interview given by Neeson on the Late Late show. He headlines the article with the words. **'Neeson won't let facts get in the way of his story'** Western People 6.10.26 Because of his own interest in the ongoing unfolding of what happened in the Mother and Babies Home, Hoban says that the near total blame levelled at the Bons Secour nuns, and issues relating to care and the nature of the burials are unfair. He hadn't seen the film at the time, but knew the history and current discoveries relating to the tragic happenings there.

On the strength of his criticism, I went to see the picture. Very mindful of the tragic nature of the subject with the loss of so many babies and young children, and the sadness with which so many relatives of the babies are having to endure, as the 791 bodies are being presently found and identified, before they are given back to their families for reburial, I went to the film, with a question in mind, 'how would the work of the nuns be presented in the film?'. I'm sorry to say, they were vilified; it seemed that they and the Church were deemed to be mainly responsible for the tragic plight and death of so many of the children.
To give the film it's due, it depicts a well-deserved and heroic presentation of the efforts by Catherine Corless to bring to light the enormous death toll in the home during its existence. But it doesn't give any acknowledgement to the work of the nuns to care for and safeguard vulnerable children during in very difficult circumstances. The film fails to set in context the political, economic, social, cultural state of the nation. The nuns took on the task of providing a safe haven for children and mothers living in desperation, at the behest of the Galway County Council. The Irish State was in its infancy, poorly resourced, finding itself after the War of Independence and the Civil War. They made available the Tuam Workhouse to the Sisters, with a commitment to ensure that it would be properly fitted out. Think of the effort and care presently given to the New Children's Hospital still to be opened. By all accounts the workhouse was totally inadequate, and the head nun Sr Hortense was constantly on to Galway County Council seeking improvement to the premises. A manuscript, titled **Memoirs of a Bon Secours Sister** written by a Sister who came to Tuam in 1927. described the former workhouse as '*primitive enough for anything*'.

Two issues are at the core of the controversy surrounding the home. One, the **Mortality Rate**; was it due to neglect, or due to the inability of the nuns to work in an impossible environment whereby the wellbeing of delicate babies and children would be protected from disease. Hoban writes of the Council 'failing to afford basic funding for the Mothers and Babies which has been widely condemned'. **Read the detailed 62-page report in the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother & Babies homes Chapter 15 The Tuam Children's Home**. 12th Jan 2021

The second major issue, was the word that went viral all over the world regarding the **Nature of the Burials**, and the reference to a septic tank. Hoban writes: '*the clear evidence to date of the present excavation of graves on the Tuam site is that the babies were in fact buried in appropriate coffins in appropriate graves'* He is referring to the major dig, organised by the state to try to retrieve the buried bodies, with a view to returning them to their families, or have them reinterred. This work is being done presently by **The Office of the Director of Authorised Intervention, Tuam (ODAIT),** reporting on their findings every two months. The first report for the period 14th July to 22nd August came out on the 29th Aug. 2025. To date there have been 9 Technical Updates, with the 10th update out this week. This meticulous work, done by archaeologies will provide a very detailed account when completed of how deceased children were treated. You can troll through each Technical Update by going into The **Office of the Director of Authorised Intervention, Tuam (ODAIT),** Added to this information is a book brought out by the historian, Brian Nugent Tuam babies: A Critical Look at the Tuam Children's Home Scandal 2019 challenging the widely reported narrative surrounding the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway. You can view a lecture he gave in Tuam 'Tuam Children's Home controversy, a lecture/book launch, October 26th 2019

Space limits further comment, but in fairness to the Bons Secour sisters, founded in Paris in 1824, one of the first congregations of nursing sisters, whose motto is '*Good Help to Those in Need*". they deserve that the '*whole truth'* be revealed. Much information is already available to right their good names. The present dig in Tuam will provide further information. But, I fear, that if the 'whole truth is revealed' it won't near get the publicity that misinformation has already spread worldwide.
At the end of the film, **Schlinder's List**, Oskar Schindler, acted so powerfully by Neeson himself, in the final moving scene, as he bids farewell to some of the 1200 Jews he rescued from the death chambers, breaks down after receiving an engraved ring from their representative with a famous Talmudic saying: "*Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire*". Schlinder breaks down because he feels he could have saved more lives.

I feel sure, such would be the sentiment of the Bons Secour Sisters as well.

Fr. Michael

THE ADULT CHOIR The Adult Choir are currently rehearsing for the Christmas Masses. We really need new members! Please contact John O'Meara 087 2410727 or johnandkateomeara@gmail.com

CÁRTAÍ NOLLAG AR DÍOL Christmas Cards for sale in aid of M.E. Association at Furbo Church on Sunday 22nd Nov. or contact Laoise Uí Chomhraí @ 091592285/087 2752068.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR IN THE CILLÍN will take place this year on the weekend 12th/13th December after both Masses. All donations of home-made produce…i.e. cakes, puddings, chutneys, jams, Christmas Wreaths etc will be gratefully accepted. **Donations of Christmas items for sale can be left into the Parish Office during opening hours.**

CLUB IOMÁNAÍOCHTA AGUS CAMÓGIOCHTA BEARNA/NA FORBACHA – AGM will be held in the Connemara Coast Hotel on this Sunday 22nd November at 5pm.

VOICES OF THE WEST - a bilingual Christmas Cantata in Irish and English, composed and directed by Máire Ní Dhuibhir, will be performed by Cantairí Chonamara, soloists Áighne Ní Chadhain, Domhnall Ó Braonáin and Úna McGlynn and orchestra, in Bearna Parish Church on Sunday Dec.6th at 4pm. Suggested donation €20 at the door, U.12s free or book in advance on Eventbrite

CANTAIRÍ CHONAMARA SCÉAL NA NOLLAG - Beidh Cantata de Scéal na Nollag, cumtha agus faoi stiúir ag Máire Ní Dhuibhir, á chanadh i Séipéal Bhearna i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla ag Cantairí Chonamara mar aon le ceoltfhoirm agus amhránaithe, Áighne Ní Chadhain agus Domhnall Ó Braonáin, ar an Domhnach 6ú lá Nollag ag a 4.00 i.n.. Síntiús molta de €20 ag an doras, Faoí 12 in aisce nó ceannaigh ar Eventbrite.

THE BAROQUE SINGERS at St Nicholas' Church on Sat. 28 Nov. 8pm. Tickets €15 available on the door and on Eventbrite.

EMMAUS SCRIPTURE SCHOOL Join Emmaus Scripture School this Advent for a free three-part series exploring how the first Christmas fulfilled Old Testament prophetic promises. Tuesdays: 1st , 8th and 15th Dec, 6:00–7:30 pm. Info and registration at https://ProphetsOfAdvent.eventbrite.ie

E & O E