DUILLEOG - Paróiste Bhearna & na bhForbacha

7th / 8th November 2026 Vol. 38 Cycle A No. 44

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time/ An Dara Domhnach Déag is Fiche

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, BARNA, H91 A2T7 (Teampall Mhuire Banríon gan Smál)

Saturday 7th November	**6.30pm**	**Novena (6)** **Annual Parish Remembrance Mass for those who died during the year**	
Sunday 8th November	**12noon** **2pm**	**Novena (7)** ***James & Mary O'Malley, Mayo/Galway/Coventry** ***Tony Moriarty, Barna/Athlone** ***Johnny Duhan, Liosmór** ***Bartley Folan, Truskey West** *****Rosary in Barna Cemetery**	Anniversaries 4th Anniversaries 2nd Anniversaries 20th Anniversary
Monday 9th November	**10.00am**	**Novena (8)**	
Tuesday 10th November	**10.00am**	**Novena (9)**	
Wednesday 11th November	10am	Communion Service (churchtv.ie/barna) (radio 106.6fm locally)	
Thursday 12th November	10am	Mass	
Friday 13th November	10am	Mass	
Saturday 14th November	6.30pm	*Moya James, na Forbacha *Mary Folan, Fothraí Maola Thoir	First Anniversary Anniversary
Sunday 15th November	12noon	*Tom Gill, Cappagh Road *Fr. Michael Griffin, Clonfert/Galway	5th Anniversary 106th Anniversary

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 8ú Samhain	**10.00rn** **3.00in**	**Nóbhéna (7)** *****Paidrín i Reilig na bhForbacha**	
An Luain 9ú Samhain	**11.15rn**	**Nóbhéna (8)**	
An Mháirt 10ú Samhain	**11.15rn**	**Nóbhéna (9)**	
An Domhnach 15ú Samhain	10.00rn	*Moya James, na Forbacha	Céad Chuimhneachán

Ar Shlí na Fírinne

Of someone who has died, we say as gaeilge *'tá sé, nó sí, imithe ar Shlí na Fírinne*, meaning that that he, that she, has set out on a path or trail of truth. In Irish, the idea numinous with a sense of final adventure, the adventure of our immortality. *Grounded in Story John Moriarty*

Saturday evening the news that Ciara Mc Keenan had come to the end of her earthly sojourn, after bravely living with a cancer diagnosis since the Spring of 2025. Her memoir *My Greatest Race*, was available in bookshops from June 18, 2026.

The book is an amazing read mindful of the fact that at the time of writing, she was living with cancer; She was living with the affliction, but she was doing so with a style, a faith, a determination, an attitude that was inspiring. I often wonder, when a person is confronted with such a horrific health diagnosis, how does a person cope? Is it a time to 'stop living'; drown in self-remorse, allow despair to eat into the soul of a person? Finding oneself in such a prediction, it seems natural to wrap oneself up in self-pity, *'why me?' 'it's not fair'*. I'm forever amazed at people who are shouldered with impossible health issues; so often they are inspirational. It seems to me, that people journeying along this form of *'road less travelled'*, a path that no one wants to tread, there is no doubt that such individuals show us a way of *'seeing and being in the darkness'*.

Ciara was at the pinnacle of her sporting career, she had won a European Gold medal, and could have been a contender for Olympic gold if it wasn't for injury, which is an ever-present dread for an athlete. Because of her prowess as an athlete, her application, grit, and attitude so deeply rooted, it seemed very likely that she would bring joy to followers of the sport for many a year to come. Then, as I mentioned, to her surprise and horror; at such a young age, she was told of her prognosis. Coming to grips with the news, she obviously had to try to come to deal with the shock, and respond somehow. Her make up, her faith, her philosophy steered her on an awe-inspiring path. She stated

"I am determined to fit as much living into the years I have left.
I don't know when the end of the journey will come,
but I know that sure as hell I'm going to enjoy every path along the way".

She has expressed a deep determination to *"fit as much living into the years I have"*.

Fitting as much living into her life, did not turn towards indulging in the best foods, drinking the finest wines, travelling to exotic places across the world. I was amazed to learn that, at one stage, she had volunteered to participate in the RTÉ series U*ncharted*, screened last May 2026. Ciara, teaming up with the Dublin GAA star Michael Darragh Mac Auley, under the stewardship of Ray Goggins exposed herself to the rigours of a massive, six-day, 250km coast-to-coast trek across the rugged terrain of Costa Rica, after she had already completed 12 rounds of chemotherapy! A few years ago, at his invitation, I remember walking behind Denis Crosby along a lesser well know mud path flanking the cliffs spanning part of the West Clare coast. I'm not good on heights, after a scare I had when I was a teenager. So, after placing my trust in Crosby for 50 yards or so, conscious that there was an unhindered 100 ft drop all the way down to the Atlantic Ocean, I notified my leader who seemed oblivious to the danger, that I was turning back post- hast to base. So, when I spotted this woman climbing a cliff faced mountain, not only was I awestruck by her determination and resilience, but was actually feeling panic take hold on my own body in the viewing.

As with all the programmes in this gruelling series, the three participants spent 'time out' moments sharing aspects of their own lives, and Ciara was not wanting in speaking of the recent happenings concerning her health, that has changed her life with a bang.

I think, that part of her motivation for living and speaking in such a public way through the various media outlets, was with a view of helping, supporting, others who were confronted with similar health related challenges. Ciara married Thomas Moran, her partner and her 'steadfast rock', on Oct. 13th last. She stated at one stage *"I'm not scared to die. I just don't want it to happen anytime soon. It is a very strange thing to be 34 and face the fact of your mortality."*

Last Saturday, her spirit left her broken body, and has now joined with so many others *'atá 'ar Shlí na Fhirinne*. Her story, for years to come, be it as a camogie player, a top-class track athlete, an incredibly resilient brave woman, will be a source of strength, and comfort to so many. In last Sunday's Duilleog, I had included a beautiful definition of sainthood.

'For centuries the church has confronted the human community with role models of greatness. We call them saints when what we really often mean to say is 'icon,' 'star,' 'hero,' ones so possessed by an internal vision of divine goodness that they give us a glimpse of the face of God in the centre of the human.'

To my mind, Ciara has 'certainly given us a glimpse of the face of God, in the centre of the human.

May she rest in peace…

Resting in Peace…Suaimhneas Shioraí

This weekend, we especially remember members of the community who have departed this earthly life over the past 12 months. It is a time, as a community, to grieve their great loss as we are also mindful of their families who in their grief are trying to go on living in their absence.

It's important to bring to mind once again the many and varied ways these special people graced family and community with their gift and their goodness over the years. The quality of life in every community is coloured by the personalities who dwell in it. In our own unique way, every person adds to the texture and colour of the community. We don't have to be spectacular or loud; just doing our best to honour ourselves and our God, by being true to the gifts the Good Lord has given us.

In saying that, I believe there can be a sadness, that resides in the hearts of those who die as well. Very few people choose death; it comes to us, visits us in a myriad of ways, be that through age, sickness of mind or body, accidents. Most people, I imagine, would prefer to '*go on living'* with family and friend. So, to be denied that ongoing opportunity has to be felt by them as well. I do think, therefore, that the souls of the virtuous also need to be comforted by those left behind. It seems unnatural, to me, that a person who loved being in the presence of family, can of a sudden, switch over to enjoying eternal bliss, and not feel regret, remorse in having to leave loved ones behind. I believe that they forever try to reach out to us, to comfort us, to reassure us as well. In the same way, it is incumbent on us, to reassure them as well that we are managing in their absence.

We entrust them to the *Lord's Divine Embrace*. Let us comfort them, in the remembering.

"Hoping against hope,
we affirm that they
[our loved ones who have died]
have fallen not into nothingness
but into the embrace of the living God.
And that is where we can find them again;
when we open our hearts
to the silent calmness of God's own life
in which we dwell,
not by calling them back to where we are,
but by descending into the depth of our own hearts
where God also abides.

Fr. Michael

THE ADULT CHOIR The Adult Choir will shortly be commencing rehearsals for the Christmas Masses. We really need new members! Please contact John O'Meara 087 2410727 or johnandkateomeara@gmail.com

ADORATION Following our night of Adoration last weekend for World Peace, we will continue with Adoration every Saturday evening – after the 6.30pm Vigil Mass. Adoration is also held on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm.

MONTHLY MEET AND GREET We, as a parish community, are continuing with the monthly *Meet and Greet* event in the Cillín after the 12noon Sunday masses. Our next dates are Sunday 15th November followed by Sunday 6th December. Please save the dates and bring a friend for a 'cuppa and a chat'.

CONNAUGHT YOUTH 2000 DAY RETREAT takes place next weekend Saturday November 14th at Áras Naofa, Renmore. Youth 2000 provides an opportunity for young people (16-35) to deepen their relationship with God, explore the Catholic faith and meet other young people through a structured retreat programme, including talks, testimonies and workshops. Donation only. Check out Youth2000.ie for details and to register, or contact connaught@youth2000.ie for more information.

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