

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RATHOWEN

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BOHERQUILL

email: [mcdoath@gmail.com](mailto:mcdoath@gmail.com)

FR. PIERRE MOBILE: 087 6960542



### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday,  
Boherquill – 9.30 am  
Wednesday,  
Rathowen – 9.30am  
Thursday,  
Rathowen – 10.00am  
Friday- No mass

**JOY**  
TO THE  
**WORLD**

### WEEKEND MASSES 20th/21st

Sat 20th: Michael Noonan, DFM Noonan & McCormack  
Sun 21st: Teresa Maguire & Una Maguire;

### WEEKEND MASSES 27th/28th

Sat 27th: No Intentions.  
Sun 28th: No Intentions.

### WORLDS HEADLINES

1: Burkina Faso has become a 'church on the move' says catholic priest. 2: Spanish government clashes publicly with Catholic hierarchy over election. 3: Rapid aging of society creates potential 'boom cycle' for catholicism. 4: AI forces us to ask 'what it means to be human'? Pope says. 5: A new frontier is opening up for the church according to Cardinal Nicholas of Westminster. 6: Bangladesh catholics face Christmas under military guard after church attacks. 7: Czech prosecutor seeks justice for cardinal persecuted by the Nazis & communists. 8: Why Sweden honours St Lucy, beloved Italian saint. 9: Polish leaders decry EU court ruling as overreach into national family law. 10: Bethlehem lights Christmas tree again while conflict still echoes nearby.

### A LITTLE THEOLOGY 'HOLY FAMILY'

Catholic teaching presents the holy family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph as the ultimate model for christian family life, with the emphasising God's plan to enter the world in a family, sanctifying it as the "domestic church" where love, prayer and selfless service are learned and practised, even amidst life's difficulties, teaching that all families are called to reflect God's love and grow in holiness together. The holy family embodies selfless love, patience and dedication here Jesus learned human skills and virtues, walking, praying & sharing from Mary and Joseph, showing that holiness is found in ordinary family life not just great events.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: Boherquill 6pm.  
Christmas Day: Rathowen 10am  
St Stephens Day: No mass  
Sat 27th: Boherquill 8pm  
Sun 28th: Rathowen 10am



### SAINTLY WISDOM 'CHRISTMAS'

"All days from the treasure of this bright day gain blessing. All the feasts from the stores of this feast have their fairness and their ornaments..... Great is this day above all days, for in it comes forth mercy to sinners. A medicine chest is this your great day, because on it shone forth the medicine of life to the wounded. A treasure of helpful graces is this day, because on it, light gleamed on our own blindness. Yes, it also brought a sheaf to us, and it came, so that from it, plenty might flow upon our hunger. ( St Ephraim)..... "Today God head pressed itself like a seal upon manhood, so that with the God head's stamp, manhood might be adorned" ( St Basil)

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

As I drove from Bohrerquill to Granard this week I was taken with the vast display of light in almost every home and garden that I passed, even though I had seen them a thousand times before that night seemed a little brighter and more welcoming. Maybe it was because the night was so dark and miserable, what crossed my mind was the need for humans to scatter the darkness, fill the place with light, offer a promise of what might be possible. Rather than curse the dark we light a candle, and if we can't use it to read the map, we can at least allow it to lift our spirits. On any lit up tree or roof there is a mass of small light, who on their own would go unnoticed, but together they offer a promise of what is to come. In a real sense that is the way for the followers of Christ this Christmas time, our lives thou not brilliant still offer comfort and hope in a world sadly in need of them, alone we are almost invisible but as a church we are salt to the earth and light to the world. May this time of thankfulness and joy remain with us long after the lights have been packed away and forgotten until this time next year.....

### CAROL SERVICE

The Parishes of Streete & Rathowen will celebrate a Carol Service this Monday evening at 7pm in St Mary's Church Rathowen, the music will be led by the parish choir, and joined by the students of Lismacraffery and Rathowen N.S. The evening will lead us through the prophet who foretold the coming of the Christ child, Emmanuel God is with us. Accompanying them will be the timeless carol of Christmas, reminding us that what was prophesied has come to pass Why not join us to reconnect with the Christmas message, and after share some festive cheer with family and friends. All are welcome.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Rathowen	440	Thank
Streete	240	You

Offertory envelope boxes for 2026 are available in both churches to be collected. If you don't have a box and require one please contact Fr Pierre. Thank you to all who contribute to the running of the parish in 2025, your generosity is much appreciated.