

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RATHOWEN

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BOHERQUILL

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### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday.

Boherquill – 9.30 am

Wednesday.

Rathowen – 9.30am

Thursday.

Rathowen – 9.30am. Adoration 10-10.30am

Friday.

Boherquill – 8pm. Adoration 7 – 8pm.

### WEEKEND MASSES 27th/28th Dec

Sat 27th: Vincent & Peggy Daly, daughter Adrienne Kerrigan, Jack & Mary Daly, Denise Barden.

Sun 28th: No Intention

### WEEKEND MASSES 3rd/4th Jan

Sat 3rd: No intention

Sun 4th: No intention.

### 12 Days of Christmas.

We are all familiar with the Christmas song 'the 12 days of Christmas, but what we may not be aware of is the origin and meaning of the element in the song. Each of the daily gifts were a reference to an element of the Christian belief. The first gift declared there is one God, 2 gifts references the old and new testaments, 3 hen are faith, hope and charity. 4 calling birds are the 4 Gospels, 5 rings the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the old testament), the 6 geese = 6 days of creation, 7 swans, are 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. The 8 maids refer to the 8 beatitudes and the 9 ladies dancing are about the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, 10 lord obviously are the 10 commandments, 11 pipers are the 11 faithful Apostles and lastly 12 drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles creed....

### THE IMAGE OF GOD IN HUMANITY

"When he saw that man was made in the image and likeness of God, the Devil realized that it was useless for him to fight against God, so instead he entangled God's image in evil. In the same way, an angry man might throw stones at the emperor's image, since he cannot throw them at the emperor, and so must be content with striking the wood that bears his likeness." (St Basil).....  
"The dignity of resembling the almighty is common to all men, we should then love them all as ourselves, as living images of the divine. (Saint Francis de Sales)

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2026.

The offertory envelopes for 2026 are available for collection in both churches, they contain the weekly offering envelopes, as well as the 6 priest Dues, that go toward the support of priests of the diocese, active and retired, if you don't have any envelope box and wish to receive one ask Fr Pierre or any Pastoral Council member. To all who supported the mission of the church in 2025 a sincere word of thanks.

### Catholic Humour



### WORLD HEADLINES.

1: One hundred and thirty school children and staff abducted from catholic school in Nigeria last month have been released, according to police. 2: These influencers are teaching Christianity online and young people are listening. 3: Philippine church rejects \$138 budget for anti-communism task force. 4: Catholic church needs to share beautiful truth of humanity amid AI concerns, experts say. 5: Pope Leo makes surprise visit to children's concert, at Castle Gandolfo school. 6: Countdown to closing of the Jubilee year: When will the Holy Doors in Rome close. 7: Runaway nuns can stay in Alpine convent ...if they rein in boxing videos. 8: The Hurricane Melisssa damages Cuba's most important pilgrimage site. 9: Pro-asylum seeker bishop appointed head of catholic church in England/Wales.

### A LITTLE THEOLOGY 'THE ENVIRONMENT'

Catholic teaching makes it clear that care for the environment is for all both a moral and spiritual duty, rooted in stewardship, justice & solidarity, emphasising that the Earth is God's gift, not for humanity to dominate, requiring us to protect the vulnerable, especially those who are poor. The Gospel calls us to be caretakers not owners of the Earth, using resources responsibly, the resources are to be at the service of all humanity, not simply the rich and powerful. In his encyclical Laudato Si (on care of our common home), Pope Francis made it clear that there is an immediate call to action, he decries consumerism and links environmental destruction to social injustice

### FILMS/BOOKS.

The days of Christmas are always a good time to relax, unwind and take a break, for many people nothing beats a good movie by the fire, here are some good films that never fail to both entertain and inspire. A- It's a wonderful life, (1946) Anglea's Christmas (2017), Miracle on 34th Street (1947), A hidden life (2019), A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens (various options) Home alone (1990), The sound of music (1965). If being absorbed in a good book is a perfect way to spend a few hours over this festive season, here are a few critically acclaimed publications. Seven story mountain by Thomas Merton, The amazing story of Carlos Acuña, by T.P. Luca, God, the science, the evidence. Authors being Michel Yves Bolloré and Olivier Bonnissel. Clowns of God, by Morris West.....

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 20TH/21ST

Rathowen: 598 Thank

Streete 265 You

The Christmas Dues will be taken up this Sunday for the support of the priests of the diocese, active and retired. Thank you to all those who contribute to this year's collection, as always it is appreciated.

