

Parish of St. Ultan

BOHERMEEN
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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CORTOWN
Fr. Andy Doyle. P.P.

BOYERSTOWN
19th DECEMBER 2021
www.bohermeenparish.ie
Mon-Fri 9.30-1.00

'We are called to be a welcoming caring faith community who bring people to Jesus who sends us out with Good News for all'.

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**Today's Gospel –The joy of the Visitation by Fr. Silvester O'Flynn. OFM. Cap. The Irish Catholic**

**Mary's visit to Elizabeth** Mary was informed by the angel Gabriel that her ageing cousin, Elizabeth, had conceived and was in her sixth month. Mary knew that Elizabeth would welcome her assistance, so she set off over hill and vale as quickly as she could. But it is likely that caring for Elizabeth was not her only motive. The deep experience of God that she received at the angel Gabriel's annunciation was something she needed to share with another who had a divine experience. The moment they met was a wonderful celebration of divine presence. Mary had already experienced the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. Now, as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she too was filled with the Holy Spirit and the child in her womb leapt for joy.

**John the Dancer** An American priest, Isaias Powers, wrote a beautiful Advent reflection about baby John's dancing in the womb. We usually think of John the Baptist as a good man who was ascetical, strict and confrontational. We overlook that Spiritfilled performance in his mother's womb. Isaias Powers called him 'John the Dancer'. Elizabeth, his mother, took up the dance music and proclaimed the three great blessings of Mary. Then Mary completed the celebration with the Magnificat. "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." But it was John, as always, who prepared the way.

**The three blessings of Mary** The evangelist Luke is the evangelist of the action of the Holy Spirit and he celebrates the Spirit's presence on the blessed day of the Visitation. That beautiful word 'blessed', which tells of God's giving, is heard three times. "Of all women you are the most blessed." Mary is somebody who was specially chosen by God and addressed by the angel as full of grace.

"Blessed is the fruit of your womb". In this second blessing, Elizabeth celebrates how the grace bestowed upon Mary will be the source of divine fruitfulness for all of us. The graces that God offers have to be accepted in total trust. This is where Elizabeth recognised Mary's third blessedness. "Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Mary expressed her total acceptance of the annunciation. "Let it be done to me according to your word." Later in the Gospel we hear Jesus praise her faith and total obedience: "Blessed is she who heard the word of God and put it into practice." She is the model of the Church.

**What can we do?** Is there anything of a practical nature that we can learn from the Visitation, the second joyful mystery of the rosary? Mary set off over hilly country when she heard that Elizabeth might need support. Is there anybody or group of people who need my support? Christmas is dreaded by many people ... living alone ... grieving the loss of a loved one during the year ... burdened with bills ... having nothing to give to the children. Charitable organisations do fabulous work. It is not too late to make a donation or to offer to be a driver to deliver parcels. Then there is the delicate matter of breaking the cold silence which keeps people, even family members, apart. It might not work but somebody must make the first step. And since Christmas is a season of great grace who knows what might happen? As the Angel Gabriel said regarding the unlikely pregnancy of Elizabeth, "Nothing is impossible to God."

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Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards- We have a small number of Christmas Mass Bouquets available to purchase at the parish office. Cards including Mass cost €10.00 each.

Confessions for Christmas will take place in St. Mary's Church, Navan on Tuesday 21st December from 8.45am until 11.00pm.

Confessions will take place here in Bohermeen Church on Thursday 23rd from 11.00am until 12 noon.

St. Vincent de Paul Anyone in need of assistance for the Christmas period please contact the St. Vincent de Paul helpline – 1800 677 777.

Tap to Donate- We have a new Tap to Donate facility in Bohermeen Church. It is an easy, secure and confidential way to donate to our parish finances. The limit is set at €5.00.

Mass Intentions 18th - 26th December 2021

Bohermeen Church

Mass every weekday morning at **9.30am** – (Funeral replaces daily Mass)

Sat. 18th December – Boyerstown at 6.00pm-James O’Brien-9th Anniversary
Bohermeen at 7.15pm-For the people of the parish

Sun. 19th December – Cortown at 10.00am –Therese & Paddy McGarr & granddaughter Dakota
Barbara & Patrick Tully
Dec’d members of Cortown GAA
Dec’d members of The Reilly Family
Bohermeen at 11.30am – Patrick, Anne, Kevin and Joyce Lowry-Ann. Mass

Christmas Eve 24th Dec. – Cortown at 5.00pm
Boyerstown at 6.30pm
Bohermeen at 6.30pm-Seamus & Josie Kavanagh-Ann. Mass

Christmas Day 25th Dec. – Boyerstown at 10.00am-Patrick & Elizabeth Smyth, Halltown. -Ann Mass
Cortown at 10.00am-
Bohermeen at 11.30am – Angela (6th), Pat and Deirdre Travers-Ann. mass

St. Stephen’s Day 26th Dec. - Boyerstown at 10.00am
Cortown at 10.00am
Bohermeen at 11.30am – Rose Glennon-1st Anniversary

Ministers of the Word: Dec. 18th –Dympna Herward Dec. 19th – Ann Ryan
Dec. 24th- Dympna Herward Dec. 25th – Isobel Hughes. Dec. 26th –Ann Ryan

Eucharistic Ministers: Dec. 18th Cathal O’Reilly
Dec. 19th Brigid Mackin & Margaret Farrell
Dec. 24th Joe Murtagh & Cathal O’Reilly
Dec. 25th Carmel McQuaid & Jennifer Reilly
Dec. 26th Kathleen Keating & Sheila Kenny

Congratulations to the twelve people who finished the recent Alpha course.

Finances - Thank You-We wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have sent in their Offerings and weekly envelopes and all those who pay by standing order. This really helps our finances. Thank you for your help. It is greatly appreciated.

Offerings can be made by;

- leaving your weekly envelopes into the Parish Office.
- go online and do a weekly/monthly direct debit to
Bank of Ireland, Navan, IBAN IE04 BOFI 903509 8059 7424 BIC BOFIE2D (please include your box no.)

Building Fund €563.00 Priests Offerings €80.00

Offertory Collections: Bohermeen - €657.00 Cortown - €403.70 Boyerstown – €225.00

Special Trocáire Collection last weekend €550.00. Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE PLACE ALL ENVELOPES INTO THE BOXES AT THE ENTRANCES.



**Wishing all our parishioners at home and abroad a safe, happy and peaceful
Christmas.**