

Parish of St. Ultan

BOHERMEEN –CORTOWN- BOYERSTOWN

Fr. Andy Doyle. P.P.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
18th MAY 2025

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Office Tel: 046 907 3805.
Mon-Fri 9.30am-1.00pm

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

POPE LEO XIV-A GREAT ADVENTURE *The Tablet*

The final vote in the conclave on 8 May was a win for Cardinal Robert Prevost, a win for the Catholic Church, a win for the world's poor - and a win for the late Pope Francis. As the pieces of the conclave jigsaw come together, it becomes clearer how Francis had managed to influence the outcome in advance, and in particular how he had planned to ward off the conservative and traditionalist forces in the Church who wanted a very different papacy to follow his own.

They wanted a minimalist interpretation of the Second Vatican Council, with a renewed emphasis on obedience to authority and less talk of participation and consultation with clergy and laity. They did not want more engagement with the social justice issues such as immigration and climate change. What they got was the man hand-picked by Francis to hold them at bay and continue his own trajectory of progress and reform, first as the man responsible for appointing bishops all over the world, and then as his successor. It was a decisive, indeed historic, defeat for the forces of reaction.

This is not the synopsis of another novel by Robert Harris, following his bestseller and subsequent Oscar-winning film *Conclave*. It is a plausible explanation of how Pope Leo XIV, hitherto known as Chicago-born Cardinal Robert Prevost, was elected Bishop of Rome on 8 May. Pope Francis knew what he was doing. It is safe to say that, had the Holy Spirit objected, his plan could have been thwarted. The vast majority of the faithful are grateful that it was not.

Delivering the Francis legacy and going beyond it, with extra breadth and depth, seems to be the mission Leo has set himself. A former prior general of the Augustinian Order, he has in his spiritual formation the huge depository of wisdom and insight in the writing and preaching of a foremost Doctor of the Church, a theologian

and philosopher who raised questions modern philosophers are still asking. What is self-knowledge, what is consciousness, what is reason, and what do these things tell us about ourselves, about reality and about God? It is not surprising that Leo, with Augustine at his right hand, has already raised the issue of Artificial Intelligence. Nor is it surprising that, in the same way, he has mentioned his namesake Pope Leo XIII, whose great gift to the Church was his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*.

In Augustine's view, love of God and love of neighbour are virtually the same thing. And the neighbour could be anywhere - even before he became Pope, as custodian of the Augustinian tradition Prevost had refuted US Vice President J.D. Vance's disingenuous assertion that St. Augustine had taught a version of "charity begins at home" to justify cuts to the US overseas aid budget. Pope Leo is clearly not scared of controversy.

Leo XIV laid the foundations for the long and weighty tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, which steers a way between *laissez-faire* economics on the one hand and Marxist socialism on the other - not by looking for the halfway point between them, but by asserting a different set of human values altogether, derived from the Gospel. With both free-market economics and Marxism now widely regarded as no longer relevant, indeed as destructive of human dignity and human community, there has never been a greater need for fundamental moral principles to guide post-globalisation economics - a new politics of the common good. There has rarely been a greater need, therefore, for someone like Leo XIV to lead the way.

He knows what raw capitalism did to Chicago, and how after the Civil War the huge internal migration of black people, fleeing Jim Crow in the Deep South, transformed the racial demographics of the city. He has seen American racism in action. He knows what poverty has done to the people of Peru, his adopted homeland, plundered as it has been by economic colonialism. He has seen the environmental degradation that can follow unregulated mining activity in a country rich in natural resources. He knows about the burden that international debt has placed on the shoulders of the poor across Latin America. He knows what political instability can do to a country.

This was an extraordinary preparation for the job he has now ascended to, and raises many questions about the relationship between the new papacy and the "MAGA" administration of Donald Trump. The US President is no longer the world's most influential American. And as the peacemaker he imagines himself to be, he now has to deal with a real one, whose first words from the balcony at St Peter's were "Peace be with you" - the first words spoken by Christ after his Resurrection.

The polarisation of the US, of which Trump is both cause and symptom, has also divided its 62 million Catholics. It may be significant that Prevost did not join the hierarchy of the United States, as no doubt he could have done, and has stood apart from the so-called "culture wars" that threaten to tear it asunder. Can he bring peace to it from outside? This has to be one of his priorities. His election will send a profound signal to the United States hierarchy about the direction it should take.

Mass Intentions Sat. 17th to Sun. 25th May

Bohermeen Church - Daily Mass at 9.30am
(Funeral replaces Mass)

Sat. 17th May

Boyerstown at 6.00pm

-Jim & Betty Curry-Ann. Mass

Sun. 18th May

Cortown at 10.00am

-Peter & Mary Duffy

-Patrick & Ann Reilly

Bohermeen at 11.30am

-Kieran Thornton-1st Anniversary

-Maureen Mallon-1st Anniversary

-Francis Mallon

-Robbie & Nuala Byrne

-Una Ward-2nd Anniversary

Mon to Fri.

Bohermeen at 9.30am

Sat. 24th May

Cortown at 6.00pm

-Eamon Phillips-11th Anniversary and dec'd
members of the Phillips and McGovern families

Sun. 25th May

Boyerstown at 10.00am

-Thomas & Elizabeth Mulligan

-Thomas Garry & Elizabeth Garry (Rathmore)

Bohermeen at 11.30am

-Sean (6th Ann) and Patrick Mallon and dec'd
members of the Mallon family

-Dec'd members of Bohermeen Altar Society

Ministers of the Word:

Sun. 18th May: Áine Keating

Sun. 25th May: Geraldine McHugh

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sun. 18th May: Kathleen Keating & Paul Murray

Sun. 25th May: Carmel McQuaid & Therese Duffy

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. It is
greatly appreciated. Offerings can be made by;

- leaving your weekly envelopes into the envelope
boxes in the Churches or into the Parish Office.
- Tap to donate machine located in the Church
- 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 €433.00 Priests Offerings €0.00
Offertory Collections: Bohermeen -€221.00
Cortown -€270.00 Boyerstown - €481.00
Tap to Donate €20.00

BOYERSTOWN CHURCH RENOVATION UPDATE AND FINAL STATEMENT

Invoices for carpeting and seat coverings were
recently received and following our committee
meeting on Fri. 9th May, we are happy to report that
the project including the fund raising we
commenced exactly 12 months ago is now finalised.

Total Expenditure amounted to €40,285

Total Donations amounted to €26,905

The committee are most grateful to all who
contributed so generously and especially for a
number of significant donations that boosted the
funds resulting in our initial target being greatly
exceeded. The success of our fund raising meant that
we were able to finish works to a very high standard
including complete refurbishment of the Gallery as
well as the Vestry and improved lighting. We
endeavoured to issue receipts for each individual
donation but a small number wished to remain
anonymous while some transfers to the special
Credit Union A/c did not provide name or details.
Should anybody believe they did not receive a
receipt please contact the Parish Office or any
member of the committee.

Many thanks to all concerned,

Boyerstown Church Renovation Committee

CEMETERY DEVOTIONS 2025

Marty: Sat 31st May 2025 at 5.00pm.

Bohermeen: Sat 31st May after **6.00pm Mass**

Cortown: Sun 1st June after 10.00am Mass

Allenstown: Sun 1st June at 11.30am

Moyaugh: Sun 1st June at 12.00noon

Boyerstown: Sun 1st June at 5.00pm.

Ardbraccan: Sun 1st June at 6.00pm.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY collection will take place THIS
Sat. and Sun. at all Masses.

**MEATH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES SEPT
2025 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'** - Bookings can be
made directly with Joe Walsh Tours - 01-241
0800. For further information and assistance
with booking please contact Jennifer Reilly on
086 877 0729.

**MEATH DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SUNDAY
10TH AUGUST.** Knock Shrine, Croagh Patrick, and
Lough Derg are issuing a Jubilee Year Pilgrimage
Passport for 2025. See
<https://www.pilgrimagepassport.ie/>

BOHERMEEN ALTAR SOCIETY - THANK YOU to the
boys and girls of 2nd Class in St. Ultan's NS for their
generous donation towards the flowers for the First
Holy Communion Ceremony.

LOUGHCREW SUNDAY June 29th Mass at 3.00pm
Come and help us celebrate the 400th Anniversary
of the birth of St. Oliver in Loughcrew, Oldcastle
(Eircode A82 X4Y1). ALL ARE WELCOME.