



***13th & 14th:***

***Bohola:***

€640.

***Straide:***

Envelopes - €216. Loose - €128.91.

Restoration - €30.

*Thanks for all your contributions.*

**Bohola/Straide/Shraheens Newsletter**

**Stephen O’Mahony PP/Adm – 094-9384115/086-8226405 –** [**boholaparish@gmail.com**](mailto:boholaparish@gmail.com) **(email for newsletter) pppppp**Newsletter available on *mayo.ie* website and *Straide Parish Facebook* page

**Fourth Sunday of Easter (Vocations Sunday) – 21st April 2023**

###### The Week Ahead

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| **Saturday, April 20th.** | **2.00pm*\****  **8.00pm*\* Bohola*** | **Pádraic Filan, Rathruane. (Month’s Mind)**  **For all the People.**  ***First Communion Grow in Love.*** |
| **Sunday, April 21st.** | **9.30am *Shraheens***  **11.00am *Straide*** | **Tom & Margaret Kenny & deceased of Kenny & Earley families.**  **Private Intention.**  ***First Communion Grow in Love.*** |
| **Monday, April 22nd.** |  | **No Mass.** |
| **Tuesday, April 23rd.** | **8.00pm *Straide***  **7.30 – 8.30pm** | **Margaret McKeown, Currane (2nd Anniversary), her husband, Paddy and deceased of Connolly & McKeown families.**  **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Straide.** |
| **Wednesday, April 24th.** | **10.00am**  **5.00 – 10.00pm** | **Private Intention.………(*Adoration follows until 12 noon)***  **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. *(Blessed Sacrament Chapel)*** |
| **Thursday, April 25th.** | **10.00am** | **Private Intention.** |
| **Friday, April 26th.** | **7.00pm *Straide*** | **Bill Curry, Kiltimagh. (20th Anniversary)** |
| **Saturday, April 27th.** | **8.00pm*\* Bohola*** | **P.J. Burke, Carragolda (9th Anniversary) & parents Patrick & Celia.**  **Liam & Mary Carroll, Barleyhill and friends/relations of the Mullagh and Carroll families.**  **For families whose child (children) died before/during /after birth.** |
| **Sunday, April 28th.** | **9.30am *Shraheens***  **11.00am *Straide*** | **For all the People.**  **Kevin McMorrow, Ballyvary. (1st Anniversary)**  **Tom Lavin & John McKeown, Aughaliskey and Faye & Mandy Lavin.** |
| ***The Bohola weekend Mass will be live-streamed on the Bohola Post Facebook Page every weekend.***  ***Any other Bohola Masses are put online when requested. (Marked with \* above)***  ***All Bohola Masses will be broadcast on the 105.5 FM Radio channel.***  ***All Straide Masses can be seen live on www.straideparish.com or www.churchtv.ie/straide.*** | | |

***Recent Deaths:*** Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the following:

*Micksey Clarke*, Bohola, who died last Saturday, April 13th.and whose funeral took place in Bohola on Monday.

*Annemarie Byrne-Cunningham*, Breaffy and late of Carrowkeel, who died on Tuesday last, April 16th and whose funeral took place on this Saturday in Castlebar with burial afterwards in Breaffy Cemetery. She was the daughter of Maureen Byrne, Carrowkeel and sister to Imelda, Thomas, Paul, Philip and John.

*Billy McDonnell*, Annagh, Castlebar, who died on Friday last, April 19th. He was the brother of the late Marion Clarke, Bohola. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

We extend sympathy to their families and pray they are at peace.

***Baptism:*** On Saturday last, April 13th in Bohola we were delighted to welcome *Lubomira Sinéad Mlynarowicz*, Curraghboy, Athlone, into God’s family. Congratulations to her parents, Mary and Slawomir, her godparents and the wider family circle and we wish them every blessing for the future.

***Anyone for Tea or Coffee?*** Straide Pastoral Council invite all Mass goers on this Sunday, April 21st to tea/coffee and chat in the Parochial House after the 11.00am Mass. All are welcome and if it works out well, we hope it can be continued on a more frequent basis. Thanks to the organising PPC members.

***New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week, Sunday, April 21st:*** *The Gospels for a Visual Age ….* For the first time, the entire Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have been brought to life in four compelling cinematic portrayals of the life of Jesus – accompanied by a complete and unabridged narration (using the New International Version of the New Testament, and also available in the King James Version). The narrations are accessible in a huge range of languages. This ground-breaking Biblical resource, the Lumo Project, has been created to transform the way in which people engage with, discover, and study the life of Jesus through the Gospels. It is also a wonderful pastoral resource. To watch the Gospel of John and to learn more about the Lumo project, visit: [***www.newpilgrimpath.ie***](http://www.newpilgrimpath.ie).

***Pastoral Council Reports:*** Bohola and Straide PPCs met earlier this week and among matters discussed were the following: Both Councils noted the departure of Bishop Paul Dempsey and we await further clarity on how the Diocese will go forward.

Both Councils were unanimous in their opinion that Holy Week and Easter ceremonies had worked very well (maybe even better!) despite the reduced number of ceremonies.

People are asked to consider volunteering for the proposed Baptismal and Funeral teams in both Bohola and Straide.

Cemetery Masses were confirmed as outlined in last week’s newsletter – Bohola on Saturday, August 3rd at 6.00pm and Straide on Sunday, August 4th at 11.00am.

Bohola PPC suggested that we seek volunteers for stewarding in the church especially when large crowds are expected for funerals etc.

Straide PPC has set up an email address – [***straidepastoralcouncil@gmail.com***](mailto:straidepastoralcouncil@gmail.com) – as a point of contact for parishioners where they can make suggestions, ask questions or comment in relation to any issue. Items and photos for the proposed Fr Peyton Cluster newsletter, due to be published during the Summer can be sent to this address.

It is proposed to have a Mass/Service for healing in Straide on Friday, May 3rd at 8.00pm.

***‘Take the Risk for Christ’. Priesthood in Achonry Diocese:*** Have you the courage to “Take the Risk for Christ”?Contact our Vocations Director, **Fr Paul Kivlehan, The Presbytery, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. Tel. *094-9860011*, *Mobile 087-3683535*, E-mail** [***pkivlehan@achonrydiocese.org***](mailto:pkivlehan@achonrydiocese.org) **or contact any local priest for more information.**

***Upcoming Online Q&A Vocations Event:*** The Poor Clares in Galway are hosting an online Q&A for young women who would like to know more about the Poor Clare way of life. The event will take place from 7 to 8:30pm on Wednesday, May 1st. For more information, contact *vocations@poorclares.ie*.

***Mayo Cancer Support Church Gate Collection:*** Mayo Cancer Support Association will be holding a Church Gate Collection this weekend, April 20th/ 21st in Bohola and Shraheens. We would appreciate your continued support for this local charity that offers free emotional support to people affected by cancer and their families. See [*www.mayocancersupport.ie*](http://www.mayocancersupport.ie).

***Anam Cara Mayo***, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 23rd April at 7:15pm in the T.F. Royal Hotel, Castlebar. This event is free and open to all bereaved parentst. We also offer an online support service. Contact us on [*info@anamcara.ie*](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or *085-2888888* for any queries. For more information see [*anamcara.ie*](http://anamcara.ie/).

***Mayo COPD Support Group AGM*** will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 2.30pm in the Tennis club, Lannagh Road, Castlebar. Please make every effort to attend. Your support is greatly appreciated

***Cór Mhaigh Eo present "Choral Reflections"***, a mixture of sacred and secular choral music in Holy Trinity Church, Westport on Friday, April 26th at 8pm. Tickets €15 on the door. Special guest is Eve Garavan.

***The Mayo.ie Western People Women's Mini Marathon (10km)*** takes place in Ballina on Sunday, May 5th at noon. Runners, joggers and walkers all welcome to join the fun. Registration: *www.westofirelandwomensminimarathon.com*.

***ACCORD Seeks Volunteers:*** ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. If you have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church and if you have enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team in supporting couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage, then Accord wants to hear from you! Successful applicants will receive professional training and be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally. Please contact Aisling on *01-5053112* or by email to *marriagepreparation@accord.ie*. See [*www.accord.ie*](http://www.accord.ie). Closing date for applications is Friday, 3rd May.

***National Pilgrimage for Life:*** The first National Pilgrimage for Life, organised by the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference, will be celebrated on Saturday, 4th May in Knock Shrine. The pilgrimage begins with Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica at 2.30pm, followed by Mass at 3pm and Rosary Procession after Mass, weather permitting. Main celebrant and homilist will be Archbishop Francis Duffy. We invite you to join us in Knock to celebrate the gift of life and to pray for the protection of all human life.

***March for Life 2024*** takes place on May 6th (Bank Holiday Monday), starting at 2pm, we will be marching in Dublin from St Stephens Green to Leinster House. See in extended newsletter *“RTE, The Home of Barefaced Bias”*.

***Straide & Townlands Spring Clean:*** continues on Sunday mornings throughout the month of April, meeting each Sunday morning at 9.30am at the Community Hall. Contact us for any items or assistance you may need. Tel. *087-6883880*.

***Active Age Group Trip to Donegal:*** Parke Active Age Group invites anyone who may be interested to join them on their annual trip to Donegal and Derry from 16th to 19th of May. For details, phone Marian on *087-2758084*.

***Social Bingo Time Change***: Bingo continues every Monday evening in The Sheridan Community Centre, Bohola but as the evenings get longer it moves to the later time of doors opening at 8.30pm for a **9.00pm start**.

***Moy Davitts 50/50 Draw:*** Congratulations to Tomas Ryan, Ballinisland who won a jackpot of €378 in the Moy Davitts 50/50 draw last Saturday. A huge thank you to everyone who supported last week's draw, it is greatly appreciated. Tickets are available in the usual retail outlets and by and by playing on the club app (Moy Davitts GAA).

***Extended Online Newsletter*** includes much more!

***“Doctor, my leg hurts. What can I do?” Doctor: “Limp!”***



***VAKS Programme:*** Applications are now open for VAKS (Volunteer at Knock Shrine) programme. It is an opportunity for young people in TY, 5th and 6th year to come to Knock to volunteer for a weekend in either July or August. This is a great way to meet new friends, serve others, express your faith and have fun! It is a particularly exciting opportunity this year as we launch our new state of the art Youth Village this summer! For further information, please check out our website [*www.knockshrine.ie/vaks-volunteer-at-knock-shrine*](http://www.knockshrine.ie/vaks-volunteer-at-knock-shrine) or contact us on *094-9375321* or email [*youthministry@knockshrine.ie*](mailto:youthministry@knockshrine.ie).

***The 2024 Western People Martin Sheridan Bursary Awards Scheme*** is now open for applications. €5,000 in funds is available to support athletes from Co. Mayo. Further details and application forms are available by emailing [*martinsheridanbursary@gmail.com*](mailto:martinsheridanbursary@gmail.com). Closing date for completed application forms is Friday, **May 10th**.

***All Married Couples Deserve a WWME Weekend!*** The next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held in the Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co. Kildare from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th April. Register online at [*www.marriageencounter.ie*](http://www.marriageencounter.ie). Good marriages can always be made better!

***SeniorLine - Would like someone to talk to?*** SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year from 10am to 10pm, Freephone *1800 80 45 91*. Callers may feel isolated, alone, wish to discuss a problem in confidence, or for company during their day. SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support, to discuss options and to refer caller to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone if sharing a problem would help. Phone SeniorLine *1800 80 45 91*, open every day of the year, 10am to 10pm.

***ALONE Volunteer Recruitment Drive for Older People:*** ‘Hi, my name is Paul Stafford and I am the Volunteer Support Officer for ALONE and your local community. I am looking for volunteers in Galway and Mayo and its surrounding areas for older people who need befriending for up to one hour per week and/or telephone support for up to two hours per week. Our befriending programme is designed to help older people combat loneliness and isolation. We need your help more than ever. If this is something that interests you, then please reach out to me on *086-0135043*, email *paul.stafford@alone.ie* or follow the link [*https://alone.tfaforms.net/f/ALONE-Volunteer-Expression-of-Interest-2021*](https://alone.tfaforms.net/f/ALONE-Volunteer-Expression-of-Interest-2021).

***RHS Home Care*** is a Non Commercial Home Care Provider bringing professional home care services to those who need assistance to remain living in their own homes. We are now recruiting new Healthcare Assistants in your area and would love to hear from you. Potential applicants must have the required QQI level 5 (two modules completed care skills and care of the older person). Please email you CV to *jobs@rhshomecare.ie* or call Aoife on *090-6625988*.

***The Youth 2000 Connaught Retreat*** will take place in Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway on the weekend of May 10th to 12th, consisting of workshops, talks, testimonies, music, prayer as well as time to relax and meet with others. Come along for the weekend or pop in to say hello! Donation only, 16 to 35yrs. Visit *www.youth2000.ie* or email [*connaught@youth2000.ie*](mailto:connaught@youth2000.ie) to book a place or to get more information.

***Trócaire:*** Please return your Trócaire Box/envelope donation as soon as possible. Thanks to those who have already done so.

***Cemetery Masses:*** Advance notification for those away and at home who may be making plans for the summer - Mass will be celebrated in St Joseph’s Cemetery, Bohola on Saturday, **August 3rd at 6.00pm** and in Straide Cemetery on Sunday, **August 4th at** **11.00am**. Say a prayer that the weather will be somewhat kinder than last year, especially in Bohola!

***CANA Talks – “A Roadmap to Happiness”*** will take place in the T.F Royal Theatre, Castlebar on Friday, 31st May at 8pm. Six speakers plus Special Guests. Inspiration & Entertainment. Each speaker has just 15 minutes to inspire you (from a faith perspective)! Enjoy real-life stories, humour, inspiring talks, great visuals, music and more. This is not a conference but a show! Tickets €23 plus booking fee at *www.ticketmaster.ie*. Tickets also at the door. See [*www.canatalks.com*](http://www.canatalks.com).

***Play Therapy Service:*** Are you worried about your child? A new Play Therapy service is now available at Knock Counselling Centre. Play Therapy is an excellent therapeutic response to younger and some older children/adolescents, who experience emotional or psychological distress. For further information please contact *094-9375032* or email: *counsellingoffice@knockshrine.ie*.

**Mayo stoma Support Group will be holding a Meeting on the 23-May-2024**

**At 7pm in the Ellison Hotel Castlebar All are welcome**

**If you attending please message me on (087) 6275766 with your name and number of people attending**

***Postgraduate and Mission & Ministries Programmes at St Patrick’s Pontifical University, Maynooth.*** Programme applications close from 30th June to 30th August for different programmes. Visit sppu.ie/courses for more information.

***Millions Facing Starvation in Ethiopia:*** All are encouraged to please pray for the people of Tigray in Ethiopia, where drought and civil war have left many in crisis and in danger of starvation. Mary’s Meals feeds tens of thousands of children one meal in each school day in the region. If you feel called to support our mission and help us reach more children, please visit *marysmeals.ie* or contact *01-8535163*. Thank you.

**Call for investigation into RTÉ Investigates well received**

On Monday evening, RTÉ crossed a line they never traversed before.

There have been lots of abortion themed prime time programmes on RTÉ in recent decades – the vast majority of which were biased – sometimes terribly so – but at least the pro-life viewpoint was represented, albeit in a tokenistic way.

But Monday evening’s RTÉ Investigates chose a different tack – they didn’t interview a single  pro-life representative. They even went one better than that. Over the course of the entire programme which lasted one hour and five minutes, they didn’t reference a single pro-life point.

The only time the pro-life side was mentioned was when programme makers and their guests were disparaging pro-life individuals, who in turn weren’t afforded an on air opportunity to defend their reputations and good names.

In a most egregious display of disregard for impartiality, the programme painted a very dishonest picture of Ireland’s new abortion law to viewers.

No mention of Ireland’s soaring abortion rate. No mention of the obscene reality that happens under the new law where babies that survive late-term abortions are left to die alone in hospital corners without receiving any human warmth or medical care.

The presenter of the programme claimed at the outset that they’d spent seven months making it. Based on what aired, they must have spent the entire seven months working on choreography and optics because their time certainly wasn’t spent producing fair and objective content for viewers.

It was hard going watching such an unbelievably biased programme and many pro-life volunteers were understandably distraught afterwards.

There’s another way, however, of assessing what happened. RTÉ literally threw everything at the programme and still came up short. Seven months of preparation went into it but less than seventy two hours after it aired, it was gone from the headlines.

All things considered, it was a big mistake for RTÉ to broadcast it. It’s the kind of programme they would have been able to get away with in the past. But times have changed. Clearly, there are some people at the station who still haven’t got the message and think it’s business as usual despite all the scandals that have engulfed RTÉ over the past year.

The request we made earlier in the week for a Special Oireachtas Committee to be established to examine editorial bias in RTÉ has already been embraced by several members of the Oireachtas. The disgust felt by so many people over what happened on Monday evening is not going to recede any time soon. RTÉ must be held to account for this appalling programme.

We will keep the pressure on and not relent until a full and proper investigation into RTÉ Investigates has taken place.

A green and red coat of arms

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14th April 2024

Dear friends,

On Wednesday last the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luis Montemayor, announced significant changes that will be happening in the Dioceses of the Western Province. Over the past number of years, the reconfiguration of Dioceses has been talked about. Since coming to Ireland last year, the Papal Nuncio, visited the relevant Dioceses. During his visit to Achonry on the 22nd of November, he met with priest representatives and several members of the lay faithful who have leadership roles in the Diocese. Those present were also invited to write to the Nuncio with any other ideas, concerns, insights, they might have. Wednesday’s announcement of closer links between Achonry and Elphin are the result of these consultations.

However, the changes announced are not essentially about Dioceses or Bishops. The changes are more importantly about supporting the local parish faith communities. Parish identity is very important and is what really matters to people. The bringing together of Dioceses opens up the potential of providing extra resources to support local parish communities that otherwise might not be possible. The larger Diocesan configuration has greater scope to resource parishes with people who have skills and experience in such areas as youth ministry, pastoral expertise, Safeguarding and Administration. Having these resources available to people and priests at local level is essential to ensuring our parish communities are well supported in carrying out the mission entrusted to them.

On a personal note, these changes will see me reassigned to the Archdiocese of Dublin, where Pope Francis has asked me to serve as an Auxiliary Bishop. This has been the cause of mixed emotions for me as I take on a new and challenging role. However, as a priest and bishop, I am called to a life of service in the Church and must respond to the Lord’s call, wherever that call takes me.

I wish to thank the people, priests, religious, staff and deacons of the Diocese for the warm welcome you gave me when I arrived four years ago. It was a wonderful experience to visit the parishes and meet so many people. Thank you for your kindness which is deeply appreciated. Even though the public narrative around Church can be negative, it is important to

acknowledge the many positive initiatives happening in the Diocese. Some examples are the establishment of the Pastoral Leadership Team, the recent development and training of Parish Pastoral Councils, the presence of Finance Committees in every parish, Youth initiatives supported by a Youth Minister, Liturgical Commission celebrations, a new Safeguarding Office, welcoming our priests and seminarians from Ogoja Diocese in Nigeria and many more local parish projects. All of this is very encouraging! None of it could happen without the generosity of so many people across the Diocese. Thank you for your support and dedication. Your witness has been so encouraging to me in my own life and vocation. I pray that the seeds sown in recent years will flourish so that the mission and message of Jesus Christ will continue to spread among us.

As I prepare to depart for Dublin, I ask that you might remember me in your prayers. Change is not easy and can be somewhat daunting. Knowing that your support and prayers are with me will be a great strength as I begin the next chapter. At the recent Chrism Mass in the Cathedral, I quoted from a book called ‘*Christianity Rediscovered*.’ In it, Fr. Vincent Donovan, a college lecturer, was about to begin a new mission in his life and he quoted one of his students whose words seem apt today: ‘*In working with people, do not try to call them back to where they were, and do not try to call them to where you are, as beautiful as that place might seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place that neither you nor they have been before*.’ At this moment the Lord is calling all of us ‘*to a place we have never been before*.’ May we place our hand in His and have the courage to follow the path he has invited us to follow.

With prayerful good wishes.

Míle buíochas,

A close-up of a signature

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