

# Straide/Bohola/Shraheens Newsletter

Stephen O'Mahony PP/Adm – 094-9384115/086-8226405 – [boholarparish@gmail.com](mailto:boholarparish@gmail.com) (email for newsletters)

Newsletter available on [www.straideparish.com](http://www.straideparish.com) and [Straide Parish Facebook page](#)

**The Baptism of the Lord – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



## The Week Ahead

Saturday, January 10 <sup>th</sup> .	11.00am <i>Bohola</i>	Patricia McNicholas, Lismirrane. (Month's Mind)
	7.00pm <i>Straide</i>	Seán Deacy, Straide. (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) <i>First Communion Grow in Love.</i>
Sunday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> .	9.30am <i>Shraheens</i>	Kieran Mullaney & his father Jimmy, Boleyard and deceased of Brennan & Mullaney families.
	11.00am <i>Bohola</i>	Joe Mullaney, Toughnane. (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) M.J. Doyle, Clogher (20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary), his wife Eileen, their sons Michael, John & Aidan and daughter Bernadette. <i>First Communion Grow in Love.</i>
<i>No weekday Mass until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> as Fr O'Mahony will be away.</i>		
Tuesday, January 13 <sup>th</sup> .	7.00 – 8.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Straide.
Wednesday, January 14 <sup>th</sup> .	10.00am – 12 noon	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
	5.00 – 9.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. ( <i>Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i> )
Saturday, January 17 <sup>th</sup> .	7.00pm <i>Straide</i>	Jackie McHale, Oughtoos. (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Brendan Maloney, Straide & Cloonaglasha, Tuam. (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
Sunday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> .	9.30am <i>Shraheens</i>	Private Intention.
	11.00am <i>Bohola</i>	Eileen Tierney, Ardgullen (16 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary), her husband James & Tommy Quinn.
<p><i>All Masses in <a href="http://www.churchtv.ie/straide/">Straide (www.churchtv.ie/straide/)</a> and <a href="http://www.churchtv.ie/bohola/">Bohola (www.churchtv.ie/bohola/)</a> are live-streamed.</i>  <i>Shraheens Mass will be live-streamed on the Bohola Post Facebook Page when requested. (Marked by * above)</i>  <i>All Bohola Masses will be broadcast on the 105.5 FM Radio channel.</i></p>		

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

**Thomas (Tom) Gallagher**, Castlebar and formerly of Straide, who died on Monday last, January 5<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral took place in Castlebar on Friday with burial afterwards in Straide Old Cemetery. He was the sister of Bridget Gallagher, Knockshanvalley.

**Peter Kennedy**, Belmont, Offaly, who died on Sunday last, January 4<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral took place in Belmont on Wednesday. He was the brother of Rose Reddington, Ardacarra.

**Denis Nulty**, Mullingar, who died on Wednesday last, January 7<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral took place in Tevrin, Co Westmeath this Saturday. He was the brother-in-law of Rose Reddington, Ardacarra.

**Margaret Walsh (nee O'Neill)**, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, who died on Wednesday last, January 7<sup>th</sup> in her 103<sup>rd</sup> year and whose funeral will take place in Maynooth on this coming Monday. She was sister of the late Tom O'Neill, Ardacarra, and aunt of Eileen Goldrick, Churchpark.

**Kevin Walsh**, Belmullet and formerly of Carragowan, who died on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral Mass took place on December 13<sup>th</sup> in Belmullet.

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

**Missing in Action!** Fr. O'Mahony will be away until Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>. In case of emergency please contact Swinford (087-1338200), Fr Micheal Quinn, Kiltimagh (087-9082342) or Fr. Padraig Costello, Foxford (087-2422273).

**Rise & Shine Fundraiser:** A church-gate collection will be held next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January in Bohola in aid of Rise & Shine (formerly Irish Pilgrimage Trust) to provide supported pilgrimage holidays for guests with additional needs and respite for their families. A bake sale will take place in the Parish Centre after Mass for the same cause. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

**Online JP2 Pastoral Formation Programme:** Walking with Families. Pathways in Pastoral Accompaniment. Classes live on Zoom in English, Tuesday and Thursday, 5.30 to 7.00pm, Rome time from mid-February to the end of May 2026. No classes during Holy Week and Easter Week. For more information, email [pathways@istitutoqp2.it](mailto:pathways@istitutoqp2.it).

**Give Hope with Double the Love:** Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future. It costs just €22 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Thanks to the Tom Cunningham Trust, donations will be doubled until January 12<sup>th</sup> or until the match-funding limit has been reached. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children. To donate, go to [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) or phone 01-8535163. Every donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Weekly Offering  
3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>  
& Epiphany:

**Bohola:**  
€646.

**Straide:**  
€257.

Thanks for all your generous contributions to both the Offertory and the priest's Christmas collection.

## WHY DO CATHOLICS BAPTIZE BABIES?

Catholics believe that Baptism actually affects us, forgiving our sins and bestowing on us graces from the Holy Spirit.

Other Christian denominations believe Baptism is something they do for God (an outward sign of their acceptance of Jesus). We believe it is something that God does to us, which is why we want that for our children as early as possible.



### The Baptism of the Lord

It would be useful for us today to reflect on the meaning of our own baptism and how it relates with that of Jesus.

We often hear a very simplistic description of the effects of the Sacrament of Baptism as 'taking away original sin and making us children of God'. Many, especially those baptised as infants, may see it as a one-off ceremony, imposed on them by parents to bind them to a way of life in which they have no further say. However, if one truly understands the full meaning of our baptism, this is unlikely to happen.

Baptism is not, as is true of all the sacraments, an isolated ritual. It takes place in the context of our whole life. Whether we are baptised as children or as adults, what primarily is happening is that we become incorporated, 'em-bodied', into the Christian community.

We become – not passively, but actively – members of the Body of Christ. It can never be something imposed on us against our will. That is why, for adults, there is now a long process of initiation leading up to Baptism and, hopefully a further process of community support after the Baptism has taken place.

We are called to be living witnesses of the Gospel, to be the salt of the earth, to be a city on a hill, a candle radiating light in the surrounding darkness. We are called, in short, to be united with the others in our Christian community in the building up of God's Kingdom.

Our baptism is not simply some past event recorded in some dusty parish register. It is a living reality which is to be constantly deepened and enriched.

[livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

**Nia Dance Class** resumes on this Monday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Swinford Cultural Centre and continues every Monday following. Classes are barefoot to music, gentle on joints and great for fitness and well-being. Contact Siobhan at [089-4182740](tel:089-4182740).

**Creative Writing:** Want to write your memoir, create poems or stories, craft plays or films or see your writing on screen or stage? World-class teaching is on your doorstep this January on Wednesdays from 8 to 10pm, beginning on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Booking - €219.99 / Concessions. Call [087-6007100](tel:087-6007100) or see [www.martinkeaveney.com](http://www.martinkeaveney.com).

**Moy Davitts 50/50 Draw:** Congratulations to Scott Lavelle who won a jackpot of €495 in the Moy Davitts 50/50 draw last Saturday. Thanks to everyone who supported the draw, it is greatly appreciated. Tickets are available in the usual retail outlets and by playing on the club app (Moy Davitts GAA).

**Living Well** is a free HSE programme which helps people living with a long-term health condition to manage their condition. The next programme begins on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30am in Castlebar. Contact Liam Gildea on [086-0142675](tel:086-0142675).

**Balla Bingo Every Sunday Night** online or in the hall at 8pm. €12,500 special Bingo for the month of January following huge positive feedback from our players. Get your books at [balla.ie](http://balla.ie).

**Making Plans for 2026?** Do you have a medical condition, difficulty or disability? Are you looking for work, or wanting to improve your employment prospects? Do you want to make plans for 2026? Not sure where to start? Contact the **Mayo North East Workability** programme now to find out how we can assist you. Email [rosemariemangan@mayonortheastltdc.com](mailto:rosemariemangan@mayonortheastltdc.com) or call Siobhán on [087-499-6605](tel:087-499-6605) for more information. Labhair linn i módh ruin. All confidential.

**Much more in the online Extended Newsletter at [www.straideparish.com](http://www.straideparish.com)**

**I hate when people can't let go of the past. Debt collectors are the worst!**

# Extended Online Newsletter

**Balla Notes: Senior Alert Scheme:** Application forms for a monitored personal alarm available at Balla Community Centre for eligible people aged 65 years and over.

**Sewing with Josie** Monday Mornings 10-1pm.

**Taekwon-Do** returns Thursday 8th January at 6pm enquiries to [gmooney@taekwondo.ie](mailto:gmooney@taekwondo.ie)

**Sheer Fitness Box & Tone** commencing Monday January 12th at 7.30pm spaces limited call or text to Adrian 0860581956

**Saturday: 25 Card Game at 9pm**

**ALONE Seeking Volunteers:** Would you be willing to provide companionship to an older person locally? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested, please apply via the ALONE website at [www.alone.ie](http://www.alone.ie) or for further information please contact us on [volunteer@alone.ie](mailto:volunteer@alone.ie) or call 0818-222024.

If you are over 60 and would like to know more about the services ALONE can offer you, please call 0818-222024.

**Have You Ever Dreamed of Walking The Camino De Santiago?** Breakthrough Cancer Research is taking on the final 100KM of the 'French Way', Sarria to Santiago from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 and would love for you to join them. Many people choose to walk the Camino with Breakthrough Cancer Research for deeply personal reasons. Some take part to honour a loved one, others to fulfil a bucket-list dream, and many simply wish to share a meaningful experience with a friend or partner - all while helping to raise vital, life-saving funds for cancer research. Starting in the charming town of Sarria, experience camaraderie and reflection as you walk toward Santiago de Compostela. For more information, please contact Edel at [edel@breakcancer.ie](mailto:edel@breakcancer.ie) or phone 021-4226655.

**Family Carers Ireland** - National Charity supporting 500,000+ Family Carers Nationwide is recruiting Community Homecare Workers. Qualifications – QQI Care of the Older Person and Care Skills Modules completed, have own car and full driving licence. Please send CV to [jobs@familycarers.ie](mailto:jobs@familycarers.ie) or contact Carol on 049-8511031 or 086-4183949 for more information.

**Home Sharers Required:** Would you be interested in sharing your home and supporting an individual with a disability for a few hours per week or month, or more regular? Western Care is looking for single people, couples or families to provide respite breaks for children and adults across County Mayo in your own home. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Ruth Kneafsey, Home Share Co-Ordinator, at 094-9029148.

**Foster Carers Urgently Needed:** Freephone 1800 226 771, Email [tusla.fostering@tusla.ie](mailto:tusla.fostering@tusla.ie). Find out more at [fostering.ie](http://fostering.ie).

**For Young Women (18-40yrs)** who are discerning a Vocation to Religious/Consecrated Life, monthly meetings are held in Charleville Retreat Centre, Cork. The day includes prayer, talks, Mass, Adoration and a chance to meet and chat with religious sisters of different communities. If you are interested in attending please email [womendiscern@corkandross.org](mailto:womendiscern@corkandross.org).

**Pre-Marriage Courses by Accord** in Sligo, Castlebar, Galway, Oranmore, Ballinasloe and online. Check for availability, by county, on [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie).

**Preparing for Marriage?** Weekend residential courses available, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Details at [www.grasta.org](http://www.grasta.org) or email [info@grasta.org](mailto:info@grasta.org).

**Married Couples Course:** Weekend residential courses available on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Details at [www.grasta.org](http://www.grasta.org) or email [info@grasta.org](mailto:info@grasta.org).

**Dementia Support Workers Sought:** Looking for meaningful, flexible work? We're seeking compassionate, honest, reliable people to support individuals living with dementia in their own homes in Co. Mayo. You will offer companionship and social connection, assist with daily living activities, support meaningful activities and give primary carers a well-deserved break. Flexible hours to work around your schedule. Make a real difference, one visit at a time. Essentials: QQI Level 5 modules in Care Skills & Care of the Older Person. Desirable: Previous experience in caring / QQI Level 5 in Health Care. Interested? Get in touch today! Call 094-9364900 or email [careers@westernalzheimers.ie](mailto:careers@westernalzheimers.ie).

**Become a Family Support Worker/PA for Children with a Disability:** Enable Ireland Mayo Services require Family support workers/PAs in all areas of County Mayo to work with children with a disability. Our staff usually works one-to-one with a child within their home but also within their community or at centres throughout Mayo. Hours required are usually afternoon/evenings and Saturdays. Training is also provided. If you are interested please email [shahir@enableireland.ie](mailto:shahir@enableireland.ie) for further information. This is a very rewarding role and our Staff are very positive about their experience.

**Gambling Support:** Free support service for problem gamblers and their families is open to anyone in need. Contact Bernie Heneghan, Psychotherapist, by email at [gawaresstacufrc@gmail.com](mailto:gawaresstacufrc@gmail.com) or call 087-7005811.

**Gianna Care** provides help to anyone experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, or who needs help following an abortion. Their trained client advocates, counsellors, nurses and doctors are there to help. See [giannacare.ie](http://giannacare.ie).

**Mayo Cancer Support** provides FREE support services to those affected by cancer. Call 094 9038407.

**North West STOP** offers a *free counselling* service with no waiting lists. Call or text 086-7772009 to arrange an appointment.

**MindSpace Mayo:** MindSpace Mayo offers a free support service to young people (12-25yrs) in Co. Mayo, presenting with anything from common concerns (e.g. dealing with break-up, exam stress, bullying) to emerging mental health difficulties like mild depression and anxiety. MindSpace is located in Market Square, Castlebar and anyone can make a referral. Visit [www.mindspacemayo.ie](http://www.mindspacemayo.ie) or call 094-9067001.

**Hospital & Home Visits/Family Deaths:** If you wish the priest to visit relations or friends in hospital or at home or to put a notice of family deaths outside the parish in the weekly newsletter – please make contact by phone or email.



I asked of God  
but there was silence.

I prayed to God,  
but there was silence.

I begged of God,  
but there was silence.

I cried out to God,  
but there was silence.

Then I was silent,  
and there was God.

May the sun  
bring you new energy by day,

May the moon  
Softly restore you by night,

May the rain  
Wash away your worries,

May the breeze  
Blow new strength into your  
being,

May you walk  
Gently through the world and  
know it's beauty all the days of  
your life.