

# Straide/Bohola/Shraheens Newsletter

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

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026



## The Week Ahead

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| Saturday, June 27 <sup>th</sup> .  | 12 noon <b>Straide</b><br>8.00pm <b>Bohola</b>                             | Baby Cian McHale, Ballylahan. (Month's Mind)<br>Richard & Agnes Walsh, their son Tom & daughter Delia Mary, Lissaniskey, and their son-in-law Charlie Gallagher, Swinford.        |
| Sunday, June 28 <sup>th</sup> .  | 9.30am <b>Shraheens</b><br>11.00am <b>Straide</b><br>2.00pm <b>Straide</b> | For all the People.<br>Funeral Mass of Patrick (Paddy) Hall, Grallagh.<br>Pilgrimage for Peace.   |
| Monday, June 29 <sup>th</sup> .  | 10.00am  | Private Intention.  |
| Tuesday, June 30 <sup>th</sup> .   | 7.30 – 8.30pm  | No Mass.<br>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Straide.  |
| Wednesday, July 1 <sup>st</sup> .  | 10.00am – 12 noon<br>5.00 – 9.00pm<br>7.00pm <b>Straide</b>                | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.<br>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. ( <i>Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i> )<br>Baby Isabelle Ella Jordan. (11 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)       |
| Thursday, July 2 <sup>nd</sup> .   | 8.00pm   | Marion & Micksie Clarke, Bohola and deceased of McDonnell & Clarke families.  |
| Friday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup> .   | 10.00am <b>Straide</b>   | Private Intention.  |
| Saturday, July 4 <sup>th</sup> .   | 12 noon <b>Bohola</b><br>8.00pm <b>Straide</b>                             | Josephine Hall, Knockatemple. (Month's Mind)<br>Bernadette & John Loftus, Aughaliska, (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 39 <sup>th</sup> Anniversaries) and deceased of Loftus & Forde families. |
| Sunday, July 5 <sup>th</sup> .   | 9.30am <b>Shraheens</b><br>11.00am <b>Bohola</b>                           | For all the People.<br>Martin & Annie Groarke, Ballyglass and living & deceased family.<br>Mary Lavin Dunleavy, Altinea. (12 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)                           |
| <p><b>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.</b><br/> <b>Shraheens Mass will be live-streamed on the Bohola Post Facebook Page when requested. (Marked by * above)</b><br/> <b>All Bohola Masses will be broadcast on the 105.5 FM Radio channel.</b></p> |  |   |

**Recent Deaths:** Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of *Patrick (Paddy) Hall*, Castlebar and formerly of Grallagh, who died on Tuesday last, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. His remains will repose in the Coady Funeral Home, Castlebar, from 6pm to 8pm this Saturday evening and arrive at Straide Church for his funeral Mass at 11am on Sunday. May he rest in peace.

Your prayers are also requested for the happy repose of the soul of *Mark Henry*, Newcastle Tyne and Wear, formerly of Swinford, who died on May 24<sup>th</sup> and whose funeral took place in Swinford on Monday last. Mark was the brother of Frances Regan, Straide. May he rest in peace.

**Baptism:** On Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> in Straide, we were delighted to welcome *Iarlaith Tomás Dunleavy*, Carracastle, into God's family. Congratulations to his parents, Emma and Conor, his godparents and wider family circle and we wish them every blessing for the future.

**Wedding Bells!** Congratulations to *Ciara Collins*, Chicago (of Ara descent!), and *Michael Pope*, Chicago & Boston, who were married in Ballintubber Abbey on Thursday last, June 25<sup>th</sup>. We wish them every blessing and many happy years of married life.

**Pilgrimage for Peace in Straide:** St. Joseph's Family of Parishes invites you to a Pilgrimage for Peace on this Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June. Participants will gather at Straide Church at 2.00pm for a local pilgrimage walk, followed by a Prayer Service for Peace in Straide Abbey. The afternoon will also include a brief history of Straide Abbey and Michael Davitt, with refreshments served afterwards in Straide Community Centre. All are welcome to join us in prayer, peace and friendship.

**The Annual Novena in Honour of St. Maria Goretti** takes place in Collooney Church, Co. Sligo from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>. Mass each evening at 8pm. Confessions and Rosary from 7.30pm. Further details of all speakers etc. can be found on [www.kilvarnetparish.com/novena](http://www.kilvarnetparish.com/novena).

**Open Sunday at Holy Hill Hermitage in Skreen:** Everyone is invited to this event on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Bishop John Fleming will celebrate Mass at noon, and The Rejoice Gospel Choir from Ballina will sing. Hot dogs and music afterwards in the courtyard!

**Professional Certificate in Pastoral Supervision**, is a new 1 Year Blended Learning (in-person & online) Programme starting in September. Closing date for applications is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Visit [sppu.ie/courses/professional-cert-in-pastoral-supervision](http://sppu.ie/courses/professional-cert-in-pastoral-supervision).



13<sup>h</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup>:

**Bohola:**

€878

**Straide:**

€514.

Thanks for all your contributions.

**Cemetery Masses:** Mass will be celebrated in St Joseph's Cemetery, Bohola on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6.00pm and in Straide Cemetery on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11.00am. All are welcome.

**Bohola Cemetery Committee** seeks new members. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact John O'Brien, TJ Byrne or Peter Gallagher. Our thanks to the current committee who continue to do great work but more help would be appreciated.

**Straide Graveyard Committee** welcomes new members. If interested in joining, please contact Martin McDonnell, Marian Walsh, Jimmy Mulroy, Jimmy Roche or any member of the Pastoral Council.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week, Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>:**

*Gratefulness* - "Every moment is a gift. ... Whatever life gives to you, you can respond with joy. Joy is the happiness that does not depend on what happens. It is the grateful response to the opportunity that life offers you at this moment." Now approaching his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Benedictine Brother David Steindl-Rast was formed by 20<sup>th</sup> century catastrophes. In 2000, he co-founded *A Network for Grateful Living*, an organisation dedicated to gratefulness as a transformative influence for individuals and society. Brother David Steindl-Rast's 15-minute TED Talk, "Want to be happy? Be grateful!" has been viewed in the region of 9.64 million times to date on the TED website. Access this potentially life-changing talk at: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](http://www.newpilgrimpath.ie).

**The Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock**, celebrating the 6<sup>th</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, takes place on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July. Chief celebrant is Archbishop Eamon Martin. Commencing at 2.30pm with the anointing of the sick. All are welcome for a day of grace and blessing for the whole family as we honour grandparents and the elderly. Please join us. Visit our website for resources: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).

**Maryvale Institute 6-Month Online Course Dedicated Entirely to The Sacrament Of Marriage**, the biblical and sacramental foundations of Christian marriage, and the witness that marriage brings to the heart of the Church's mission. Pre-recorded lectures and monthly live Q&A sessions begin on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Open to married couples, pastoral workers, catechists, and marriage preparation teams, and to clergy and those in formation. All who wish to engage seriously with the theology of marriage are welcome. For more information visit: <https://www.maryvale.ac.uk/marriage.html>.

**Nia Dance Class** takes place on Mondays at 10am in Swinford Cultural Centre. Classes are barefoot to music, gentle on joints and great for fitness and well-being. Contact Siobhan at [089-4182740](tel:089-4182740).

**Free Training at NLN (National Learning Network):** Wondering what to do next? Interested in expanding your skills? Looking to retrain or gain employment? Would you like to obtain QQI Training and Certification? Please contact us to talk about what choices we can offer you on [087-2909064](tel:087-2909064) or [086-7701996](tel:086-7701996).

**Home Sharers Required:** Would you be interested in sharing your home and supporting an individual with a disability for a few hours per day or a couple of hours/days per month, or longer term? Western Care Home Share Service are looking for people, single/couples/families, to provide short respite breaks to children and adults across County Mayo, in your own home. Training and support is provided and a non-taxable allowance is payable for each home share arrangement. If you are interested and/or would like further information about Home Sharing, please contact Ruth Kneafsey, Home share Co-ordinator, on [094-902914](tel:094-902914) or [087-6811261](tel:087-6811261).

**Moy Davitts 50/50 Draw:** Congratulations to Michael Maloney who won a jackpot of €518 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).

**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).

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

**Mayo Cancer Support** provides FREE support services to those affected by cancer. Call [094-9038407](tel:094-9038407).

**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](tel: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.

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

**A Christian heart is good but a Christian liver is better!**

# Extended Online Newsletter

**DIOCESES OF ACHONRY AND ELPHIN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – ASSISTED PILGRIM SECTION:** The Dioceses of Achonry and Elphin Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September inclusive, under the leadership of Bishop Kevin Doran. Pilgrimage highlights include Mass at the Grotto, Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions, Anointing of the Sick and Water Ceremony. Flights from Knock Airport. All booking in relation to the Pilgrimage can be directed to Joe Walsh Tours (JWT) at [01-6852244](tel:01-6852244) or email [info@joewalshstours.ie](mailto:info@joewalshstours.ie).

**Trip to Medjugorje:** Fully escorted trip to Medjugorje with Marian Pilgrimages led by Sharon O’Leary, with Spiritual Director Fr Séan Sheehy (native of Listowel) and accompanied by Fr Nelson Joseph (Louisburgh, Co Mayo). It takes place from October 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> with direct flights from Knock to Mostar. Contact Sharon on [086-0523014](tel:086-0523014).

**The Catholic Steps (www.catholicsteps.com)** is a free online fellowship for Catholics who are working through a twelve-step programme rooted in the sacraments. The site offers a structured workspace where members work through all twelve steps with reflection questions drawn from Scripture and Catholic tradition. Each member is paired with a sponsor — a fellow Catholic who has completed the steps — who guides them privately through the process. Members can also connect with a daily prayer wall and access resources. It is open to any Catholic who recognises an attachment, whether to a substance, a behaviour, or a pattern of thought, that is keeping them from God. It offers a structured, sacramentally grounded path for parishioners who need more than a weekly meeting but are not yet ready for formal counselling.

**Accord Ballaghadereen Offers a Confidential Counselling Service** where couples can explore family relationships. Accord counsellors can help if relationships are under stress. For online counselling, please visit [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie). Alternatively, to book a face to face counselling session, please call Accord Ballaghadereen on [087-9972503](tel:087-9972503).

**Need Help with your Mobile Phone or Digital Device?** Register for Age Action’s free digital skills class in Castlebar Library on Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. To register, call: [091-527831](tel:091-527831).

**Men’s Health Week:** Approximately 12,000 men are diagnosed with cancer each year in Ireland. Skin, prostate, bowel and lung cancers are among the most common cancers diagnosed. Find out in the flipbook how you can reduce your risk of cancer and the common signs and symptoms of the most common cancers in men. Early diagnosis can make a significant difference to treatment outcomes, so it is important to know the symptoms and contact your GP if you notice anything unusual. Flipbook can be found at <https://publuu.com/flip-book/708759/2494525>.

**ALONE Seeking Volunteers:** Would you be willing to provide companionship to an older person locally? ALONE are seeking Visitation Support & Befriending Volunteers and Telephone Support & Befriending 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](tel:0818-222024). If you are over 60 and would like to know more about the services ALONE can offer you, please call [0818-222024](tel:0818-222024).

**Dovida** provides Home Help to the elderly in their homes, safely and happily. They are actively recruiting Caregivers throughout Mayo. Competitive pay with mileage expenses. No experience required as full training is provided with full support from the office. Check out the website [www.dovida.ie](http://www.dovida.ie) or email [hr.mayo@dovida.ie](mailto:hr.mayo@dovida.ie).

**Studio to Stall in Ballina:** Are you interested in a weekly workshop creating a range of arts and crafts to sell at Christmas Markets at the end of 2026? This is a unique initiative by Workability (Mayo North East). Eligibility criteria apply. Contact us to find out more now! Email: [carolynohara@mayonortheastltd.com](mailto:carolynohara@mayonortheastltd.com). Text: [087-4996606](tel:087-4996606). Call: [087-3980575](tel:087-3980575).

**North West STOP** offers a [free counselling](http://www.stop.ie) service with no waiting lists. Call or text [086-7772009](tel:086-7772009) to arrange an appointment.

**Radio Maria Ireland:** Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as *Radio Maria Ireland* continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting - Prayer, Catechesis, uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies. Do join our growing faith family! Here’s how you can listen: **1.** Via Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210. **2.** Download our FREE App “RADIO MARIA IRELAND”. **3.** Streaming on our WEBSITE - [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie). **4.** Via our ‘Listen Live Radio’ link on our Facebook Page. **5.** Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling 01-4373277 (no extra charges apply). Why not drop a line to our Spiritual Director, Fr Des Farren by text on [089-4672000](tel:089-4672000), by phone on [01-4123456](tel:01-4123456), or come and pay us a visit at Radio Maria Ireland, St. Anthony’s Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. D22 R7W2.



## History Shows that Tradition is not Sacrosanct

The most compelling question at present facing the Catholic Church in Ireland is the imminent disappearance of what has been a central and fundamental experience of Catholic life for centuries. It is this: in less years that we can count on the fingers of both hands – in other words in less than a decade – the provision of the central form of Catholic worship, the Mass, will begin to disappear, effectively, from Irish life.

This will happen for two very obvious reasons. One is that priests in Ireland are getting older and fewer and the overall number, for many years in free-fall, is now approaching a steep cliff-face. The second is that, extraordinarily, despite the fact that the word ‘crisis’ seems an accurate description to describe our situation there seems to be almost an official policy of ignoring this ‘elephant in the living room’.

Regular readers of this column will know that for many years I’ve traced this decline *ad nauseam* and I’m very aware that in raising this issue again, I’m covering old ground here and I need to apologize upfront to my regular readers and to crave their indulgence in repeating myself – yet again. I’m very conscious that in repeating myself I’ve become a Cassandra figure warning about the equivalent of the fall of another Troy and nobody is listening. So, once more with feeling, here goes.

This ‘crisis’ is almost upon us because we are finding it difficult if not impossible to accept what for many are obvious solutions. Let’s put it in the starkest terms.

Without priests there will be no Mass and without Mass there will be no Catholic Church. There could be sufficient priests if we were prepared to countenance changing the present celibacy requirement for male priests and/or ending the present ban on women priests.

While it’s clear that both options are available and support for both is widespread among Catholics, both have been consistently avoided for centuries. But there seems to be no discernible appetite among Catholic Church authorities for belling this particular cat. Indeed the opposite seems to be the case, as the effort to ordain women deacons – what seems little more than a gesture to the central role women could play in Catholic life – has become illustrative of a constitutional incapacity to respond in any substantive way to the growing crisis. While some Catholics including many women see this as indicative of a fundamental prejudice against women – or even that contempt for women that we call misogyny – in Catholicism, authorities sometimes actually compound that diagnosis by self-consciously just looking the other way. There seems to be no prospect of movement as Catholicism seems forever stuck between that rock and this hard place

So what can we do about it?

The answer seems to be some version of that typical Irish response to sorting impossible dilemmas – ‘very little if anything at all’. But we could ordain married men (as distinct from waiving the celibacy requirement for ordination). And no doubt we will – eventually – before the last priests in Ireland have gone to God. But we’re keeping our powder dry for the moment.

We could welcome back priests who have exchanged the ordained ministry for a lay married life if they wanted to come back but that’s deemed unlikely – even though Pope Benedict in his day extended the same offer to Anglican clergy and indicated in so doing that marriage was not officially regarded as an insurmountable obstacle to ordination.

We could, and no doubt one day we will, ordain women and wonder aloud why it had taken us so long to see what so many are now accepting, including many theologians, that there are no credible theological reasons for banning women from ordination and that women’s ordained ministry has been sacrificed for centuries on the altar of an unwise respect for tradition at the expense of the rights of women and the needs of our Church.

But we are not allowed to go there yet. However, the bones of an approach might be contained in a strategy Pope Francis proposed in 2024 when he appointed a group of theologians to examine the possibility of finding a way of coping with ‘controversial doctrinal, pastoral and ethical solutions’, the ‘hot button issues’ as they are often called – LGBT, women’s ordination, etc. Francis’s death side-lined the impetus of the working party but at last the document has become available.

Probably its most valuable contribution is to chart a shift from what is technically called an ‘aprioristic’ approach to solving difficulties – a reliance on preconceived ideas rather than experience – towards an ‘inductive’ approach which relies on arguing from specific cases to a general rule. The group prefers to call ‘controversial issues’ by the name ‘emerging issues’, an approach that’s close to Francis’ belief that reality is greater than ideas and, implicitly, that in wrestling with difficult realities we learn what it means to be human and to be Church.

It will be interesting to see how Pope Leo will respond to a document, emanating from his hero, Francis, whose path to reform he has very often and very publicly endorsed. It might be expected that the recent positive response to his first major encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* (Magnificent Humanity) on the difficult question of AI (Artificial Intelligence) may encourage him to find a way towards considering key questions around ordination that have already a secure base in theology and that will allow him to underline the importance not just of past tradition but of the future of the Church. The temptation so often voiced by traditional Catholics is that every tradition is absolutely sacrosanct – it isn’t, of course, as the history of the Church clearly shows us.

The past is not more important than the future – as common sense invariably instructs us.