

<p>Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Church Road, Bundoran, Co. Donegal. Phone: 071 98 41290 Email: bundoran@clogherparishes.ie Fr. Jeremiah Munyoki C.C. 089-9783314</p>	 <p><b>PARISH OF MAGHENÉ</b> DIOCESE OF CLOGHER www.magheneparish.ie</p>	<p>Church of St. Joseph, The Rock, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. Phone: 071 98 41290 Email: bundoran@clogherparishes.ie Fr. Jeremiah Munyoki C.C. 089-9783314</p>
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**Parish Office - Third Sunday of Lent - 3rd March 2024.**

**IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

**ON THE FAMILY AND CARE REFERENDUMS:**

Upon his arrival in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families on 25 August 2018, Pope Francis met at Dublin Castle with representatives of civil, cultural, and religious life, including the Taoiseach and members of the Government. Pope Francis said he was visiting Ireland to help families “reaffirm their commitment to loving fidelity, mutual assistance and reverence for God’s gift of life in all its forms, but also to testify to the unique role played by the family in the education of its members, and the development of sound and flourishing social fabric”. He added, “Families are the glue of society, their welfare cannot be taken for granted, but must be promoted and protected by every appropriate means”. In this context, we wish to comment on the two important referendums on family and care which are taking place on 8 March 2024.

**The Family Amendment - 39th Amendment (amending Article 41)**

The Family, based on the exclusive, life-long and life-giving public commitment of Marriage, is the foundational cell of society and essential to the common good and deserves the protection of the State, which is currently guaranteed in the Constitution of Ireland. The Constitution rightly qualifies the Family as a “moral institution” and one that enjoys “inalienable and imprescriptible rights, antecedent and superior to all positive law”.

**The proposed Family amendment to the Constitution diminishes the unique importance of the relationship between marriage and family in the eyes of Society and State. Its likely to lead to a weakening of the incentive for young people to marry.**

**The Care Amendment - 40th Amendment (deleting Article 41.2 and inserting a New Article 42B)**

In an age when people, and especially women, often emphasise the desirability of balancing work and domestic commitments, it is noteworthy that the Constitution already recognises and seeks to facilitate the choice of mothers who wish especially to care for the needs of the family and the home. Contrary to some recent commentary, the present constitutional provision emphatically does not state that “a woman’s place is in the home”. Neither does it excuse men of their duties to the home and family. It is reasonable to ask what benefit is it to Irish society to delete the terms ‘woman’ and ‘mother’ from the Constitution of Ireland? People generally recognise the enormous commitment that women in Ireland have given, and continue to give, in relation to care, love and affection in the home. Pope Francis has said “Families and homes go together” (AL44). We therefore have similar concerns about the removal of the term ‘home’ from this article. In contemporary society there now exists a welcome co-responsibility between women and men for every aspect of domestic life, including the provision of care in the home. We believe that, rather than removing the present acknowledgement of the role of women and the place of the home, it would be preferable and consistent with contemporary social values that the State would recognise the provision of care by women and men alike. The State has to date failed to

financially acknowledge the role of women in the home; once again there is no indication that there will be provision for the adequate financial remuneration of carers. The proposed term ‘strive to support’ appears to weaken the State’s constitutional responsibility to materially and legislatively support such care. Indeed, the proposed new Article 42B does not actually confer any enforceable rights for carers or for those being cared for. **The Care amendment would have the effect of abolishing all reference to motherhood in the Constitution and leave unacknowledged the particular and incalculable societal contribution that mothers in the home have made and continue to make in Ireland ... The role of mothers should continue to be cherished in our Constitution.**

**The Importance of Voting**

Pope Saint John Paul II said in Ireland back in 1979: “The family is the true measure of the greatness of a nation”. In a democracy that guarantees the freedom to vote, it is important that citizens cast their ballot on 8 March with matters of such importance at stake. As pastors, concerned for the common good as well as the moral and spiritual well-being of God’s people, we offer these reflections in order to help inform the consciences of Christians and others who are concerned to preserve and foster the dignity and value of family life and motherhood.

**The Stations of the Cross:** in Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea each Friday evening at 7pm during Lent.

**Confessions in Bundoran Church:** each Saturday 5-6pm.

<p><b><u>St. Joseph’s Church, The Rock:</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Sunday - March 3rd at 10am:</u></b></p>
<p>John, Kathleen &amp; Lena O'Mahoney (Rathmore). Dympna &amp; Richie Bromley (West Rock). Hugh, Margaret &amp; Dec Mbs McGowan Family (Laughill). Mary McCaffrey (Assaroe Road).</p>
<p><b><u>Sunday - March 10th at 10am:</u></b></p>
<p>Ann, Thomas, Martin, Michael Magan &amp; Keith Anderson (The Rock). Paddy, Kathleen &amp; Cassie O'Neill (Carrickboy). Patsy, Pat &amp; Annie Cassidy (Ardlongfield). PJ, Mary &amp; Dec Mbs Coyle Family (Laughill).</p>

**Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Bundoran.**

**Saturday - March 2nd Mass at 7pm**

Private Intentions.

**Sunday– March 3rd Mass at 8.30am:**

Bridie O’Doherty (White House).

**Sunday– March 3rd Mass at 11am:**

People of the Parish.

**Monday - at 10am.**

Private Intentions.

**Tuesday – at 10am.**

Private Intentions.

**Wednesday – at 10am.**

**Prayer Service.**

**Thursday – at 10am.**

Private Intentions.

**Friday - at 10am.**

Private Intentions.

**Saturday - March 9th Mass at 10am**

Private Intentions.

**Saturday - March 9th Mass at 7pm**



Cormac McGloin (Tirconnail House).  
Marian Cahillane (Bayview Ave).  
Martin McCann (Ardfarna).

**Sunday– March 10th Mass at 8.30am:**

Private Intentions.

**Sunday– March 10th Mass at 11am:**

People of the Parish.

 **May all who died recently Rest in Peace.** 

**Jarlath Ruane (Station Rd & Donegal Town).**

**Bridget Connolly (London), sister of**

**Anne Granaghan (St. Colm’s Tce).**

**Seamus McGovern (Ardfarna).**

**Church Finances: February 24th & 25th 2024:**

**St Joseph’s Offertory Collection:**  
Envelopes: €365.50 Baskets: €269.50  
Total: €635.00

**St Joseph’s Development Fund:**  
Envelopes: €165.60 Basket: €0.00 Total: €165.60

**Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea.**  
Envelopes: €775.00 Baskets: €722.00  
Total: €1,497.00