

Mountrath
Ballyfin
Online
Newsletter

24th Dec. 2023

Bishop Denis' Christmas Message Page 11

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 24th Dec. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

4th Sunday of Advent

Seán Cuddy (Big Seán) Aughduff, Camross. R.I.P.

We pray for Seán who died peacefully on Mon. 18th Dec. Seán's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fergal's Church, Camross on Thurs. 21st Dec. followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Ann, Seán Gerard, Fiona, Paula, Alan and Chris and families, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives, neighbours and his many friends.

Peggy Wall (Nee Byrne) Yorkshire - Formerly Derrough. R.I.P.

We pray for Peggy who died peacefully at her home in Yorkshire recently. Peggy was the last surviving member of the Byrne family, Derrough - We extend sympathy to the Wall and Byrne families, relatives and friends on her passing.

May Seán and Peg rest in the peace of Christ

At Christmas,

Those we love don't go away.

They walk beside us every day,

Unseen, Unheard, but always Near.

So Loved, So Missed, So very Dear

Prayer attributed to St. John Henry Newman

Lord, ay you support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, Lord, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers

People, their families and carers, who are ill or unwell – at home, in hospital or Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical or medical procedures. -

We wish them a speedy recovery

Let's



*A Table Prayer
for Christmas Day*

Loving God,
on this Christmas day we give thanks
that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world
bringing us gifts of peace and joy.
Bless us as we sit down together at this table
for our Christmas meal.
Bless the food we share and help us to
remember those who are hungry.
Be with our neighbours and our friends, those
who are lonely, sick or away from home.
We pray that our departed loved ones may sit
now at your table in heaven.
May the joy of this feast give us strength and
light, now and in the days ahead. Amen.



A Christmas Blessing by John O'Donohue

May the Angels in their beauty bless you.
 May they turn toward you streams of blessing.
 May the Angel of Awakening stir your heart
 To come alive to the eternal within you,
 To all the invitations that quietly surround you.
 May the Angel of Healing turn your wounds
 Into sources of refreshment.
 May the Angel of the Imagination enable you
 To stand on the true thresholds,
 At ease with your ambivalence
 And drawn in new direction
 Through the glow of your contradictions.
 May the Angel of Compassion open your eyes
 To the unseen suffering around you.
 May the Angel of Wildness disturb the places
 Where your life is domesticated and safe,
 Take you to the territories of true otherness
 Where all that is awkward in you
 Can fall into its own rhythm.
 May the Angel of Eros introduce you
 To the beauty of your senses
 To celebrate your inheritance
 As a temple of the holy spirit.
 May the Angel of Justice disturb you
 To take the side of the poor and the wronged.
 May the Angel of Encouragement confirm you
 In worth and self-respect,
 That you may live with the dignity
 That presides in your soul.
 May the Angel of Death arrive only
 When your life is complete
 And you have brought every given gift
 To the threshold where its infinity can shine.
 May all the Angels be your sheltering
 and joyful guardians.

Christmas Ceremonies



Christmas Ceremonies

Penitential Services Tues. 19th Dec.

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Sunday 24th Dec. Christmas Eve.

Individual Confessions immediately after Mass on Sun. 24th in Both
Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches

Vigil Masses in both Parish Churches at 8.00 pm

Mon. 25th Dec. Christmas Day.

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms. Ailish Higgins.

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,

c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633



Ballyfin Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 22nd - Sun. 31st Dec

Fri. 22nd Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 23rd Dec. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - 4th Sun. Advent.

Sun. 24th Dec 10.00 am **4th Sun. of Advent** Christmas Eve

Individual Confessions after Mass

Christmas Vigil Mass 8.00 pm

Singing of Christmas Carols from about 7.40 pm

Mon. 25th Dec. **Christmas Day**

Masses on Christmas Day

9.00 am Church of the Sacred Heart, The Hollow

10.00 am St Fintan's Church, Ballyfin

Richard and Fiona O'Rourke, Campcloon. Richard's 7th Anniv.

11.30 am St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath

Fri. 29th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 30th Dec. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - Feast of the Holy Family.

Sun. 31st Dec. 10.00 am Feast of the Holy Family.

Tommy and Bernie Fitzpatrick, Cloncullen. 3rd Anniv.

1st Anniv. Remembrance

Sun. 14 Jan. 10.00 am Mai. O'Rourke (nee Conroy) Springfield

Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended .

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 23rd Sun. 31st Dec

Sat. 23rd Dec. 7.00 pm Simon Walsh, Clonard. 5th Anniv.

Margaret Mary (Rita) Brophy. Roscrea

Formerly Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 1st Anniv.

Thomas Taylor, Moonbawn

Kate, Molly and Frank Phelan, Wodbrook

Thomas and Margaret Phelan, Shannon Rd.,

Seamus Fitzpatrick and deceased family members, Woodbrook.

Sun. 24th Dec. 9.00 am [The Hollow Church.](#) 4th Sun. of Advent.

11.30 am 4th Sunday of Advent Year B.

Individual Confessions after Mass



8.00 pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve.

Brigid and Michael O'Rourke, Lower Sconce

Tom Grehan, Dysartbeigh

Mon. 25th Dec. Christmas Day

Masses on Christmas Day

9.00 am Church of the Sacred Heart, The Hollow

10.00 am St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin

11.30 am St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath

Mountrath Anniversaries Continued

Mass Times Anniversaries Tues. 26th - Sun. 31st Dec

Tues. 26th Dec. 10.00 am

Wed. 27th Dec. 10.00 am Seán Moore, Woodbrook. 18th Anniv.

Thur. 28th Dec. 10.00 am People who are ill in the Parish.

Fri. 29th Dec. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 30th Dec. 7.00 pm Peter Delaney, Clonard - 8th Anniv.

Sun. 31st Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch. Feast of the Holy Family**

Michael Seale and deceased members of Seale family.

11.30 am Kavanagh Family, Kilbricken

Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended.



Bishop Denis' Christmas Message

There is something about a baby that captures all our attention. It's magnetic. Even the most stubborn heart softens in the presence of a new born baby. I saw it recently on a visit to bless a school extension, in the staff room later when their colleague on maternity leave, called in with her new bundle of joy, everyone just wanted to see the baby. The adult in us becomes the child again, cooing and making all sorts of funny faces! Babies make people smile and that's such a good thing.

Christmas is about smiling, it takes much less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. We adults complicate matters. In the words of Pope Francis "*Jesus is God's smile ... when we look down at the nativity scene; when we look at Baby Jesus, we can feel God smiling at us*". It all began in Bethlehem, in the simplicity of a stable. This is the essence of what we celebrate at Christmas. God becoming a baby. God stooping down to be like one of us.

We are all conscious of the turmoil in the world at present. War in Ukraine and absolute terror in Gaza and Israel, the Holy Land, the place of that Bethlehem stable. Sadly too many babies and children are caught up in conflicts.

My prayer and hope to all is that you will feel God smile on you this Christmas. Also that you might smile, as you thank God for those around you, family, friends and colleagues.

And next time you see a new born baby, remember that as you smile, God is smiling on you. We need to realise this, this year more than ever, in our war-weary and broken world. Into it a fragile baby is born, a baby whose smile has the capacity to soften the hardest of adult hearts.

Every blessing for Christmas and 2024,

✠ Denis Nulty - Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

"Do This in Memory" Programme

1st Holy Communion Preparation Programme in Mountrath Ballyfin

Enrolement Ceremonies

Mountrath Parish Sat. 30th Sept. Mass 7.00 pm All Schools

Ballyfin. Sun. 1st Oct. Mass 10.00 am Both Schools

"Do This in Memory" Children's Masses

1. Sat. 11th Nov Mountrath Church, 7.00 pm
Sun. 12th Nov. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
2. Sat. 9th Dec. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 10th Dec. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
3. Sat. 13th Jan. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 14th Jan. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
4. Sat. 10th Feb. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 11th Feb. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
5. Sat. 9th Mch.. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 10th Mch. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
6. Sat. 13th Apr. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 14th Apr. . Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
7. Sat. 4th May Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 5th May Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

(The) Sacrament of 1st Penance

will be celebrated in March. Arrangements for the celebration of this Sacrament will be put in place in due course in conjunction with the Schools.

Dates for Celebration of 1st Holy Communion

Sun. 5th May The Hollow Church 9.00 am

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

Sun. 26th May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

With Children of all Mountrath Schools -- Note Change of Date

Sun. 19th May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With children of Ballyfin National School

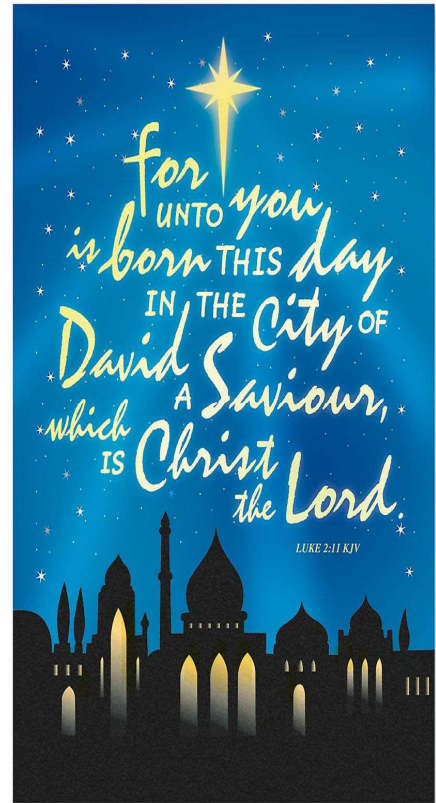
Sun. 26th May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm With Children of Barnashrone National School

Christmas Ceremonies

Sunday 24th Dec. Christmas Eve.

Individual Confessions immediately
after Mass on Sun. 24th in both
Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches

Vigil Masses in Mountrath and Ballyfin Chi



Mon. 25th Dec. Christmas Day.

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am



Mountrath Parish Lotto

Lotto Gift Cards now available
from Promoters



21st Dec.

Lotto Gift Cards now available from Promoters

Numbers Drawn 9 17 18 29 -

17 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 59 Each. 1 Local Winner

Karen O'Connor Promoter, Pachelli Walsh.

New Jackpot, € 11,000

Next Lotto Draw - Thurs. 28th Dec. (Next Thurs.)

21st Dec.

Lotto Gift Cards now available from Promoters

Numbers Drawn 9 17 18 29 -

17 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 59 Each. 1 Local Winner

Karen O'Connor Promoter, Pachelli Walsh.

New Jackpot, € 11,000

Next Lotto Draw - Thurs. 28th Dec. (Next Thurs.)



Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Wed. 20th Dec

Nos. Drawn 7 21 27 31

No Jackpot Winner

17 Match 3's Rec. € 59

3 Local Winners

Tom and Martina Gorman

Promorer, Bridie Byrne

Derek Merdith and Tom and Marie Conroy

Promoter, Mary H.

New Jackpot €13,000

Next Draw 3rd Jan.



• An Advent Household Prayer

- *We invite you take a moment each day in Advent to light your Advent wreath/ candle,*
- *to thank God for your Advent Day and to pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family,*
- *praying for peace in our world and in our lives.*
- - Loving God,
 - as your light grows in the dark of winter,
 - bring its strength and its hope
 - to the people of the Holy Land and to all people
 - who suffer through war and conflict.
 - Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem
 - to lead the way to your Son,
 - guide all people - leaders and citizens –
 - to follow your ways of peace and justice.

- As we remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family be a source of courage for each of us, helping us to reach out in friendship
 - to the oppressed and displaced of this world.
- Help us to see in the Christ-child we welcome this Christmas,
 - the one who came to bring an end to all divisions.
 - Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
 - And may the Lord bless us and keep us safe
 - this Advent day and always. Amen.
 - Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

4th Sun. of Advent



Advent

A Prayer before our Family Christmas Meal

Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may sit now at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. Amen.



Christmas
for Christ

Mature Movers



Strength

Flexibility

Balance

Strength

a bit of Endurance

& Lots of Fun

50 + gym classes

6 weeks starting Wed 8th Nov

Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am

45 min classes

only 3 places left

€60 for 6 Weeks

Contact Ruth 086 3262570



Mary's Meals Christmas Gifts Campaign

With the cost of living crisis, times are that bit harder for us all. The Global School Feeding Movement Mary's Meals have launched our Christmas Gifts Campaign - giving gifts that have a real and tangible impact on those in need. From as little as €5.50, which will provide 50 meals for children in their place of education, we can play our part in changing the lives of those most in need. Visit marysmeals.ie to download a gift today or call 01-853 5163 / 089-433 9592.



Christmas
for Christ

Music Classes in Mountrath

- **Lessons in BloomHQ**
- **Violin Lessons by
Irene Ramos
0773222323
iramos.violinstudio@
gmail.com**

*Contact the relevant
teacher to arrange
days/times/prices*

- **Irish Traditional
Music, Whistle, Flute,
Concertina,
Accordion, Fiddle,
Banjo and Mandolin
Cliona & Eabha
Dowling McDonald
083 8566083**



School of Music - Mountrath



Please use your recyclable blue token to
vote for us in the Tesco Community Fund.



Arrangements for our Christmas Ceremonies

Penitential Services Tues. 19th Dec.

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Sunday 24th Dec. Christmas Eve.

Individual Confessions immediately after Mass on Sun. 24th in
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Singing of Carols in Ballyfin Church from 7.40 pm

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Synod News

Work is beginning towards the next phase of the Synod and the Second General Assembly in Rome next October.

There is a dedicated page on the diocesan website: www.kandle/synod where we can keep up to date. Much more information can be found at www.synod.ie and on the Vatican website, www.synod.va.

Date for the Diary

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in Mountrath / Ballyfin Parishes on **Fri. 26th April 2024**

The Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Church will Commence at 2.30 pm
Bishop Denis will lead us in both our celebrations

*Our hope
for a bright future,*

*Our peace
in times of need,*

*Our joy
for all eternity*

Jesus



may you know
the comfort & joy
 of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!
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