

Mountrath  
Ballyfin  
Online  
Newsletter

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2023

Advent 2023    See Page 23

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. Advent Year B.

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. '23

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783

Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on FM 104.5

[www.ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.ballyfinparish.ie) [www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie) -

Email [jmbrophy2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrophy2@gmail.com)

## Christmas Bingo

St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath from next Mon. night, Dec.4<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Extra prize money - Blue Flyer Sheet - Full house €200.; Jackpot Sheet- Full house €200; Lucky Line Sheet - €150. Please support your local Bingo. All are very welcome.

## Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mass in Mountrath Church at 10.00 am with pupils of Scoil Bhríde. Cake Sale (Hosted by Parents) in the School after Mass - *All are most welcome*

## V D P Annual Collection

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will take place next weekend, 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. at our Masses in Mountrath, Ballyfin and the Hollow Church. Your generous support is always very much appreciated.

## Advent Begins This Weekend

This new Year, Year B (in the 3 year Church Cycle) is the Year of Mark, when most of our Gospel Readings during Mass will be taken from Mark's Gospel. 'The Gospel of Mark, considered to be the first of the four Gospels to be written, is the shortest of the four Gospels and the foundation Gospel for the other two synoptic Gospels (Matthew and Luke) – For Mark, the big question throughout his Gospel is – who is this person, they call the Christ. – It is not until the time of the Crucifixion that Mark names Jesus as – Son of God. – The Roman Centurian, standing guard at the foot of the Cross, recognises the true significance of the event, and is heard to say " In truth, this man is the Son of God" *(What an act of Faith)*

# Advent Prayer

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.

## Sonya Brannigan Campion, Rushin R.I.P.

We pray for Sonya who died peacefully at her home on Mon. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. Sonya's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her husband Damien, daughters, Bailey and Willow, mother Yvonne, father Jimmy, sister Ashling and her partner Noel, nephews Alfie and J.J., nieces Jessica, Robyn, Lexie and Bonnie, mother-in-law Breda, father-in-law Gerry, and their families, extended family, relatives, neighbours and a very large circle of friends.

## Niall Kavanagh, Cabinteely, Formerly, Rushin,

We pray for Niall who died peacefully on Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. at the Hermitage Clinic, Dublin. Niall's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Cabinteely on Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. We extend sympathy to all his family and friends in Cabinteely and Mountrath. Niall is son of Mary (Kavanagh) former Principal of Brigidine Secondary School here in Mountrath, until her retirement in 2009.

*May Sonya and Niall rest in the peace of Christ.*

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

### Masses

Thurs. 7th Dec. Vigil Mass  
Mountrath Church. 7.00 pm

### Day of Feast.

The Hollow Church. 9.00 am  
Mountrath Church 10.00 am  
(With children of Scoil Bhride)

Ballyfin Ch. with children of Ballyfin Sch. 11.30 am  
Ballyfin Church. 7.30 pm



## Christmas Party

Ballyfin Parish and Community Alert  
Christmas Party in Deadmans Inn, (arranged  
for Sun. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>) has been cancelled as a  
result of the very small number interested in  
attending.

See our Advent

Resources

Pages 24 - 28

## Apostolate of Sanctification

This Advent, we invite you to consider spending time in Adoration, praying for  
our bishops and priests through the intercession of Our Lady of Knock.  
As we offer our Rosary and Divine Mercy for them, through our Lady of Knock's  
intercession, His love flows to us, our families and our parishes.

Ø COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Whether it's half an hour or two hours you have to offer, you are most  
welcome!

– Ballyfin Parish App. available to download on iPhone and Android

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Our New-Look Parish App. came online recently Check it out.

*A Very Sincere "Thank you" for Your Most Generous Support  
of all our Parish Collections*

## Dates for the Diary

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated  
in Mountrath / Ballyfin Parishes

on **Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Ceremony in Mountrath Parish Ch. at 11.00 am

Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Ch. at 2.30 pm

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**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Dates See Page 14**

### *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.**

## 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

### 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

### Deadline for Parish Newsletters

Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 12 midday on Thursdays

Text Message, Email, Whatsapp, Letter or Pop into Parochial House.

(Our Parish Newsletters are online and on App. from early Saturday morning)

## 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](http://marysmeals.ie) to download a gift today or

call 01-8535163/089-4339592.





## Mountrath Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of Advent - Year B  
 John Keenan, Beech Lawn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.  
 Brigid Dunne (Nee Lalor) Wookbrook. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.  
 Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Clonbarrow. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Jack Hetherington, New Line Road. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent Yr. B  
 Breda Houston (Nee O'Neill), London. Formerly Trumera.  
 Jerimiah Delaney. Clonard. 61<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

**11.30 am** Mary Redmond (Nee Bergin) Redcastle. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Peter Bennett, The Square. 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Catherine and Michael Farrell and their son, Fintan.

Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am No 10.00 am Mass today

Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am

Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am John and Eileen Bresnan.

Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am

7.00 pm **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Vigil Mass

Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Church.

**10.00 am** Mass in Mountrath

*With Pupils of Scoil Bhríde.*

Tom and Anna Mai Martyn and their son, Sean, who died in October.

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm John Doherty, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Denis Carroll, Shannon Road. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Eilish and James McKeon, Stillbrook.

Billy Tynan, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** Daniel Rafter, Coolnacart.

**11.30 am** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B.

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

## Ballyfin Anniversaries

### Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> - Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Ned and Annie Fitzpatrick, Pallas Big.

Seán Gilligan, Brockera, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Liam Lyndon, O'Moore Forest. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Owen Heffernan, Redgates. 4<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Mass at 11.30 am With children of Ballyfin School

*Everyone welcome to attend this Mass*

5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Mary Gorman, Cappagh.

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Carmel Croke, Pallas . 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00 am *"Do This In Memory Mass"*

Charles and Elizabeth O'Neill, Clontyglass.

Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm Apost. of Sanctification

### **1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Remembrance**

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Martin Gilligan, Ballyfin Rd., Mountath.

*Lord, for your faithful people,  
Life is changed, not ended.*





# CHRISTMAS IN THE CONVENT

**Sunday 10th December 2-6 pm**

Christmas Market  
Carol Singing  
Lots of activities for kids  
Santa visit



**BRIGIDINE CONVENT, MOUNTRATH**

## “Do This in Memory” Programme

### 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation Programme in Mountrath Ballyfin Enrolement Ceremonies

Mountrath Parish Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Mass 7.00 pm All Schools

Ballyfin. Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Mass 10.00 am Both Schools

### “Do This in Memory” Children’s Masses

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

### (The) Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> May The Hollow Church 9.00 am

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

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

Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With children of Ballyfin National School

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm With Children of Barnashrone National School



## Ballyfin Lotto Results 29<sup>th</sup> Nov

Nos. Drawn 1 13 23 26

### € 17,000 Jackpot went to Abbeyleix

16 Match 3's Rec. € 63 each

### Jackpot € 17,000

A note of thanks to everyone involved in Ballyfin Parish Lotto - Organizing Committee, Promoters, Shops and others who facilitate the sale of Lotto Tickets and most importantly, you, who purchase a Lotto ticket every week. I extend a very sincere "thank you" for your support and generosity.

## Mountrath Lotto - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Numbers drawn *3 9 21 24*



24 Match 3 Winners    Rec. € 42 Each.    6 Local Winners

Pam Killeen Promoter, Pam Killeen. Annmarie Sydes. Promoter, Jerry Dooley  
Declan Carroll. Promoter, Betty O'Rourke. Celine Cripps. Promoter, Celine Cripps.  
Sadie Cuddy. Promoter, Betty Phelan    Sr. Helen. Promoter. Bernie Phelan

**New Jackpot, € 17,000**

## **Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish Lotto**

*Next  
Week's*



**€ 17,000 - Mountrath**

— € 10,000 Ballyfin —

Have you installed our  
New Parish App.

Available to download from wherever you get your Apps.

Well Worth downloading and installing

At the touch of your screen you have

All Mass Times and Anniversary Remembrances

3 Newsletters

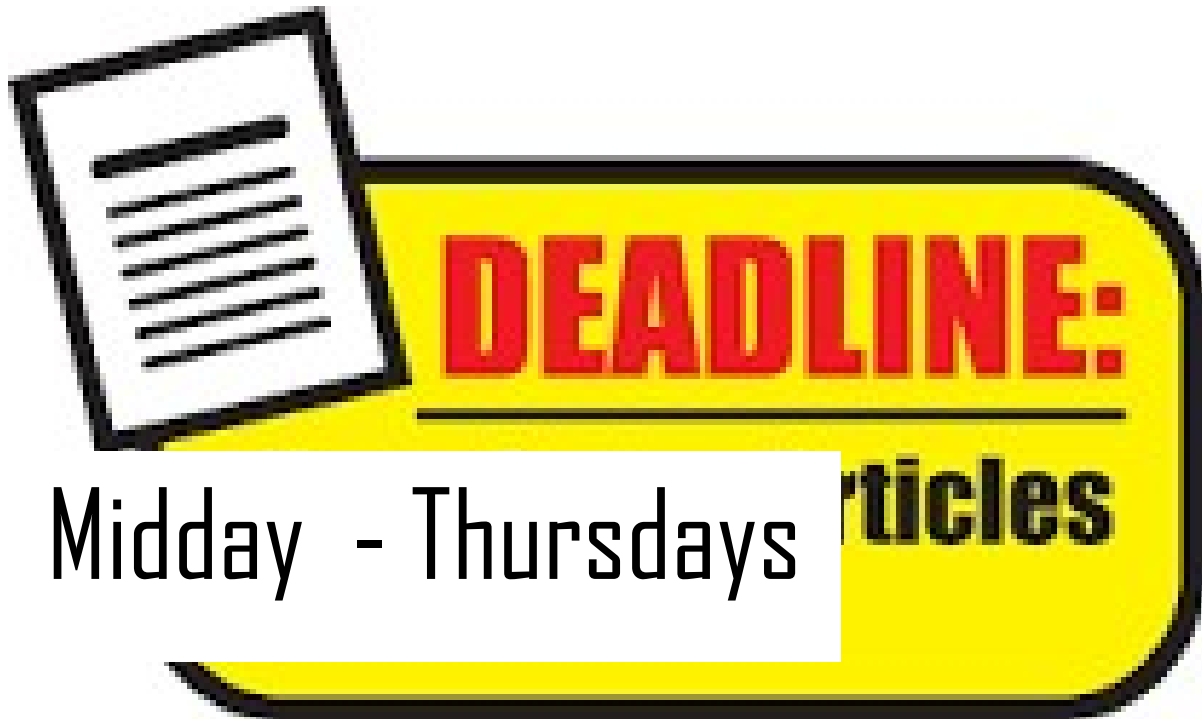
PDF of Print Copies and Online Newsletter

Lotto Results

All Sacramental Arrangements

Latest Parish and Diocesan News

--- *And Much Much More*



## *Parish Finances. - A Word of Thank*

*Thanks for your generous contributions to Parish Funds.*

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation and gratitude for the ways in which you have found to support the parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful. It has and continues to be a most challenging time for so many; families, self employed, hospitality and so much more. By and large we are not doing too bad, thanks in no small part to your generosity, I wish to acknowledge your support given via the weekly envelopes (2023 boxes are ready for distribution at present). Contributing to the Parish by envelope allows us to keep track of your donations for the whole year and, where possible, (and totally at your discretion) claim the additional 45% back from Revenue under the charity donations scheme at no cost to yourself. If



you are not as yet, part of this scheme – and would like more information, please contact me when you get a chance.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity - it is very much appreciated.

## Different ways of supporting your Parish:

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable to “Mountrath Parish” - or “Ballyfin Parish”

Please indicate - Parish Fund or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

⇒ Online Facility (See Diocesan Website – [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)) ⇐

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ⇐

The following are our Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

**Ballyfin Parish - Bank Account Details**

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

**Please include your own name as the reference.**

**⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ←**

If you have any queries or would like to speak with us regarding donating to the Parish or participating in the charity tax donation scheme,  
just ring me on 087 241 1594 (Fr. Joe)

# News From Across The Diocese

## Second book of Writings of the late Fr John Cummins

Following the 'runaway success' of the first book, the family of Fr John Cummins have issued a second publication in his memory. This new book, also named "My Life in Your Hands", contains more sermons of Fr. John's.

The new publication is an accompaniment to the initial book which contained the sermons for Sundays in Year A of the 3-year liturgical calendar. This second volume contains Fr. John's sermons for Year B and Year C of the church cycle. It also contains reflections for secondary school students, tributes by friends and numerous photographs.

The late Fr. Cummins was known for his good humour and easy manner as well as his preaching skills. As a young priest, he spent five years in Rome studying for his doctorate in Celtic Spirituality. Fr. John spent most of his priestly ministry in Carlow town where he was chaplain in the then Regional College and Administrator in the Cathedral. A native of Newbridge, he earlier served in Naas.

He became PP of Abbeyleix and Ballyroan only 18 months before his death. The homilies of Fr. John are rooted not only in scripture, but also in the everyday issues of contemporary Ireland. They will be useful for personal reflection at any time and will be valued by anyone with an interest in religion and spirituality.

"My Life in Your Hands" retails at € 15 and all proceeds after printing costs will be donated to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

It is available in parish offices throughout the diocese and Woodbine Books Kilcullen and Farrell & Nephew, Newbridge. For further information please see <https://www.kandle.ie/my-life-in-your-hands-sermons-of-the-late-fr-john-cummins/>

## Catechism in a Year

Would you like to read the Catechism in a year? We are a friendly group that reads and discusses a section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church each week. In 2023, we will follow The Catechism in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz. <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear> Join us on Mondays, 8:00pm - 9:30 pm in the Parish Centre, Prosperous. For any enquiries, please contact Alice on 087 6505803

## Do you feel called to seek God in Prayer and Contemplation, monastic work and community life?

The Cistercian Community at St. Mary's abbey, Glencairn invite single women, aged 19-40, to our upcoming monastic vocations weekend on 27-29 October, 2023

Please contact our vocation director, Sr Sarah at [vocations@glencairnabbey.org](mailto:vocations@glencairnabbey.org)  
Or visit [www.glencairnabbey.org](http://www.glencairnabbey.org) for more details

## Catholic Marriage Encounter

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Catholic Marriage Encounter in Ireland a special Weekend has been scheduled for the 10th -12th November 2023. Venue: The Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co. Kildare. Eircode W91 XR23

This Weekend is available to all married couples at no fixed charge beyond the deposit of €50 per couple and a voluntary donation. To book visit [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)

## Sharing the Good News

The Catholic Communications Office edits and publishes a five-story weekly ezine

Sharing the Good News. The ezine is an accessible news report on the work of

bishops' subscribe to this resource by

visiting <https://catholicnews.ie/newsletter/>

**Stay connected with us!**

Parish Website [www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie) -

Links to Webcams on Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish



The Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin are seeking to recruit a secretarial assistant to work in our Diocesan Offices based in Bishop's House in Carlow Town.

### Background Information:

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin has a total of 56 parishes spread throughout all of County Carlow as well as parts of counties Kilkenny, Kildare, Offaly, Laois, Wexford and Wicklow. The Diocesan Offices at Bishop's House are the administrative arm of the diocese and receive correspondence and queries from all parishes as well as members of the wider public. Our aim is to provide the smooth and efficient operation of our diocese through exceptional administration. As a secretarial assistant you will support the Bishop and other staff in Bishop's House through a variety of tasks related to administration, organisation and communication.

### Essential criteria:

- Fluent spoken and written English
- Proven administration background in an office environment
- Strong organisational and multi-tasking skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Support and advisory service abilities
- Attention to detail and accuracy
- An ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Proficiency in MS Office
- Familiarity with church structures and activities
- A high degree of confidentiality will be required at all times



### Contract Type

- Part-time, 20 hours per week over 5 days
- 1 year initially, subject to renewal

### How to Apply

Applications must take the form of a letter of application along with a Curriculum Vitae. These should be emailed to [aisling@kandle.ie](mailto:aisling@kandle.ie) or posted to Aisling Brennan, Bishop's House, Old Dublin Road, Carlow, R93 F6D5.

Shortlisting will apply.

Further details on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

### Closing Date

5pm, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

# Advent 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.



## Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Friday, December 8, we celebrate this feast day of Mary, remembering that from the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, Mary was preserved free from Original Sin, she was full of grace. See

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb_logo) for a short video on the meaning of this feast.

## Advent Scripture Study Video Series

Parishioners across the diocese are invited to access these short weekly videos during Advent, from Fr Seán Maher, P.P. Balyna parish, on the Balyna Parish Youtube channel via [Balynaparish.ie](http://Balynaparish.ie).

Fr Seán is a scripture scholar, and we are delighted that he is making these study videos available to a wide audience. Why not treat yourself to some time out to go deeper into the scriptures this Advent!

## 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.



## An Advent hymn to think about

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

In many parishes the first sound of Advent is the singing of this traditional hymn. The text for the verses comes from what are known as the 'O antiphons'

that are sung at Evening Prayer on the last days of Advent.

Sometime around the year 1100 an unknown author took these antiphons and turned them into a metrical Latin poem.

Eventually, an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English.

It was published in an 1853 hymnal by Thomas Helmore, using a 15<sup>th</sup> century French melody.

From these origins we now

have one of the most popular and well known Advent hymns.

The verses convey a plaintive mood of longing and yearning for God with each verse giving a name for Jesus that is full of hope. Notice how the petition of the verse

is met by the joyful promise of the refrain –

'O Come, O come, Emmanuel...Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel'.

In this Advent season we can call on God to come to us,

knowing in faith, hope and joy that God answers us

## Weekly Advent Gospel Link

The First Sunday of Advent marks the start of Year B in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings in the Church. For the next year, on a Sunday we will hear mainly from the Gospel of Mark.

Today, as we step into the season of Advent, Mark's gospel urges us to 'Be on your guard, stay awake'. (Chapter 13, Verse 33)

This passage is a strong reminder to us to ready ourselves for the coming of the Lord, to be attentive for God at work in our world and in our lives, to take time to pray to God who in love will give us the strength to face our lives in confidence. With hope in the Lord, we believe that Jesus is coming to us all the time. While in our Mass we pray, 'we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ' we must be ready and prepared to welcome Him into our lives today. *Are we ready to do this? Are we prepared to let Jesus into the 'stuff' of our lives, into all those corners where he can bring us the hope that comes from Him alone? What would that mean? What might that look like?*

*Why not spend time reflecting  
on the Sunday Scriptures this Advent.*

*See [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) for our weekly Scripture Sharing Reflections on the Advent Sunday readings and look out for a local scripture sharing group. If there isn't one, why not create one yourself and invite others to it. This year, the reflections are taken from homilies preached by the late Fr John Cummins and found in the recently published book, 'My Life In Your Hands, Year B & Year C'*

## An Advent Tradition for Church and Home:



### THE ADVENT WREATH

We invite you to continue or start the tradition of having an Advent wreath in the home. The advent wreath has a rich meaning. The **circle** of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. The **evergreen** reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection. The **four candles** represent the four Sundays of Advent. **Purple** is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the **rose** pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.

As you light a candle on your Advent wreath for the first time, pray this prayer of blessing and take a moment talk to God about how you will journey through Advent this year alone or as a household. Finish your time of prayer, again, with the Advent prayer: Come, Lord Jesus!

### *A Blessing Prayer*

Loving God,

let your blessing come upon us  
as we light this wreath.

May it be a sign of hope for us  
as we prepare for your coming  
& may it turn our hearts to you  
in the days ahead.

Give us & the world your peace and love  
as we wait in joyful hope.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Come, Lord  
Jesus!



# WHITE-HORSE INDOOR BOWLS

Every Thursday (8pm )  
St Philomena's Hall

Beginners Very welcome (Adults)  
Come along and give it a try!  
Runners or Flat sole shoes are all you need!

## Community Climate Action Programme (Note from Diocesan Office)

We have been contacted by the Community Climate Action Officer for Carlow Local Authority however there is a similar position in every Local Authority so this information applies to everyone. Funding has been ring fenced (Community Climate Action Programme) by each local authority for carbon reduction initiatives which is a big item on the agenda at the moment. I am attaching a copy of the Powerpoint Presentation for Carlow and the general information is the same for each county. Funding will be available for projects which:

- Reduce or support reduction of greenhouse gases,
  - Increase production of renewable energy,
    - Improve energy efficiency,
    - Improve climate resilience,
- Are nature based projects, enhance biodiversity and climate resilience,
  - Assist with transition to low carbon economy,
- And provide innovative solutions to climate change.

# *1ª Missa em Português em Laos*

**A Comunidade Católica em Laos convida para a  
Primeira Missa em português.**

**Dia 17/12/2023 - Domingo**

**Horário: 16h**

**Local: St Peter & Paul's Catholic  
Church, Portlaoise - R32R684**

**Ação Social: Ofertório na missa com itens para doações à SVP -**

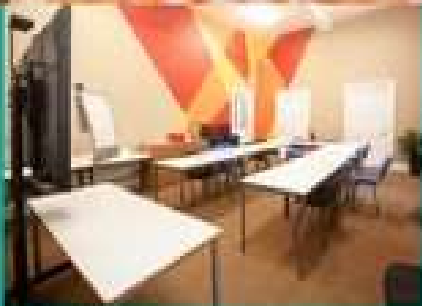
**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul/Laos.**

**Apoio: LABRAS.**



# BloomHQ

## Social Enterprise Space



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Work - Life Balance

Contact us on  
089 2722 885 or  
[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)

**I don't believe time heals everything.**

**It helps, it does.**

**After awhile you won't cry about it all the time.**

**It won't consume your every thought anymore.**

**You do get better.**

**You'll laugh,**

**And smile.**

**You'll even have a lot of great days.**

**But it's still there.**

**You just learn to live with it.**

**This is how things are now.**

**So you get used to it.**

**But,**

**That doesn't mean it ever goes away.**

**It's still deep in your soul.**

**Still makes you cry when you think about it too much.**

**Still stops you in your tracks when something**

**reminds you of it.**

**You'll have those moments**

**where your heart hurts really bad.**

**I don't think time heals everything**

**Sure it gets better,**

**But it's a scar that never goes away.**

**A broken bone that still aches on rainy days.**

**Melinda Caroline**



# Michael English

## Christmas Church Concerts



SUN DEC 3RD – BALLINAKILL, CO. LAOIS

THURS DEC 7TH – KILMORE, CO. WEXFORD

FRI DEC 8TH – CARRICKROE, EMYVALE,  
MONAGHAN

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