

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 23rd July '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat. 22nd – Sun. 23rd July 2023

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 www.mountrathparish.ie

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Laois Relay for Life 2023

Relay for life, Laois, will be back at Emo Court again this year on July 29th and 30th. Individuals / Clubs / Teams / Groups of Friends, from across the county and beyond, coming together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and stand shoulder to shoulder with people battling cancer. Relay For Life is a celebration of solidarity and helps to raise awareness of the services provided by the Irish Cancer Society locally.

Cemetery Masses In Ballyfin

Clondarrig Wed. 2nd Aug.

Boghlone Wed. 6th Sept.

Cemetery Masses begin at 7.00 pm

10th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Denis Nulty

On Friday 4th August Bishop Denis will celebrate the 10th anniversary of his ordination as Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. People, Religious and Clergy are invited to participate in the 7pm Mass on Sunday 6th August in Carlow Cathedral to mark this occasion and to acknowledge Bishop Denis' dedicated service to the Diocese since coming to us in 2013.

Photo of Bishop Denis taken on the day of his ordination as Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin on 4th Aug. 2013



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.

Robert Armitage. Clonagown Ballylusk. R.I.P.

We pray for Robert who died suddenly on Sat. 15th July. Robert's Funeral Service was in St. John the Baptist Church, Ballyfin on Wed. 19th July followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his wife Liz, stepchildren Finbarr, Hazel, Noel, Alan, Stephen and Robert, and 8 step grandchildren, mother Frances, brother Austin, sisters Gloria and Olivia, Uncle Herbert, Aunt Helen and their families, sister-in-law Stephanie, brothers-in-law Robert and Paul, nephews, nieces, extended family, neighbours and friends.

"Safe in the Arms of Jesus"

*Robert's Uncle – Herbert gave the Eulogy at Robert's Funeral Service.
See Page 41 of this Newsletter for the text of Herbert's words, beautifully prepared and shared with us on Wednesday.*

Frans Jansen, Upper Ballyfin. R.I.P.

We pray for Frans who died peacefully at Regional Hosp., Tullamore on Fri. 14th July. Frans' Committal Service took place at Newlands Cross Crematorium on Mon. 17th July. We extend sympathy to partner Caroline, brother Dirk, sister Tanja and their families. brother in law Peter, sister in law Dirma, his nieces and nephews Esther, Johanna, Jonathan, Christopher, Andrew, Mark, Ravik, Emma and Norah, Caroline's children Paddy, Clodagh and Tara and their families, grandnieces, grandnephews, relatives and a wide circle of friends.

May Frans Rest In Peace

Paul Byrne, Nenagh R.I.P.

We pray for Paul who died suddenly on Thurs. 13th July at Cork University Hosp. Paul's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mary of the Rosary Church, Nenagh on Tues. 18th July followed by burial in Lisboney Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his son, Seán, partner Lorraine (Rice), her son Keelan, mother Moira, father Larry, brothers Enda, Brian, Alan and Eoin, sister Michelle and their families, sisters in law, brother in law, godparents Deirdre and Ned, nephews, niece, relatives, colleagues and many friends. We extend sympathy to John Byrne and all

the Byrne family, Ringstown on the untimely death of a nephew and cousin. (Paul's dad, Larry, hails from Ringstown)

May Paul rest in the peace of Christ.

YOUTH 2000

Join young people between 16 and 35 this August at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival. The festival takes place in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare from Thursday 10th August to Sunday 13th August 2023. The festival includes inspiring talks, music, prayer, concert, workshops, dramas, share groups, reconciliation and healing service and Mass. Donation only and we have buses going from all over Ireland. For more information and to book your place go to www.youth2000.ie

Retracing the footsteps of St Brigid and St Conleth

An 8km walk on the Curragh Plains led by Bishop Nulty takes place on Sat. 29th July. Walk begins at St Anne's School, The Curragh at 12 noon and concludes with a prayer service in St Brigid's Church, Kildare at 4pm. Refreshments will be available All welcome to join. To register for the walk contact Aras Bhride on 045-521352 or email kildareparish@gmail.com



RETRACING THE FOOTSTEPS



of St. Brigid & St. Conleth

**An 8km Pilgrim Walk
on the Curragh Plains.**

- Led by Bishop Denis Nulty -

Saturday 29th July

Walk begins at St. Anne's School, The Curragh at 12 noon to
St. Brigid's Parish Church Kildare

Refreshments available on arrival at Aras Bhríde

Park and Ride available from 11.15 am
at Kildare Railway Station

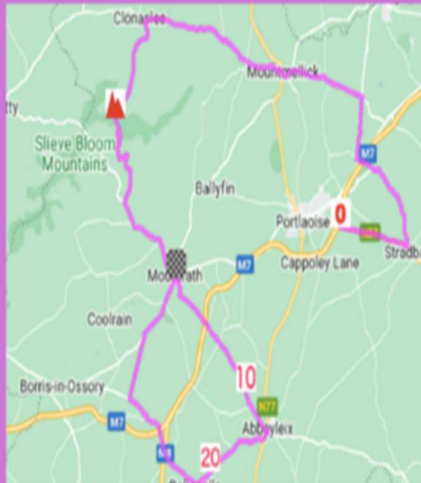
Concluding Service in
St. Brigid's Parish Church Kildare at 4pm

For more info: Aras Bhríde
045 321 353 / kildareparish@gmail.com



BRIGID  1500

Kildare Parish



Stage 3 finishes in Mountrath on Friday September 8th.
Portlaoise – Stradbally – Emo – Mountmellick – Clonaslee – The Cut – Mountrath – Ballacolla –
Abbeyleix – Mountrath
 See link for stage route: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41818995>
 Further Information www.rasnamban.com
 Imagery credit: Rás na mBan



Rás na mBan

Rás na mBan – International Womens Cycle Race –
 takes place from 6th to 10th Sept.

Stage 3 (102 kilometers) takes place in Laois on Friday 8th September, after a
 ceremonial start at Aras An Chontae the race will pass through –

Stradbally – Emo - Mountmellick –

Clonaslee – The Cut - Mountrath –

Aghaboe - Ballacolla - Abbeyleix

– finishing in Mountrath at approximately 2pm.

Riders from all over Europe, the USA, Oceania, Africa and Asia as well as the best of Ireland's international and locally-based racers will descend on Laois for the event which will showcase the beauty and landscape of our county. You

are invited to the official launch of the Laois Stage of Rás na mBan – International Womens Cycle Race on Wed. 12th July in Bloom HQ at 7.30pm.

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 from early Saturday morning)

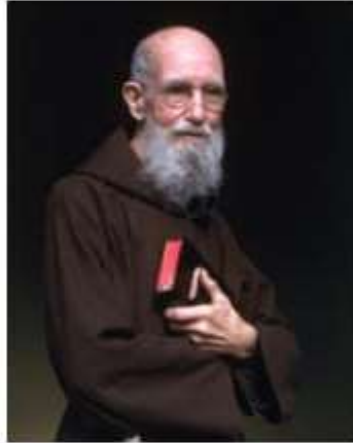
Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish App. available to download on iPhone and Android

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

Celebration of the Eucharist

In honour of

Blessed Solanus Casey



Monday, 31th July 2023

7.30pm

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Co.Laois.

R32TD61



"Blessed be God in all His designs"

-Blessed Solanus Casey- The Doorkeeper

All Most Welcome!

Follow Novena from 22nd -30th July '23

<https://www.swprayer.org>

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Different ways of Supporting your Parish:

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry

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

Mass Times – Anniversaries

Mountrath Sat. 22nd - Sun. 30th Jul

Sat. 22nd July 7.00 pm 16th Sun. in Ord. Time.

Martin Fitzpatrick, Patrick St. and Forest. 6th Anniv.

Fintan and Margo Deleaney, Patrick St.,

Daughters, Mairead Kavanagh and Paula Byrne

Son, James Delaney (Patrick St. and New York)

Sun. 23rd July 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.**

11.30 am **3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Seamie Dunne, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. Month's Mind.

Tom Lanham, Kiln Lane.

Mon. 24th July 10.00 am People who are ill at this time

Tues. 25th July 10.00 am

Wed. 26th July 10.00 am

Thur 27th July 10.00 am

Fri 28th July 10.00 am

Sat. 29th July 7.00 pm Florrie Phelan (Nee Coffey) St. Fintan's Tce. 1st Anniv.

Una Kelly (nee Kavanagh) and Vinny Kelly, Main St.,

Sun. 30th July 9.00 am [The Hollow Church.](#)

11.30 am Billy Bergin, Ringstown 1st Anniv.

Betty Meade (Nee Fitzpatrick) Ringstown. 3rd Anniv.

Lily Parkinson, Woodbrook

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

1st Anniversaries in July

Sat. 29th July 7.00 pm

Florrie Phelan (Nee Coffey) St. Fintan's Tce.,

Sun. 30th July 11.30 am Billy Bergin, Redcastle

Ballyfin - Mass Times Anniversaries

Fri, 21st - Sun. 30th July

- Fri. 21st July 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
7.30 pm Altar List of the Dead.
- Sat 22nd July 8.00 pm Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Ross.
- Sun. 23rd July 10.00 am **3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**
Mary Ellen and Patrick Conroy, Ballylusk.
Tom Coleman, Esker.
John and Ruby Seale, Clonboyne
- Mon. 24th July 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification
- Fri. 28th July 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament.
7.30 pm Sarah and Martin Gilligan, Brockera.
- Sat. 29th July 8.00 pm Rosaleen (Rosie) Dunne (Nee Gorman) Deerpark.
Month's Mind.
Barney Dunne, Pallas. 1st Anniv.
John Murphy, Dunlavin – Recently deceased
Martin, Elizabeth Ned and Willie Daly, Kylegrove
- Sun. 30th July 10.00 am 17th Sun. in Ord. Time.
- Mon. 31st July 7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist.
Honouring Blessed Solanus Casey, Capuchin.

Month's Mind Mass

Rosaleen (Rosie) Dunne (Nee Gorman) Deerpark

Sat. 29th July 8.00 p.m.



Mountrath - Ballyfin Lotto Results.

Ballyfin Lotto Results for 19th July

Nos. Drawn 7 18 21 25

No Jackpot Winner

Match 3 Rec. € 72 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 12,000



© CanStockPhoto.com

A note of thanks to everyone involved in Ballyfin Parish Lotto - Organising 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 Parish Lotto

Thurs. 20th

Mountrath Hits The Jackpot

Mountrath Lotto Thurs. 20th

Nos. Drawn 7 9 20 22

1 € 20,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eugene and Mag

And Promoter Pam Killeen

Match 3's Rec. € 59 5 Local Winners

Roisin Keegan Promoter Michael Keegan

Fran Kelly Promoter A. Kelly

Victoria Feighery Promoter Breda Conroy

Jason McDowell Promoter Sarah McDowell

Mag and Eugene Promoter Pam Killeen

Next Week's Jackpot €10,000

A note of thanks to everyone involved in Mountrath Parish Lotto - Organising 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 continued support and generosity.

*Next
Week's*



€ 12,000 Ballyfin

€ 20,000 - Mountrath

World Day for Grandparents and Elderly

World Day for Grandparents & Elderly takes place on Sunday, July 23rd.

The National Grandparents Pilgrimage celebrating this day in Knock Shrine will be led by Bishop Denis. The anointing of the sick is at 2.30pm with Mass at 3pm. Families from the Diocese are encouraged to travel.

This is the third year celebrating this event. It is hoped that parishes using the attached resources might celebrate and mark this event during one of their Sunday Masses. The theme offered by Pope Francis this year is 'His mercy is from age to age' (Lk.1:50). We all know the wonderful part played by the elderly and by grandparents in all our parishes, so it is all the more important that we mark the celebration locally as well as universally.

Dermot & Irene Ring



St. Philomena's Hall, Mountrath

August Bank Holiday Mon. (7th Aug) 9.30 - 12

Retracing the Footsteps of St Brigid and St Conleth

An 8km walk on the Curragh Plains led by Bishop Nulty takes place on Saturday 29th July. The walk begins at St Anne's School, The Curragh at 12noon and concludes with a prayer service in St Brigid's Church, Kildare at 4pm. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome to join. To register for the walk please contact Aras Bhride on 045-521352 or email kildareparish@gmail.com

Parish Finances. - A Word of Thanks

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 ⇐

⇒ 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)

Stay connected with us!

Parish Website www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie -

Links to Webcams on Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish

Cemetery Masses In Mountrath ~ Ballyfin During 2023

Clondarrig Cemetery Wed. 2nd Aug.

Boghlone Cemetery. Wed. 6th Sept.

All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

LOURDES



MOUNTMELICK, MOUNTRATH, BALLYFIN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

Spiritual Director: Fr Noel Dunphy

2 August 2023

7 Nights from Dublin Airport

€995 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights in the Hotel La Solitude
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Mass at the Grotto, Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Optional single supplement €39 per night

For information please contact: **Eleanor Duff 087 7670915**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88

www.joewalstours.ie | info@joewalstours.ie | Reservations: 01-2410800

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Contact Person - Eleanor Duff - 087 7670915

Laois Relay for Life 2023

We are delighted to confirm that Relay for Life Laois will be back at Emo Court again this year on July 29th & 30th! Individuals / Clubs / Teams / Groups of Friends, from across the county and beyond, coming together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and stand shoulder to shoulder with those battling cancer. Relay For Life is a celebration of solidarity and helps to raise awareness of the services provided by the Irish Cancer Society locally.

If you can't make it to the full event, please come along even for a short while, walking is free! There are so many other ways to support the cause also, you could sponsor wellbeing items / treats for our survivors gift bags You can [donate](#) to any one of the registered walking teams / your favourite fundraising individual at www.relayforlife.ie/event/laois/donate Or you can buy a Candle of Hope bag (five euro each) and dedicate it to a loved one and join us at the Candle of Hope ceremony on July 29th at dusk for an evening of music and remembrance.

Please contact any one of the following for any query you may have about the event: Caroline: 087 4499903, Alan: 086 1222227, Fran: 087 9161924

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RelayForLifeLaois/>

Ballyfin Mountrath Mountmellick

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2nd August – 9th August 2023

See online News! For Full details

Contact Person - Eleanor Duff Phone No. 087 767 0915

Diocesan News

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Portlaoise Parish to the Holy Land led by Msgr John Byrne, travelling from 7th Sept – 15th Sept 2023. Cost per person €2190, single supplement €769. Cost includes coach transfer from Portlaoise to Dublin airport return, flights, accommodation on half board basis, courier service in the Holy Land and a full religious programme. For more details please contact Tullys Travel Carlow on 059-9136100.

Rally for Life 2023

DON'T MISS IT! Rally for Life on the 1st of July! Join thousands of fellow Catholics & pro-life supporters at the biggest annual pro-life event, now in its 17th year. Gather at 1PM at Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Activities for both children and adults, a family friendly event!

For more info or to book a place on the bus going up to the rally visit www.thelifeinstitute.net , or call 01 873 0465

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Programme

At University Hospital KERRY, 12-week modules involving education, supervision, faith formation and a clinical placement. January/May/September each year. For further information contact

Dr Margaret Naughton Email: margaret.naughton2@hse.ie Phone: 066 7184000

Retracing the footsteps of St. Brigid and St. Conleth

An 8km walk on the Curragh Plains led by Bishop Nulty takes place on Saturday 29th July. The walk begins at St Anne's School, The Curragh at 12 noon and concludes with a prayer service in St Brigid's Church, Kildare at 4pm. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome to join. To register for the walk please contact Aras Bhride on 045-521352 or email kildareparish@gmail.com



Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Programme

at

University Hospital KERRY

12-week modules involving education, supervision, faith formation and a clinical placement.

January/May/September each year.

'Under Mary's Mantle'

Under Mary's Mantle is a conference on faith and culture for young adults (18-35) with talks, prayer, Mass, Confession, workshops, food and social in the historic All Hallows campus, DCU, Dublin.

A chance to build your faith in friendship with young men and women from across the country.

Keynote speakers include poet and convert Sally Read, a one-time radical feminist who embraced the Faith, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Cistercian Fr Aelred McGee, Marian theologian Professor William A Thomas and many more.

The talks and workshops range widely from poetry to reading the Bible, vocations and Mary in the Liturgical Year! Mass and Confessions take place both days.

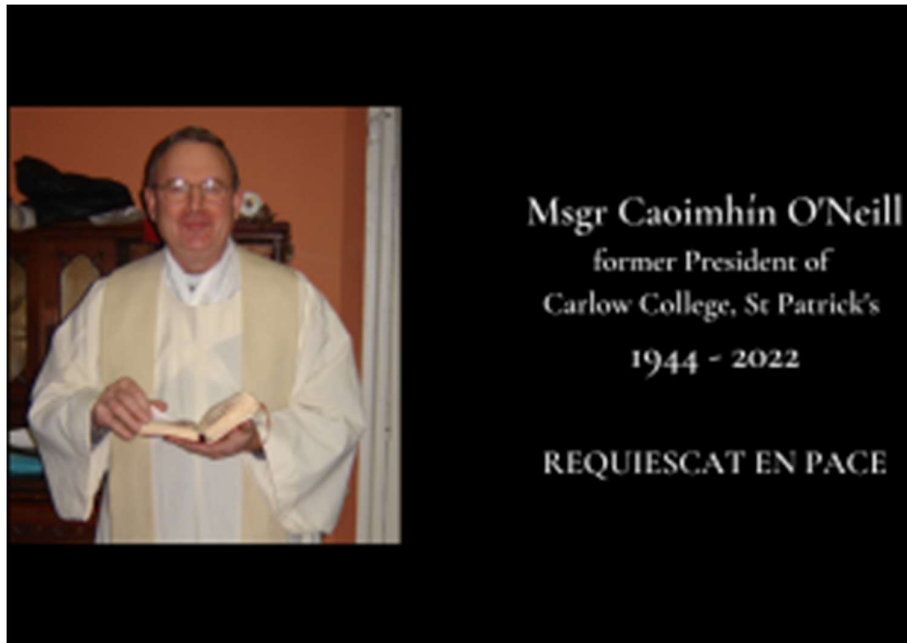
The conference takes place Saturday and Sunday, with a discounted ticket available for both days. If you're free for one, single day tickets are also available.

Two day Saturday & Sunday – €60

Day rates – Saturday €40; Sunday €30

STUDENTS get a 10% discount – contact deusetpatria@gmail.com for discount code.

There is a limited amount of accommodation available in DCU, contact deusetpatria@gmail.com or call 085 1442423 for rates and more information.



Fr. Kevin O'Neill R.I.P.

The death has been announced of Msgr Caoimhín Ó Néill, retired President of Carlow College, St. Patrick's.

Msgr Caoimhín Ó Néill held the position of College President at Carlow College, St. Patrick's from 1994 to 2015. A native of Trumera, Mountrath, Co. Laois, Msgr Ó Néill was ordained in 1969. He joined the staff of the College in 1972 and was a staff member for forty-three years. He was involved in the training of seminarians for the priesthood and he lectured in English.

In paying tribute, the current President, Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh said that as President, Msgr Ó Néill, “oversaw the transformation of the College, providing access to third level education in the Humanities and Social Care in the south east of Ireland and beyond. He appointed many of the current staff members to the staff of the College”.

Msgr Caoimhín was co-founder the Carlow Arts Festival, ÉIGSE Carlow. It was during his presidency that the College Trustees provided the site on the College Campus for VISUAL – the George Bernard Shaw Theatre and Exhibition Centre. In recognition of his educational and cultural contribution to the Carlow Town and County and the wider region, Monsignor Ó Néill received the Freedom of Carlow (2006) and was named the Carlow Person of the Year (2009). He was created a Prelate of Honour with the title of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI.

I bParrthas na nGrás go raibh sé.

From the Diocesan Website.

Msgr Caoimhín O'Neill, former President of Carlow College, St Patricks,
RIP

29 June 2023

Msgr. Caoimhín Ó Néill RIP

It is with great regret I announce the death of Msgr. Caoimhín who died today. He was a native of Trumera, Mountrath, Co. Laois. He was ordained in Mountrath on 15 June 1969. He taught in the Parish School in Edenderry from 1969-1972 while also ministering as CC in the parish. In 1972 he was appointed to Carlow College, St. Patrick's where he held many roles and served as President from 1994-2015. There will be plenty of opportunity later to honour his many achievements in the College, achievements that were recognised by being granted the Freedom of Carlow in 2006 and being named Carlow Person of the Year in 2009. He was appointed Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009. Many priests in Kildare & Leighlin and far beyond these Irish shores will be forever indebted to his guidance and support during their formation

days. In 2015 he retired to Abbeyleix where he had an opportunity to pursue his great love of art and culture. He will be remembered as an accomplished artist, a scholarly poet, a raconteur but most of all as a faithful priest who served Kildare & Leighlin for 54 years. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

Biography

Date of Birth: 14 October 1944

Date of Ordination: 15 June 1969

Appointments

1969 – 1972: CC Edenderry

1972 – 2015: Various roles in Carlow College, St Patricks where he was appointed President in 1994 and remained until retirement in 2015



Tributes have been paid following the passing of Fr Kevin O'Neill of Abbeyleix and Mountrath.

A respected teacher, Fr O'Neill joined Carlow College in 1972 and was a staff member for forty-three years.

He was involved in the training of seminarians for the priesthood and he lectured in English. He became President of the College in 1994 until 2015.

In that role he oversaw the transformation of the College, providing access to third level education in the Humanities and Social Care in the south east of Ireland and beyond.

He appointed many of the current staff members to the staff of the College. He was co-founder the Carlow Arts Festival, EIGSE Carlow.

It was during his presidency that the College Trustees provided the site on the College Campus for VISUAL – the new George Bernard Shaw Theatre and Exhibition Centre.

In recognition of his educational and cultural contribution to the Carlow Town and County and the wider region, Monsignor O'Neill received the Freedom of Carlow (2006), was named the Carlow Person of the Year (2006) and he was created a Prelate of Honour with the title of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.

Fr Paddy Byrne, Parish Priest in Abbeyleix, paid tribute to Fr O'Neill on Facebook.

He said: "I lost a great friend, Fr. O'Neill. A deeply reflective and honest minister of the Gospel.

"He was kind to me here in Abbeyleix and throughout my priestly life. A prophet who had a wide vision."

Former Laois GAA Chairman Peter O'Neill remembers Fr O'Neill as a young priest.

He said: "The passing of Fr Kevin O'Neill is with great sadness, condolences to all his family and order. Fr Kevin came to Edenderry in about 1969 as a young curate.

"He made a massive contribution to the people of the town in particular the youth.

"He started what was to become one of the most vibrant youth clubs in the Country and when he left Fr Pj Mc Evoy another Laois man grew the club to over 500 members.

“Fr O’Neill also started the Athletics club and I still have one of his certificate of Achievements for competing in Road races (everyone got one) I met him last year in O Moore Park after almost 30 years and he still had a fantastic charisma about him.

“He left a lasting impression on anyone he crossed paths with and will be sadly missed by all. May he Rest in Peace.”

Predeceased by his parents Liam (Billy) and Brigid and his siblings Barbara, Aengus and Siobhán.

Cúis mhór bróin a bhás dá dheartháracha agus deirfiúracha Brenda, Diarmuid, Colm, Maria, Gráinne, Liam, Mairéad, Gertrude, Suzette agus Killian, nianna, gar-nianna ,neachtanna gar-neachtanna agus gaolta.

Sincerely regretted by Bishop Denis Nulty and clergy of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

May he Rest in Peace.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Avoid using insecticides, fungicides and herbicides These potent chemical cocktails are designed to kill various organisms. One of the best things you can do for pollinators is avoid using them. Why: Insecticides have been found to kill, harm, and disorientate pollinators. Herbicides kill the 'weeds' that provide them with important food. www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/

A Letter from Fiona Boyle <Fiona.Boyle@alone.ie>

Hi, my name is Fiona and I am a Volunteer Support Officer for ALONE.

ALONE provides many services to Older People in your area to enable them to stay living at home for longer.

ALONE recruits, trains and supports Volunteers for two services:

- 1) Visitation and Befriending Service, which is where a volunteer gives an hour a week of their time to provide companionship to an Older Person.

2) Telephone Support and Befriending Service, which is where a volunteer makes friendly calls to Older People once a week for a 2 hour shift.

We currently have older people in your surrounding area looking for both of these services.

"Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to Older People once a week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided.

*If interested please sign up here: <https://alone.ie/volunteers/>
for more information, contact Fiona on fiona.boyle@alone.ie or on 086 1366539."*

Kind Regards Fiona Boyle

Volunteer Support Officer

Tel: 086-1366539

ALONE

Aspen House, 76 Seatown, Dundalk, Co. Louth www.alone.ie



**19-20
AUGUST**

UNDER MARY'S MANTLE

Young Adult Conference



BUY TICKETS

ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE, DCU D09 N920

Join us for talks, workshops, mass, guided holy hours, and great socialising!

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A Legion of Mary Project

Obituary for Robert. 19th July 2023.

Written and spoken by Robert's Uncle Herbert

Robert William Henry Armitage. Known to many as Bob.

Robert was born on 27th Sept. 1972 at Ballyfin, the eldest of a family of five, two boys and three girls.

His parents being farmers, he grew up in an environment surrounded by animals and all the other trappings of agricultural life.

He attended Mountrath National School and later Ballyfin college where he was keenly involved in sport, often as a goalie. He may not have been too often top of the class in his studies, but he always showed a keen intellect that marked him out as someone who would succeed in life, and in due course, school days over, school bag quickly abandoned to the dust bin, he settled down to start his working life on his parent's farm.

Sadly in 1995 when Robert was only 22, his father passed away and at that young age he had to take responsibility for running the business and though life was tough, he manfully shouldered that responsibility as he grew and developed and made a very successful career of his chosen path.

And to boost his income, he began to help in Mountrath mart, where he came to love the comraderie and buzz of the whole place, for cattle, chat and company were his joys in life.

And he loved to get a good deal. Was it cows on Done Deal or whatever, he'd say "We'll go have a look. Maybe we'll buy a few." Just last week, he heard about straw that was going at a reasonable price. Today, it is sitting in his shed – a small part of the monument to his lifetimes work.

And he was generous. When he heard that a friend's straw had been burned, he turned up unannounced with a load of straw.

Robert may never have been too sure of where exactly the sweeping brush was stored, and Hoovering out his jeep was a passtime to be avoided at all costs, but animal welfare and their care and comfort and wellbeing were maybe the most important things in his daily work. But work alone didn't always hold the centre of his attention. Like all young people, he was out with his friends – parties discos etc. And on the way home very possibly a stop for a Snack Box, and maybe a couple of battered sausages thrown in just to bulk it up a bit. Robert liked his food. And socialising lead him to Lisdoonvarna, and in 2004 to meet the love of his life, Liz. Soon he was clocking up the miles up and down to Cork. Liz, you must have been feeding him Barrys Tea.

And then on 1st Sept.2006, they were married and he became an instant stepfather to Finbarr, Hazel, Noel, Alan, Stephen and Robert, and the family settled down to live, in Ballyfin.

And Robert was a keen church man, serving in this church on the vestry and as a church warden responsible for much of the running of the place.

and the Ballyfin Vintage club reaped the benefit of his membership and enthusaism as he helped to organise and be involved in the various events of the organisation.

And he could take it easy too. Seated comfortably on a Sunday afternoon, mug of tea in hand – had to be his David Brown mug – watching the Sunday game. If the “Vicar of Dibley” was on, That was his programme.

Anywhere you would meet him, his first remark “How's it going.” if you had some difficulty and asked a favour – only one reply – “That's no problem.”

Sadly, in recent years, Robert suffered health problems and was obliged to spend a number of terms in hospital and return for regular check-ups there, but to the question “how are you?” the answer was always the same. He was fine. Never any complaints. When he was no longer able to do much physical work, he was always happy that he could still drive. It was important to

him to be mobile, even if there were frequent stops for his favourite passtime – the mug of tea, or two or more.

On Saturday morning last Robert was all business organising his day. He phoned a neighbour to say he was going into Mountmellick and would need his help with some farm work when he came home, and off he went. Having completed his business he went to the chemist to collect his prescription, and said to the girl there that he wasn't feeling great. She got him a chair to sit on, and then, God pulled the plug as darkness fell on all who held him dear, for Robert had started on his final journey, the journey to his heavenly home, and we were left to mourn, But grieve not friends, for Robert would not want us to be sad. Let us rather turn the darkness into light, as we rejoice in his life, the sport, the fun, and the laughter he has left us all as a memory.

If we can for a moment dream, can we picture Robert approaching Heaven's Gate.

Maybe God says to him "Welcome to Paradise."

I wonder, does Robert look at him in that special way he had and answer "Ok, ok, but first, any chance of a mug of tea?"

And as God gets out the good china and Robert looks at those tiny cups, maybe he might add, "Jeepers, I should have brought my David Brown mug?" for it was the only thing that held a decent amount of his favourite beverage.

Farewell Robert (Bob) dear son, dear husband, dear step father, dear brother, dear nephew, dear friend. From all whom you blessed with your friendship in this life, "May you rest in peace until we meet again."

Amen.