

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News – 5th Feb. '23

*Thank you for your
Most Generous Support of
all our Parish Collections*

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

Sat. 4th Feb. - Sun. 5th Feb. 2023

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mountrath Amalgamated CEP

have the following upcoming vacancies:

Env Worker - Mountrath CES 2254234

Env Worker - Castletown CES 2254249

Shop Assistant - Mountrath CES 2261754

If you or anyone you know are interested,
please contact your local Intreo office
and quote the relevant reference number.

You can also call into our office on
Patrick St,

or email mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com

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

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

Mountrath Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 4th - Sun. 12th Feb. Sat. 4th - Sun. 12th Feb. '23

- Sat. 4th Feb. 7.00 pm Patrick Dunne, Moanbaun.
Andrew and Amy Moore, Woodbrook.
Martin Ruane, Ballyfin Road. 10th Anniv.
- Sun. 5th Feb. 9.00 am The Hollow Church
11.30 am Bernard (Bernie) O'Keeffe) Monabaun Close, 1st Anniv
Margaret Treacy, Rathmore. Borris in Ossory 1st Anniv.
Peter and Margaret Redmond, Redcastle.
- Mon. 6th Feb. 10.00 am
- Tues 7th Feb. 10.00 am Ned Meade, Cloncourse.
Peter Coss, The Square.
- Wed. 8th Feb. 10.00 am Elizabeth Russell, Patsy and John Ryan, Patrick St.,
- Thur. 9th Feb. 10.00 am
- Fri. 10th Feb. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.
- Sat. 11th Feb. 7.00 pm
- Sun. 12th Feb. 9.00 am The Hollow Church. Brendan Fitzpatrick, Clonboyne
(Brendan died on 14th Feb. 2000 Aged 19 years)
11.30 am Mass of 6th Sun. in Ord. Time.

Guidelines for Confirmation start on Page 29

Ballyfin Mass Times Anniversaries

Fri. 3rd - Sun. 12th Feb.'23

- Fri. 3rd Feb. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist
 Feast of St. Blaise - Blessing of Throats after Mass
- Sat. 4th Feb. 8.00 pm Lily O'Connor (Nee Hyland) Knocknakearn. 3rd Anniv
 Ann Costello, Ballyfin Rd., Portlaoise. 10th Anniv.
- Sun. 5th Feb. 10.00 am Rita Fitzpatrick (Nee Keegan) Esker. 1st Anniv.
 John Dunne, Davitt Rd., Mountmellick -
 Formerly Deerpark. 1st Anniv.
 Sean Heffernan, Brockera 11th Anniv
- Mon. 6th Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.
- Fri. 10th Feb. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7.30 pm Jim Fingleton, Ross.
- Sat. 11th Feb. 8.00 pm Patrick and Ellen O'Rourke, Coolnamona.
 Paddy and Maureen Fitzpatrick, Pallas Little
 Dan and Maisie Tynan, Clonkeen.
 Joe and Kathleen Lanhan, Upper Sconce.
 Daniel Dunne, Catholes. 12th Anniv.
- Sun. 12th Feb. 10.00 am Mai O'Rourke (Nee Conroy) Springfield. Month's Mind.
- Mon. 13th Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

1st Anniversary Mass Remembrances

Breda Thompson (Nee Mooney) Ballylusk. Sun. 19th Feb.

William Seale, Clonagown - Sat. 4th March

Michael (Mick) Kelly, Clonagown - Sun. 5th March

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them - May they rest in peace

St. Blaise' Prayer of Blessing

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Ash. Wed. 22nd Feb.

Masses

Mountrath 10.00 am

Ballyfin 7.30 pm

Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at both Masses

Margaret (Peg) Lalor, (Nee Fitzpatrick) Portlaoise Road. R.I.P.

We pray for Peg who died peacefully at St. Vincent's Hosp., Mountmellick on Thurs. 26th Jan. Reception Ceremony at St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath at 6.30 pm on Sat. evening. Peg's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Sun. 29th Jan. followed by burial in Shanahoe Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her husband, Tom, nephews, nieces and families, extended family, neighbours and many friends.

Eilish O'Hara (Nee Culleton) Patrick St., Formerly Camross. R.I.P.

We pray for Eilish who died peacefully at Tallaght University Hosp., on Fri. 27th Jan. Eilish's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Mon. 20th Jan. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Michael, P.J, Colm and Elizabeth and their families, Daughters in law Olive, Liz and Sara. Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters in law, brother in law, nieces, nephews, relations in Mountrath and Camross and her large circle of friends.

Louise O'Reilly, New Line Close. Formerly Bullock Pk., Carlow R.I.P.

We pray for Louise who died suddenly at her home on Wed. 25th Jan. Louise's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Claire's Church, Graigecullen on Tues. 31st Jan. followed by burial in Sleaty New Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Ambrose, Adam, Tom and Elliott – her dad, Tony and families, nephews, nieces, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Denis (Dinny) Dowling, Longford, Camross, R.I.P.

We pray for Dinny who died suddenly at his home on Fri. 27th Jan. Dinny's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fergal's Church, Camross on Wed. 1st Feb. followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Sarah, Mary Theresa (Burke), Margaret, Paraic, Sean, Francis, Donnacha and Oliver and families, grandchildren, Sarah, Aoife, Mark, Tadhg, Shane, Eoin, Dean, Leanne, Fionn, Oisín, Aaron, Eva, Amy, Craig, Lukas, Cayden, Lauren and Rhys, sister Rita (Higgins), nieces, nephews, son-in-law Seamus, daughters-in-law Ann, Marie, Irene and Erika, aunts, uncle, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Peg, Eilish, Louise and Dinny rest in the peace of Christ.

Mountrath Amalgamated CEP

have the following upcoming vacancies:

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Env Worker - Castletown CES 2254249

Shop Assistant - Mountrath CES 2261754

If you or anyone you know are interested,
please contact your local Intreo office
and quote the relevant reference number.

You can also call into our office on Patrick St,
or email mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com

Gaelscoil Thromaire Enrolment

Príomhoide: Áine Mhic Aodha Bhuí Leas Phríomhoide: Fiona Boyle

Gaelscoil Thromaire School Enrolment 2023 / 2024

Enrolment forms will be available from the 05th January to 10th Feb. 2023 for the
above school for Junior Infants and any other classes.

Gaelscoil Thromaire, Trumera, Mountrath Co. Laois R32R5RF

057 8756306 Website: gaelscoilthromaire.ie

Please return enrolment form along with the child's Birth Certificate to above named
address. - Closing date for application is Thurs. 2nd February 2023

Diary Dates for 2023

Confirmation Date - Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 12th May 2023 Time 11.00 am - Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Holy Communion Date – Mountrath Parish Sun. 7th May 2023 -

With children of Scoil Bhride and St. Fintan's

The Hollow Church

Sun. 21st May Time 9.00 am - With children of Gaelscoil Thromaire.

1st Holy Communion Date – Ballyfin Parish

Sun. 21st May 2023 Time 2.00 pm

Sun. 28th May (With children of Barnashrone NS) Time 2.00 pm



Our pictures show the children of Schoil Bhride
With the St. Brigid Crosses which they made for our Community

With their teachers - Ms. Brearton - Ms. Kilmartin - Ms Rohan
The St. Brigid's were blessed and distributed during Mass in St. Fintan's Church
Mountrath on St. Brigid's Day - Wed. 1st Feb.

Well done to all the pupils (and teachers) of Scoil Bhride for making so many
beautiful St. Brigid's Crosses. They were snapped up in minutes.

Thanks also to Sr. Helen for all the St. Brigid Crosses which she gave us , once
again, this year.



Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thursday 2nd Feb. 2023

Numbers Drawn 4 6 17 25

No Jackpot Winner

10 Match 3's win €100.00 each.

Next week's Jackpot €16,000



Ballyfin Parish Lotto Wed. 1st Feb. 2023.

Numbers Drawn 2 12 17 23

(The first digit (2) may not be correct)

20 Match 3 - Rec. €50.00 ea.

1 Local Winner Colm Dunne

Promoter Caroline Dunne



MOUNTMELICK DRAMA FESTIVAL

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF **THE AMATEUR DRAMA COUNCIL OF IRELAND**

3-10 MARCH 2023

Community Arts Centre Mountmellick
Commencing Nightly at 8pm sharp

Main Sponsor



**MOUNTMELICK
CREDIT UNION**

**Adjudicator:
Mr. David Scott**

TICKETS:

€15 Nightly
(€10 concession)
Season Ticket €70
(€45 concession)

Online Booking:

mountmellickdramafestival.ie

**For Booking and
Enquiries contact:**

Jessie at 087 7942994
Noreen at 087 4121205

info@mountmellickdramafestival.ie

Find us on  

Friday 3rd March

Kilrush Drama Group
**THE BEAUTY QUEEN
OF LEENANE**
by Martin Mc Donagh

Tuesday 7th March

Holycross Ballycahill
Drama Group
**A SKULL IN
CONNEMARA**
by Martin McDonagh

Saturday 4th March

Glenamaddy Drama Group
PROOF
by David Auburn

Wednesday 8th March

Ballyduff Drama Group
THE WELKIN
by Lucy Kirkwood

Sunday 5th March

The Ray Leonard Players
**THE KINGS OF THE
KILBURN HIGH ROAD**
by Jimmy Murphy

Thursday 9th March

Enniscorthy Drama Group
FARSIDERS
by Fintan Kelly

Monday 6th March

Wexford Drama Group
THE FATHER
by Florian Zeller

Friday 10th March

Thurles Drama Group
THE SEAFARER
by Conor McPherson



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



CLEANER/HOUSEKEEPER

Required

immediately in the Trumera area for a block of 5 hours per week (week day).

Please apply in confidence by text to

087 284 7772.

Bus to Portlaoise from Ballyfin

Bus Service to Portlaoise from Ballyfin every Tuesday and Friday and

Tullamore on Thursdays. - Pick up at home. between 10.00 and 11

o'clock. Travel Pass accepted.

€3 return for adults and children over 5 years. Must book passage

evening before – before 5.00 pm

Contact number 057 869 2168

Co. Kildare calls for a Pause for Peace on

St. Brigid's Day, Wed. 1st February

Into Kildare, the Tourism Board for County Kildare and Solas Bhríde Spirituality Centre and Hermitages have jointly launched a global 'Pause for Peace' movement. Pause for Peace will see the residents of County Kildare calling on people all around the world to stop for a minute's silence at 12.00 noon on St Brigid's day, the 1st of Feb. 2023.

Next year, 2024, marks the 1500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid. In preparation, various activities and movements will take place in 2023.

The Pause for Peace movement is one of those special events which give recognition to the importance of St. Brigid from a cultural, religious, spiritual and historical point of view.

Ballyfin Community Alert

Seniors Alert Scheme - Grant aided personal monitored alarms are available to people aged 65 and over. If you know a family member, friend or neighbour in Ballyfin or Laois area who may qualify please contact Sheila on 086 1570145 for information/application form.

We keep in our Prayers

People, their families and carers, who are ill - at home, in Hospital or in a Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical procedures, at this time



For people who mourn the loss of a loved one

Lord of all gentleness, You are close to the broken-hearted. We entrust into your care those who mourn the loss of a loved one this day. Surround them with your love and comfort them in their sorrow. Grant that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss. May they know the consolation and support of the Christian community. Give them confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

An important message from An Garda Siochana

An Garda Siochana wish to warn people of a doorstep fraud and theft offence which has become prevalent over the last number of weeks. Elderly People are being targeted at their homes by Criminals who are impersonating Gardaí. The offenders are fraudulently pretending to be plain clothes Gardaí who are checking for dud money. They have duped people all around the country and stolen their cash on the pretence of checking to see if it is genuine money. They are producing false identification to assist the process.

An Garda Siochana will never ask people about their finances on the doorstep of their homes and will never ask to check money

Always ask for Identification and do not be afraid to question it. If in doubt politely tell the caller that you want to verify their true identity. If necessary contact your local Garda Station who will be able to establish quickly if the caller is a member of An

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.

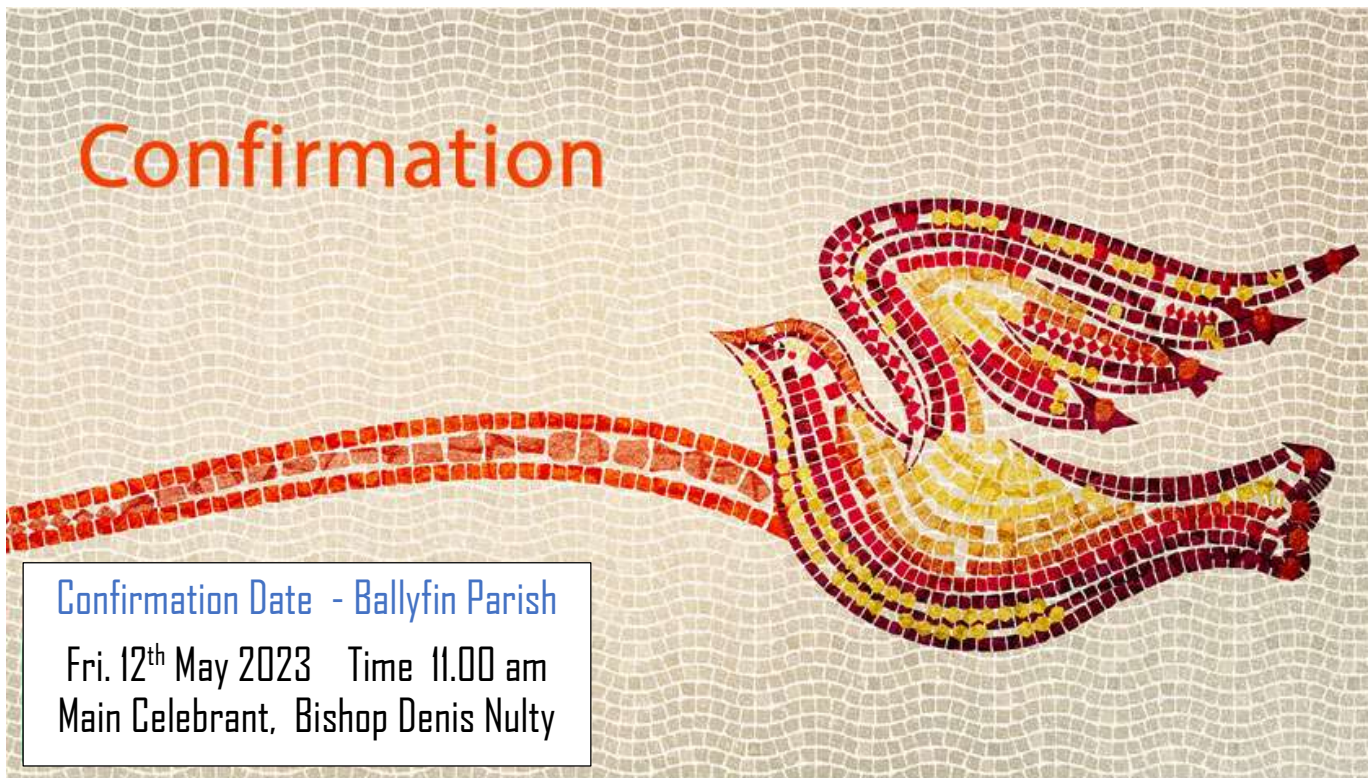
⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ←

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

A mosaic background featuring a dove in flight, rendered in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The word "Confirmation" is written in a large, orange, sans-serif font in the upper left corner. A white box with a black border is positioned in the lower left corner, containing text about the confirmation date and celebrant.

Confirmation

Confirmation Date - Ballyfin Parish
Fri. 12th May 2023 Time 11.00 am
Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty



Diary Dates for 2023

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Sun. 28th May (With children of Barnashrone NS) Time 2.00 pm

Child Safeguarding Contact Details

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Ms. Kathleen Sherry Tel 085 802 1633

Email: dlp@kandle.ie

Deputy DLP's Ms. Michele Hughes Tel 086 1710643 and

Fr. Mícheál Murphy Tel: 086 8244629

Garda National Protective Services Bureau

01 6663430/35

1800 555 222

Tusla Child & Family Agency

Kilkenny & Carlow area – 052 617 7302

Laois & Offaly – 044 935 3997

Kildare & West Wicklow – 045 839 300

HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Carlow, Kilkenny: Tel: 056 778 4325

Email: safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie

Wicklow: Tel: 01 216 4511

Email: safeguarding.cho6@hse.ie

Kildare, Wicklow: Tel: 045 920410

Email: safeguarding.cho7@hse.ie

Laois, Offaly: Tel: 01 6914632

Email: safeguarding.cho8@hse.ie

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland,

New House, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Phone: 01 5053124
/ 01 5053026 Email: admin@safeguarding.ie

Bishop Denis' Prayer for the People of Ukraine

Bishop Denis invites this prayer for peace in Ukraine to be prayed at all our
Masses

Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need. Amen.

Apostolate of Sanctification

St. Fintan's Church, Church, Ballyfin Every Monday Starts at 7.00 pm

Intercession for Bishops and Priests, through Our Lady of Knock takes place each Monday night at 6.45pm in our parish church, St. Fintan's Ballyfin. All are invited to join in the two hour session which consists of community prayer, reciting -The Divine Mercy Chaplet, meditations on The Holy Rosary and a chaplet offered for our Bishops and priests in the presence of The Blessed Sacrament. When we pray for our priests, Our Lady of Knock blesses us and our families abundantly. All most welcome!



Cemetery Masses In Mountrath ~ Ballyfin during 2023

Ballyfin New Cemetery

Sun. 11th June

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 28th June

Clonenagh Cemetery. Fri. 7th July

Condarrig Cemetery Wed. 2nd Aug.

Boghlone Cemetery. Wed. 6th Sept.

All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

To care for those
who once cared for us
is one of the highest
honors in life.

– Tia Walker



LESSONS
LEARNED
Life



Catholic Schools Week – 2023 – Walking Together in Faith & Love

Grandparents Day. Wed. 25th Jan. – Mass at 10.00 am in Mountrath Church

Grandparents Mass - Mountrath Church Wed. 25th Jan.

On Wed. 25th Jan. we celebrated Grandparents Day with the celebration
of Mass in Mountrath Church

Pupils and staff from our 3 schools were part of this Mass.

Pupils from our 3 Schools prepared and Prayed the Prayer of the
Faithful during Mass

Here are the Prayers as prayed by the children

1. As we celebrate Catholic Schools week we pray for all who care for us, our parents, grandparents, our families and the staff of the School. Lord, help them to always do their best for us.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

2. We pray for children everywhere, that their homes and schools are places where they are known and loved

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

3. We pray for those who are sick, either at home or in Hospital that God may comfort them in their time of need.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

4. We pray for all our grandparents, Lord, continue to bless them for all the love and care that have shared with us over the years.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

5. We pray for Fr. Joe, Fr. P.J. Bishop Denis Pope Francis and all the clergy. Lord help them to continue to lead us in our faith. Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

6. We pray for all who have died: we remember especially our grandparents and all we have loved May they be at peace with God in his heavenly home.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

7. We pray for our parents and grandparents. They are always there for us whether its to put a plaster on a cut knee, dry a tear from our eye or cook us our favourite dinner. Their love and support is endless. We thank God for their presence in our lives.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

8. We pray for all the people in the world who are worried and sad. Whether its poverty, war, homelessness or illness many people struggle. May god grant them comfort in their lives and hope for better days ahead.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

9. We would like to thank our grandparents for all the love they give us and the wisdom they share with us.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord, Graciously hear us.

10. Cabhraigh liom a thuiscint gur féidir liom grá Dé a leiriú
do ghach duine a bhuaileann liom.

A Thiarna, éist liom. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist liom.

Post Communion Reflection

Grandparents

Few can bring the warmth

We can find in their embrace

And little more is needed to bring love

Than the smile on their face.

I believe that God sent us Grandparents

As our legacy from above,

To share the moments of our life

As extra measures of his love.

A Note from Angela Moore - Re. Christmas Fare in Ballyfin Community Centre held before Christmas

Angela Moore

Thu, Jan 12, 4:07 PM

to me

Dear Fr. Joe,

I hope this finds you well.

The final figure raised by the Christmas Fair was €6903.50 – absolutely incredibly and literally life-changing for those who will be served school meals as a result of it.

Many thanks to the community of Ballyfin and to yourself for the generosity shown to those receiving Mary's Meals.

Kind regards, Angela.

Angela Moore

Supporter Engagement Officer

Mary's Meals Ireland

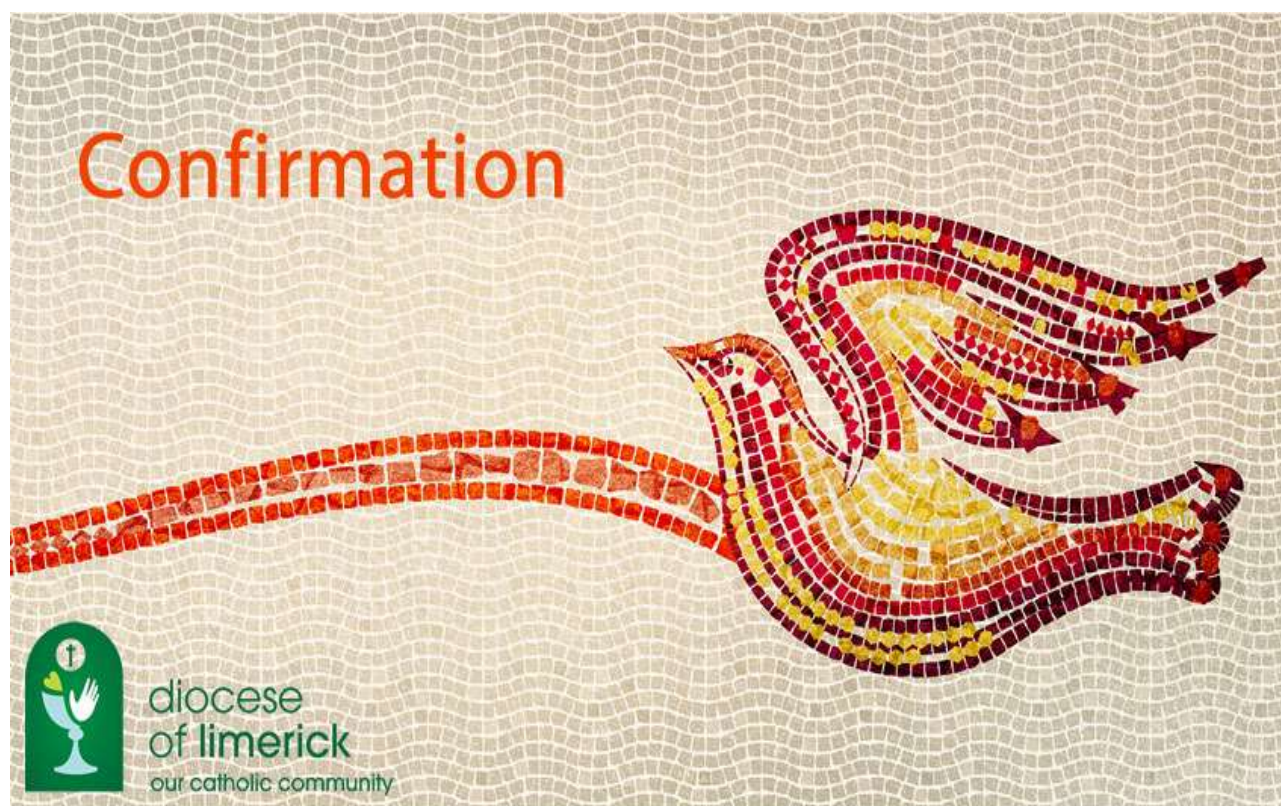
t: +353 (0)89-4339592

e: Angela.Moore@MarysMeals.org

Mary's Meals Ireland Registered Charity: 20061920
CHY16897 Limited Company: 420286

GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION 2023

From the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin



Confirmation marks a unique moment in a person's life when one is invited to grow in faith and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace a new maturity where all that has gone before takes on richer and deeper meaning further forming one as a

faithful disciple, grateful steward,
and active evangelist of the Risen Christ.

(Rev. Ronald Rolheiser Secularity and the Gospel)

Theme for Confirmation 2023

'Making a choice to take my place in the tent'

'Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs' (Is 54:2).

'Listened to today, these words of Isaiah invite us to imagine the Church similarly as a tent, indeed as

the tent of meeting, which accompanied the people on their journey through the desert: called to stretch out, therefore, but also to move. At its centre, stands the tabernacle, that is, the presence of the Lord. The tent's hold is ensured by the sturdiness of its pegs, that is, the fundamentals of faith that do not change but can be moved and planted in ever new ground, so that the tent can accompany the people as they walk through history. Finally, in order not to sag, the structure of the tent must keep in balance the different forces and tensions to which it is subjected: a metaphor that expresses the need for discernment. This is how many reports envision the Church: an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out (cf. Jn. 10:9), and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity.'

Working Document for the Continental Stage 27

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION IN 2023

These Guidelines are designed to help parishes, particularly those where Bishop Denis will preside, in their preparation and planning of the celebration of Confirmation. They will also help Bishop Denis in his preparation for the celebration in each parish.

It would be very helpful if parishes where Bishop Denis is not presiding at Confirmation this year would let Aisling know, by emailing aisling@kandle.ie , when their celebration is and how many candidates are being confirmed. It is hoped that these guidelines will also be of use in those parishes.

CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION OUTSIDE OF MASS

COVID 19 continues to impact on the way we gather and it is important to acknowledge that Confirmation celebrations may take place outside of Mass as allowed by Canon 882.

The experience of focusing on the Rite of Confirmation over the past three years was a very positive one for a significant number of people and it is hoped that parishes will choose to continue to celebrate Confirmation this way in the coming year.

There is a template for the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation on pages 7-11.

If you choose to celebrate Confirmation within the Eucharist, then further Guidelines are available from aisling@kandle.ie .

COVID19 & CONFIRMATION 2023

COVID 19 and a number of other infectious viruses continues to pose challenges for all communities. There continue to be significant numbers of children and staff absent daily in our school communities. It would be helpful for parishes to offer guidance in advance to parents based on the most up to date HSE advice available at the time. It would also be helpful for parishes to have contingency plans in place in the event that one or more candidates cannot present for Confirmation on the day.

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE: Bishop Denis asks that the Planning Form be

completed and returned to him three weeks before the date of Confirmation in your parish.

Schools, please note that this form is sent to the parish to complete and return.

CONFIRMATION BOOKLETS: Parishes and schools are asked to consider carefully the environmental impact of printing booklets. If your parish is preparing a booklet for use on the day, please send a copy to Bishop Denis in advance.

The following notes are designed to help ensure the best possible experience of the celebration of Confirmation for all.

1: PARISH PREPARATION:

Bishop Denis would like a brief description of the type of preparation undertaken by the candidates and their families in the parish. This can be as simple as naming the preparation programme such as You Shall Be My Witnesses,

We Belong to Christ or providing an outline of any initiatives used by the parish team to engage the candidates and their families in a programme of preparation in the months prior to Confirmation. This will enable him to encourage and affirm the work of preparation in the parish during the ceremony.

2: LETTER TO THE BISHOP: Bishop Denis would like all candidates who will be confirmed by him to submit a letter prior to Confirmation. This letter is to be written at home by the candidates in consultation with their parents/guardians and then signed by the candidates and their parents/guardians. The letters should then be sent by the parish to the bishop together with the enclosed form three weeks before the celebration of Confirmation in your parish. If your parish has multiple confirmations please ensure that the letters are bundled together and labelled with the names of schools and the corresponding Confirmation Ceremony. The following information should be included in the letters:

BIOGRAPHY: The candidate should introduce themselves to Bishop Denis using some of the following information

- Their name and age
- The name of their school and the class that they are in
- The name of their parish
- Something about their family
- Their interests/hobbies / favourite things to do

DESCRIPTION OF PREPARATION AT HOME, IN THE PARISH AND IN SCHOOL:

The candidate needs to say something to the bishop about how he or she has prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PERSONAL MEANING: The candidate should reflect on what the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation means to them.

CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR: The candidate should tell the bishop what name they are choosing and why. They might also say something about their sponsor and the reason for choosing this person.

FDR 2023: The candidate should say something to the bishop about each of the following:

- what would help them to be more involved in their parish community once they have been confirmed. This could be based on the discussion that they will have in class about their choice of word for the Poster that they will present to Bishop Denis on the day of Confirmation. This word will describe their hope for the church of the future. It might also be helpful for them to reference the following in their letters:

1) Do I know of any opportunities for me to be involved in my local parish community after Confirmation?

2) What could my local parish do to help me be more involved?

3) What would you say to Bishop Denis about how the church in Kildare & Leighlin could help you and other young people stay involved?

3: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

The sacrament of reconciliation should be celebrated by all candidates prior to the celebration of Confirmation. A suggested outline for a Reconciliation Service and for a combined Reconciliation and Ceremony of Light Service is available for download on www.kandle.ie.

4: **RETREAT:** Many parishes provide candidates with the opportunity of a retreat before or after Confirmation.

5: **SPONSOR:** Each candidate has a sponsor for confirmation. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, is to be at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic and living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. A parent may not act as a sponsor for his or her child (Canon 874). A Baptismal sponsor is desired as the Confirmation sponsor, in order to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893.2).

6: **PLEDGE:** The Pledge Commitment is an important part of the candidate's preparation. All parishes are expected to include a Pledge Commitment Ceremony as part of the preparatiOn or post celebration process. You can find a copy of a Confirmation Pledge Certificate <https://app.growinlove.ie/en/user/professional-development>. There are also useful resources for exploring the Pledge on

https://www.irishbishopsdrugsinitiative.ie/what_we_do_category/confirmation-commitment/

7: PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY:

Under the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines best practice would suggest that no photography or videography should take place in the Church. Therefore, the taking of photographs and of videos is not permitted during the ceremony and this must be communicated to candidates, parents/guardians, sponsors and family members prior to the celebration of Confirmation. This can be done at the rehearsal and on the day itself in the time before the liturgy begins. The turning off of mobile phones should also be requested at this time.

Stewards can help to ensure that the taking of photographs or videos is discouraged. Bishop Denis suggests that a group picture of him with the candidates be taken after the ceremony and that the organisation of this should be done at the rehearsal for Confirmation.

If a videographer is being used in an official capacity, he/she should be instructed not to distract from the solemn nature of the celebration and at no time should he/she enter the sanctuary area. Parental consent for the taking of the video must also be obtained from all parents in advance of the ceremony.

8: **PRELUDE** Five minutes before the Confirmation ceremony begins it is useful for the priest or other nominated person to begin preparing the congregation for the celebration which is to follow. This is an opportunity to quieten the gathering, remind them of the need to switch off mobile phones, not to take pictures and to invite them to spend a moment in quiet prayer for the candidates who are to be confirmed. This may be accompanied by some quiet instrumental music that can continue until the liturgy is ready to begin.

CAN. 881 It is desirable to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in a church and during Mass; for a just and reasonable cause, however, it can be celebrated outside Mass and in any worthy place.

GATHERING SONG: Suggestions for all music on pages 15

WORD OF WELCOME:

SIGN OF THE CROSS: As we begin our celebration let us mark ourselves with the sign of that faith as we did on the day of baptism:

You might consider inviting the parents to make the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead as they did on the day of their baptism.....

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

If there is a space dedicated to symbols of the candidate's work in preparation for Confirmation now would be an appropriate time to refer to it.

COLLECT:

Fulfill for us your gracious promise, O Lord, we pray,
so that by his coming the Holy Spirit may make us witnesses before the world
to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The names of the candidates are called, and they stand as they are presented to the Presider and the community alternatively see the suggestion for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises where the candidate's names might also be called.

Homily

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

If baptismal candles are to be lit the priest could introduce the Renewal of Baptismal Promises in these or similar words while standing near the Paschal Candle

Our Paschal Candle is a sign of hope for all who believe that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that can never be quenched, a light that will always brighten our way. On the day of your baptism your parents took light from the Paschal Candle to light your baptismal candle as a sign of the faith that they wanted to pass on to you. They were asked to keep the light burning brightly until you were ready to say yes to your faith for yourselves. They obviously have done a good job because you are here, ready to confirm what they did for you at baptism, ready to say yes to continuing to live as Jesus wants you to. Now as they light your baptismal candle again, we pray that you will continue to walk as a child of the light and keep this light of faith burning brightly for all to see.

Each candidate and their parent/s are called forward individually, they light their baptismal candle and then return to their seats and remain standing

CELEBRANT: Do you renounce Satan,
And all his works and all his empty show?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son ,our Lord,
Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried,
rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, Who came upon the
apostles at Pentecost And today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CANDIDATES: Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

CELEBRANT: My dear friends, In baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life
to his chosen sons and daughters.

Let us pray to our Father That he will pour out the Holy Spirit To strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts And anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

The celebrant(s) stretch out their hands over the candidates and pray:

All powerful God,
 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, By water and the Holy Spirit
 You freed your sons and daughters from sin And gave them new life.
 Send your Holy Spirit upon them, To be their helper and guide.
 Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 The spirit of right judgement and courage,
 the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
 Fill them with the spirit of wonder, and awe in your presence.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

ANointing with Chrism

CELEBRANT: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. CANDIDATE: Amen.

CELEBRANT: Peace be with you. CANDIDATE: And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (see suggestions on pages 13 & 14)

We pray to the Lord: Lord hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER ALL: Our Father.....

PRESENTATION OF POSTER TO BISHOP DENIS/CELEBRANT

The poster (no larger than an A2 size page) contains one word that, following discussion in their classroom, describes the church that the Confirmation candidates want to belong to, the church that they would like to help make a reality in the future. The poster can be decorated however the candidates decide.

CELEBRANT: Let us pray

Lord, help those you have anointed by your Spirit.

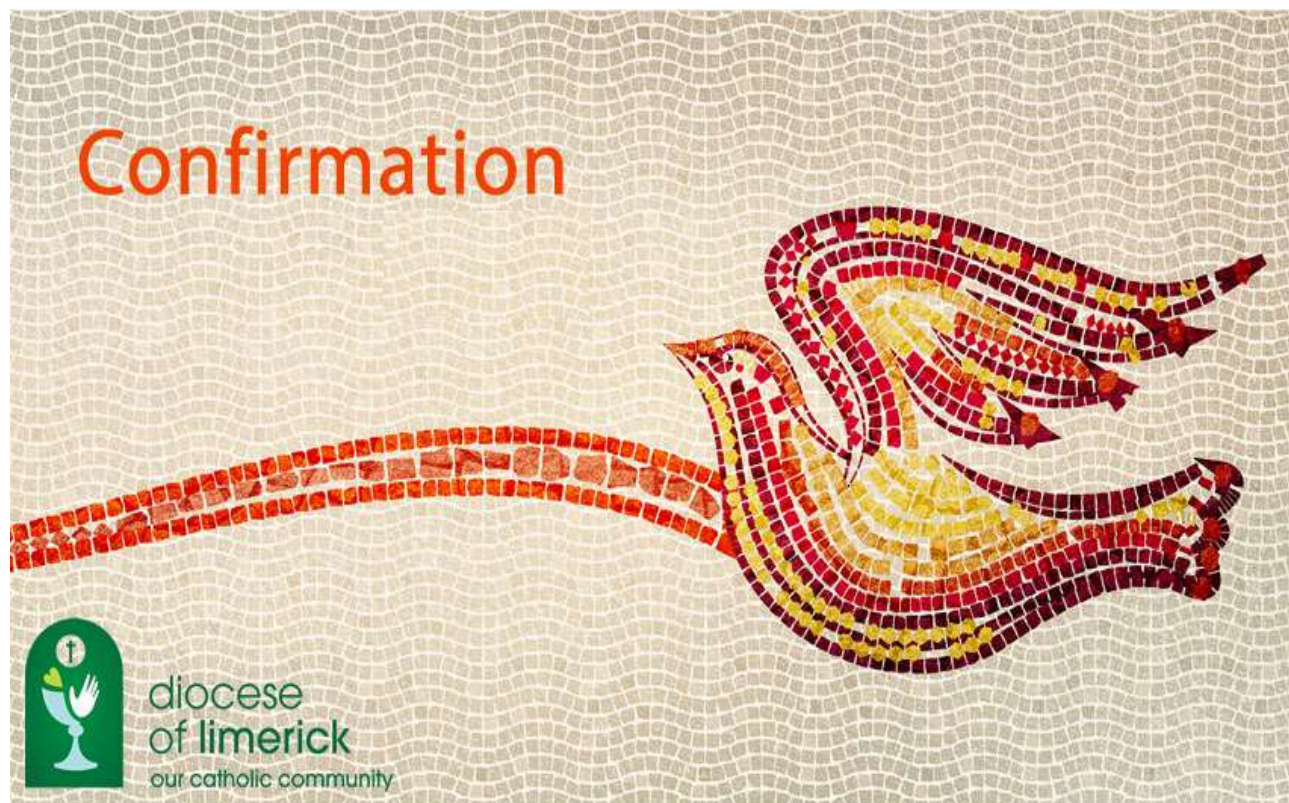
Support them through every trial

and by their works of love

build up the Church in holiness and joy

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

CONCLUDING RITE FINAL BLESSING & DISMISSAL



Totus Tuus Eucharistic Conference 2023

Live on Radio Maria Ireland from 2pm on Saturday 4th February.

speakers include Fr. Columba Mary Toman OP, Fr. Patrick Cahill

O.J.S.S, Fr. Patrick Lagan (Derry Diocese), Maura Murphy (Holy

family mission). Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by

downloading the Radio Maria Ireland App, Saorview Channel 210 or

listen live at (01)4373277