

## St. Fintan's Parishes Mountrath and Ballyfin

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Ascension Day

Fr. Pat Hennessy (057) 8755 227 Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Parish Website [www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie) Email [jmbrophy2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrophy2@gmail.com)

### Mass Times - Anniversaries Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> to Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> May Mountrath Parish

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 pm Michael, Stephen and Julia Connor, Clonenagh.

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am (The Hollow Ch). (Note change of time of this Mass)

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Day with children (and their families) of Gaelscoil Thromaire

11.30 am Mass of the People.

Mon. 14<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am Tom O'Brien, Factory St.,

Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am Elizabeth Wall, Woodbrook.

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 pm Josie Phelan, Patrick St. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May 9.00 am (The Hollow Ch) Michael Heffernan.

11.30 am Frances Phelan, (Nee Maybury) Kiln Lane. Month's Mind  
Mary Theresa Guidera (Nee Conroy) (D. 15<sup>th</sup> March) and Timmy

Guidera, (D. 22<sup>nd</sup> March) London and formerly Clonbarrow and Roscrea - Memorial

We pray for Elizabeth and William Delaney - Kitty Byrne, Ringstown and Tim Burke

Shannon St, whose Anniversaries are at this time.

### Ballyfin Parish

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May 8.00 pm Fint, Jack and Elizabeth Horan, Pallas.

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am Augustine Lanhan, Upper Sconce.

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm Tom Fitzpatrick, Brockera and his son,

Martin and Martin and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May 8.00 pm Oliver Doran, Campclone. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Day with children

(and their families) of Barnashrone and Ballyfin Schools

We pray for Tom Walsh, Barnashrone, whose Anniversary is at this time.

We remember in our prayers  
all who are ill (and their  
families) at Home or in  
Hospital at this time.

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast  
of Our Lady of Fatima

Johnny Downey  
R.I.P.  
Clondarrig  
Month's Mind  
Mass  
Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> May at  
7.30 pm

## Personal Prayer - Nine Day Novena From 17<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May

Padre Pio recited this novena every day for all who requested his prayers

Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

I. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of..... (*here name your request*)

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory Be to the Father.... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

II. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of..... (*here name your request*) Our Father...Hail Mary....Glory Be To the Father....Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

III. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away." Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of..... (*here name your request*) Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father. Hail Holy Queen and add: St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us. -- *St. Margaret Mary Alacoque*

## K and L Pilgrimage to Lourdes

16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

Leader Bishop Denis Nulty.

Pilgrimage Director Fr. Paddy Byrne

€739.00 - Supplement € 150 - €180

If you wish to join the Lourdes Pilgrimage  
Choir, please contact Christine at  
Faith Development Services, 059 9164084 by  
Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May

1<sup>st</sup> Choir Rehearsal is on Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> June at  
8.15pm in the Church of the Irish Martyrs,  
Ballycane, Naas.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Mountrath Ch. Sun.  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 11.30 am

## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

If planning to travel by bus, tickets  
can now be purchased at Parish  
Centre Portlaoise.

Ring Michelle at 057 862 1142  
Ceremonies begin at 2.30pm in the  
Basilica. K and L Diocesan Choir will  
be in attendance if you wish to join  
them on the day.

## Gathering for Returned Volunteers/Missionaries.

Have you ever worked overseas as a volunteer or missionary in Africa, Asia or South America? Join us for a gathering of returned volunteers and missionaries in an informal setting. Meeting takes place at Ballycane Church (Church of Irish Martyrs) in Naas on Tues 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. For more info email jim.farrell@amri.ie or phone/text 083 8422468. All are welcome!

## World Meeting of Families Collection

Bishop Denis would like to thank all parishes and their parishioners for the very generous contributions to the collection which took place in February – Kildare and Leighlin had the highest percentage increase of all the dioceses' and was up 82% on our total 2017 return. The next National Collection takes place on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and it is important that we continue to support this as generously as possible.

## Service for family and friends in remembrance of those who died through Suicide

A Special Remembrance Service for families and friends affected by suicide will be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in Our Lady & St Joseph Church, Caragh, Naas. If you would like to have a loved one who has died this year or any other year remembered at this Mass, please contact the Parish Office Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm on 045 875602 or email parishoffice@caragh.net with your loved one's name. People from all areas are very welcome to attend. This special service is organised by HOPE (D) "helping other people endure depression" in conjunction with Caragh Pastoral Council.

## Christmas Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem (Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Last Supper Room and Calvary), Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, River Jordan, Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. Contact James Treacy 061-921470 or 086 0572216 Payments can be made in instalments.

## Retired Priest's Collection

A Collection for the Retired Priests of the Diocese will be taken up at all our Masses on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Please use special envelope (From box of Envelopes) As always - we appreciate your Support and Generosity

## World Meeting of Families Dublin 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Aug.

How to get tickets for the Festival of Families at WMOF

Please be aware that tickets for the Festival of Families will be very limited. If you want to guarantee yourself and your family a ticket for the evening with Pope Francis in Croke Park on August 25 the only way to do this as of now is to book at least one day at the RDS Congress from August 22-24. This gives you the option of selecting a ticket for the Festival of Families and /or the Closing Mass for no additional cost. An adult ticket for a day at the congress costs €38 (concessions €33). All U18's are free but must be registered with an adult. There will be exciting and full children and youth Programmes running alongside the adult Programme, and remember, our diocesan day at the Congress is Wednesday, August 22.

Register at - [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Tickets](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Tickets)

## Choirs at World Meeting of Families 2018

Over the next couple of weeks, the Diocese will be taking applications from those interested in being part of the official choir at the Closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families in the Phoenix Park. See kandle.ie for important information on what is being asked of potential choir members. An application form has been uploaded to [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) - We have been given a specific allocation of choir parts and a waiting list may apply. More information on separate leaflet - available at back of Church.

## Apostolic Work Society Sale of Work

In St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath This Sunday  
12 o'clock (Midday) to 3.00 pm  
Home Made Cakes - Brick - a - Brac  
Raffle - And Much More  
Your support will be greatly appreciated

## Emmanuel House, Clonfert

Day of Prayer  
Celebrating Pentecost Sunday  
With Fr. Peter and Eddie Stones  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May - 10.30 am  
Bring Packed Lunch.

## Mountrath Parish Lotto

Nos. Drawn 12 19 24 25      10<sup>th</sup>  
No € 11,000 Jackpot Winner      May  
7 Match 3. - Each Rec. €143  
Next Week's Jackpot € 12,000

## Ballyfin Parish Lotto

9<sup>th</sup>      Nos. Drawn 2 4 7 14  
May      No € 15,000 Jackpot Winner  
33 Match 3. - Each Rec. €31  
Next Week's Jackpot € 16,000

# “Supporting a Culture of Life”

Pastoral Message by Bishop Denis Nulty

Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, a Referendum will be held on the question of removing the right to life of the unborn child from the Constitution of Ireland.

I want to explain in these short words why I will be voting No.

Let me state the obvious at the outset. There is no easy way to talk about abortion. I am very conscious of those who are affected by their choice to have an abortion at some point in the past. I believe that there is real grieving in the wake of an abortion and that compassion and care should be our first response.

I pray for all who seek healing.

My concern here is not to dwell on the past but to safeguard the future. Nothing is as important for the future of our shared humanity as the right to life. Therefore, I wish to speak boldly and clearly.

I don't believe that life begins at birth. I believe that life begins before birth. Think of the simple scene we have all witnessed countless times of family and friends craning their heads to look into a buggy to marvel at a new born child. I even watched this very scene unfold on the platform of a train station recently, strangers admiring a baby in its mother's arms, wondering if it was a boy or a girl, the age and the name. This wonder does not start at birth. The time a child first kicks in the womb and the time a child takes its first faltering steps are but different moments on the same journey.

You might take a moment to bring your hand close to your face and consider your fingerprints. I have invited every congregation at Confirmations this year to do this simple action. It is a powerful sight. Fingerprints are unique to you. When did they first form? Much earlier than we might imagine. Likewise, our own heartbeat, when did it begin? All of this is determined in the womb, long before birth.

Indeed, it is written into our genetic code.

There is nothing to be gained by denying the truth that our lives begin at conception. What we have learned about our development in the womb will only be

added to in the years ahead, but we already know enough. However, regrettably, the abortion debate is not really about biology. Everyone knows that a life has begun. The question is whether it is right to deliberately stop that life being born. Some people argue strongly that a pregnant woman should have an absolute right to choose the fate of her pregnancy. I cannot agree. I believe that none of us, women or men, have an absolute right over the life of another.

It does not serve the truth to minimise abortion, for what it is, and how prevalent it can become. We cannot pretend that abortion can be reduced to taking a pill in the first weeks. This is not the reality. The hard truth is evident to everyone in the statistics from the UK and elsewhere. Once we deny the right to life of the unborn, we can no longer defend ourselves from what flows from an abortion culture.

For instance, we are in deep denial if we cannot recognise that an abortion culture fundamentally alters our attitude towards disability. The statistics in this regard from other jurisdictions do not lie.

This leads us on to profound issues about the future of our shared humanity. I believe that a culture that permits abortion cannot be separated from a culture that seeks full control over the gift of life. In recent years, I have the sense that we are walking with our eyes closed into an era of eugenics, unwilling to look where we are going but still continuing on. I know I am not alone in thinking this.

Some claim that we have been behind the times in Ireland in regard to abortion. I would argue the very opposite; that upholding the right to life of the unborn is timely and far-seeing. We risk compromising our humanity if we do not continue to be supportive of life, even when this poses great difficulties. Therefore, for all of the above reasons, on 25<sup>th</sup> May I will be voting no to affirm human life and thereby the common good. I ask you to join me in voting to retain the Constitutional right to life of the unborn child.

Of course, voting no is not enough. The real challenge for us is to work even harder to strengthen a culture that values all life. Being prolife must mean that we advocate for all who are in need of protection in our Society. Let us rededicate ourselves to this essential and blessed task.

*Prepared and Presented on Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> April by our Bishop - Denis (Nulty)*

If you wish to join the Lourdes Pilgrimage Choir, please contact Christine at Faith Development Services, 059 9164084 by Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May

1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal is on Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> June at 8.15pm in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Ballycane, Naas.

## A Thought

You've got to do your own  
growing up  
No matter how tall your  
Grandfather was.

