

## New Secure Built-in Wall Safe installed in Mountrath Church.

A very secure, purpose built - build in, wall safe, has been installed inside the main door of the church in Mountrath  
(just inside the left internal entrance door)

If you wish to deposit - safely - Parish Weeekly Envelopes - Parish Dues, (for the support of the Priests of the Parish) - Trócaire Collection - or any of the other contributions for the support of the Parish you are most welcome to use this safe.

If depositing contributions towards the Trócaire Collection we ask that the contents of the Trócaire Box be placed in an envelope - simply marked - Trócaire - and the envelope placed in the new wall safe.

Sincere Thanks for your continued and generous support of the Parish

## A National Synod for Ireland's Catholic Church.

The Irish Catholic Bishops announced at their Winter 2020 meeting a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland, leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. Before embarking on an initial two-year phase of consultation, bishops are inviting submissions between Easter (5 April) and Pentecost (23 May), 2021 to reflect on what methods/models would be best to adopt in these coming two years of conversations. For example: focus groups, parish hall meetings, questionnaires, deep-listening sessions; written submissions; family-focused gatherings; summary of findings of assemblies that have already taken place across dioceses; and/or conferences. Submissions, of not more than 300 words, can be made via the Bishops Conference webpage:  
<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/submissions/>

### Ballyfin Parish Lotto 28<sup>th</sup> Apr

Nos. Drawn 16 26 30 32

No Jackpot Winner of € 21,000

2 Match 3 - Each Rec. € 500

Next Week's Jackpot €13,000

### Mountrath Parish Lotto 29<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Jackpot Won - €20,000

Nos. Drawn 1 24 26 30

Congratulations to Lynda Campbell

7 Match 3 - Each Rec. € 143

2 Local Winners

Aine Maher Pachelli Walsh

Simon McElroy Mary Arthur

Next Week's Jackpot € 11,000

Copies of the New Readers Rota are now available in porch of Ballyfin Church  
Readers are invited to drop into the Church and pick up their copy.

## St. Fintan's Parish Mountrath Ballyfin

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> - Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783 Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Visit Home Page of Parish Website for Links to Webcams

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on FM 104.5

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



The Month  
of Mary



*"In the hierarchy of holiness it is precisely the woman, Mary of Nazareth, who is the "figure" of the Church.*

*She precedes everyone on the path to holiness: in her person" the Church has already reached that perfection whereby she exits without spot or stain*

St. John Paul II - Mulieris Dignitatem 1988

## Return to Public Worship - From Mon. 10<sup>th</sup> May

See inside for Letter from Bishop Denis Nulty

And Letter from Bishop Dermot Farrell,

Archbishop of Dublin

## Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> – Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> May

### Mountrath Parish

Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> May	7.00 pm	May Day - Peter and Mary Haslam, Clonenagh. Patrick and Fintan Williams, Moanbaun Mary Graham, Portlaoise.
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	9.00 am 11.30 am	No Mass in the Hollow Church today Betty Wallace (Nee Kelly) Patrick St., Month's Mind. May and Bill Thompson, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. May's 13 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. – Bill's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv.
Mon. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.00 am	Jackie Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.
Tues. 4 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Seamus Fitzpatrick, Woodbrook. 17 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Thomas and Margaret Phelan, Shannon Road. 38 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Phyllis Dunne, 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
Wed. 5 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Declan Doocey, Abbeyleix and Castletown - 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.
Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Altar List of the Dead.
Fri. 7 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Patrick Fitzpatrick, 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
Sat. 8 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm	Sean O'Hara, Patrick St.
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am 11.30 am	No Mass in the Hollow Ch. today. Seamus (Jim) Fahy Fr. O'Connor Cresc. Month's Mind

### Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	5.00 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Personal prayer.
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.00 am	Mary Ann and Matthew Coss, Clonad. Mary and Pat Kelliher Marie Hennessy – Clondarrig Court, Portlaoise Margaret and Edward Hennessy (Parents) – and brother, Eddie. Joe and Bridie Dooley, Cappanrush. John and Maggie Moore and Mairead McEvoy
Fri. 7 <sup>th</sup> May	5.00 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Personal prayer
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Gerry Thompson, Derrylusk.
Fri. 14 <sup>th</sup> May	5.00 pm 7.30 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Personal prayer Celebration of the Eucharist. St. Matthias, Apostle.
Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup> May	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass for 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Sunday Mass for 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter.

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

## Cornelius (Con) Phelan Johnsborough / Cardtown, R.I.P.

We pray for Con who died on 29th April 2021, (peacefully) at home after a short illness, in the loving care of his very caring family. Con's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea on Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> May followed by Burial in St. Fergal's Cemetery, Camross. We extend sympathy to Con's parents, Daniel Oliver and Mary, sisters Kathy, (Mountmellick), Olive (UK), Roisin (Tullamore) and brother Danny (Australia), brothers-in-law, Diarmaid, Andries, Tom and Kieran, sister-in-law Lisa, nephews, nieces, Eve, Joe, Daniel, Ciaran, Rossa, Tilly, Donal and Muireann, aunts, uncles, neighbours and friends.

May Con's Gentle Soul Rest In Peace.

## John Duggan, Clonboyne, Portlaoise R.I.P.

We pray for John who died tragically on Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> April. John's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Peter and Paul Church, Portlaoise on Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> May followed by burial in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his wife, Anna, parents Dan and Margaret, brothers Liam and Cyril, sisters Ann and Noeleen, mother-in-law Nan, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and all of his extended family, neighbours and a large circle of friends.

John was teacher at St. Mary's CBS Secondary School, Portlaoise.

May John rest In the Peace of Christ.

## The Celebration of Confirmation 2021

This item is a follow on from the Article about the celebration of Confirmation in previous week's Newsletter. (Available online)

Alas, despite our best efforts, we still await the return of some completed Enrolment Forms from our 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. Because of this we have postponed our planned Zoom (Confirmation) Meetings which we had arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May to the following week 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May. So our 2 Zoom Meetings for our Confirmation Candidates and their parents have changed to

**Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Time 7.00 pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 8.00 pm**

Each candidate who has enrolled for Confirmation for this year will be required to be part of either of these Meetings. – Once again, if you have any concerns or difficulties surrounding the Zoom Meetings, please contact us. We will continue to do our best to accommodate everyone - If you have issues, ring me on 087 2411 594

## Statement from Bishop Denis regarding Celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation

(Issued on Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> April – 3.00 pm)

All of us warmly welcome the return to public worship on Monday May 10, announced last evening. It has been a long lockdown journey since St. Stephen's Day last December and any return must be gentle and gradual and strictly adhere to the governments guidelines as advised by NPHE.

I know there is concern around celebrating the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The government guidelines about the return to public worship specifically advises that 'other religious ceremonies such as Communion and Confirmations should not take place at this time.' I know that this is disappointing news. I had already asked parishes not to plan to celebrate these Sacraments in May this year.

I am, however, aware that many parishes were hoping, and indeed planning, to offer dates for Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion to parents for the month of June, as soon as the return to public worship had been allowed. Given the latest advice from the government I am now asking that Parishes do not proceed with planning for June and do not set any dates until further clarity is offered.

If you have already set dates please inform parents that these are, for now, suspended. I will keep you informed if the situation changes in the coming weeks but I believe that it is important that this information is communicated as soon as possible, while I am also aware that things can change at very short notice. With regard to the celebration of Baptisms, they are permissible, but always adhering to the guidelines - and for now celebrated only as a single family celebration (not multiple Baptisms) with a maximum of six in attendance. A reminder that there is absolutely no expiry date on Sacraments.

While our Society is opening up, the Pandemic is still with us and we must remain vigilant. Let us do all we can to continue to encourage the preparation programmes and to keep the hearts up of the children and young people as they continue to await the Sacraments. From Bishop Denis

## "The Call" A Thought by Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald SPS

In a book I was reading recently, I was amazed to find that when the Penal Laws were at their height in Ireland and priests had a price on their heads, there was a continuous stream of young men who went abroad and studied in seminaries in France, Spain, Belgium. They came back as priests, knowing that they would be hunted and would have to live as fugitives, on the run, in constant danger of being betrayed. It was not a path of roses. Some paid with their lives. What made them do it? Why did they put themselves in such danger? Was it a spirit of defiance in the face of the injustice that was imposed on the Irish people at the time?

Could it have been a spirit of patriotism, where to be Irish was equated to being Catholic, and to strike a blow for one, was to strike it for others also. They had the spirit of self-sacrifice for God and for country. I am sure they have their reward now.

I am writing this on 24<sup>th</sup> April, which was the date that the 1916 Easter Rising began. Every one of those patriots who took up the cause and fought for freedom for our country knew that they were putting their own lives on the line. They counted it as an honour to die for Ireland's freedom. In their case too, for many of them their faith inspired them to make the sacrifice "for the cause". Do we still have that spirit of self-sacrifice today? I suppose we will not know until we are put to the test. In the present pandemic many have been willing to give up their freedoms to keep others safe. Is there the same willingness to offer oneself for the salvation of others - to answer the call of vocation?

## St Joseph the Worker

The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker is Sat. 1st May

Joseph, by the work of your hands  
And the sweat of your brow,  
You supported Jesus and Mary,  
And had the Son of God as your fellow worker.  
Teach me to work as you did,  
With patience and perseverance,  
For God and for those whom God has given me to support.  
Teach me to see in my fellow workers  
The Christ who desires to be in them,  
That I may always be charitable and forbearing  
towards all. Amen.



## Clarification around Easing of Restrictions.

Part of Letter from Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin to Bishop Denis Nulty  
(Dated Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

Arising from yesterday's announcement regarding the easing of restrictions on religious services from May 10<sup>th</sup> I have received clarification this evening from the Office of An Taoiseach on a number of issues as follows:

### Pods of 50

Where the size of the premises/Place of Worship allows for a capacity of greater than 50 this may be permitted only where:

1. social distancing guidelines are adhered to
2. the premises can be subdivided into distinct sections (cordoned or marked appropriately)
3. of not more than 50 persons in each section there is a minimum of 4 metres between sections each section having its own entrance/exit route
4. there are separate arrangements for elements of the service involving close contact, for example the distribution of Holy Communion strictly no movement of people between sections before, during or after the service
5. the premises is well-ventilated

### Funerals

There is an increased risk of transmission of the virus where families and communities come together following the death of a loved one. Therefore numbers at funeral services (and Weddings) is capped at 50 regardless of size of premises.

Notwithstanding the increase in numbers permitted, funerals are still considered private family events and arrangements should not be advertised in newspapers or on-line. attending.

Attendance at wakes in private homes and at Funeral Homes remains unchanged i.e. immediate family only and people should be discouraged from queuing to pay respects.

Copy of Letter from Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin to Bishop Denis Nulty  
Continued

### Singing

As with previous reopening for religious services congregational singing and choir singing is not permitted.

Solo singing with accompanist is permitted subject to compliance with detailed guidance contained in HSE Covid-19 Guidance for Religious Services.

### Outdoor Worship

Outdoor worship is not permitted in line with Government restrictions on organised outdoor gatherings. (This has implications for our Cemetery Masses this year. – We can't make any arrangements in this regard, yet)

### Arrangements for return to Public Worship in Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

As we are allowed to return to public worship from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May we will be returning to pre-covid Mass times while still complying with the new / current restrictions

Just to recap (In case we've forgotten)

#### Mountrath Parish

Morning Mass in Mountrath Parish Church from Mon. 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 am

Sat. evening Vigil Mass - 7.00 pm

Sunday

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am -

Total number allowed for Mass in the Hollow Ch. - 45 people

Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am - Total allowed for Mass 100 (50 x 2)

#### Ballyfin Parish

Friday evening Mass at 7.30 pm - Max 50 people

Sat. evening - Vigil Mass 8.00 pm Max 50 people

Sunday morning 10.00 am Max 50 people.