

# Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

5th - 6th April 5th Sun of Lent

Holy Week Commences Next Weekend

St. Fintan's Boys National School, Mountrath

School Secretary required at St. Fintan's BNS,  
New Line Rd, Mountrath,

See below for full details in respect of  
Job Description - Hours - How to Apply  
Closing date for receipt of Applications.

See Page 3

# Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

(Online from Early Saturday mornings)

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

Fr. Joe Brophy P.P. (087) 241 1594

Website [www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie)

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

Name of Parish App.

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*

(Online from Saturday mornings)



Scoil Fhiontain Naofa  
St. Fintan's Primary School,  
New Line Road, Mountrath,

Roll No. 07636K

**School Secretary required for St. Fintan's BNS, New Line Rd, Mountrath,  
(12.5 hours per week over 5 days).**

**The successful candidate will have:**

excellent interpersonal and communication skills  
administrative skills to support the management of school finances  
accounting experience desirable  
proficiency in Microsoft Applications including Word and Excel  
excellent organisational, oral and written communication skills  
ability to plan and work on own initiative along with the ability to work  
in a team environment with Principal and other school staff  
familiarity with GDPR  
familiarity with POD would be desirable  
previous secretarial experience desirable  
be required to comply with national vetting requirements

To apply for the position, send a CV and letter of application, including the names,  
roles and contact details of three referees, by post to:

Bro. Matthew Hayes, Chairperson BOM,  
St. Fintan's BNS,  
Mountrath, Co. Laois.

Please write "Secretary Application" on the outside of the envelope.

Closing Date for receipt of applications 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## Michael (Mick) Boyhan, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. R.I.P.

We pray for Mick who died peacefully at his home on Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> March. Mick's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> March, followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Maura, Michelle, Karina, Michael, Ann, Marie, Carol, Paul, Lauren, Rachel and Noelle and all their families. his 14 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, brother Liam, sister Mary (Hanlon) and their families, extended family, relatives, kind neighbours and a large circle of friends,

## Cyril Fitzpatrick, St. Patrick's Terrace, Castletown. R.I.P.

We pray for Cyril who died peacefully at St. Vincent's Hosp., Elm Park on Thurs. 27<sup>th</sup> March. Cyril's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> March followed by burial in Churchtown Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Michelle, Cyril Jnr. and Rosalín, sister Mairead and his brothers Kevin, Ger and Kenneth, and their families, Madie McGill and family, Trumera, nieces, nephews, neighbours and a wide circle of friends.

*May Mick and Cyril rest in the peace of Christ.*



# Be Part of the Conversation

## *What are the priorities for us as members of the Church in Ireland?*

- In 2022 Church members across Ireland identified key themes
- In 2023-2024 the Universal Synod addressed these themes
- Now in 2025 you are invited to name the priorities for action arising from them for the Irish Church

**How:**

- Watch a series of short videos or the compilation video outlining the themes on [www.synod.ie/resources-for-spring-gatherings-2025/](http://www.synod.ie/resources-for-spring-gatherings-2025/) or via the **QR code below** (less than 10 mins in total)
- Consider the question: **What themes are emerging for you?**
- **REGISTER**
- Come to a meeting to share your feedback and to listen to others

**When:** **Tuesday, 1st April**, 7:00 pm Tea/Coffee 7:30-9:30 Listening Session  
Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre,  
Killenard, Co. Laois.

**Register:** BOOK YOUR PLACE AT [FDS@KANDLE.IE](mailto:FDS@KANDLE.IE) / 059 9164084

*Hosted by the Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Synod team*



# SYNOD NEWS:

Be Part of the Conversation

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Church in Ireland?

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Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre, Killenard, Co. Laois.

## REGISTER:

Book your place at **[fds@kandle.ie](mailto:fds@kandle.ie)** /0599164084

*Easter*  
*Arrangements*  
*in*  
*Mountrath*  
*Ballyfin*

# Easter Ceremonies in Mountrath Ballyfin.

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

Blessing and distribution of Palms

Tues. Wed. 10.00 am Mass in Mountrath Ch.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Apr. Penitential Service

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

All Ceremonies commence at the same time in both Parishes

Holy Thursday 7.30 pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Renewal of Commitment of Ministers of Holy Communion

Washing of the Feet.

Quiet time in Prayer (after Mass until 9.00 pm)

Good Friday

10.00 am Outdoor Stations of the Cross

St. Matthew's Church, Roskelton to  
Church of the Sacred Heart, The Hollow.

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

Holy Saturday

Individual Confessions 11.00 am

Easter Vigil 8.00 pm

# Palm Sunday

## Vigil Masses

Sat. 12th April Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sat. 13th April Ballyfin Church 8.00 pm

## Sun. 13th April Palm Sunday

Mass in the Hollow Church - 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church - 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church - 11.30 am





# Chrism Mass

Bishop Denis invites you to join him and the  
priests of the Diocese for the annual  
celebration of the Chrism Mass on  
Monday, 14th April at 7:30 pm.

Please come early to ensure a seat.

Refreshments afterwards  
in St Patrick's College.

Music led by Fr Liam Lawton and the  
Diocesan Choir.



Tues. 15th April

Penitential Services

Mountrath 7.00 pm

Ballyfin 8.00 pm



Holy Thursday 7.30 pm

(Both Churches)

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Renewal of Commitment of Ministers of Holy Communion

Washing of the Feet.

Quiet time in Prayer (after Mass - until 9.00 pm)

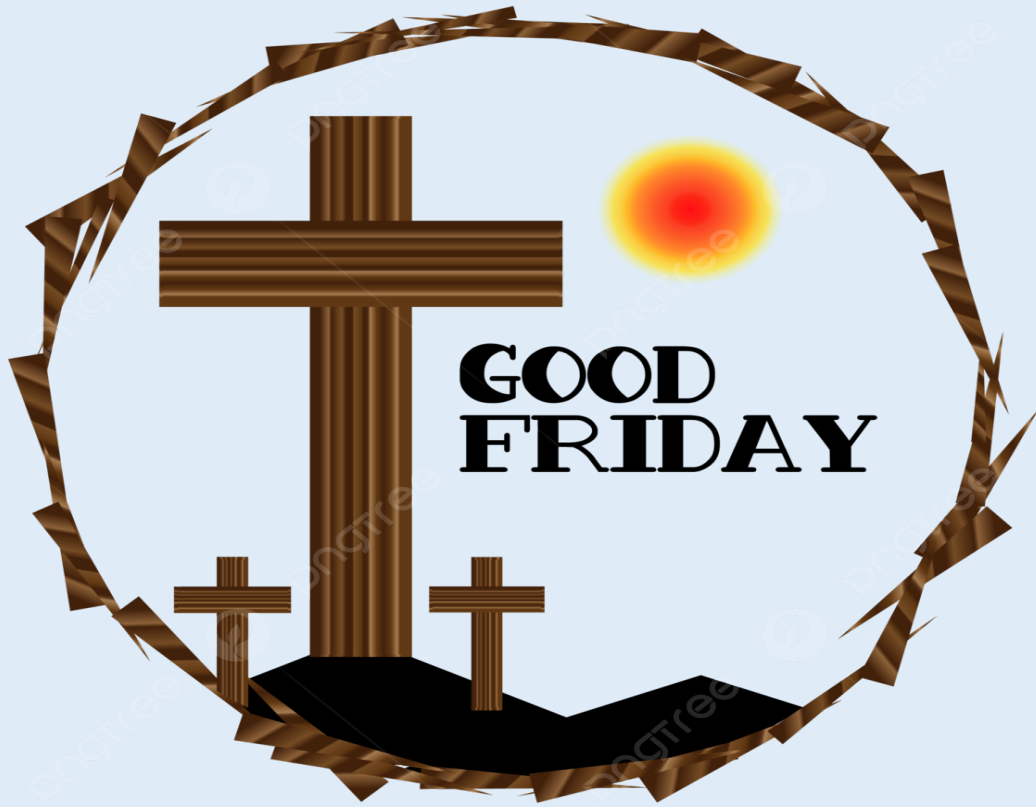


Holy  
Thursday

Trócaire Boxes can be returned during our  
Masses and Services on  
Holy Thursday and Good Friday  
And Holy Saturday night

This year, we met Julio and their family who live in a rural village in Guatemala. Their eldest daughter, Miriam, would like to go to secondary school but with climate change and erratic weather destroying their crops, they have less food to feed their family and can't afford their children's secondary school education.

By cutting out on snacks or some other unnecessary expenditure each day in Lent and placing the money saved into your Trócaire Box, we have helped families adapt to climate change and build resilience for their future.



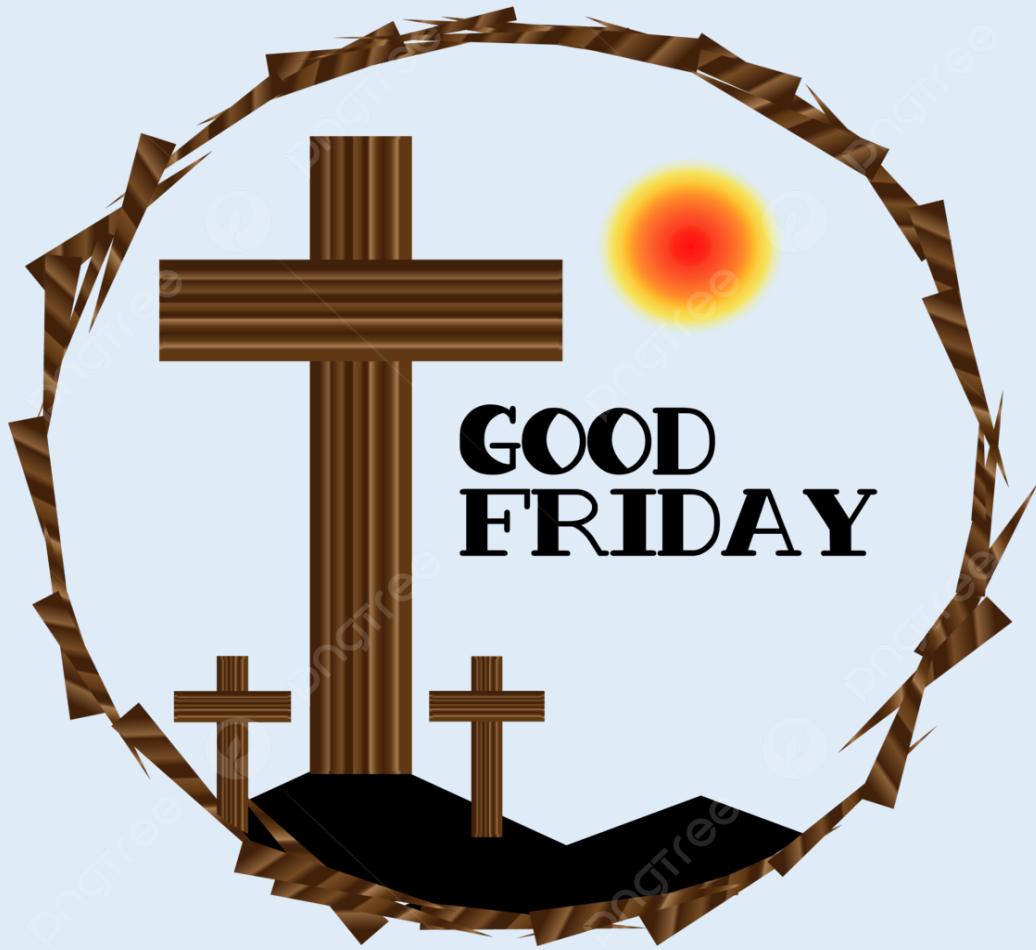
Good Friday

## Outdoor Stations of the Cross

St. Matthew's Church, Roskelton to  
Church of the Sacred Heart, The Hollow.

Commences at 10.00 am

At St. Matthew's Church,



## Good Friday

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

(Both Churches)

## A Note from Bishop Denis' Desk

As we draw closer to Holy Week, a request to hold a special collection on Good Friday to support the struggling Christian Community in the Holy Land. It is our response to

"the cry of those who suffering so much".

The ceasefire has ended and Christians, like all communities there, are under serious attack and constant danger. In the words of Pope Francis in a letter to the Catholics of the Middle East (7 October 2024) "you, brothers and sisters in Christ who dwell in the lands of which scriptures speak most often, are a small, defenceless flock, thirsting for peace. Thank you for what you are, thank you for wanting to remain in your lands, thank you for being able to pray and love despite everything".

The collection, which I encourage, should take place on Good Friday. It is supported by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Ireland, and when it's forwarded to Bishop's House it will be sent to the Order of Friars Minor Holy Land Account for distribution.

# HOLY SATURDAY



*The cross is empty, the world is silent, the earth awaits the resurrection as Christ goes to wake the dead*

*WhyCatholic.com*

## Holy Saturday

11.00 am Individual Confessions

8.00 pm Easter Vigil

(Both Churches)



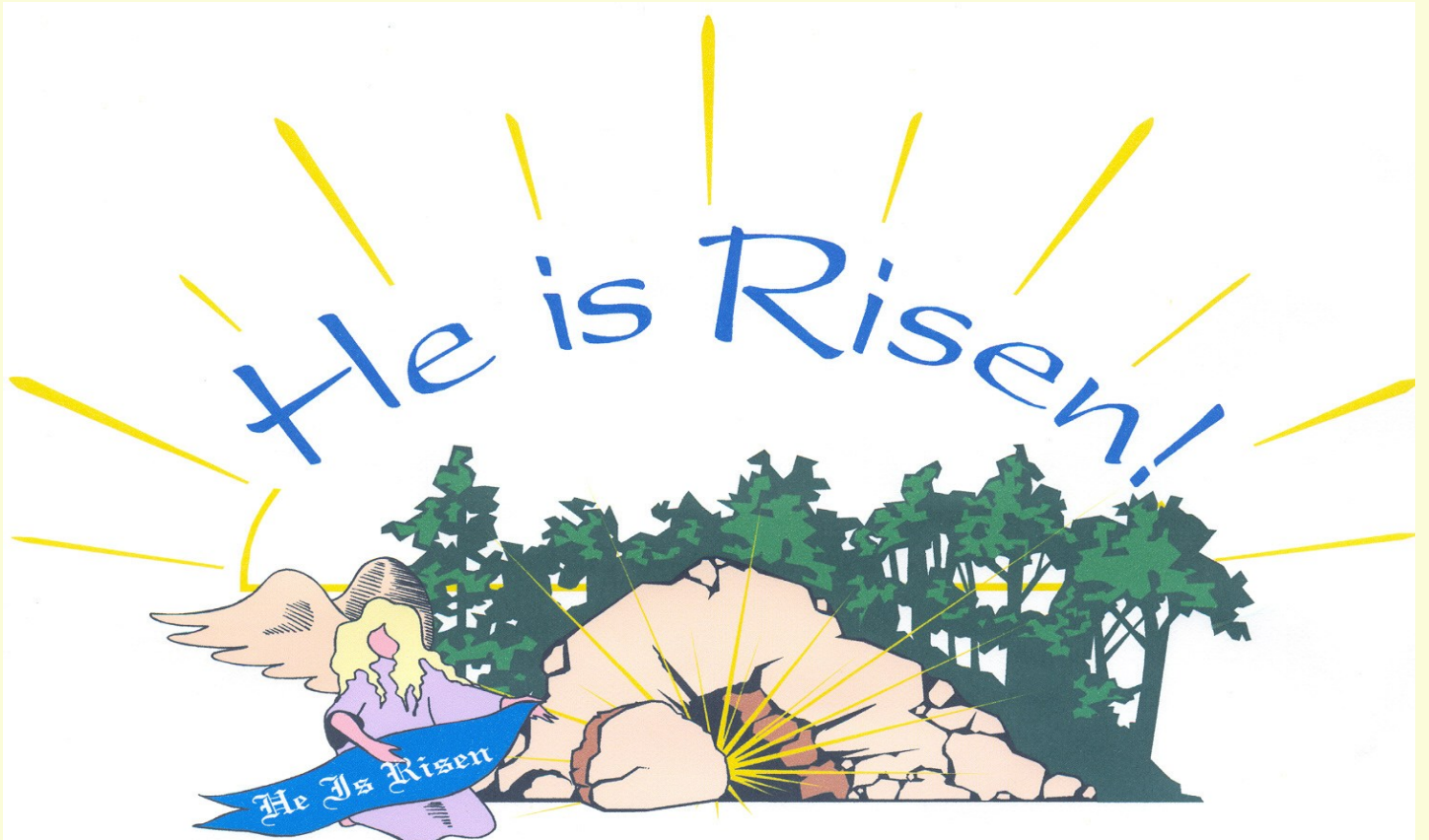
Easter Sunday 20th April

## Masses on Easter Sunday

Mass in the Hollow Church - 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church - 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church - 11.30 am





This year Easter Sunday falls on 20th April

## How is Easter Sunday calculated ?

Easter Sunday is the 1st Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.

(The Catholic Church calculates the Spring Equinox as falling on 21st March)

So for us, Easter Sunday is set as the first Sunday after the 1st full moon after 21st March.

According to the Bible, Jesus Christ's death and resurrection occurred at the time of the Jewish Passover, which was celebrated on the first Full Moon following the vernal (Spring) equinox.

In other words, Easter, for us, is very much linked in with the Jewish Feast of Passover.

The earliest Easter Sunday can be is 22nd March

The latest Easter Sunday can be is 25th April

# Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

## Ballyfin Parish

Triona O'Rourke      Peter Byrne

## Mountrath Parish.

Caroline Moore      Pacelli Walsh

## Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ms. Ailish Higgins.

## *Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person:*

*Ms Michelle Hughes c/o*

Bishop's Hse, Dublin Rd, Carlow      Phone 085 802 1633

# Brigidine Convents

## Annual Past Pupils Dinner

Sunday 27th April in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

at 12.45pm

for the Past Pupils of  
Abbeyleix, Mountrath,  
Tullow and Goresbridge.

Cost €50 and booking to be made before

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Contact Dolores 087 414 8093 to book.

Please copy and like and share on

Social Media to spread the word.

Jubilee Year

2025

“We are  
Pilgrims  
of  
Hope”

Jubilee year  
Pilgrims of Hope



## Jubilee Year 2025.

### We are "Pilgrims of Hope"

With the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, the Holy Year was begun. Across the world, the Jubilee Year began on the feast of the Holy Family. (Sun. 29th Dec. 2024) To echo the theme of hope, Pope Francis is calling on us all to renew the hope of Christ, using Saint Paul the Apostle as a guide for this special year.

### *The Jubilee Prayer*

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,

*Pilgrims of Hope,*

a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road  
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load*

*(From the Servant Song by Richard Gillard)*

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.



DICASTERY FOR EVANGELIZATION  
SECTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS  
REGARDING EVANGELIZATION IN THE WORLD

## *The Jubilee Prayer*

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our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



Confirmation

2025

Ballyfin Parish

# Confirmation Catechesis

with Confirmation Candidates and  
their parents continues following  
10.00 am Sunday Mass on the  
following dates

4<sup>th</sup> May    18<sup>th</sup> May

Celebrating the Sacrament  
of Reconciliation

with

Confirmation Candidates  
and their families

Wed. 14th May

at

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin

7.00 pm

# Ceremony of Confirmation

in Ballyfin Parish will be  
celebrated in St. Fintan's Church,  
Ballyfin

on Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Ceremony will commence at 11.00 am

The Ceremony of Confirmation will be led by  
Bishop Denis Nulty

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Schools

News

# O'MOORES CAMOGIE CLUB

*Our Parishes, Our Club!*



For more information  
contact: 083-3374165

## REGISTRATION OPEN!

### WHERE:

Rosenallis Community Centre,  
R32VK64

### WHEN:

Friday 21st of March 2025

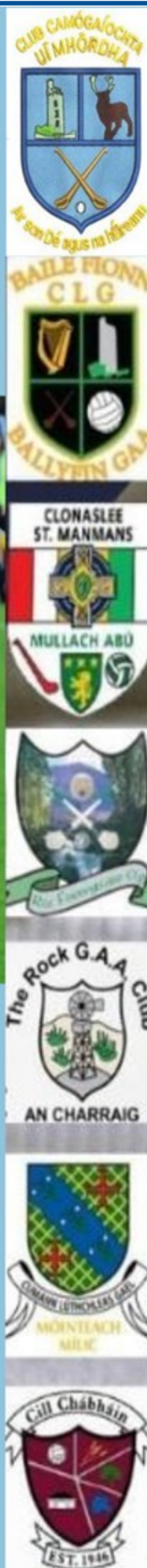
### TIME:

7:30pm - 9:00pm

### COST OF REGISTRATION:

- Adult- €100
- Student adult player- €75
- Juveniles (age 9-18)- €60  
(Second juvenile same family €40,  
Third juvenile same family €25)
- Juveniles (age 6-8)- €30
- Non playing members- €25

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME



# "Do This In Memory"

## Masses

Next "Do This In Memory"

Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> April      7.00 pm

(Mountrath)

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> April    10.00 am

(Ballyfin)

# Parish News





# Parish Visitation

## April

Tues. 4<sup>th</sup> Mountrath Country

Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Mountrath Town

Thurs. 6<sup>th</sup> Ballyfin Parish



**Are you caring for a loved one  
at home with additional  
care needs?**

## **NO ONE SHOULD CARE ALONE.**

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, but it can also be difficult, frightening and isolating. It shouldn't be.

Family Carers Ireland (FCI) want carers to know they have the support they need to care safely, to make it less of a battle and to know they are not alone. We are the national charity supporting the 500,000+ family and young carers across the country who are caring for their loved ones with additional care needs. We believe no one should care alone.

## **MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS!**

Alongside our FREE supports and services, FCI offers an annual membership for family carers (and young carers for free), with over 100+ discounts, such as free venue entry, fuel discounts, Three mobile/broadband deals plus much more, for only €20 per year!

**Apply online or call us on 057 9370 221.**



Local  
Centre  
Support

Freephone  
National  
Careline

Rights &  
Entitlements  
Guidance

One-One  
Advocacy

Learning/  
Training

Crisis Support/  
Counselling

Family Carer Support Groups are also organised locally across all our centres nationwide.

**[www.familycarers.ie](http://www.familycarers.ie)**

**Freephone Careline 1800 24 07 24**

**Search 'Carers Ireland'**





**PORTLAOISE**

**OFFICIAL  
5KM WALK**  
in aid of Pieta

# **SIGN UP HELP STOP SUICIDE**

**4:15am • May 10th**

***From Irish Prison Service College,  
Dublin Road, Portlaoise, R32 NX53***

**Register Today**

**[darknessintolight.ie](http://darknessintolight.ie)**

# "Darkness into Light" Walk

## Venue

Irish Prison Service College,

Dublin Road, Portlaoise,

R32 NX53

Date – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Start time – 4.15am

To register, the address

is [www.darknessintolight.ie](http://www.darknessintolight.ie)



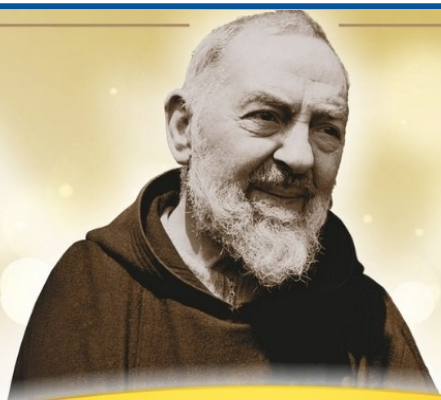
## Pieta Services in Laois

- Free phone and video therapy services
- Free 24/7 crisis helpline **1800 247 247** or text **HELP** to **51444**
- Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer Service\*- [\*\*www.pieta.ie\*\*](http://www.pieta.ie)
- Community Education Programmes- Amber Flag- [\*\*amberflag@pieta.ie\*\*](mailto:amberflag@pieta.ie) and Resilience Academy- [\*\*resilience@pieta.ie\*\*](mailto:resilience@pieta.ie)

**Note-** our therapy is provided to those who have suicidal ideation, are self-harming or bereaved by suicide



\*SBLO- A therapist supports families in the immediate aftermath of a death by suicide



## THE RELICS OF PADRE PIO



1 SAINT PIO'S CRUST OF THE WOUNDS   2 A PIECE OF SAINT PIO'S MANTLE   3 SAINT PIO'S WHITE FINGERLESS GLOVE   4 SAINT PIO'S HANDKERCHIEF   5 A LOCK OF SAINT PIO'S HAIR

# *visit to Holycross Abbey, Thurles, Co. Tipperary E41PH01*

### ***Saturday 24th May***

10am - Welcome & Mass  
10.45am - Veneration  
12 noon - Rosary & Veneration  
6pm - Evening Prayer  
6.30pm - Veneration  
8pm - Church Closed



### ***Sunday 25th May***

9am - Veneration  
11am - Sunday Mass  
12 noon - Veneration  
***St. Pio National Pilgrimage***  
1.30pm - Rosary  
2pm - Stations of the Cross  
2.40pm - Anointing of the Sick  
3pm - Mass in honour of St. Pio  
4pm - Veneration  
7pm - Evening Prayer & Farewell  
8pm - Church Closed

*For information contact 0504-43124 or [hbparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hbparishoffice@gmail.com)*







**TURAS COLUMBANUS  
THE COLUMBAN WAY**

**XXVI Columbanus Day  
11-13 July 2025**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

 [info@carlowtourism.com](mailto:info@carlowtourism.com)

 059 913 0411

 [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

## WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE

### FRIDAY 11TH JULY

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- 1.45PM Opening Address & Words of Welcome by Bishop Denis Nulty, Carlow County Museum
- 2:00PM Launch of Exhibition "Ireland and the Birth of Europe" with Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Carlow County Museum
- 3:00PM Symposium - "If You Want to Know the Creator, Understand Creation", facilitated by Cynthia Ní Mhurchú MEP, Carlow College, St Patrick's
- 5:00PM Ceremony of welcome and reception, Carlow College, St Patrick's
- 8:00PM Ecumenical Evening Prayer with Columbanus Relics, Adelaide Memorial Church, Myshall followed by procession with the Columbanus relics to the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Myshall

### SATURDAY 12TH JULY

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- 10:00AM Assemble for Walk from Nine Stones to Myshall on the Columban Way (2.5 hours)
- 1:00PM Buffet Lunch in Myshall Hall following walk
- 2:30PM Talk: "Columbanus, the Man from Myshall" – Former President Mary McAleese – Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Myshall
- 5:00PM Reception for Pilgrims and Guests hosted by Carlow County Council in Carlow College, St Patrick's
- 8:00PM Concert in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow followed by an Irish Music Night in Carlow Town

### SUNDAY 13TH JULY

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- 8:00AM Breakfast in Carlow College, St. Patrick's
- 9:45AM Welcome for Religious Leaders & Civic Authorities in Carlow College, St. Patrick's
- 10:30AM XXVI Columbanus Day Mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow
- 12:30PM Pilgrims' Lunch in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Carlow



**2025**

## **A COMMUNITY IN ACTION**



**The Book Bank**

**A social enterprise prioritizes social and environmental goals alongside financial objectives. All money generated is reinvested into the activities of the social enterprise.**

**The Bookbank social enterprise aims to create positive impacts, by providing social & cultural spaces, skills training & generating sustainable income. This income will be reinvested in education, creativity, art, culture & events for the community to enjoy.**

**By blending the efficiency and innovation of business with a commitment to social change, we can offer a sustainable approach to community challenges.**



# WE NEED YOU!



## THE BOOK BANK SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP



**JOIN IN  
GIVE BACK**



### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Board of Management
- Shop Volunteers
- Events Organisation
- Social Media Promotion

***Public Information Meeting The Book Bank 26th March 1pm & 6pm***

# Some 2025 Diary Dates

St. Brigid's Day Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin

Our No. 1 - Ireland's No. 2

Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Mass in Mountrath 10.00 am 7.30 pm

Ballyfin 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> March

Ireland's National Saint

**Masses** The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am

Mountrath 10.00 am

Ballyfin 10.00 am

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April Holy Thursday 7.30 pm

Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal during Mass

Good Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> April

Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 10.00 am - 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

# Lent is what we Do.

Trócaire Boxes are available to collect from the Churches from Ash Wednesday onwards... This year, meet Lima, Julio and their family who live in a rural village in Guatemala. Their eldest daughter, Miriam, would like to go to secondary school but with climate change and erratic weather destroying their crops, they have less food to feed their family and can't afford their children's secondary school education.

By cutting out on snacks or some other unnecessary expenditure each day in Lent and placing the money saved into your Trócaire Box, you can help families adapt to climate change and build resilience for their future.

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment

to Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish

Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

Cemetery Masses

in

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Parishes

# Cemetery Masses

## 2025

Ballyfin Cemetery Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> June (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. June)

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 27<sup>th</sup> June (Last Fri. Jun)

Clonenagh Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> July (2<sup>nd</sup> Fri. July)

Cemetery on Right - Mountrath to Portlaoise

Clondarrig Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. August)

Boghlone Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. Sept)

*All Cemetery Masses commence at 7.00 pm*

# Ballyfin National School

## Astroturf Project

### Dash to 44 Challenge

Sat. 22nd March

A huge word of thanks and very special congratulations to everyone who participated in and who were involved in our history making – Dash to 44 Challenge on Saturday last. A word of thanks also to the 44 GAA Clubs we visited who facilitated us as we descended on them over the course of a very long day.

Total donated as of 9.00 pm Friday - € 53,944.00

*See following pages for Note of Thanks for Brigid Bennett  
Principal, Ballyfin National School*

. It wasn't quite a case of 'before we knew it the Dash was done' perhaps (certainly not for the runners), but nonetheless the success of last Saturday's 'Dash to 44' exceeded even our most optimistic expectations. We are all thrilled with how it went – in terms of the day itself, the huge community effort that rowed in behind it so effectively, and the money raised for the Astroturf project (€53, 984 on idonate as I type, and it's not quite stopped yet). There are so many people to be thanked that we are still working on the full list, and it is difficult to express the extent of our gratitude to everyone who got involved. The following doesn't even include all those businesses and individuals who so generously sponsored the event and/or runners– we'll get to them in another email!

A huge thanks of course to the runners, who so energetically and enthusiastically embraced the challenge and ran full laps at such speeds around every GAA club. Well done to the three time coaches, Shane Conlon, Michelle Fitzpatrick and Aidan Keenaghan who achieved the seemingly impossible feat of actually getting the runners back ahead of schedule. Ray Dermody made a huge contribution to the final route, and he arranged for the Garda Escorts in Abbeyleigh, Stradbally and Graiguecullen. Paul and Catriona Phelan checked all the Eircodes, and researched which pitches had running tracks.



We are very grateful to the First Aiders (Gayle Kelliher, Avril Fitzgerald, Mary Troy, Sharon O'Loughlin, Ilkay Yildiz and Joe Dunne) who followed the convoy so diligently throughout the day, and whose services were happily not much needed. We are very grateful to Donncha Phelan who offered his physio services on Saturday. Thanks also to all those who acted as stand-by First Aiders for the day. Declan Looby, Martina Kelly and Cora Gorman drove the 'sweeper' cars behind the convoy, with Grace Milne on stand-by. Niall Scully and Linda Meredith accompanied the convoy in the 'Dash' car which catered for lunch, tyre repair and other random things. Niall and Linda, helped by Ella and Leah, also took many of the pitch-side videos and photos that were posted on Facebook and Instagram during the day. Indeed, there was huge work done behind the scenes promoting the event on social media, both on Saturday and for weeks beforehand – the challenges of that job cannot be underestimated, and huge credit is due to Alice Quillinan and Ciara Conlon for their diligence and creativity. Alan Hartnett, Steven Miller and Laois Today gave us great publicity. Jean-Marc Gasche was here before dawn to help load the buses, and Paul Phelan and Declan Looby stood out in the wet dark parking cars. Thanks to everyone who supplied the baked goods, and to those who helped prepare/tidy the dining areas and serve the food - Mary Phelan, Dolores Prendergast, Helen Moore,

Veronica Lanham, Wendy O'Reilly, Grace Milne, Laura Linehan, Mary Claire Cuddy, Helena Horan, Caitriona Phelan, Laura Thompson, Aoife Phelan and Cathy Graham, among others. Tom Thompson came at very short notice to solve a Burco related disaster, and Dan Hooban delivered the tables from the Hall down to us. Thanks to Aiden, Colm and Aodhán Heffernan who helped construct the Finish line arch, and to Laois Sports Partnership who supplied it to us. A huge thanks to Slieve Bloom Coaches for going with what originally seemed like a mad idea, and to the bus drivers who so cheerfully and helpfully took on the driving on the day - Pat O'Sullivan, Peter Cosmas and Tony Walsh. Thanks to everyone on the Parent Association committee, who contributed in so many different ways since this idea first germinated back in November - Laura Linehan, Jean Marc Gasche, Caitriona Phelan, Aoife Phelan, Linda Meredith, Ciara Conlon, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Finn, Laura Thompson, Cassandra Comerford and Webster Mut-satsa. Dan Slevin (Catholes Sauna) brought a box of beanie hats on Saturday morning, which came in very handy in light of the weather. Damien and Gráinne Quigley most generously sponsored the striking 'Dash' t-shirts that the participants wore so proudly. Barry Linden provided water for the buses, Carroll's Spar Mountrath provided fruit, Mulhall's Supervalu Portlaoise provided energy drinks and sweets, Downey's Centra sponsored the lunch in Stradbally, and Brady's Signs provided signage and decorated the Dash car - we are very appreciative of all the generosity.

Away from the Dash excitement, Yvonne and Ed Thompson, Alan Connolly, Tadhg, Fionnan and Disin Gilligan collected for us in O'Moore Park on Saturday afternoon. Thanks to everyone who came to the various pitches to offer support throughout the day – I know that was hugely appreciated by the runners. A huge thanks to the many, many people who stood in the sheeting rain at the pitch in Ballyfin to welcome us back, the volunteers who helped at the pitch and all those who added so much to the atmosphere in the school hall afterwards.

Two people deserve a separate paragraph. Without Sean Connolly we would not have had the Dash idea, and he deserves huge credit for his passion and commitment to it, and his confidence that it would work. If I was to list all the contributions to the Dash made by the indefatigable Sarah Heffernan, this email would be too long to send. Suffice to say that Sarah was absolutely indispensable to the project, and was involved in every aspect of it –as many of you know from phone-calls and emails! I cannot imagine the 'Dash to 44' without Sarah's energy, efficiency and drive behind it.

Thanks are due also to all the club secretaries in every GAA club in Laois who facilitated us so readily, with some really going out of their way to help us. A particular note of thanks to Stradbally Club, who not only gave us access to their kitchen facilities, and a great welcome, but also made a donation to the Dash.

I am terrified that I have left someone out as so many people helped in so many ways, some I might not even be aware of. Please forgive me if I did. We will be holding a celebration night in the Deadman's on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9pm, at which the runners will be presented with their Certificates of Completion, and the cheque for € 2,500 presented to Kolbe School. Hopefully we will see many of you there.

*Many thanks to all, Brigid Principal, Ballyfin N.S.*

## The Dash 44

On Saturday, there was the Dash 44,  
All the participants had to run more and more.  
Because of the busy day planned ahead,  
No-one, yes, no-one could stay in bed.  
From the beginning we had great faith,  
And pitch after pitch it just went great.  
At the last pitch we had to run, run, run,  
And before we knew it the Dash 44 was done!

*-Fiadh Conlon, 3<sup>rd</sup> class*

# Get Well Wishes

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 at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery

# Bingo

every Monday night

In St. Fintan's Hall at 8pm.

Come along and bring a friend.!!



# SeniorLine

Would like someone to talk to at this time ?

SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year  
10am-10pm,

Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family.

SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen,  
to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary.

So don't be alone and lift the phone.

Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91,  
No problem too big or too small.

# Table Quiz.

Presented by Class of 90 at Bloom HQ.

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> May

8.00 pm Sharp.

€ 10.00 per person. Tables of 4

*All proceeds to*

*- Class of 90 Restoration Project.*

## Monster Raffle

Trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

Winners



1st Holy  
Communion  
(1st Eucharist)  
2025

# 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Days in 2025

## Mass Dates and Times

Gaelscoil Thromaire Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The Hollow Church - 9.00 am

Barnashrone National School Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Scoil Bride, Mountrath.

St. Fintan's Boys School, Mountrath

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath

Time 11.30 am

Ballyfin National School

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Dates of "Do This in Memory" Masses,  
Mountrath and Ballyfin, 2024/25

Preparation Masses  
for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2025.

"Do This In Memory" Masses

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> April

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> April

This Weekend

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation - Continued

All candidates preparing to receive 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion in May of next year are required to attend all these Masses with their parents or guardian — family

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### Ref. Mountrath Parish

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath you are most welcome to bring you child to the Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am on the following morning.

### Ref. Ballyfin Parish

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin you are most welcome to bring you child to the Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath Church at 7.00 pm on the previous evening.

*If you wish to contribute directly through your Bank account  
to Parish funds*

*Here are our Bank Account details*

**Ballyfin Parish** - (A.I.B. Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

**Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details**

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

**If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account please include  
your own name as the reference.**

# *Anniversary Masses*

*Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes*

*Sat. 5th April*

*To*

*Sun. 13th April*

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri. 4th April to Sun. 13th April

Fri. 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 5.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Sat. 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 8.00 pm	Noel Walsh, Pallas Little. 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
.	And deceased members of Walsh family.
.	Patrick and Una Brennan, Barnashrone.
Sun. 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
Mon. 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 7.00 pm	Apostolate of Sanctification
Fri. 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 5.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Sat. 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 8.00 pm	Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday.
.	John Joe Downey, Clondarrig. 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
.	And deceased members of Downey Family
Sun. 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Mon. 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 7.00 pm	Apostolate of Sanctification

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times    Anniversaries

Sat. 5th April    to    Fri. 11th April

Mass times as listed below are for Mountrath Church unless otherwise indicated

Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> Apr.. 7.00 pm    Tim Keenan, Church St., 8<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
Noel Russell, Patrick St.,

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> Apr. 9.00 am    The Hollow Church. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
11.30 am    5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
John Holland, Trumera.

Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am

Wed. 9<sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am

Thur. 10<sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am

Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am    Altar List of the Dead.



# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times    Anniversaries

Sat. 12th April    Sun. 13th April

Mass times as listed below are for Mountrath Church unless otherwise indicated

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. 7.00 pm    Margaret (Peg) Maguire, New Line Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> A

And her mother, Mrs. Annie Patterson

Anthony Tobin, Woodbrook. 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Matthew and Margaret Harrington, Trumera  
and deceased members of Harrington family.

Margaret Byrne, Redcastle.

Maura and Frank Byrne, Patrick St.

Patrick and Mary Keogh, St. Fintan's Tce.

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. 9.00 am    The Hollow Church

11.30 am    Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Michael and Maura Moore, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

## Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> April 7.00 pm    Mary Kiely (nee Doyle) Shannon Rd.,

# Parish Lottos



# Ballyfin Parish Lotto,

Wed 2nd April

Nos Drawn 11 15 24 31

No Jackpot Winner

12 Match 3 's Rec € 84 each

New Jackpot € 13,000

*Thank you for your support*

# Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 3rd April

Numbers Drawn 12 20 22 29

No Jackpot Winner

7 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 143 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 17,000



# A note of thanks

to everyone involved in  
Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos  
Organising Committees, 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.

# Mountrath Ballyfin Lottos

## Next Week's

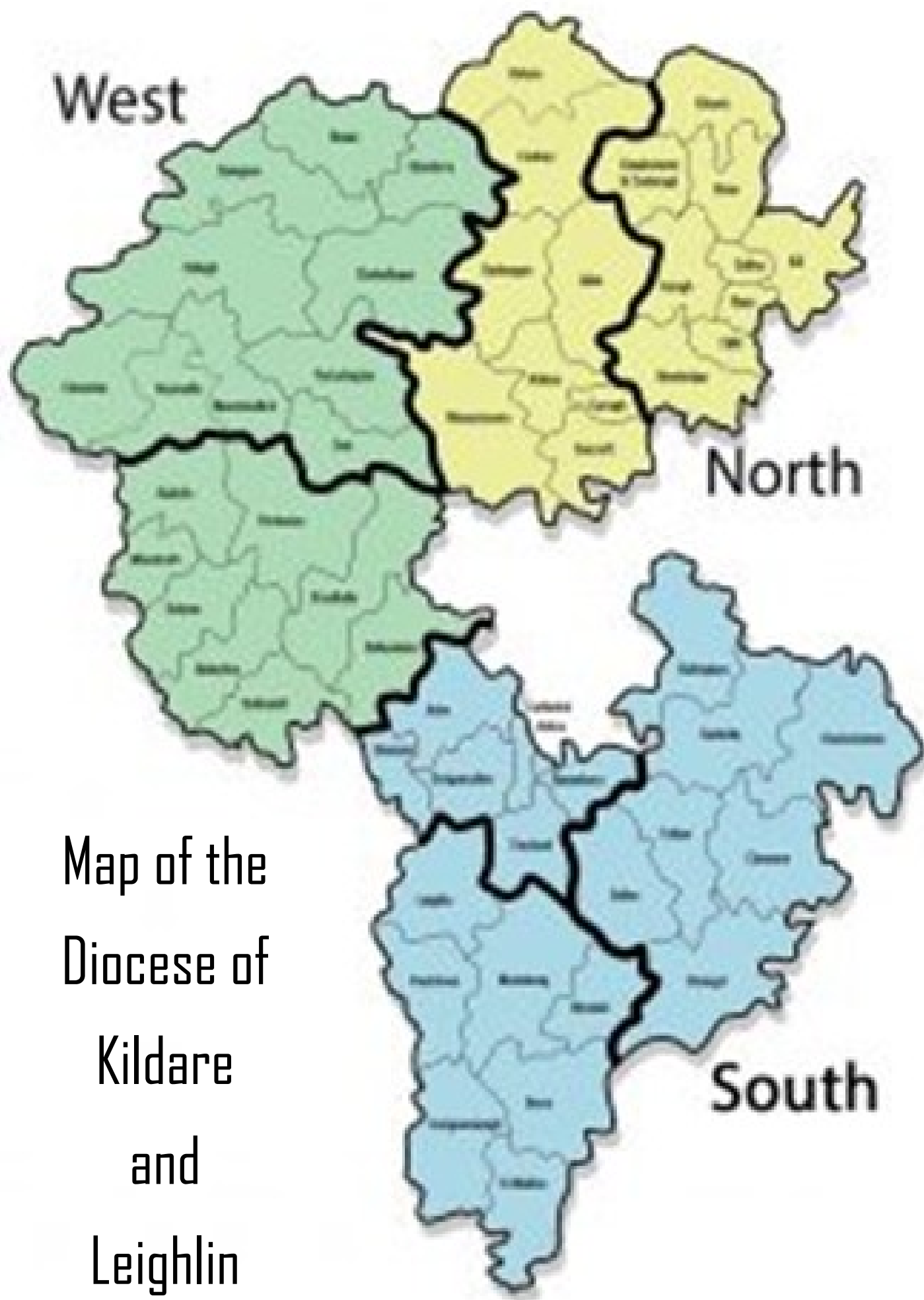


Mountrath	€ 17,000
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Ballyfin	€ 13,000
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# News From Around The Diocese



West

North

Map of the  
Diocese of  
Kildare  
and  
Leighlin

South



# An Evening with James Kilbane

St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea Presents, Songs of Hope with James Kilbane an evening in support of much needed church repairs!

St. Cronan's Church (C of I), Roscrea will host a special evening of Gospel music with

Christian singer James Kilbane on Friday 4th April at 8 pm. The evening is in support of vital repair work to the church roof, indoor walls, dampness prevention as well as the ongoing ministry work. Donation tickets are €20 and are available from church organisers, local outlets, Eventbrite, or call 087 3825336. All welcome and all support are appreciated.

Contact Person: Christina McManamon

Phone: 086 9686512 087 6184154

Email: [info@foxydisks.net](mailto:info@foxydisks.net)



# *'Sing for Joy!'*

## *A Day of Music and Ministry*



**Saturday 26 April 2025**  
**on Lough Derg. Boat 9:30am.**



**Open to Young People aged  
18-35. Free to attend.**  
**Register via QR Code.**

Organised by the Knights of St Columbanus.  
[info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk](mailto:info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk)



# Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace

*A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference*

*Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 P6D3.*

*Tel: 01-5053000 Email: [mrjp@iecon.ie](mailto:mrjp@iecon.ie) 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

Dear Bishop Denis,

The Gospel commands us, as the Body of Christ, to uphold the dignity of every human person and to walk with all who have left their home in search of a new life. As a nation, we are only too aware of the causes and impacts of emigration and the need for so many of our people to leave home and find solace in other lands.

At this time of year, and always, we remember and pray for all Irish people overseas – those who have recently emigrated and those who left our shores many years ago. There are few families in the country who do not have a loved one living overseas or that have not experienced emigration at some point. Many continue to struggle abroad with the loneliness of missing family and friends at home. We also think of those who have travelled to this country from foreign lands to begin new lives in Ireland, whether to escape war or persecution or in search of a better life. We pray that they receive the same welcome that we would wish for our own emigrants far from home.

The Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace is inviting each diocese to consider taking up a collection in 2025 in support of migrant people, whether they are coming to Ireland or indeed those Irish who have left these shores and are still very much part of our church and communities around the world. Funds raised through this collection will be used to support the work of the Council and other projects that provide pastoral outreach to marginalised and vulnerable communities within Ireland and among Irish people abroad.

During the past year, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference provided grant funding to a number of worthy organisations involved in the practical and pastoral support of our emigrant and immigrant communities. You will find attached a brochure giving some of the examples of how this funding was utilised and a poster promoting this year's collection. The Council will also be sharing relevant content on the Bishops' Conference website and via social media in the run-up to St Patrick's Day, around which time many dioceses choose to hold this collection, although the resource can be used at any time.

Pope Francis constantly reminds us to rediscover the Church's itinerant nature, 'as the People of God journeying through history on pilgrimage, "migrating", we could say, toward the Kingdom of Heaven' I conclude with the words from his Message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (29<sup>th</sup> September 2024):

*"[L]et us unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions. May we journey together with them, be "synodal" together, and entrust them...to the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey."*

Yours sincerely, Bishop Alan McGuckian Bishop of Down and Connor





# YOUNG ADULT CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

Saturday 26th April 2025 | 9 AM – 8 PM  
St. Patrick's College Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 NX63

## Main Talks



**Fr Chris Hayden**

What are you looking for?  
Discipleship in the Gospel of St John



**Dr. Andrew Meszaros**

Can Catholic Teaching  
Change?



**Fr Simon Nolan, O.Carm**

Understanding the  
Contemporary Mind



**Eoin McCormack**

Speed Apologetics: Proclaim  
the Faith with Confidence



**Dr. Noreen O'Carroll**

Assisted Dying  
or Deliberate Killing?



**James Bradshaw**

Chesterton, Belloc and  
Catholic Social Teaching

**Ticket: €45** including lunch, refreshments and social events  
Contact: [evangeliumireland@gmail.com](mailto:evangeliumireland@gmail.com)



To book tickets : scan QR code,  
search 'Evangelium Ireland' on Eventbrite,  
or go to **[evangelium.eventbrite.com](https://evangelium.eventbrite.com)**

Find us on:



[www.evangelium.ie](http://www.evangelium.ie)

# Parish Finances

# Our Bank Account Details

Ballyfin Parish - A. I. B. (Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account  
please include your own name as the reference.

## Mountrath Parish Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch) (Bank of Ireland)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

- Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

# Tax Back Scheme

## (Ballyfin Parish)

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you support the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Ballyfin Parish of over €250 via the Parish envelopes have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme.

"Thank you" to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

In 2023, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented our Parish finances by almost € 23,000

If you are not, as yet, part of this scheme and would like more information, please contact me at your convenience. *(Fr. Joe)*

# Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you supported the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Mountrath Parish of over €250 have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme. It is of huge benefit to the Parish if we know the amount parishioners donate and the name of the donors. Hence this year we are sending out numbered boxes to all households in the Parish.

We sent out CHY3 Forms to eligible parishioners ( who donated over € 250 ) for the first time in 2023 and we were able to claim back over € 13,739 for the years 2021 and 2022 . This is of immense benefit to the Parish. Thank you to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

If you receive a CHY3 Form later on in the Spring please consider completing the details and returning it . If you would like more information please contact me.

If you are already part of the Tax Back Scheme — *Thank You*

If you are not yet part of the tax back Scheme, I ask you to consider becoming part of it - It is of huge benefit to the Parish

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.



# Ballyfin Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€16,305	Pastoral Programmes	€1,720
Envelope Collection	€25,986	Insurance	€5,775
Shrine Income	€876	Security	€273
Rental Income	€5,800	Light/Heat	€17,570
Fundraising	€3,141	Cleaning	€264
Donations	€1,050	Rates/Water/Waste	€422
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€22,807	Maintenance/Repairs	€21,532
Church Bookings	€460	Diocesan Levy	€6,576
Lotto Income	€13,898	Diocesan Retirement Fund	€1,000
Other Income	<u>€ 2,421</u>	Printing/Missalettes	€1,870
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€ 92,744</b>	Altar/Shrine	€3,657
		Telephone/Broadband	€1,379
		Computer/servicing	€2,750
		Accountancy Fees	€1,000
		Youth/Community	€640
		Bank Charges	€863
		Donations	€200
		Loan Interest	<u>€485</u>
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>€67,976</b>

*A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous support of Ballyfin Parish*

# Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat	€ 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225 .00	Cleaning	€ 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste	€ 579.00
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€ 3,121 .00	Maintenance/Repairs	€ 79,602.00
Church Bookings	€ 500.00	Diocesan Levy	€ 11,006.00
Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest	€ 3.00
Office	€ 1,899 .00	Bank Charges	€ 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund	€ 1,000 .00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/Missalettes	€ 9,233.00
		Altar/Shrine	€ 10,616.00
Total:	€ 226,586.00	Telephone/Broadband	€ 600.00
		Computer/servicing	€ 5,051.00
		Accountancy Fees	€ 540.00
		Youth/Community	€ 260.00
		Hire of Equipment	€ 1,141.00
		Music/Choir	€ 250.00
		Legal/Professional	€ 828.00
		Donations	€ 1,700.00
		Total:	€ 186,173.00

*A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous*

# Ballyfin Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 1,525.00

Peter's Pence € 852.00

World Mission € 1,123.00

Trocaire € 2,462.96

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 500.00

Total € 6462.96

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests Fund throughout the year .

# Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
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		Accountancy Fees	€ 540.00
		Youth/Community	€ 260.00
		Hire of Equipment	€ 1,141.00
		Music/Choir	€ 250.00
		Legal/Professional	€ 828.00
		Donations	€ 1,700.00
		Total:	€ 186,173.00

*A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous*

# Mountrath Parish

## Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests            € 530.00

Peter's Pence            € 550.00

World Mission            € 615.00

Trocaire            € 2, 615.00

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 390.00

Total    € 4,700.00

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests Fund throughout the year .

Events  
at  
Bloom HQ

CLASS OF 1990 PRESENTS

Bloom HQ  
Mountrath

# QUIZ

THURSDAY 1ST MAY  
STARTS @8PM SHARP



SPECIAL QUIZ WITH TROPHIES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD WINNERS.

€10 per person - Table of 4  
All proceeds go to the  
Class of 1990 Restoration Project

Monster raffle on the night !!



# Table Quiz

Presented by Class of 90 at Bloom HQ.

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> May

8.00 pm Sharp.

€ 10.00 per person.

Tables of 4

All proceeds to  
Class of 90 Restoration Project.

## Monster Raffle

Trophies for

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

Winners



# February 2025 TIMETABLE

## Monday

10 am Mature Movers  
11 am School Program  
2 pm Golden years club  
7 pm Mixed Circuit Training  
7 pm Karate\*

## Tuesday

10 am TRX  
10 am Mother & Baby class\*  
11 am Activator Poles Inc  
1 pm Lunchtime HITT  
6 pm Kids Zumba\*  
**6.15 pm Beginner TRX\***  
7 pm Advanced TRX

## Wednesday

11 am Mature Movers  
7 pm Mixed Circuit Training

## Thursday

9 am TRX  
11 am Seated Exercise Inc.  
1 pm Lunchtime HITT  
**6.15 pm Beginner TRX\***  
7 pm Advanced TRX  
7 pm Karate\*  
8 pm Bowls\*

## Friday

5.30 pm Kickboxing (3-7)\*  
6.30 pm Kickboxing (8-12)\*  
7.30 pm Kickboxing (13+)\*

## Saturday

11.30 am Pilates\*

**PAYG  
and  
Members  
Always  
Welcome**

\*These Classes  
are not included  
in the  
Membership fee

For more info contact  
Ruth on 089 2647761



# Classes will be held in BloomHQ

Spacious, modern rooms    Wifi

Sound proofed areas    Free parking

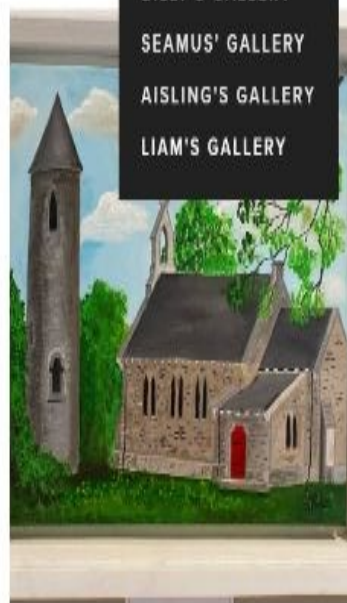
Music stands    And much more...



**MUSIC  
TEACHERS  
WANTED!**

Teachers on ALL instruments accepted

Contact Lucy on 087 259 7895



Canadian Rockies

Timahoe Church and Tower

ABOUT US

SPACES AND SHOP

CONTACT US

MEETING ROOMS

HOT DESKS

SERVICED OFFICES

BOOK A DESK

BILLY'S GALLERY

SEAMUS' GALLERY

AISLING'S GALLERY

LIAM'S GALLERY

Just a quick reminder,  
you can explore the  
paintings we have for  
sale on our website!

[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)



# NADIA RICE ARTIST Exhibition Opening



for the month of March, launching on  
**7pm, Friday 28th February**

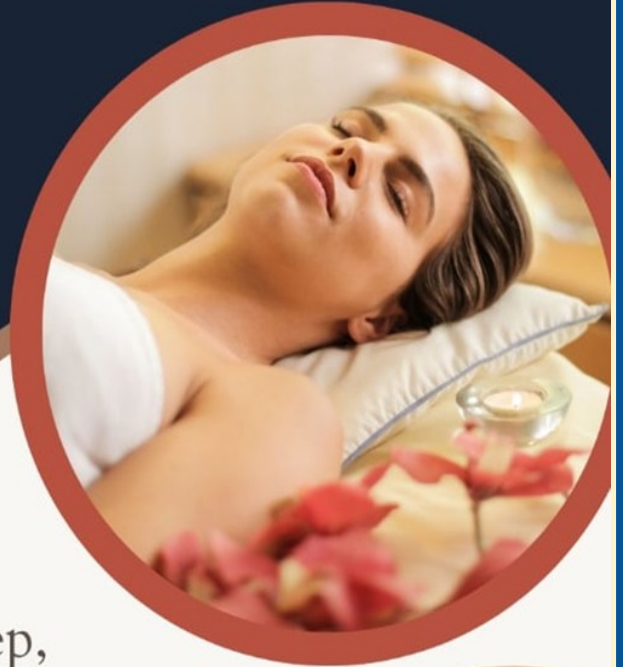
📍 Gallery of Divine Inspiration,  
BloomHQ, Unit 1, Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick Street, Mountrath, Laois,  
Ireland, R32 DT9F

All are warmly invited to the opening of an  
exhibition by Laois-born artist Nadia Rice.  
The exhibition features a collection of  
drawings and prints celebrating the beauty of  
the Irish landscape and flora.



# Revive Swedish Massage

—  —  
REVIVE SWEDISH MASSAGE  
RELAX AND REVIVE TODAY



Swedish Massage is gentle yet deep, it is used to aid relaxation, relieve tension energize the body and improve overall health.

## Our Services

- Full Body Massage 1 hour €50
- Upper Body Massage 45 minutes €35
- Lower Body Massage 45 minutes €35

 085 200 2497

 Bloomhq, Mountrath, R32 DC58

[Book Your Appointment](#)







# White-Horse

Adults

## INDOOR BOWLS

Every Thursday (8pm )

St Philomena's Hall -Bloom HQ

Beginners Very welcome

Come along and give it a try!

Runners or Flat sole shoes are all you need!





Feeling tired sitting at your desk all day?

# LUNCHTIME HIIT WORKOUT



**Tuesdays and Thursday @1.00pm**

Contact Ruth 089 264 7761

Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32DT9F



LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP  
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE



ciste na  
gcuntas díomhaoín  
the dormant  
accounts fund



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND

# French Grinds with native speaker



Games, conversation  
practice, writing, reading and  
help with homework



## Available times slots :

- 5pm to 6pm Monday to Thursday
- 1pm to 2pm Friday

Group classes in Bloom HQ (min. 3 students) or one on one in student's home (Mountrath town centre)



## Fees:

Group classes: 20€/hour  
Private classes: 25€/hour

## ✉ Email:

[youandfrench@gmail.com](mailto:youandfrench@gmail.com)



## Phone:

+353 89 491 3931  
Myriam Schultz



# OFFICES TO RENT IN LAOIS



**FREE WIFI**



**SPACIOUS PARKING**



**CANTEEN ACCESS**



**089 2722885**



**[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)**



**[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**



# Mountrath Health and Fitness Academy



**MOUNTRATH**  
Martial Arts & Fitness Academy

**JOIN NOW**

Ruth- 086 326 2570



[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)



R32 DT9F, Patrick St.  
Mountrath, Co.Laois



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND



ciste na  
gcuntas díomhaoín  
the dormant  
accounts fund



LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP  
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE

Class of 90 Presents

At Bloom HQ

# Table Quiz

Thurs. 1st May

Starts at 8.30 pm

€ 10.00 per person

Tables of 4

All proceeds to Class of 90

Restoration Project



# Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?



**CONTACT 089 2722885 or**

**[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**

**Visit our website [www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)**

# UNISLIM

## *Join Today!*

### Bloom Hq

### Wednesdays 7-8pm

### Class Talk 8pm

New members  
always welcome!

9 stone  
weight  
loss



**Mairead McCaul**  
Unislim Member

**Join Unislim for €25**

**Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter**

For more info visit [unislim.com](https://www.unislim.com)



[unislim.com](https://www.unislim.com) | 1800 603020



# Music Teachers wanted



**for Mountrath Music School**

**\*soundproof rooms**

**\*free parking**

**\*waiting area for parents**



**contact Lucy 087 259 7895**

LOOKING FOR AN  
**OFFICE TO RENT**  
IN LAOIS?

**FULLY SERVICED  
OFFICES  
FREE PARKING  
CANTEEN  
POSTAL ADDRESS  
PHOTOCOPYING**

**CONTACT 089 272 2885  
OR**

**MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**



*Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58*





# Music Classes in Mountrath



## Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



## Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772





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**FULLY SERVICED  
OFFICES  
FREE PARKING  
CANTEEN  
POSTAL ADDRESS  
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*Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58*



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## Violin

Thursdays 3-30 pm on from 3 years -adult

€ 20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene 089 981 8065



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€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



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Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772







**Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick st,  
Mountrath,  
R32 DC58**

# **State of the Art Conference Centre with 7M Screen, projector, Full AudioVisual, Gigabyte Broadband**





# Meeting Room

"Rachel's Room"

Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick Street,  
Mountrath

- Broadband Wifi
- Ample free parking
- Canteen

Contact  
[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)  
089 2722885

**LOOKING FOR AN  
OFFICE TO RENT  
IN LAOIS?**

**RENT FOR AN HOUR/A  
DAY/WEEKLY**

**CONTACT 089 272 2885 OR  
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**





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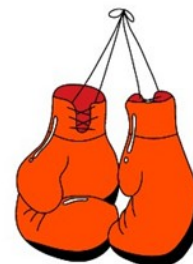
## Karate

Mondays & Thursdays 7 pm  
from 6 years up, €6 per class  
Sensei Donal: 087 760 7063

## Kickboxing

First trial class free

Fridays 5.30 pm 3-7 years, €7  
6.30 pm 8-12 years, €7  
Shane: 086 339 9287



## Brazilian

8-12 years,

## Jiu-jitsu\*

Wednesdays 7-8 pm & Saturdays 10-11 am  
€ 35 per month or €5 per class  
Jamie: 085 200 2497



## Art & Craft

Wednesdays 5-6 pm, 7-12 years  
€ 30 for block of 6 classes  
Rhiannon: 089 211 5183

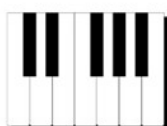
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Thursdays 3.30 pm on. From 3 years - adult  
€20 for 30 min individual lesson  
Irene: 089 981 8065



## Trad Music



## Piano

Sunday mornings €20 for 30 min individual  
lesson Heather 083 054 7772

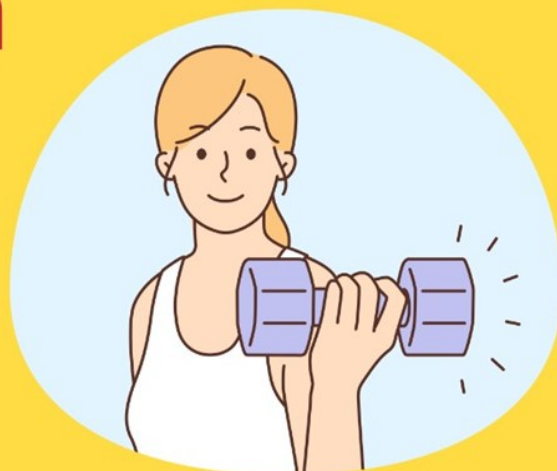
to book talk to the relevant teacher





# Saturday Morning Circuit Training

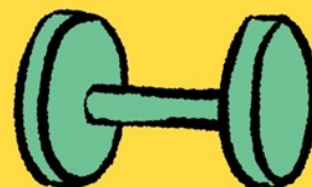
9-10 am



€ 7 PAYG

or

part of your monthly  
membership



contact 086 3262 570

**The Old Convent,  
Patrick St,  
Mountrath, R32 DC58**





# Mountrath Music Rooms

Lessons in BloomHQ



Violin Lessons

by Irene Ramos

089 9818065

[iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com](mailto:iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com)

Thursdays



Irish Traditional Music, Whistle,  
Flute, Concertina, Accordion, Fiddle,  
Banjo and Mandolin

Cliona & Eabha Dowling McDonald

083 8566083

Saturdays



Piano Lessons

by Heather Gavigan 083 054 7772

Sundays



Contact the relevant teacher  
for times, prices etc

# Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu/BJJ in Mountrath



Thinking about learning self-defence and the Art of Jiu-Jitsu? A sport that suits all ages from 8 years.

- \*mobility improvement
- \*improve full body strength
- \*better cardio
- \*helps weight loss
- \*improves flexibility

8 yrs- 18 €35 per month  
Adults €45 per month

€5 per class for under 18's  
€7 per class for Adults  
or included in Monthly Membership

**Wednesdays**

Kids 7-8 pm

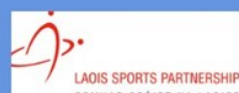
Teens /Adults 8-9 pm

**Saturdays**

Kids 10- 11 am

Teens /Adults 11 am -12 pm

contact Jamie 085 200 2497

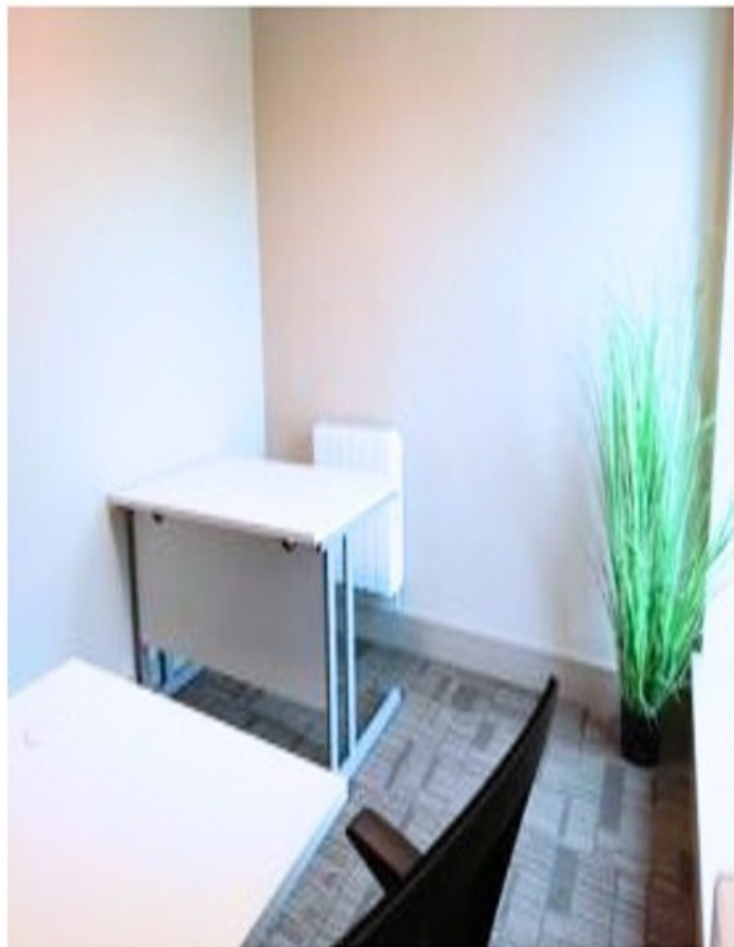


Brigidine Convent, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32 DC58





# **1 - 2 person offices for rent in our Social Enterprise centre in Mountrath**



**Contact 0892722885 [manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**



# Mountrath Music Rooms



**Contact 089 272 2885  
or 057 930 0036**

**\*Soundproof rooms**

**\*From € 15 per hour**

**\*Perfect for music  
lessons, counselling  
or grinds**

**\*free easy car park**

**\*Waiting space**

Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick St,  
Mountrath R32 DT9F



# Class of 90 Presents

At Bloom HQ

## Table Quiz

Thurs. 1st May

Starts at 8.30 pm

€ 10.00 per person

Tables of 4

All proceeds to Class of 90

Restoration Project



# Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

Mick Smith is teaching the new  
RSA approved Motorcycle Initial Basic Training (IBT)  
here in BloomHQ, the old Convent Mountrath.

For more details and to book see:

[www.roadcraft.ie](http://www.roadcraft.ie)

[www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie](https://www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie)





# Activities suitable for Senior Citizens in Mountrath

Mature Movers 50 +  
Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am



Bowls inclusive 11 am Tuesdays  
Bowls 8 pm Thursdays

Mountrath Men's Shed  
Tuesdays 10 am- 1 pm  
Thursdays 2 pm- 4 pm  
contact 085 705 3855



Activator Poles Inclusive  
Thursdays 11 am

contact Ruth 086 3262 570



# VIOLIN LESSONS

by Irene Ramos

- Discover the joy of music and unlock your creativity
- Weekly individual and ensemble classes for all ages
- From 3-year-olds to adults
- Studio based Mountrath

FULLY QUALIFIED SUZUKI TEACHER & ABRSM DIPLOMA IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

**FOR RATES AND/OR MORE  
INFO PLEASE CONTACT ME**

Phone: 0773222323

Email: [iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com](mailto:iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com)

 Irene Ramos  
VIOLIN STUDIO





# Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on  
Patrick Street**



**Tuesdays 10am - 1pm  
Thursdays 2pm - 4pm**

**Contact 0857053855**



# Karate Classes

**Mondays & Thursdays 7 - 8 pm**



**Juniors and Adults**



**Okinawan Karate**



**Black Belt Instructors**

contact Sensei Donal, 5th dan  
087 760 7063

Martial Arts Centre, Old  
Convent, Mountrath,  
R32 DC58





# **HIIT Lunchtime class**

## **High-Intensity Interval Training**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

**1.15 pm for 40 mins**

**5 euro a class**

**or**

**part of your monthly  
gym package**

**Book with Ruth 086 3262 570**





Irish Traditional

# MUSIC LESSONS

**Whistle, Flute, Concertina, Accordion,  
Fiddle, Banjo and Mandolin**



Clióna and Éabha  
Dowling McDonald

**More Information :**  
Contact 083  
8566083





# ***Mountrath Scouts***



Looking for a way for your kids to learn new skills and spend time in the great outdoors why not try scouts!

**For all ages from beavers to ventures and into leaders !**



## **Scouts is a way to**

- Meet new people.
- Learn new skills.
- Spend time outside.
- Make friends for life.

## **Friday nights**

In the brigidine convent (Bloom HQ) Patrick street mountrath  
R32 DC58

7:00 till 8:30

€5 pp

or

€4 per sibling





Other

News

# Lovely LAOIS HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

“This is a call out to all our sports clubs in Laois to organize an event as part of the **Lovely Laois Homecoming Festival** on the weekend of September 5th, 6th and 7th”



## Remember The Past

Organise a re-union event for past players, members and supporters from at home and abroad.

Return, Reconnect, Reunite. Regale past games and memories. Peruse old photographs and video clips. Enjoy each others company again.

## Glimpse The Future

Perhaps combine the re-union event with juvenile games and activities. Let our past friends see our future stars in action.

## Enjoy The Present

Put the icing on the cake by inviting local musicians, dancers and storytellers to join the festivities entertaining young and old.

*You can use part or all of the above format or feel free to come up with other activities of your own. Should you organize an event please let us know so that we can include you in our Calendar of Events.*

**Laois Sports Partnership Office • Telephone: 0578671248**



# Lovely LAOIS



HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

**FREE** Afternoon

**TEA** Dance

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

FROM 2PM - 5PM

ST. PHILOMENA'S HALL

BLOOM HQ (FORMERLY THE BRIGIDINE CONVENT)

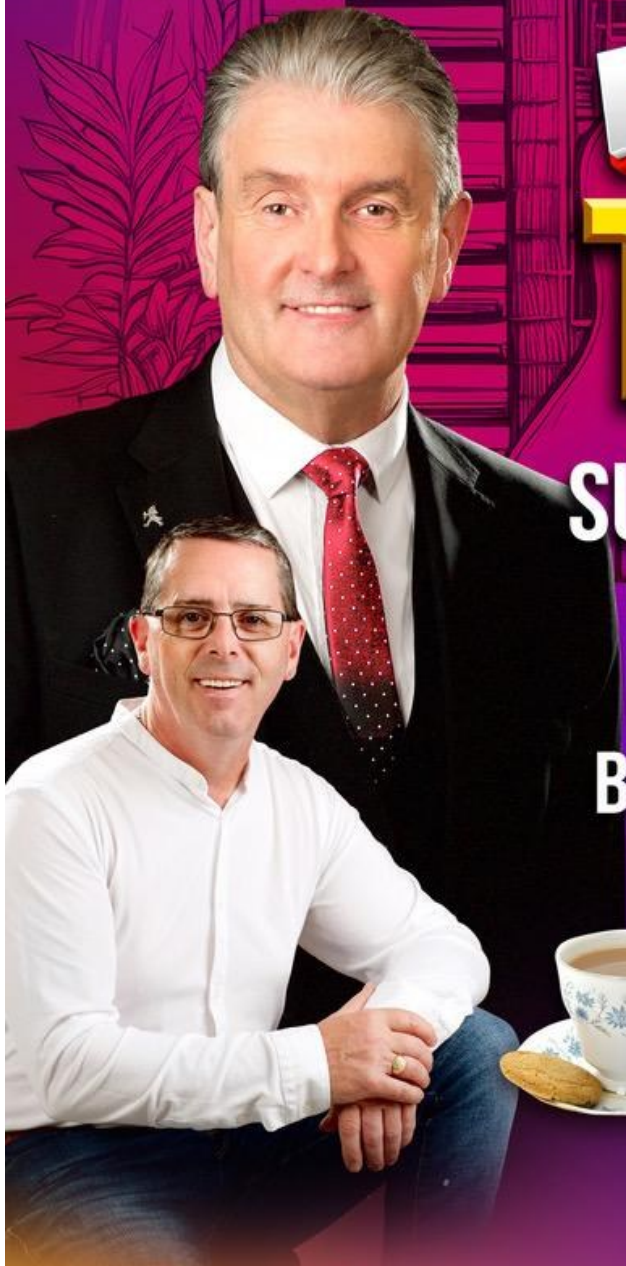
MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

DANCING TO

MICHAEL CAHILL  
with Special Guest

**SHAWN CUDDY**

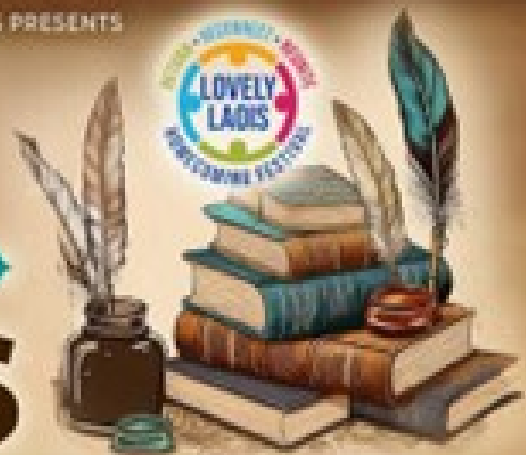
Complimentary Refreshments Served






BURCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# Lovely LAOIS



## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

# LITERARY EVENT

**PRESTON HOUSE, ABBEYLEIX**  *Preston House*  
**SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025**



**11AM-1PM**

### CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

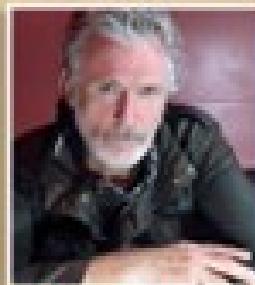
with Helen Moorhouse  
Mountmellick native,  
author of five  
published novels and  
Creative Writing Tutor,  
Helen Moorhouse  
hosts *First Steps  
To Your Story* for  
writers starting their  
first novel.



**2PM-4PM**

### PLAYWRIGHT WORKSHOP

with Frances Harney  
Prolific Ballyfin  
playwright, author  
and drama teacher,  
Frances Harney, will  
take aspiring writers  
through techniques  
for writing for the  
stage.



**4PM-5PM**

### AN AUDIENCE WITH PATRICK BERGIN

Distinguished Hollywood  
actor whose screen  
credits include 'Sleeping  
With The Enemy' 'Robin  
Hood' and 'Patriot Games';  
and TV roles in 'Red Rock'  
and 'Eastenders'; singer  
and poet, Patrick Bergin  
will read from his  
extensive creative output  
in an intimate audience.  
An exclusive event not to  
be missed!



**5PM-6PM**

### OPEN MIC

Writers of all  
persuasions, ages and  
experience are invited  
to share their stories  
and poems in a five  
minute slot before an  
audience. Local poet  
Arthur Broomfield and  
storytellers Johnny  
Thompson and Pat  
Critchley will  
participate - all  
are welcome!

*Please Note:* Tickets for the Literary Event are **FREE**  
However, you must book your place through [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie) (Places are limited)





BUIOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

# Lovely LAOIS

## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

### GALA DINNER

THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL, PORTLAOISE  
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

#### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 Course Dinner
- Official Presentation to a well known Laois Celebrity
- Official Presentation to 4 unsung hero's from Lovely Laois
- Folk & Ballads by The Musketeers (Mick Foster, Billy Morrissey & TR Dallas)
- Dancing to Trudi Lalor, Shawn Cuddy & Damien Bowe

Doors Open 7pm  
Dinner served  
@ 8pm sharp

TICKETS  
€59



Special Kildare/Carlow Pilgrimage  
(Limited availability)  
to Fatima EX Dublin Easter 2025

Flying with TAP Airlines

Also 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for Feast of Saint Anthony,

13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 for Miracle of Sun

Contact James Treacy 061921470

[jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com](mailto:jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com)

Payment can be made by instalments



# Daily Itinerary

## Day 1 - Holy Thursday (Apr 17th)

- Depart Dublin Airport at 05.35 a.m. and arrive into Lisbon Airport at 08.35a.m.
- On arrival transfer to Fatima where we will check into our hotel.
- Lunch will be provided at the hotel.
- Free time for optional activities.
- Dinner at Hotel.
- This evening we will attend Holy Thursday Mass.

## Day 2 - Good Friday (Apr 18th)

- Following breakfast at our hotel we will walk the Way of the Cross.
- Lunch in Hotel.
- This afternoon, we will have a guided tour of the Sanctuary area visiting, the Capelhina, Rosary Basilica, the graves of the three children.

## Day 3 - Holy Saturday (Apr 19th)

- This morning after breakfast we will visit the Parish Church, Valinhos and Aljustrel.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Following dinner we will attend the Vigil Mass in the Sanctuary.

## Day 4 - Easter Sunday (Apr 20th)

- Following breakfast, we will attend the Rosary and international Mass in the Sanctuary on this Easter Sunday morning.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Afternoon is free for optional activities.
- Dinner in Hotel.

## Day 5 - Easter Monday (Apr 21st)

- After breakfast, we will depart Fatima on our optional tour of Nazare & Bathala.
- A packed lunch will be provided.
- For those staying in Fatima, lunch will be provided in the hotel.
- Dinner and overnight.

## Day 6 - Tuesday (Apr 22nd)

- We bid farewell to Fatima and make our way to Lisbon Airport.
- Enroute, we will have a short visit to Santarem and visit the Church of The Holy Miracle. We will have time for private prayer in this special place.
- We will then continue onto Lisbon Airport.
- Our flight departs Lisbon at 3.20pm and arrives into Dublin Airport at 6.10pm.







# FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

17th - 22nd APR '25

Group Leader: James Treacy

Escorted Tour

**Barter's**  
Travelnet

FATIMA where the Blessed Virgin appeared to the three children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in 1917 is now one of the greatest Marian Shrines in the world.

**VISITING:** Chapel of the Apparitions - The Church of the Holy Trinity - Guided tour of the Sanctuary - Hungarian Stations of the Cross - Aljustrel - Partake in the Easter Celebrations

## INCLUDES:

- Return flights ex Dublin to Lisbon
- 23kg checked in luggage per person
- Coaching as per the itinerary
- 5 nights full board basis staying at 3\* Santo Amaro Hotel
- Religious itinerary with a guided tour of the Sanctuary area and excursion to Aljustrel
- Taxes and Charges

## EXTRAS:

- Single room supplement: €200.00 for duration (first come first served basis)
- Travel Insurance\*: €50 per person up to 79 years of age and €75 per person between 80 & 94 years of age
- Items of personal nature.
- Additional meals not listed.
- Valid Passports are required.
- Optional Day Trip - prices will be given locally by our guide.

## HOTEL SANTA AMARO:

Located a 5-minute walk from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Hotel Santo Amaro is the place where comfort and well-being are privileged. Hotel Santo Amaro offers you services of the highest quality so that you can enjoy your stay to the fullest. Our two excellent restaurants, where you can taste the typical cuisine of the region, are worthy of special mention. The hotel also has a chapel, two bars, and a souvenir shop. All guests have access to free wifi.

## Cost Per Person

**€859pp sharing**

Non-refundable €300 deposit plus insurance premium required at time of booking to secure place

*\*Any person taking our travel insurance must get a form signed by their GP at time of booking and this form must be taken to Fatima with you.*



For further information please contact:

**Group Leader James Treacy** : Tel 061-921470 or Mob 086-0572216

**Barter's Travelnet** : 021 485 1700 or [kcallaghan@travelnet.ie](mailto:kcallaghan@travelnet.ie)



BUIOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# Lovely LAOIS

## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL



## LITERARY EVENT

**PRESTON HOUSE, ABBEYLEIX**  *Preston House*  
**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**



**11AM-1PM**

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Mountmellick native,  
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Creative Writing Tutor,  
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To Your Story* for  
writers starting their  
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**2PM-4PM**

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with Frances Harney  
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Distinguished Hollywood  
actor whose screen  
credits include 'Sleeping  
With The Enemy' 'Robin  
Hood' and 'Patriot Games';  
and TV roles in 'Red Rock'  
and 'Eastenders'; singer  
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An exclusive event not to  
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However, you must book your place through [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie) (Places are limited)





09:29



Lovely Laois Homecomi...



Trudi Lalor



Admin

21h



FREE Family Fun Day on Saturday 6th September at The Old Fort in Portlaoise. 4 Hours of entertainment featuring ABBA Gold - ABBA Tribute Band. There will also be a DISCO and side shows .

The Old Fort is a beautiful venue in Portlaoise town ( behind the new Library) and is the ideal location for this family fun day event . We will also have FREE side shows and face painting . So save the date and ALL are welcome . Family tickets will be available through Eventbrite and are FREE of charge . The link to your free family tickets will be made available here in the coming weeks



# ABBA

## GOLD

### THE SHOW

A photograph of the Swedish pop group ABBA performing live on stage. The four members are positioned across the stage: a man on the left in a light-colored suit, a woman in the center in a bright blue dress, a man on the right in a dark suit, and a woman on the far right in a light-colored dress. They are surrounded by stage equipment, including microphones and stands. The background is dark with vertical blue light beams.

PERFORMING THE

# GREATEST HITS