

# Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

26th - 27th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday



1936 - 2025

*Pope Francis showed us that  
kindness and humility can  
change the world. His gentle  
spirit and deep compassion  
will be remembered always.*

# 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)

or [www.ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.ballyfinparish.ie)

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

Name of Parish App.

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*



# 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

# Bishop Denis' Easter Message

My mother was fifteen years dead on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Her death was sudden and unexpected, particularly when I think of dad's. When those we love die, years tend to morph into one another, you forget the number of years. Fifteen years is but a twinkling of an eye.

There is a line in Luke's Easter Vigil gospel that captures this beautifully, as it takes our focus from the grave, from the tombstone: "*why look among the dead for someone who is alive?*" Those we love and lose to death are alive in Christ and are alive in our hearts.

The three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are essentially one liturgy lasting three days. Holy Thursday begins but doesn't end. Good Friday picks up the themes but leaves us at Golgotha while on Holy Saturday we wait at a tomb, waiting for the dawn to break, waiting for the tomb to be cracked open.

The Triduum is three days in one. Easter is fifty days in one. Let's make the most of these fifty days and feel the life of Christ fully alive among us. I am very conscious of the great work done across all our parishes to unpack the Easter story. I thank priests and people who do so much to make these days special.

As the hymn prays:

*"Christ is alive, with joy we sing, We celebrate our risen Lord,  
Praising the glory of his name. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"*

Blessings to you as we celebrate the life of Christ and the life  
of all we've lost to death. Happy Easter! + Denis

### Christy Cullen, Cloncourse R.I.P.

We pray for Christy who died peacefully at his home on Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Christy's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> April followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sheila, daughters, Orlaith and Laura, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends.

### Anna (Anastasia) Moore-Mathews (nee Conroy) Cardtown R.I.P.

We pray for Anna who died peacefully at Midlands Reg. Hosp., Portlaoise, on Mon. 21<sup>st</sup> April. Anna Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fergal's Church, Camross on Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> April followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her family, Sr. Kathleen, Finbarr, Willie, (and Mary and family, Portlaoise Rd.,) Veronica, Donal, Terry and Aidan, her 13 grandchildren and their families, 14 great-grandchildren, sister Mary Dunne, Ballyfin and family. nieces, nephews, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

### Charles (Charlie) Breen - Abbeyleix R.I.P.

We pray for Charlie who died peacefully on Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Charlie's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe on Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> April followed by burial in Shanahoe Cemetery. We extend sympathy to all his family, relatives and friends. Charlie spent much of his life living and working in Mountrath where he was involved in the building of some of our schools as well as the re-slating of St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath in the 1990's

*May Christy, Annastasia and Charles rest in the peace of Christ.*

*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

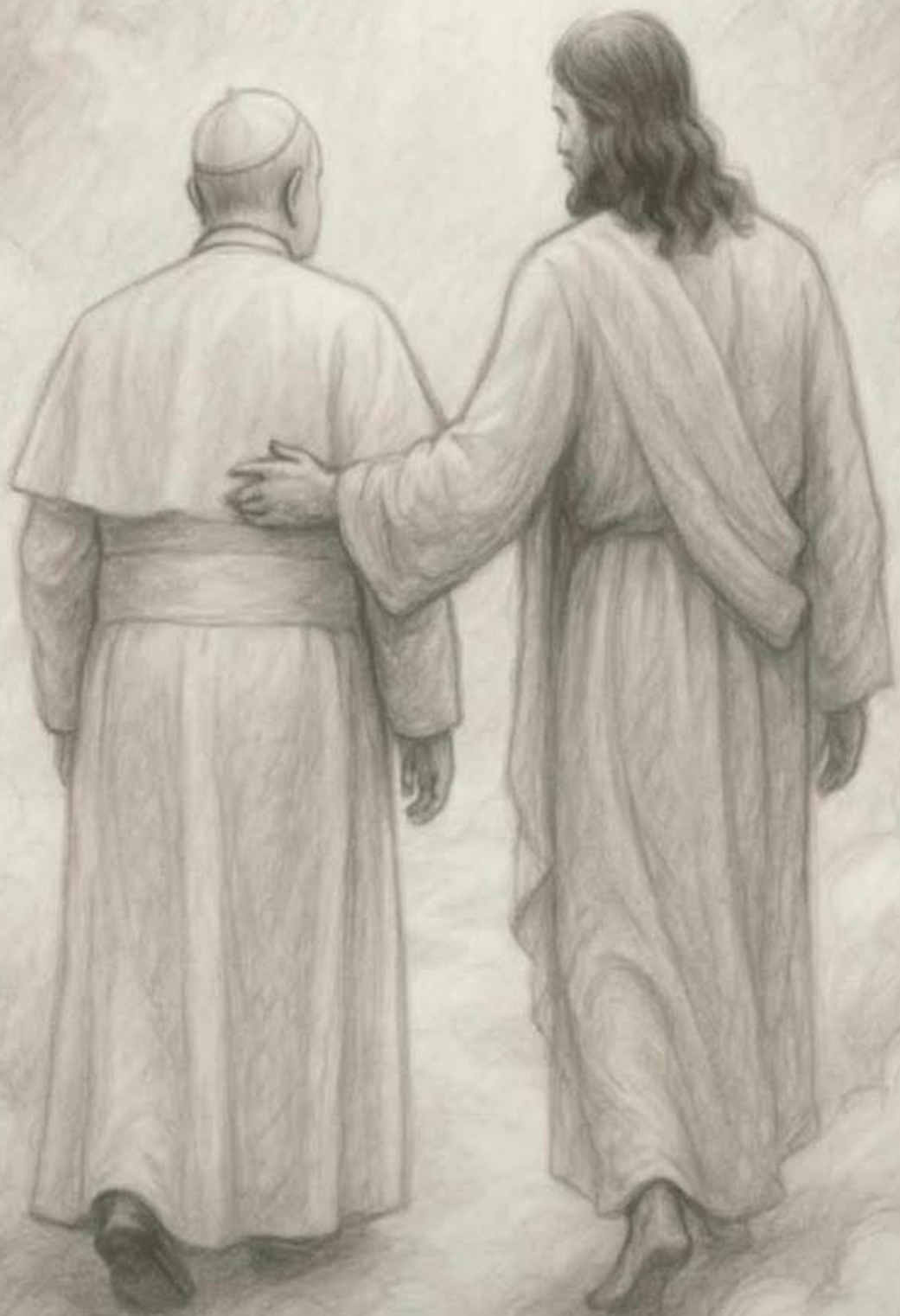
**If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account please include  
your own name as the reference.**

# Pope Francis

1936 ~ 2025



# **Two friends heading home after Easter**



I absolutely LOVE this quote from  
Pope Francis!



“

Rivers do not drink  
their own water; trees  
do not eat their own  
fruit; the sun does not  
shine on itself and  
flowers do not spread  
their fragrance for  
themselves. Living for  
others is a rule of  
nature. We are all born  
to help each other. No  
matter how difficult it  
is...Life is good when  
you are happy; but  
much better when  
others are happy  
because of you.

”  
**Pope Francis**

 /TandagDiocese





**1936 - 2025**

***Pope Francis showed us that kindness and humility can change the world. His gentle spirit and deep compassion will be remembered always.***



Requiem Mass for  
Pope Francis R.I.P.

Mountrath Church

Wed. 30th April

10.00 am

Ballyfin Church

Fri. 2nd May 7.30 pm

*Note From Bishop Denis' Desk    Tues. 22<sup>d</sup> April 2025*

## Message to Priests and People on the death of Pope Francis

It is with great sadness that we learned of the news of the death of Pope Francis. While we knew he was very ill, seeing him on Easter Sunday in St. Peter's Square, greeting the faithful, brought great comfort.

The announcement of his death on Easter Monday morning was all the more a shock and sad, at the suddenness of his passing. Pope Francis came from the periphery, as the first Pope from the Americas, and those at the periphery - the poor, the migrant, the prisoner, the refugee, the outcast - were always at the centre of his pontificate.

Only last Holy Thursday, despite his own frailty, he took time to visit Rome's Regina Coeli prison and his first visit outside Rome as Pope was to the tiny island of Lampedusa to remember the many drowned at sea, in search of refuge and a new beginning on mainland Europe.

Pope Francis will be remembered for many things and there will be much commentary over the next while, but for me, his message of Inclusion and mercy was key    "*The name of God is mercy*" he reminded us. And now we commend him to the mercy of God.

At the heart of Pope Francis' message of hope in this Jubilee Year was the reality of the life, death and resurrection of Christ and in this Easter Octave, Pope Francis is welcomed into the eternal embrace of the resurrection.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Every blessing and good wish to all of you during this Easter Octave, +Denis

## SYNOD NEWS:

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** (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 AND WHERE:

**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)** /0599164084

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*

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.

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*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.



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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# Parish News



# 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.

# 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)*

# CHECK IT FITS IS COMING TO:

**LAOIS**

**28/04 - ALDI Portlaoise**

**29/04 - McLoughlin's SuperValu  
Portarlinton**



**Visit [www.rsa/checkitfits](http://www.rsa/checkitfits) to find out more.**





**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 Sat. 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

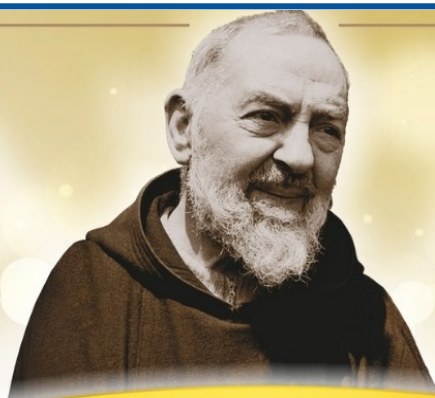
# Live Well Expo

The EXPO is back for a third year and attracts predominantly an older audience. It is an information packed event but also a social and fun event. It is organised by Healthy Laois and Age Friendly Laois. It takes place in Portlaoise College on 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 12.30pm to 6pm with refreshments being served and entertainment on arrival and for the last hour.

## This year features

- Speakers                  Panel discussions
- Tech help for older people by Google staff
  - Create and Play Zone
  - Chess                  Card Games
- Activity Zone                  Over 100 exhibitors
- And more

See <https://laois.ie/community/live-well-health-wellbeing-expo-2025-set-to-welcome-over-2000-attendees-in-portlaoise> for more info



## 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***

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*

# 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.!!



# 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

## 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.

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(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. 26th April

To

Sun. 4th May

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April to Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> May

Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter.

Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

Mon. 28<sup>th</sup> Apr. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> May 7.30 pm Requiem Mass for Pope Francis

Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> May 8.00 pm Michael Newsome, Rossmore. 4<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

. Tom Greene, Ross 9<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am Mary Ann and Matthew Coss.

Their son, Peter - daughter, Mary and her husband Pat Kelliher.

. Elizabeth and Brian O'Donnell, Clonkeen

Mon. 5<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is changed ,not ended

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 19th April to Sun. 27th April

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

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

Andy O'Connor, Dysartbeigh. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Margaret Taylor, Nora Dunne,

Annie Wilson, Margaret Clarke, Moanabaun.

Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Octave Day of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday**

Divine Mercy Sunday is based (but not solely) on St. Faustina's revelations (Sr. Faustina had 14 visions of the Lord in 1930's) This 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter is a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" highlights the meaning of this day.

9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

**11.30 am Octave of Easter**

Tues. 29<sup>th</sup> Apr 10.00 am Kathleen Dollard, John Dollard, Christina

Nelson (nee Dollard) Forest and West Yorkshire)

And deceased family members

Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. 10.00 am Requiem Mass for Pope Francis

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> May 10.00 am Peter and Mary Haslam, Clonenagh

Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times    Anniversaries

Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> — Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> May

Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> May 7.00 pm Michael (Mick) Boyhan. Fr. O'Connor Cr. M.M.

Thomas Connor and Dorothy Connor, Cappagh

Thomas 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniv Dorothy 31<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Seamus Fitzpatrick, Woodbrook.

And deceased family members

Thomas and Margaret Phelan, Shannon Rd.,

And deceased family members

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> May 9.00 am The Hollow Church 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Easter

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Day with pupils of Gaelscoil Thromaire

11.30 am Tom Treacy, Woodbrook. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Patrick and Ann Fitzpatrick, Clonbarrow

Patrick's 39<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Ann's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

# Parish Lottos





# Ballyfin Parish Lotto,

Wed 23rd April

Nos. Drawn 22 23 24 28

No Jackpot Winner

74 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 250 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 16,000

*Thank you for your continued  
and generous support of  
Ballyfin Parish Lotto.*

# Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> April

Nos. Drawn 8 16 17 18

No € 19,000 Jackpot Winner

5 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 200 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 20,000



# 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

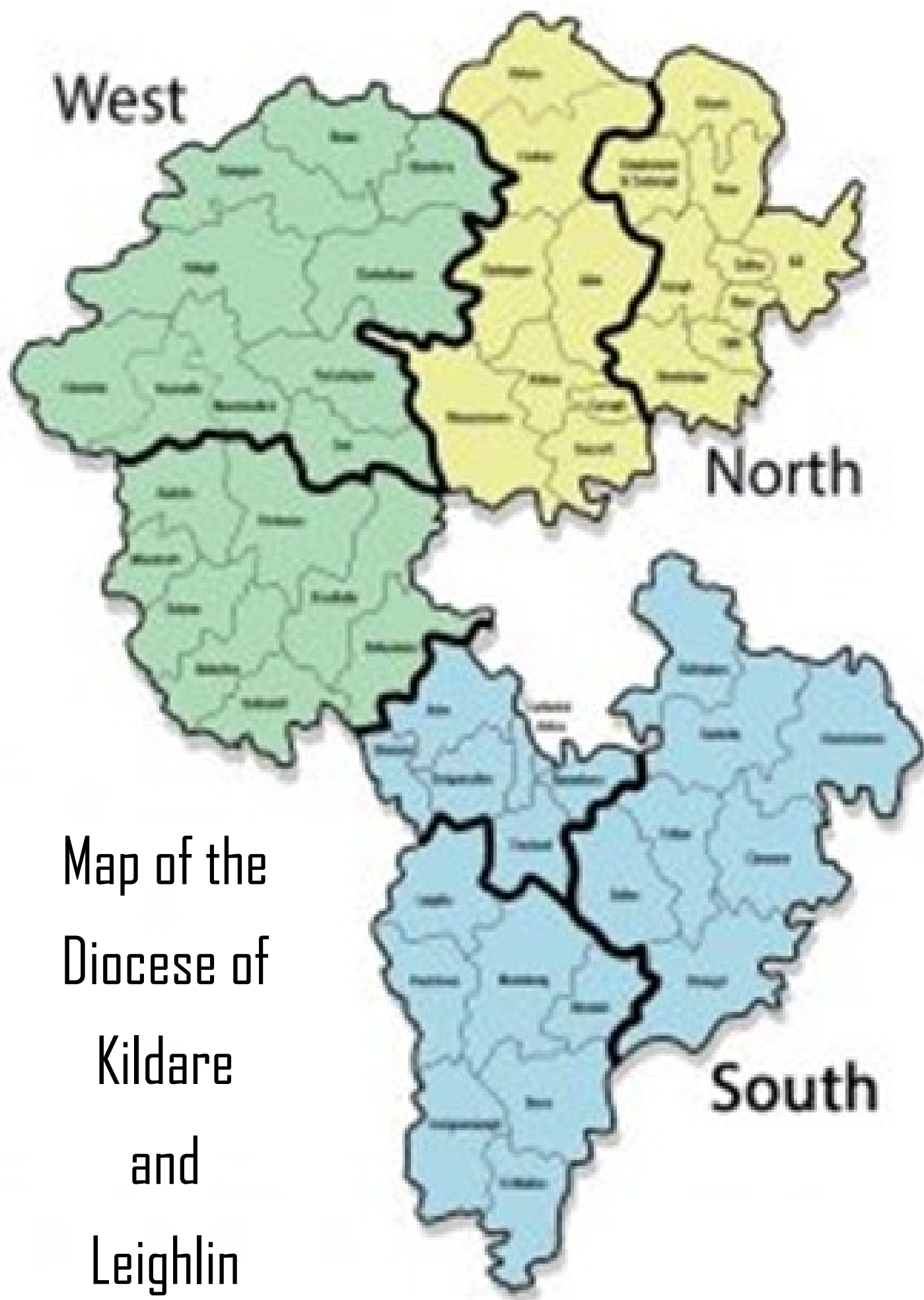


Mountrath      € 20,000

Ballyfin      € 16,000



# News From Around The Diocese





# *'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**







# liveWELL EXPO

**23rd April 2025**  
**12.30pm-6.00pm**  
**Portlaoise College,**  
**Portlaoise, Co Laois.**

100 ways to LIVE WELL ...

**Be SOCIAL**



**Be HEALTHY**



**Be ACTIVE**



**Be CREATIVE**



**NEW Adult Create and Play Zone**



SCAN ME

**Quiet Time**

**11.00am to 12.00pm.**  
*Strictly reservations only  
to Tom or Emma  
Contact details below*

**Special Guest**  
**Anna May McHugh**  
Laois AgeFriendly  
Ambassador



**Free Admission & Refreshments**



Healthy  
Laois

**For more information contact**

**Tom Curran on 086-0363426 and Emma on 086-0665215**  
**or email [livewell@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:livewell@laoiscoco.ie)**

**Over 100 Exhibitors offering Health & Wellness advice and information**  
**Inspiring Live Talks & Expert Demonstrations** **Fun Music & Dance Performances**  
**Interactive Activities** **Discover Local Health resources & wellbeing tips**





12.30pm	Opening Ceremony with Anna May McHugh our Age Friendly Ambassador.
1.00pm	Make Time for your Health, with Dr Joe Tierney.
1.30pm	Tips and Tricks for your mobile technology with
2.00pm	Keep on Moving with Mr Ian Kelly(Consultant) and Dr Michael Ryan
2.30pm	Interval
3.00pm	Health Made Simple: Expert help on Medicines, Wellbeing and exploring Local Health Services
3.30pm	What happens if something happens to me?
4.00pm	Gardening and Climate Conversations
4.30pm	Unwind your Mind with Bee-ing Me Mindfully
5.00pm	Music, Dance and throwing Shapes!!!!

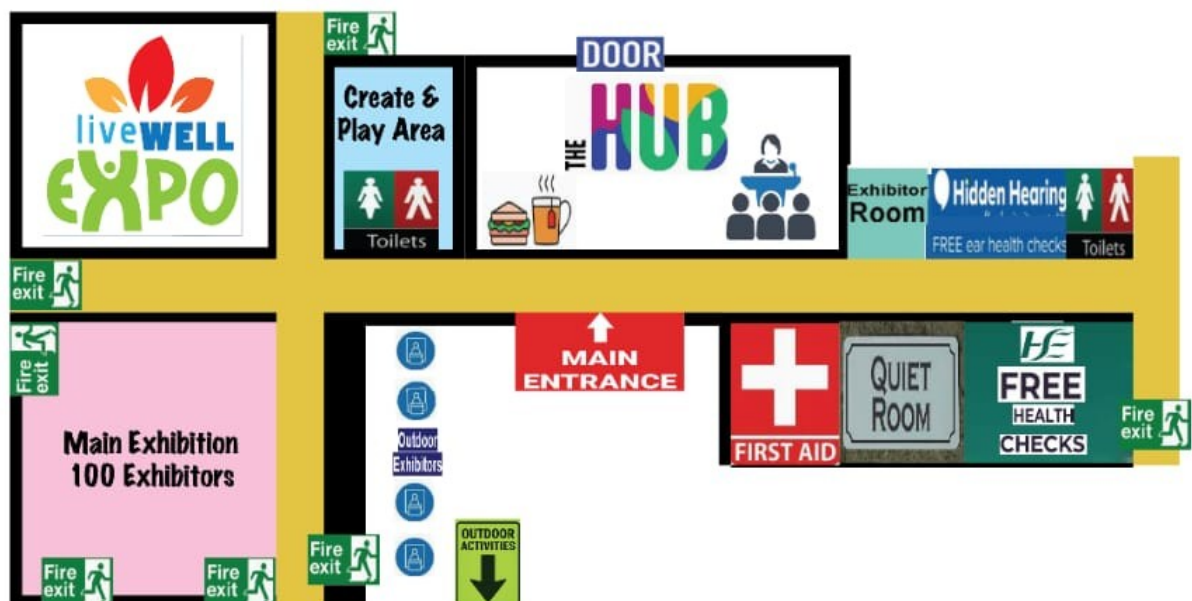


1.00pm	Dance with Maureen Culleton
1.30pm	Activator Poles with Caroline Cahill and Donie Molloy
2.00pm	Be Mindful with Margaret Bergin
2.15pm	Chair Pilates with Sabrina Comerford
3.00pm	Go for Life with Caroline Cahill and Mary Rafter
3.30pm	Be Mindful with Margaret Bergin

## Creative Play Area



- ♦ Learn how to play Whist, 25s and Bridge with our Card team or hold your own with some experienced players
- ♦ Chess For Beginners
- ♦ Explore the beauty of nature through a demonstration of alternative photography with Leanne Prakash
- ♦ Be mindful!, Paint by your heart not by your hands and have fun with Javeria Zain Khan from Javeriya Art.
- ♦ Watch Mags Laboss make personalised gifts for all occasions for that Special Someone.
- ♦ Visit Martin Moore, a mixed media artist and woodturner, who will showcase his varied mediums.
- ♦ Ceramic artist Laura Matikaite creates sculptural vessels with her own glazes.
- ♦ Aileen Donovan draws inspiration from nature and will show you how to use a glue gun to build up texture and colour.
- ♦ Join Wiktorja Mrozowicz as she expresses her passion for music by creating a piece of art. Paint, sing, play!
- ♦ Kathleen Flanagan invites you to see her pyrography, copper craft, house signs and glass painting.



Events  
at  
Bloom HQ



# PAT COSTELLO

**EASTER MONDAY NIGHT  
DANCE  
MONDAY, 21ST APRIL**



**8 - 11PM**



**ST PHILOMENA'S HALL  
Mountrath, Co Laois  
R32 DT9F**

**ADM - €10 | TEA AND SANDWICHES SERVED**



CLASS OF 1990 PRESENTS

Bloom HQ  
Mountrath

**POSTPONED**

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

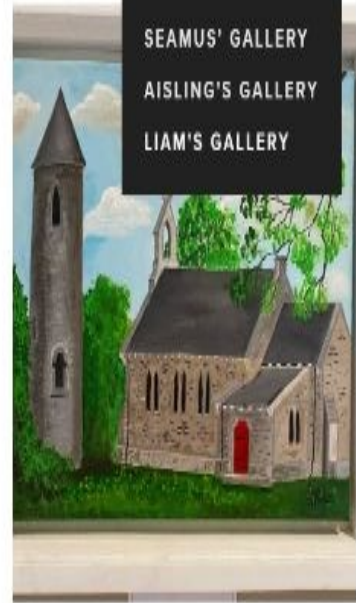
Music stands    And much more...



**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**

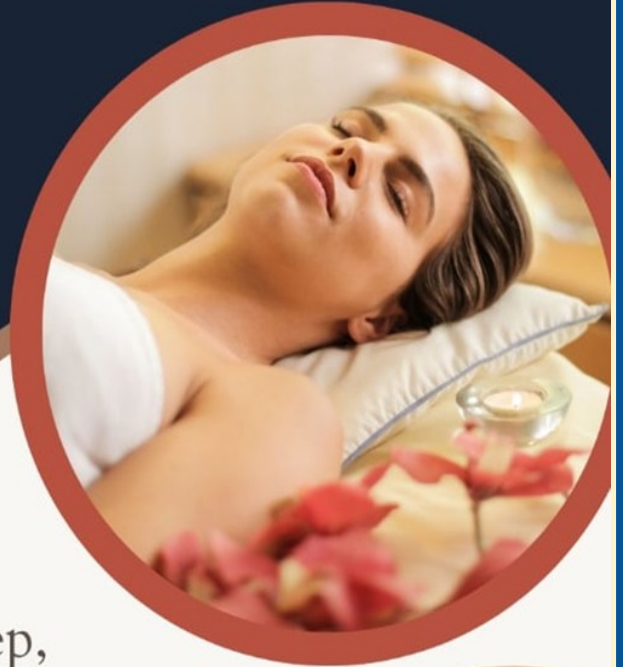
📍 Gallery of Divine Inspiration,  
BloomHQ, Unit 1, Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick Street, Mountrath, Laois,  
Ireland, R32 DT9F

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



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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



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

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FREE PARKING  
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POSTAL ADDRESS  
PHOTOCOPYING**

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



*Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58*





# Music Classes in Mountrath



## Violin

Thursdays 3-30 pm on from 3 years -adult

€ 20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene 089 981 8065



## 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







**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](mailto:MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE)





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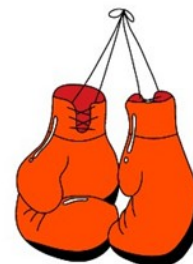
## Karate

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

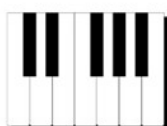
## Violin



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

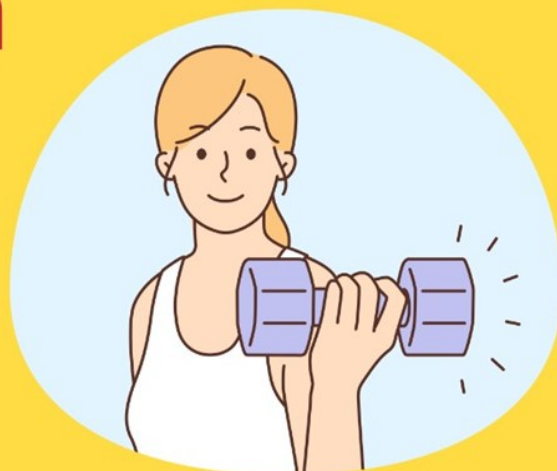
to book talk to the relevant teacher





# Saturday Morning Circuit Training

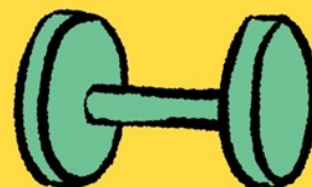
9-10 am



€ 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

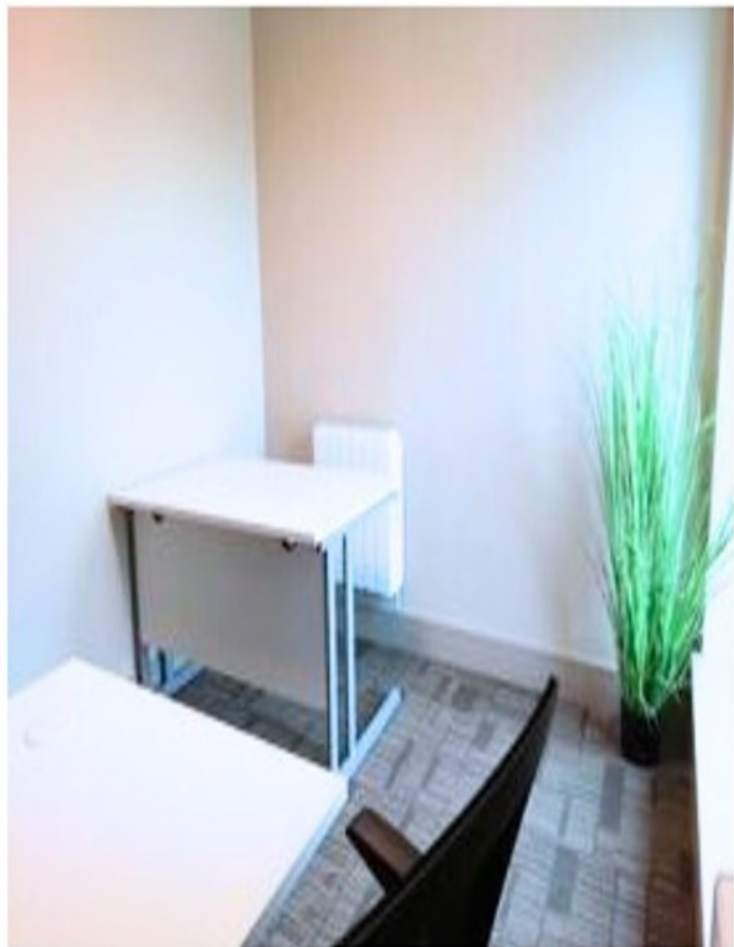
contact Jamie 085 200 2497



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)

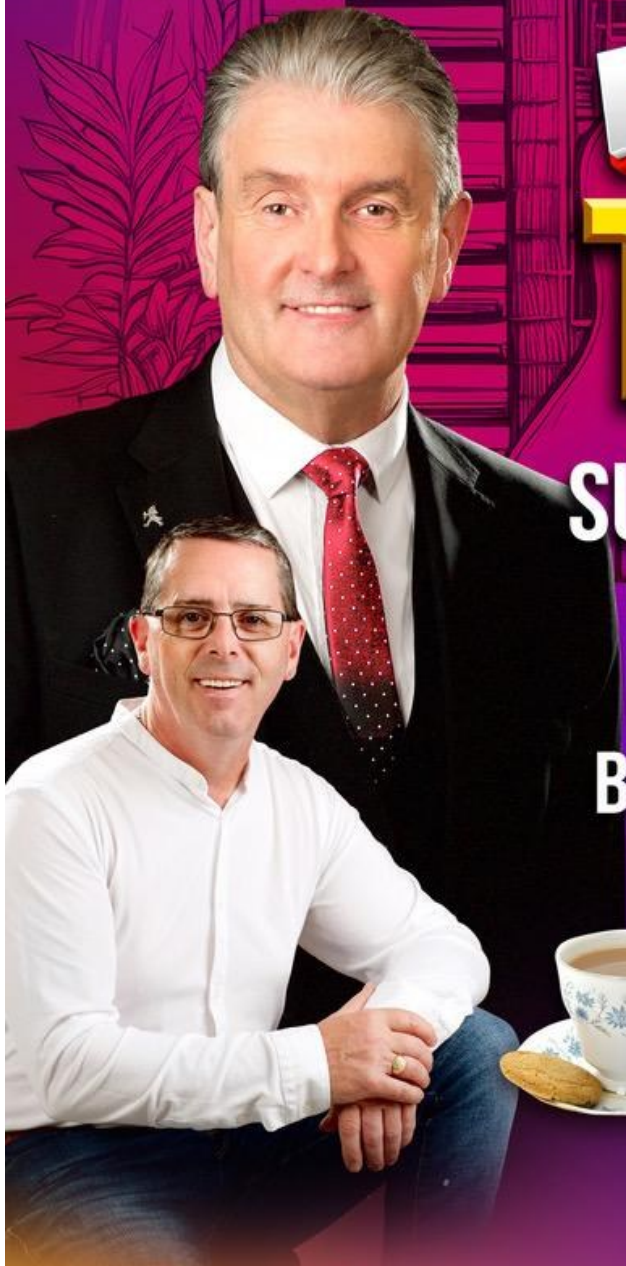
MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

DANCING TO

MICHAEL CAHILL  
with Special Guest

**SHAWN CUDDY**

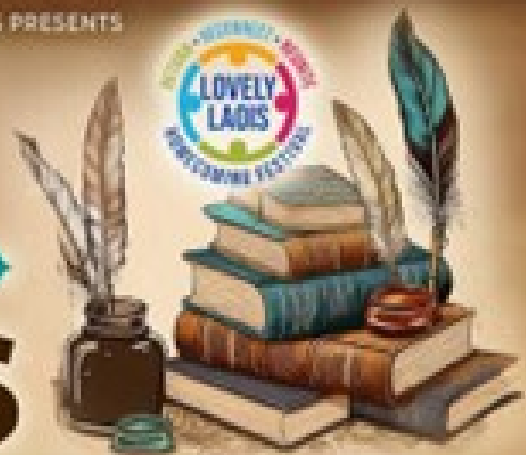
Complimentary Refreshments Served






BURCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

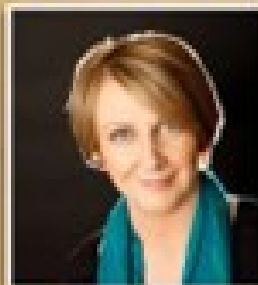
# Lovely LAOIS



## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

# LITERARY EVENT

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



**11AM-1PM**

### CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

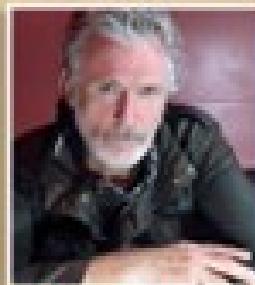
with Helen Moorhouse  
Mountmellick native,  
author of five  
published novels and  
Creative Writing Tutor,  
Helen Moorhouse  
hosts *First Steps  
To Your Story* for  
writers starting their  
first novel.



**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 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)





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





# Parish Finances

# 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 .



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		Donations	€ 1,700.00
		Total:	€ 186,173.00

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

# 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 .