Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

20th - 21st December 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

A Christmas Prayer A Christmas Blessing

Heavenly Father,

On this holy day, we thank You for the gift of love which you gave us in the quiet of a Manger.

Bless our homes with peace,

our hearts with joy,

and our lives with kindness.

May the light of Christ,

guide our steps, warm our spirits, and inspire us to share hope with others.

Let this Christmas be a Season of forgiveness, gratitude, and renewed faith. Amen.

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

or <u>www.ballyfinparish.ie</u>

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Name of Parish App.

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

A Christmas Prayer A Christmas Blessing

Heavenly Father,

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Anne Farrell (nee Lowry) Patrick St., R.I.P.

We pray for Anne who died peacefully at her home on Thurs. 11th Dec. Anne's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Sun. 14th Dec. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her husband, Mattie, family, Ailish, Michael, Matthew, Aine and Catriona and their families, brothers Jimmy and Murt, sister Mary and their families. Grandchildren and families, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and her many friends. Anne was an integral part of our Community here in Mountrath for the past 63 years and was deeply involved in our Faith Community, as Minister of Holy Communion, Reader, was a very active member of Mountrath Chapter of St. Vincent De Paul Society and was always so willing to help whenever, wherever (and whoever) she could. Anne was just a great advocate and supporter of all things Mountrath Parish.

May Anne Rest in the peace of Christ

Thank You (Ballyfin Parish)

A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various and enriching Ministries here at Ballyfin Church, throughout the year.

Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy

Communion - Collectors — Church Cleaners — Ministries coordinators, Esther and Crescentia, Sacristans, Musicians,

Organists, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and all who enhance
our celebration of the Eucharist and liturgies
here in Ballyfin Parishes.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and decoration of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Crib and thanks to all who helped with all our Christmas preparations inside and outside. Please know that our help and co-operation is very much appreciated.

Fr. Joe - Parish Priest

Thank You (Mountrath Parish)

A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various and enriching Ministries here at Mountrath Church, throughout the year. Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion - Collectors - Church Cleaners - Pauric. Ministries co-ordinators, Geraldine and Paulo, Musicians, Organists, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and all who enhance our celebration of the Eucharist and liturgies here in Mountrath Parish.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and decoration of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Crib and thanks to all who helped with all our Christmas preparations inside and outside. Please know that our help and co-operation is very much appreciated.

Fr. Joe - Parish Priest



Copy of Financial Statement available on Notice Board at back of Church and on Online Newsletter

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Thank you for your continued and generous support of

Mountrath Parish Weekly Lotto

and Mountrath Parish Collections.

Your kind and generous support is much appreciated

See Pages 124 to 127

Copy of Financial Statement available on Notice Board at back of Church and on Online Newsletter

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Ballyfin Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Thank you for your continued and generous support of

Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lotto

and Ballyfin Parish Collections.

Your kind and generous support

is much appreciated

See Pages 121 to 123

SVP Annual Collection

Because of the death of Ann Farrell, Patrick St., the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Church Gate Collection due to be held on Sunday last at Mountrath Church was deferred and will now take place this weekend,

(21st and 22nd Dec)

Your generous support is always very much appreciated.

A Note from Rev. Alec Purcer (Rector, Ballyfin Parish)

Christmas Carol Service in

St. John the Baptist Church, Ballyfin

on Sun. 21st Dec.

commencing at 7.30 pm

All are most welcome.

Mountrath Parish

Ministries Rota for Christmas

Reader Vigil Pauric Tobin

Christmas Day - Karlijn and Emma

Ministers of Holy Communion

Vigil. Collette Byrne, Anne Marie Byrne, Peg Russell Christmas Day Peter Middleton, Bernie Phelan

Sat 27th Sun. 28th Dec.

Readers Sat. 7.00 pm John Mulhare

Sun. 11.30 am Geraldine Moore

Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat. 7.00 pm Margaret Walsh, Pacelli Walsh, Frances Byrne
Sun. 11.30 am Margaret Carroll, Margaret Keegan
Collectors Sat (and Christmas Eve) Noel Tobin, Rita Watkins
Sun (and Christmas Day) Pat McSpadden, Donal Doheny

Ballyfin Parish

Ministries Rota

Wed. 24th Dec. - Sun. 28th Dec.

Reader Ministers of Holy Comm

Christmas Eve Gerard Rowney Br. Nicholas Leahy

Catherine Carroll

Christmas Day Miriam Mooney Denis Bowe

Br. Gerry Reburn

Sat. 8.00 pm Maria Dowling Adrian Greene

Sun. 10.00am Helen Coughlan Maria Dowling

Collectors for Dec. Sat. Richard Duff Sun. Denis Daly

"Do This In Memory"

Our Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass

is arranged for this weekend

Mountrath Church

Sat. 10th Jan. 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church.

Sun. 11th Jan. 10.00 am

Irish Guide Dogs for The Blind

We extend thanks to all who supported our recent fundraiser and especially all who supported us at the Christmas Market.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

A special word of thanks to Cllr. James Kelly and Bloom HQ for facilitating our stand at the Christmas Market FOC.

A very special word of thanks to Louise and Bernie for all the hard work on the day.

Mary's Meals

Give Hope This Christmas with Double the Love:

Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future. It costs just €22 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Thanks to the Tom Cunningham Trust, donations will be doubled until 12th January 2026 or until the match funding limit has been reached. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals.

To donate, go to <u>www.marysmeals.ie</u> or phone 01 853 5163.

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Christmas

Evants



Penitential Services for Christmas

Mountrath Church

Penitential Service Tues. 23rd - 7.00 pm

Individual Confessions Wed. 24th Christmas Eve

After 10.00 am Mass

Ballyfin Church

Penitential Service Tues. 23rd -8.00 pm

Individual Confessions Wed. 24th Christmas Eve

11.00 am

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Because of the death of Ann Farrell, Patrick St.,
the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Church Gate Collection
due to be held on Sunday last at Mountrath Church
was deferred

and will now take place this weekend,

(21st and 22nd Dec)

Your generous support is always very much appreciated.

Children's Choir Practice For Christmas Day Ballyfin Church

Children's Christmas Day Choir Practice



Calling All Children

interested in singing in the choir Christmas morning in Ballyfin, we will be holding a practice in the church straight after 10 o' clock Mass on Sunday 14th and Sunday 21st.

All Welcome.

Contact Caitriona if interested 086 3292863

A Note from Rev. Alec Purcer (Rector, Ballyfin Parish)

Christmas Carol Service

in

St. John the Baptist Church, Ballyfin

ON

Sun. 21st Dec.

commencing at 7.30 pm

Christmas

isn't about presents

It's about

Presence,

Kindness,

And

Connection."

Christmas

This Christmas,

may your

Heart be open,

Your home be full,

and

Your spirit be refreshed."



Sunday Missals 2026. (Year A)

Our Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) are invited to collect their Sunday Missals for next year. (they are on the church organ) A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various Ministries here at Ballyfin Church. Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion - Collectors — Church Cleaners — Ministries coordinators, Esther and Crescentia, Sacristans, Musicians, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and to all who enrich our celebration of the Eucharist here in Ballyfin Church.

Sunday Missals 2026. (Year A) Mountrath

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Ministries here at Mountrath Church. Servers, Readers

(Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion
Collectors - Church Cleaners - Ministries co-ordinators,

Geraldine and Paulo, Sacristans, Musicians, Singers, Choirs

and coordinators and to all who enrich our celebration of the

Eucharist here in Mountrath Church.





Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Ballyfin

Parishes

1st Holy Communion Preparation

"Do This In Memory" Mass.
Sat. 10th January
Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation

"Do This In Memory" Mass.
Sun. 11th January
Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis

Mountrath

. After 7.00 pm Mass For Confirmation Candidates and their parents

in Mountrath Parish.

Date to be Confirmed

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis -Ballyfin

after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Date to be Confirmed

Sacramental Dates Mountrath Parish

1st Holy Communion Sun. 26th April 11.30 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 11.00 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,
Tues. 21st April 11.30am
The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)
with Confirmation Candidates
Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1st Holy Communion Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

"Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

(Unless otherwise indicated)

Sacramental Dates

'25 – '26 Ballyfin Parish

1st Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17th May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24th May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation Friday 1st May 2.30 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children
Thurs. 23rd April 11.30am
The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)
with Confirmation Candidates
Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Ballyfin Church)

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

(Unless otherwise indicated)

1st Eucharist Preparation Programme

All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion next year are required to attend all "Do This In Memory" Masses with their parents or guardian.

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.

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 7.00 pm on the previous evening

Or

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

Arranging Anniversary Mass or Month's Mind Mass

The traditional way of arranging an Anniversary Mass remembrance was by visiting the Sacristy before or after Mass and making the necessary arrangement with the priest, who wrote the intention into the Anniversaries Diary, there and then. However, since Covid this practice has changed.

Arrangements for Anniversary Mass remembrances and Month's Mind Masses are, more often than not, now arranged by email, text message, whatsapp, by phone, among many other ways. Which is great.

On the down-side, it can be quiet difficult to keep track of all these ways. - Sometimes emails can go to folders on the computer other than the main folder and are not seen straight away. The same can apply to text messages and Whatsapp. messages. This can cause a problem when I have no knowledge of these emails / messages coming in and are sometimes not detected at the time.

Can lask you -

if you send me an email, text message or a message on Whatsapp, or any way, other than visiting the Sacristy, requesting an Anniversary Mass remembrance or arrangements for a Month's Mind Mass and don't hear from me or don't see the relevant name / names in the Newsletter,

please give me a call on 087 241 1594

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/a

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

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. - BOFIIE2D

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

Parish Newsletters.

There are three Parish Newsletters prepared and published each week -

2 A4 Print editions for Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes - available at all our Masses

and I online Newsletter, uploaded to our Parish App.

(Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)

and to our parish Website,

(www.mountrathparish.ie)

and available to view from early Sat morning.

Deadline 12.00 midday Thursday

Jubilee year
Pilgrims of Hope



Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope

Invitation to Mass for the Closing of Jubilee Year

Dioceses across the world will mark the closing of the Jubilee Year on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sun. 28th Dec.. This day coincides with the closing of Holy Doors in the Roman Basilicas of Saint Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. The Jubilee Year will officially conclude with the closing of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome by Pope Leo on 6th Jan. Bishop Denis invites all parishioners across the Diocese to join him in giving thanks for the graces of the Jubilee Year in the celebration of the Mass, in the Cathedral of the Assumption Carlow, at 10:30 am Mass. Music will be led by the Cathedral Choir.

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.

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.

Parish News



Sacramental Dates Mountrath Parish

1st Holy Communion Sun. 26th April 11.30 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 11.00 pm

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1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,
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with Confirmation Candidates
Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1st Holy Communion Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

"Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

Sunday Missals 2026.
(Year A)
Ballyfin and Mountrath

Our Readers (Proclaimers of the Word)

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Sunday Missals for next year.

1st Holy Communion Preparation
Next
"Do This In Memory" Mass.
Sat. 10th January
Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation Next "Do This In Memory" Mass. Sun. 11th January Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis

Mountrath

After 7.00 pm Mass
For Confirmation Candidates and their parents

in Mountrath Parish.

Date to be Confirmed

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis -Ballyfin

after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Date to be Confirmed

Sacramental Dates

'25 - '26 Ballyfin Parish

1st Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17th May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24th May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am

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(Unless otherwise indicated)

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Or

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation Confirmation Catechesis

Mountrath Church

After 7.00 pm Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents / guardians in Mountrath Parish

Date to be Confirmed

Parish Confirmation Preparation Confirmation Catechesis

after 10.00 am Mass
For Confirmation Candidates and their parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Date to be Confirmed

Ballyfin Community Alert Seniors Alert Scheme

Grant aided personal 24/7 personal monitored alarms help people aged 65 and over to live securely in their homes with peace of mind. If you know a family member, friend or neighbour in Ballyfin or Laois area who may qualify

Please contact Sheila on 086 157 0145 for information/application form.

An Tobar Núa.

Confidential Counselling nationwide via telephone and Zoom. Our Service is donation-based, because we do not want finances to prevent anyone from receiving support. If you are struggling with grief, anxiety, depression, or other life challenges, please know that we are here to help. Phone: 091 562 175

Email: counselling@antobarnua.com

Thomas O'Loughlin

An Tobar Nua Counselling

MIACP, BSc

Counselling/Psychotherapy

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)*

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

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.!!



Bingo in St. Fintan's Hall

Every Monday night.

Commencing Mon. 1st Dec.,

Blue and Yellow Sheets will be increased by €50, bringing the Full House to €300.

Please support your local Bingo.

All are very welcome.



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. - BOFIIE2D

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

Anniversary Masses

Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes

Sat. 20th Dec.

To

Sun. 28th Dec.

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat. 20th Dec. to Sun. 28th Dec.

Fri. 19th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Sat. 20th Dec. 8.00 pm Tim Heffernan, Brockera.

Sun 21st Dec. 10.00 am Martin Gilligan, Ballyfin Rd.

Mountrath 3rd Anniv.

7.30 pm Christmas Carol Service in St. John the Baptist Church,
Ballyfin If you would like to do a short Scriptural Reading during this
Carol Service, please contact Fr. Joe

Mon. 22nd Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification Tues. 23rd Dec. 8.00 pm Penitential Service for Christmas Wed. 24th Dec. 11.00 am Individual Confessions

8.00 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

Carols and Reflection commence at 7.45 pm

Thurs. 25th Dec. 10.00 am Mass of Christmas Day.

Richard and Fiona O'Rourke, Camcloone.

Richard's 9th - Fiona's 41st Anniv.

Fri. 26th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Sat. 27th Dec. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - Feast of the Holy Family Sun. 28th Dec. 10.00 am Tommy and Bernie Fitzpatrick, Cloncullen 5th Anniv.

Mon. 29th Dec.7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 20th Dec. - Sun. 28th Dec.

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

We pray for Phina Kavanagh (Nee Maher) Kilbricken. R.I.P. who died on Wed. 17th Dec. We remember her family at this time.

Sat. 20th Dec. 7.00 pm Michael and Mary Ann Culliton, Gurteen Thomas Taylor, Moanbaun.

Sun. 21st Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Church

Michael and Ann Heffernan, Clonkeen

11.30 am Simon Walsh, Clonard. 7th Anniv.

Tom Meade, Ringstown.

The Kavanagh Family, Kilbricken

Tues.23rd Dec. 10.00 am

7.00 pm Penitential Service for Christmas

Wed. 24th Dec. 10.00 am Individual Confessions after Mass

8.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Thur. 25th Dec. 9.00 am Mass of Christmas Day.

11,30 am Katie, Molly and Jack Phelan, Woodbrook.

Fri. 26th Dec. No Mass today.

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 20th Nov. - Sun. 28th Dec. (Continued)

Sat. 27th Dec. 7.00 pm Peter Delaney, Clonard 10th Anniv.

Thomas, John and Mary Grehan

Michael, Brigid and Jim O'Rourke.

Sun. 28th Dec. Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 9.00 am The Hollow Ch., Michael Seale, Clonadacasey 11th Anniv. 11.30 am Martin Dunne, Trumera, 8th Anniv.

Month's Mind Mass

Sun. 4th Jan. 11.30 am Patrick (Patsy) Conroy, R.I.P. Redcastle

1st Anniversary Mass Remembrances

Sat. 10th Jan. 7.00 pm Richard Maybury, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

Sun. 11th Jan. 11.30 am John McDermott, Trumera.

Lord, for your Faithful people, Life is changed not ended

Darish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto Wed. 17th Dec.

Nos. Drawn 9 17 27 31

One Jackpot Winner

Newbridge Parish
14 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 72 ea

2 Local Winners

Anna Rowney - Val and Stephen
Promoter Mary McEvoy
Next Draw - Wed. 7th Jan.

Next Week's Jackpot € 10,000

I wish to extend my very sincere appreciation to you for your loyal support of Ballyfin Parish Lotto throughout the year

Fr. Joe - Parish Priest.

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs, 18th Dec.

Nos. Drawn 5 11 19 30 No Jackpot Winner

22 Match 3 Rec. € 46 each. 2 Local Winners

Morrin Family Promoter, Teresa Morrin

T. Gorman Promoter, M. Farrell

Next Week's Jackpot € 11,000

An Ideal Christmas Gift

½ Year Voucher € 50.00

Full Year Voucher € 100.00

Next Lotto Draw - Thurs. 8th Jan.

I wish to extend my very sincere appreciation to you for your loyal support of Mountrath Parish Lotto throughout the year

Fr. Joe - Parish Priest.

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,

уоц,

who purchase a Lotto ticket every week.

I extend a very sincere "thank you"

for your continued support and generousity.

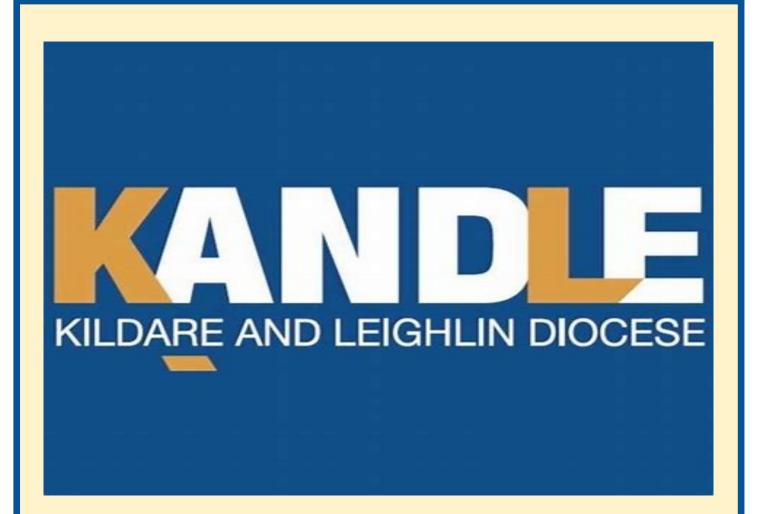
Mountrath Ballyfin Lottos

Next Week's



Mountrath € 11,000

Ballyfin € 10,000



News From Around The Diocese

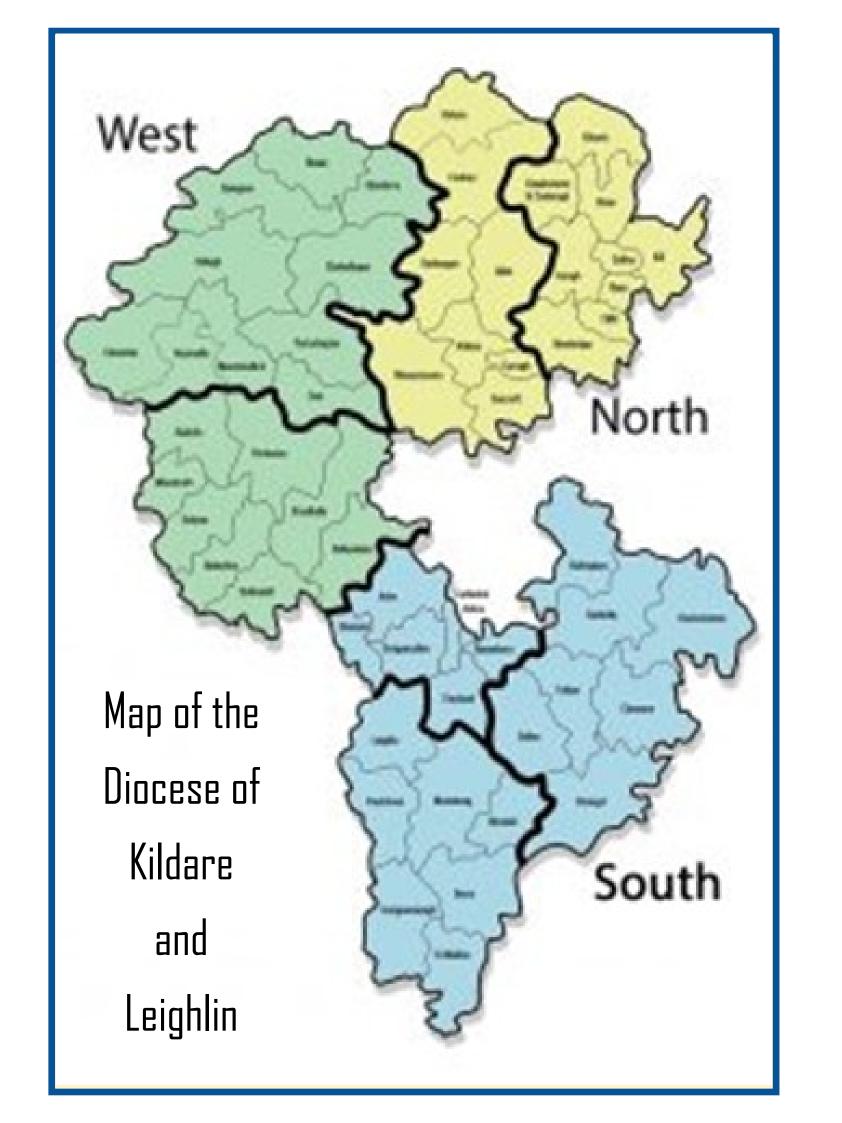
Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service Volunteer Drivers Needed

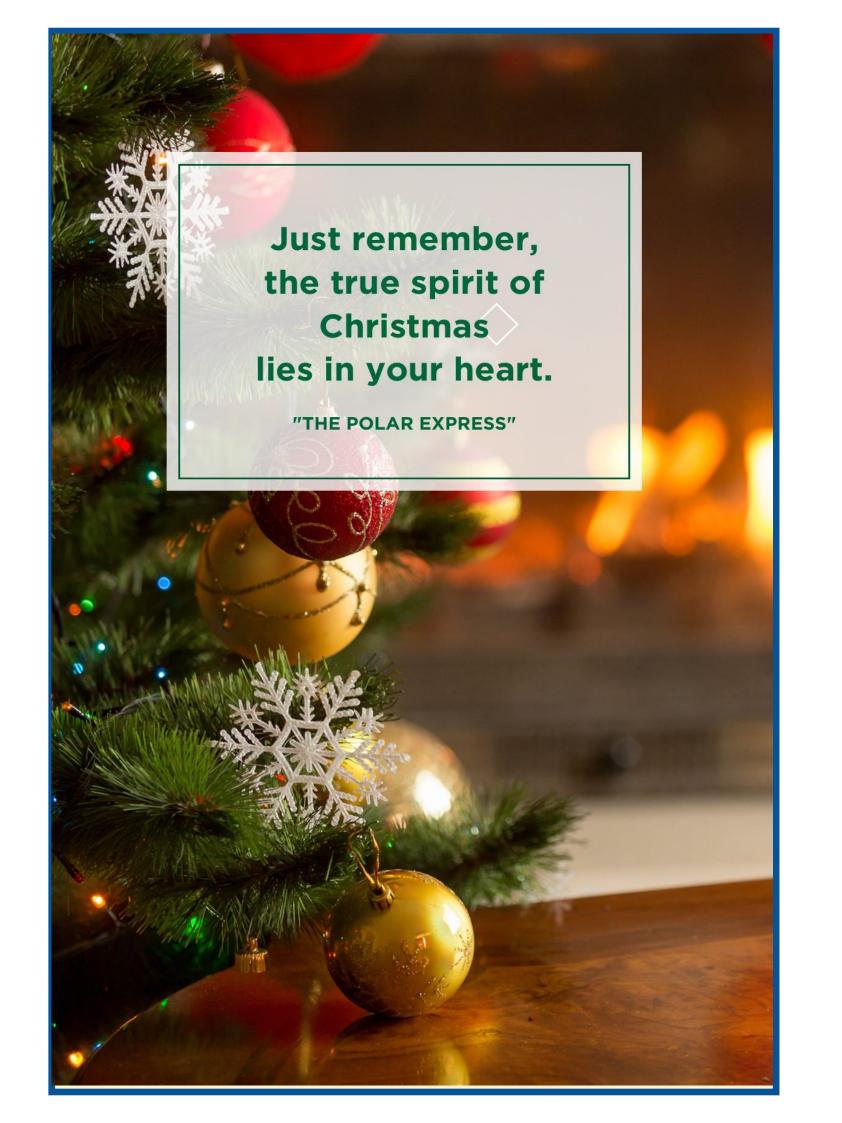
The Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service is seeking compassionate volunteer drivers in your community. Your time can help to continue the vital service of providing transport for patients attending cancer treatment appointments.

If you have a minimum of 2 days per month to spare, a valid driving license, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you're the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. Your generosity can ease the journey for many during a challenging time, offering comfort and support when it's needed most.

Full training will be provided. There are a number of essential post-drive administration tasks that will require either existing knowledge of basic computer or IT skills, or the willingness to acquire such skills (such as scanning and uploading documents or attending virtual meetings).

For more information and to become a volunteer driver, contact Monica at volunteer@irishcancer.ie.





Evants
at
Bloom HQ



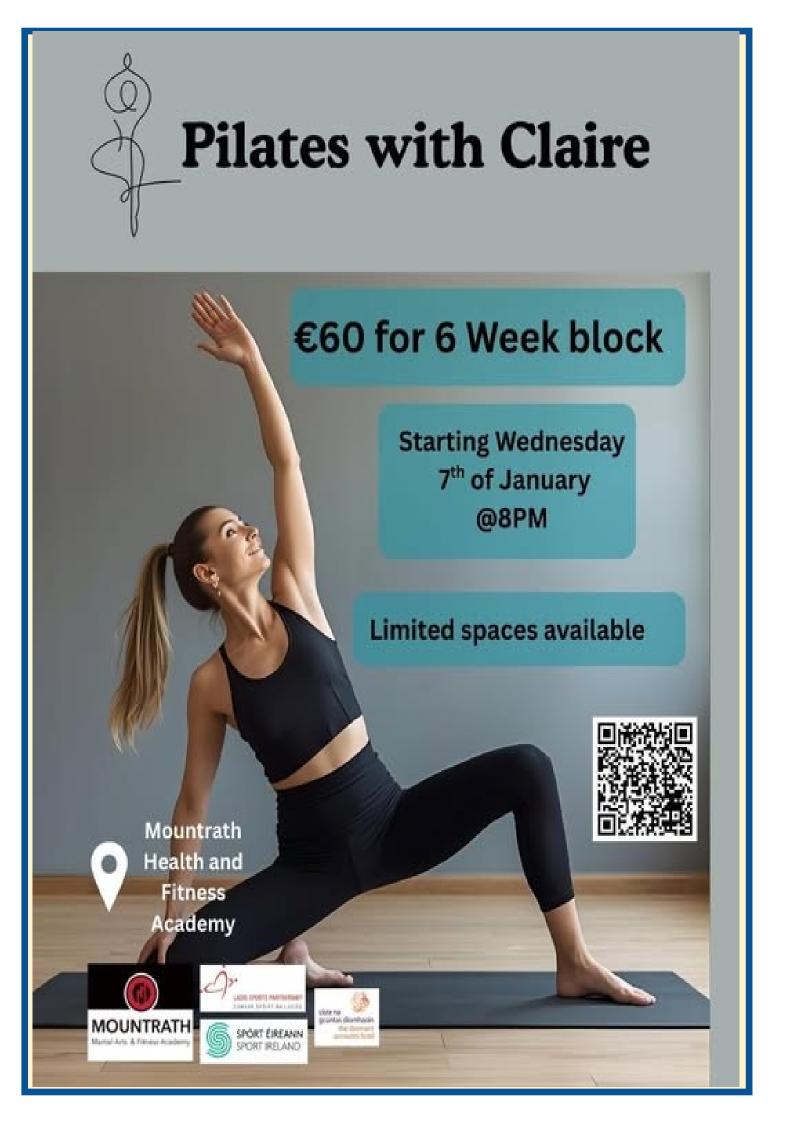
ZYMBA GET OBSESSED WITH FEELING YOUR BEST

Zumba® Class at BLOOM HQ
MOUNTRATH
WEDNESDAY AT 7PM

RSVP BY CONTACTING AMY 0868424791

€70 FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING JANUARY 7TH

R32DT9F - free car parking available



Embodied hatha yoga with Cathy

Suitable for all levels Limited spaces so book today! €60 per block

Tuesdays @6:30 pm

6 week block starting Tuesday 6th of January



MOUNTRATH



Mountrath Health and Fitness Academy



is proud to present an exhibition by student artist
Minxy



friday 28 November 7pm Bloom HQ, Mountrath All welcome



GET OBSESSED WITH FEELING YOUR BEST

Zumba® Class at BLOOM HQ
MOUNTRATH
WEDNESDAY AT 7PM

RSVP BY CONTACTING AMY 0868424791

€70 FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING
JANUARY 7TH

R32DT9F - free car parking available

Bloomhq

We were delighted to host the Leinster Ceoltás event at BloomHQ last weekend.

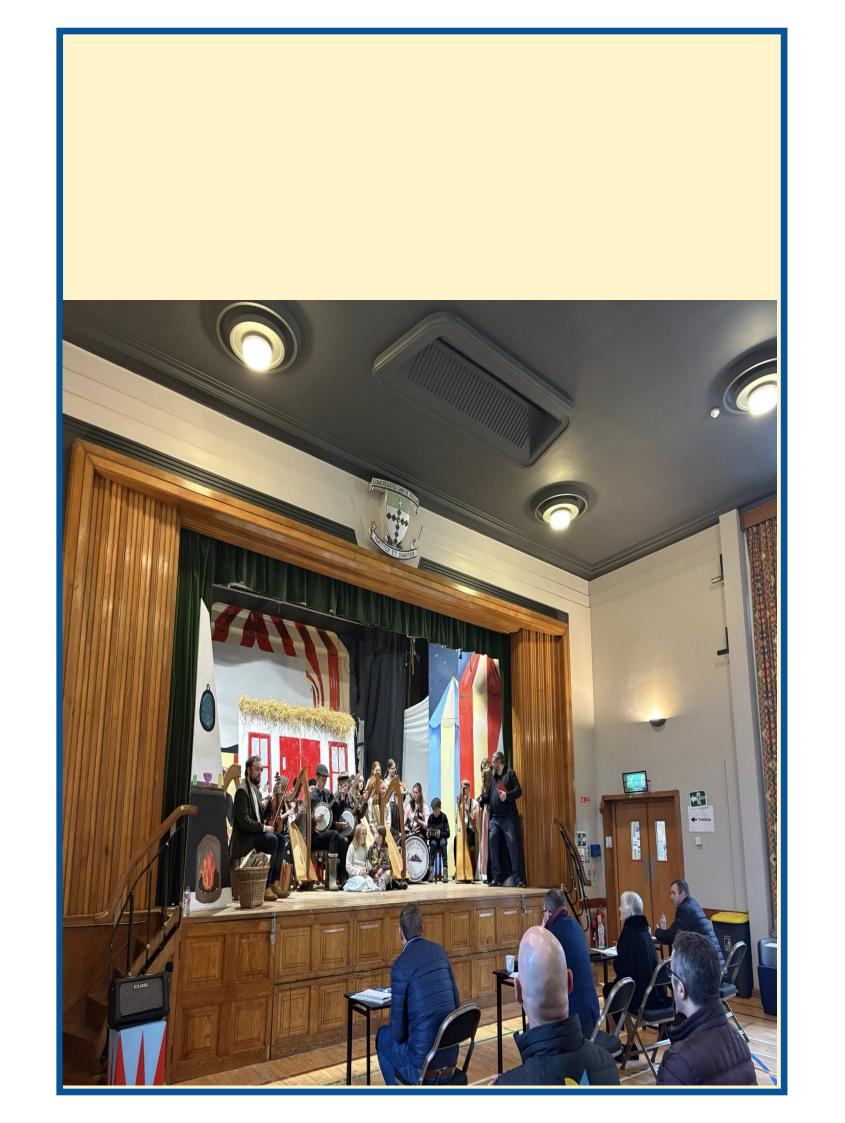
A big "thank you" to Phelan's Catering for the fantastic service,

and well done to everyone who took part.

Your talent and energy made it a truly memorable day!







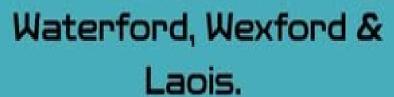






Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT Centres in



IBT (Initial Basic Training)
Pre-Test Lessons
Insurance Skills Assessments
Advanced Motorcycle Training
School Bike Hire



Motorcycle 🛴 🛭

Training







Pilates

Wednesdays 8pm 6 weeks starting 5th November





Wednesdays 5th, 19th & 26th Nov 3rd, 10th & 17th December

New Block

Mountrath
Health & Fitness
Academy,
Patrick st,
Mountrath
R32 DC58

With Shauna Leamy

€ 60 for 6 weeks

https://www.mountrathgym.com/memberships/pilatesinmountrath











workspace offers the perfect blend of flexibility, community, and productivity.

From hot desks to gym areas....

- Flexible Workspace Options
- High-Speed Internet
- Meeting and Conference Rooms

Contact Us



089 2722885

www.bloomhq.ie











R32DT9F,
Patrick St,
Mountrath,
Co.Laois

Contact us: 089 264 7761

Bowls

© Enjoy competitive yet friendly games, perfect for all skill levels. Roll with us and make new friends!



Seated exercise

Thurs - 11am

Move, stretch, and stay active!





Help with using MiGov.ie

How to use phones better





Using local bus services

NEW ACTIVITIES

Exciting games and activities —laughter, challenges, and good vibes guaranteed!



BOOK CLUB

Dive into new worlds—our book club is starting soon!

ART CLASSES

Embark on your creative journey
—art classes starting soon!





BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

Everything worth knowing

– all in one place.....

0000

www.bloomhq.ie









Piano Lessons now Available!

All levels welcome - beginner to advanced!

- Mighly qualified teacher & choral conductor
- Over 30 years' experience in piano & music education
 - 🗜 🧝 Lessons for all ages kids & adults
- Director of children's choirs in
- Ukraine & Ireland
- 📍 BloomHQ, Mountrath



for more details>>



Free first meeting – come meet the teacher!



Book now – Call Lana: 087 3347112

Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?

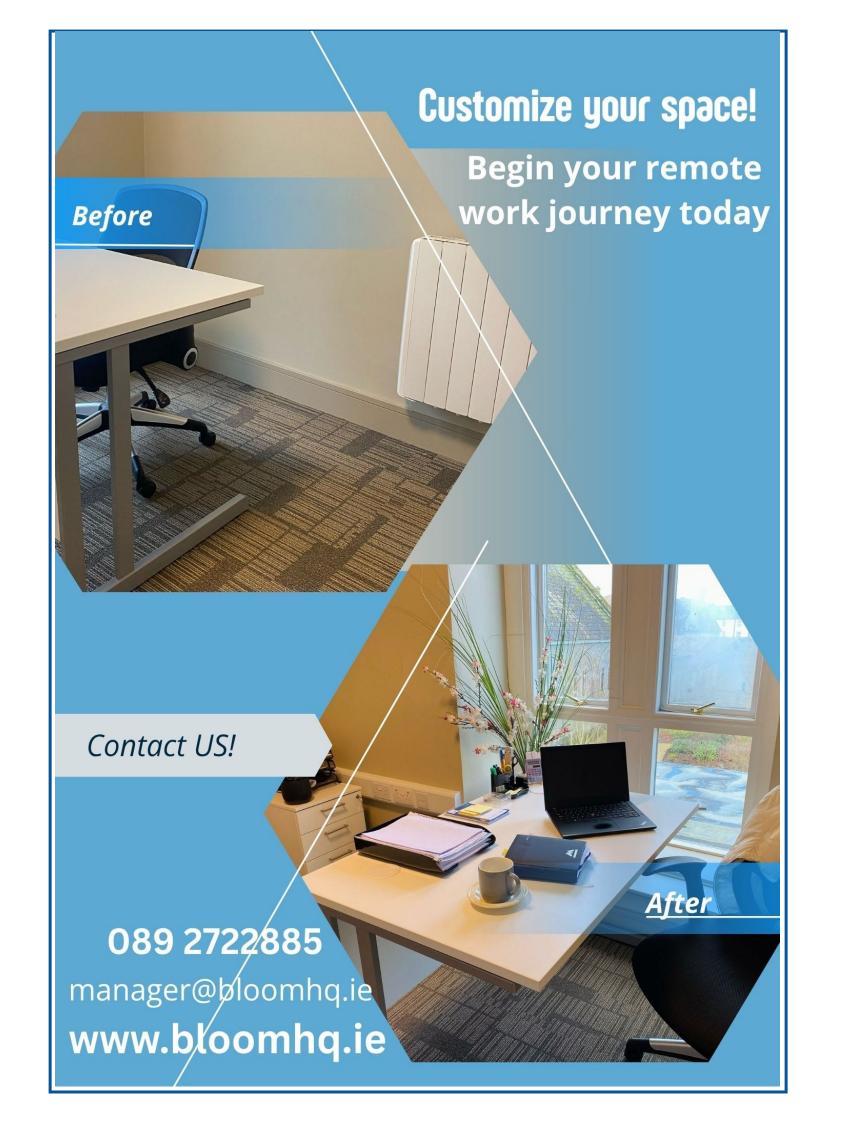


CONTACT 089 2722885 or

manager@bloomhq.ie

Visit our website www.bloomhq.ie







Dive into your remote work with every thing you need on hand

Hot desks at BloomHQ



Contact: manager@bloomhq.ie











For just €20 a day

BOWLS Thursdays@8pm

Philomenas Hall

R32DT9F,
Patrick St.
Mountrath,
Co.Laois



BLOOMHQ MONTHLY





- Join our large, loving gym community!
- Build strength and friendships.
- Everyone's included–come as you are!
- Don't miss out, join today!

New timetable each month







CONFERENCE ROOMS

From just €55

Seating 2-20

Ideal for company meetings, general meetings, training courses etc

Contact BloomHQ to book today.....



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

www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie



Mountrath Men's Shed







Old School on Patrick Street



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

Contact 0857053855





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!

Friday nights

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

7:00 till 8:30

€5 pp

or

€4 per sibling

Scouts is a way to

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



Othar

Courtesy of LaoisToday Reporter, Keely Burke

Arien Delaney: 'I'm so proud to be associated with the girls and so proud to be from Camross'

By Keely Burke

15th Dec. 2025



Courtesy of LaoisToday Reporter, Keely Burke

Camross Camogie Club savoured a landmark afternoon in Croke Park on Sunday as they overcame Ballincollig of Cork to secure the All-Ireland Club Intermediate Championship, earning the right to make the famous journey up the Hogan Stand steps.

Still soaking in the occasion beneath that iconic stand, moments after Aoife Collier had raised the Agnes O'Farrelly Cup, manager Arien Delaney struggled to put the magnitude of the achievement into words.

"Absolutely surreal, stuff beyond my wildest dreams. So proud to be associated with the girls and so proud to be from Camross.

"Emotions, like I said after the Leinster final, you couldn't describe them. Multiply that by infinity and you don't even come close to this, it's just so surreal.

"So proud and privileged to be part of the group, part of the gang, but more importantly, to be from Camross today. It's a thrill, it's an honour," he said.

While delighted with his own side's performance, Delaney was quick to acknowledge the challenge posed by their Cork opponents and admitted that Ballincollig's tactical approach required patience before Camross could fully adapt.

"Commiserations to Ballincollig, they give us one hell of a battle. They were set up smart, they were very, very good.

"Turning point was, I think, maybe the last ten minutes before half-time when we got the grips of what they were doing.

See full report on Laoistoday.ie







Something has been brewing in Mountrath....



Parish Finances

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. - BOFIIE2D

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

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Ballyfin Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Income:

Basket Collection: € 15,971.70

Envelope Collection: € 36,274.99

Shrine income: € 569.24

Rental income: € 14,320

Tax Refunds / Rebate: € 12,000.07

Church Bookings: € 250

Lotto income: € 11,036.10

Other Income: € 1,389

Total Income € 91,811.10

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Ballyfin Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Expenditure:

Pastoral Programmes: € 1,895

Insurance: € 4,042.27

Security: € 579.16

Light and Heat: € 13,266.21

Rates, Water, LPT : € 736.78

Repairs and Maintenance: € 11,930.20

Diocesan Levy: € 6,576.

Diocesan Retirement Fund: € 1,000

Missalettes/Printing: € 7,692.22

Altar, Shrine Requisites: € 4,176.35

Telephone, Broadband: € 1,165.16

Computer servicing cost/hardware: € 690

Hire of Equipment: € 1,333

Music/choir expenses: € 200

Accountancy Fees: € 300.29

Bank Charges: € 828.11

Donations/Collections: € 880

Total :Expenditure € 57,290.75

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Ballyfin Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Thank you for your

continued and generous support

of Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lotto

and Ballyfin Parish Collections

throughout the year.

Your kind and generous support is much appreciated

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Income:

Basket Collection: € 40,269

Envelope Collection: € 41,068

Shrine income: € 9,059

Rental income: € 34,425

Donations: € 6,615

Tax Refunds / Rebate: € 17,018.07

Church Bookings: € 635

Deposit interest: € 127.44

Office: € 978

Lotto Income; € 30,157

Other Income: € 15,732.87

Total Income € 196,084.38

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Expenditure

Pastoral Programmes: € 1,412

Insurance: € 19,107.29

Security: € 484.54

Light and heat: € 19,823.12

Rates, Water, LPT : € 1,444.69

Repairs and Maintenance: € 103,631.35

Diocesan Levy: € 11,005.80

Diocesan Retirement Fund: € 1,000

Clergy Fund: € 2,342

Missalettes/Printing: € 13,534.29

Altar, Shrine Requisites: € 8,353.98

Telephone, Broadband: € 1,400

Computer servicing cost/hardware: € 2,880

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Expenditure (Continued)

Hire of Equipment: € 2,903

Music/Choir Expenses: € 525

Accountancy Fees: € 300.29

Bank Charges: € 969.37

Donations/Collections: € 1,185

Other Ioan Interest: € 5.37

Interest: €-26.26

Total Expenditure € 192,280.83

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

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Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIIE2D

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

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

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. Jae)*

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

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

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	l €1,000 00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/Missallettes	€ 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

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

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Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
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		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 support of Mountrath Parish