

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

21st - 22nd Feb. 2026

Theme for this Year's

Lenten Season

Baptized and Sent

We've all been Baptized and Sent.

Invitation to Kildare and Leighlin Parishioners

“Baptised and Sent in Lent ” Exploring the Lenten Sunday Gospels

Our diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation and Diocesan Synod Committee is inviting Parishes, groups and individuals to make this new, short series a centre piece of their Lenten journey this year.

Can We

Can we give one hour a week, for five weeks, to join with others to reflect on the Sunday Gospel and its links to what it means to be baptised?

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 www.ballyfinparish.ie

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Name of Parish App.

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

World Day of Prayer

Fri. 6th March.

Commencing 7.00 pm

Convent Chapel - Bloom HQ

Everyone most welcome.

Cup of tea - refreshments served

Lenten Pastoral Letter

from Bishop Denis

Bishop Denis has penned a Pastoral Letter to coincide with the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Bishop Denis has asked me to circulate copies of this letter in the Parishes, so Copies of this Letter have been printed off and are available in the Church Porch. –

Also available online on my online Newsletter.

You are invited to take a copy home with you.

Full text of Bishop Denis Pastoral Letter

On Pages 61 to 72

"Do This In Memory"

Masses

Mountrath Church

Sat 7th March 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church

Sun. 8th March. 10.00 am

Confirmation Catechesis

This Weekend

Sat. 21st Feb. after 7.00 pm Mass

In Mountrath Church

Sun. 22nd Feb. after 10.00 am Mass

(Ballyfin Church)

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents

in

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes.

Change of Date

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,

Tues. 3rd March 11.30am

Mountrath Parish

(Please Note Change of Date)



Mountrath Community School
PRESENTS

COME FROM AWAY

February 25th-28th

8pm St. Philomena's hall Mountrath

Director Paul Norton

Musical director Anne-Marie Lawlor

Choreographer Julianne Mcnamara

Ticket price: Adult €15, Children/Students/Retirees €10

Family of 2 Adults and 2 Children €45

TICKETS AT: GR8EVENTS.IE (excluding booking fee)

& limited tickets available in school

WITH KIND PERMISSION FROM MTI UK/EUROPE BOOKS <
MUSIC & LYRICS BY IRENE SANKOFF & DAVID HEIN TEXT BY
LAURENCE MASLON

Mountrath Community School

Annual Musical

St. Philomena's Hall.

Feb. 25th to 28th

(Wednesday to Friday)

Tickets available at

<https://www.gr8events.ie/sales/index.php?event=2483>

Trocaire Boxes

Now Available

At back of Church

or

Church Porch

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

Deputy Diocesan Liaison

Michelle Hughes c/o Bishop's House,

Dublin Rd., Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Ms. Ailish Higgins is now on Maternity Leave

We extend our best wishes to Ailish and her partner

at this special time

Safeguarding Message

Maternity Cover for Diocesan DLP., Ailish Higgins,

is being provided on a part-time basis

by Michelle Hughes, our current deputy DLP.

Lent is What We Do

-

Fasting

Prayer

Almsgiving

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Ena Champion (Nee O'Rourke)

Rushin Rd., R.I.P.

We pray for Ena who died peacefully at the Residence Nursing Home on Thurs. 12th Feb. Ena's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Sun. 15th Feb. followed by burial in Camross Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Marie, Jer, Séan, Liam, Tony, Elaine and Freida and their families. grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their families. nieces, nephews neighbours and friends.

May Ena Rest in the peace of Christ.

Fr. (Canon) Lar Dunphy, Former C.C. Camross R.I.P.

We pray for Fr. Lar who died peacefully at Sacred Heart Nursing Home, Crosspatrick on Mon. 9th Feb. Fr. Lar's Funeral Mass was celebrated in Church of the Assumption, Urlingford on Fri. 13th Feb. followed by burial in adjoining Churchyard. Canon (Fr.) Lar who served as curate in Camross Parish from 4th April 1964 to 31st March 1977 is fondly remembered for his dedicated service and his profound impact on the Community. The many tributes on rip.ie highlight his enthusiasm for organising a wide variety of events—from Drama and Concerts to Sports and Youth activities—reflecting a progressive spirit during his thirteen years in Camross. He was instrumental in founding local organisations such as the Camogie Club and Camross Comhaltas (in 1974) and was known for personally ensuring young parishioners could participate in sporting events. Friends, family, and parishioners recall his warmth, vision, and commitment, as well as cherished moments from 1st Holy Communion, Weddings, and Community gatherings. We extended sympathy to his family and the many touched by his ministry, his kindness and his many fine achievements.

May. Lar rest in the peace of Christ.

John Dowling, Trumera. R.I.P.

We pray for John who died peacefully at his home on Sun. 8th Feb. John's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Tues. 10th Feb. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Mary, Deirdre, Michael, Caroline and Tony and their families. Nieces, nephews and their families, cousins, family relatives, neighbours and friends.

May John rest in the peace of Christ.

EVEN THE DARKEST MOMENTS OF THE LITURGY
ARE FILLED WITH JOY, AND ASH WEDNESDAY,
THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN FAST,
IS A DAY OF HAPPINESS,

*a Christian
feast.*

-THOMAS MERTON

Sean Chistin Events R32X5D6

Monday 11.00 am

Sequence Dancing for older adults

(waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, jive)

Tuesday 11.00 am Line Dancing

Wednesday 8.00 pm Set Dancing

Thursday 11.00 am Movement to Music for
persons living with Parkinsons Disease.

Thursday 8.00 pm Line Dancing.

Details from Maureen 087 648 2038.

(Mountrath) Hall AGM

The annual general meeting of the committee of St. Fintan's Community Hall will be held on Wed. Feb. 25 at 8pm.

Extra helpers for our Monday night bingo are very welcome to come along and join the committee.

All in the Parish who have an interest in the hall or interested in how its run are very welcome to come along.

(Rita McMahon)

World Day of Prayer

Fri. 6th March. Commencing 7.00 pm

Convent Chapel - Bloom HQ

Everyone most welcome.

Cup of tea - refreshments served



Lifetime Achievement Award Winner,
Sr. Rita Minehan, (Brigidine Sister)
pictured at the Spirit of Kildare Awards,
Spiegelteint at Aras Chill Dara.

Football Forecasting Competition Results

Round 3 14th / 15th Feb.

Round 2 31st Jan / 1st Feb.

Round 1 24th / 25th Jan.

Football Forecasting Competition

Results - Round 3

14th 15th Feb.

1st Place: 13 points

Richie Downey, Declan Looby, AC and Gerard Reynolds (Ballyfin NS),
Mervyn O'Shaughnessy Bracknagh NS),

2nd Place: 12 points

Padraig Glancy, David McNabb, Yvonne Thompson, Paul Phelan, Richard Quillinan, Marc Byrne, Colm Heffernan, Trish and Mark Keating, (Ballyfin NS), Pat Kelly, Colm Moynihan, Ian Curry (Bracknagh NS)

Thanks to all our participants.

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 2 31st Jan / 1st Feb.

1st Place: 14 points

Michael Dowling (Bracknagh NS),

2nd Place: 13 points

Colm and Laura Linehan, John Daly

3rd Place: 12 points,

David McNabb, Jamie Croke, Ricky Quillinan,

Paul Phelan, Kieran Cuddy, Greg Kerrigan,

Donal Lalor, Garry Dunne, P Larkin

- St. Fintan's Maintenance (Ballyfin NS), -

- Podge Walsh, Robert Barron, Daphne Scolts

John Walker, Rob Doyle (Bracknagh NS),

Thanks to all our participants.

Week 1 - Results

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 1. Jan. 24th / 25th

1st Place: 17 points

Eoghan Hyland (Bracknagh NS):

2nd Place: 12 points

Cora Gorman, Frances Harney, Mark Forde, Jack Hanlon,

Peter Brady (Ballyfin NS), James

Maher, Ian McCabe, Pat Kelly (Bracknagh NS),

3rd Place: 11 points,

Colm and Laura Linehan, Derek Delaney, Msgr John Byrne,

Diarmuid Fennell, Pj and Nicola Croke, Harry Allen,

Tiernan McBride (Ballyfin NS),

Michael Dowling, Cathal Bannon, Podge Walsh,

Ber Wyer (Bracknagh NS),

Thanks to all participants.

Mountmellick, Ballyfin Mountrath Lourdes Pilgrimage '26

Spiritual Director Fr. Micheàl Murphy
(P.P. Mountmellick)

20th July - 7 Nights Hotel La Solitude
€ 1,120.00 per person sharing

See next frame for Details

LOURDES



MOUNTMELICK, BALLYFIN, MOUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Mícheál Murphy

20th July 2026

7 Nights Hotel La Solitude

€1,120 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights' accommodation in the Hotel La Solitude
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Mass at the Grotto, Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Visit places associated with the life of St. Bernadette
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Single rooms available **supplement is €49 per night**
- » Travel Insurance available **€55 up to 79 years; €75 for those 80 - 94 years old**
- » Deadline for deposits (€200 per person) is Friday 30th January 2026.

LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE.

For more information and to book please contact:

Ann 087-4186192





TOTS AND CO PLAYSCHOOL

REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
IN QUALITY CHILDCARE

**ECCE & NCS
SCHEMES AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT COLETTE:
0874162377**

MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

**Copy of Financial Statements
(For Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)
available on
Notice Board at back of Church
and on Online Newsletter**

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

Thank you for your continued and generous
support of
Mountrath / Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lottos
and Mountrath / Ballyfin Parish Collections.

Your kind and generous support is much appreciated

See Below Parish Finances From Page 113

Anniversary Masses

Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes

Sat. 21st Feb.

To

Sun. 1st March

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri. 20th Feb. to Sun. 1st March.

Fri. 20th Feb. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 21st Feb. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - 1st Sunday of Lent

Sun 22nd Feb. 10.00 am John Moore, R.I.P. O'Moore Forest.

Month's Mind

William (Willie) Seale, Clonagown 3rd Anniv.

Mon. 23rd Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 27th Feb. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 28th Feb. 8.00 pm Dick Downey, R.I.P. Clondarrig.

Month's Mind

Joseph (Joe) Connolly, Esker. 3rd Anniv.

Paudge Ryan, O'Moore Forest. 6th Anniv.

Parents, John and Sarah. Brother, Seán

Sun. 1st Mch. 10.00 am Mick Kelly, Clonagown, 4th Anniv.

Mon. 2nd Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 21st Feb. - Sun. 1st March

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

Sat. 21st Feb. 7.00 pm Matty Byrne, Patrick St., 2nd Anniv.

Sun. 22nd Feb. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

11.30 am Eileen Gosling (Nee Fahy) St. Fintan's Tce. .

. 9th Anniv. John Gosling (Eileen's Husband) (Died 10th Nov. '92)

Eileen and John's grandson, Niall Brannigan.

(Niall died on 14th July 1990)

Eileen and John's Daughter, Martina (Tina) Ramkhalawon

(Nee Gosling) - 4th Anniv. - Eileen and John's Daughter,

Bridie Brannagan (Nee Gosling) (Died 7th May '08) .

And all the deceased members of the Gosling,

Fahy, Ramkhalawon and Branagan families.

. Letitia Carroll Nancy Berry

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 21st Feb. to Sun. 1st March Continued

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

Tues. 24th Feb. 10.00 am

Wed. 25th Feb. 10.00 am Jimmy, Paddy, Margaret and
Clare Marie O'Neill, Shannon St.,

Thur. 26th Feb. 10.00 am

Fri. 27th Feb. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 28th Feb. 7.00 pm Philomena (Phil) Ryan
(Nee Connolly) Patrick St. 2nd Anniv.

Sun. 1st Mch. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

11.30 am Joseph (Joe) Dooley, Portlaoise Rd.
Month's Mind

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

Ballyfin Parish

Ministries Rota

Sat. 28th Feb - Sun 1st Mch

Reader

Ministers of Holy Comm

Sat. 8.00 pm

Br. Nicholas Leahy

Deirdre Fitzpatrick

Sun. 10.00 am

Joe Fingleton

Crescentia Phelan

Collectors for February

Sat. Br. Gerry

Pauric Gilligan

Sun. Johnny Keenan

“Do This In Memory”

Our Next

“Do This In Memory” Mass

Mountrath Church

Sat. 7th March 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church.

Sun. 8th March 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 21st Feb.

For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 22nd Feb.

For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.



C

CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing
in Mountrath.....

Now
Coming
Soon
Open



Check out our socials

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.

Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Ballyfin

Parishes

Change of Date

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,

Tues. 3rd March 11.30am

Mountrath Parish

(Please Note Change of Date)

1st Holy Communion Preparation

“Do This In Memory” Mass.

Sat. 7th March

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation

“Do This In Memory” Mass.

Sun. 8th Feb

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 21st February

For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 22nd February

For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.

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. 3rd March 11.30am (Please Note Change of Date)

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28th April 10.30am (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 your 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 your 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 I ask 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 Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

Deputy Diocesan Liaison

Michelle Hughes c/o Bishop's House,

Dublin Rd., Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Ms. Ailish Higgins is now on Maternity Leave

*We extend our best wishes to Ailish and her partner
at this special time*

Safeguarding Message

Maternity Cover for Diocesan DLP., Ailish Higgins, is being provided on a part-time basis by Michelle Hughes, our current deputy DLP.

*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.**

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 online (in PDF format)
and 1 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 Saturday morning.

All items for Newsletters are always most welcome

Letter, email or WhatsApp

Email address for Newsletters - jmbrophy2@gmail.com

As Newsletters go to print at 2.00 pm Thursdays, the Deadline
for items for Parish Newsletters is 12.00 (midday) Thursday

Ways of Supporting Mountrath Parish:

Weekly Envelopes

Contributing to the Offertory Collection during Mass

Supporting Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Standing Order or Transfer directly to Parish Account

Direct payment - Cash / Cheque

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable

to "Ballyfin Parish"

Please indicate - Parish Fund

or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin,

Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

or deposited in the wall safe at back of Church

Online Facility See Diocesan Website – www.kandle.ie

Ways of Supporting Ballyfin Parish:

Weekly Envelopes

Contributing to the Offertory Collection during Mass

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or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin,

Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

or deposited in the wall safe in the Church porch

Online Facility See Diocesan Website – www.kandle.ie

Ballyfin Parish

Times of Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are celebrated in Ballyfin Parish at the following times

Weekdays (Monday to Saturday) 11.00 am

Sundays 10.00 am

The Celebrant is the priest on duty in the Parish.

Funeral Masses are transmitted live on the Parish Webcam

And are recorded and available to playback or download

Mountrath Parish

Times of Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are celebrated in Mountrath Parish at the following times

Weekdays (Monday to Saturday) 10.00 am

Sundays 11.30 am

The Celebrant is the priest on duty in the Parish.

Funeral Masses are transmitted live on the Parish Webcam

And are recorded and available to playback or download

Would you like to become more involved
in Mountrath or Ballyfin Parish ?

As

- Minister of Holy Communion
- Member of our hospitality team who looks
after our church building
 - Reader, Proclaimer of The Word
 - Collector at Mass
 - Member of our parish choir
- Member of any of our Parish Organisations
 - Server at Mass

We would welcome your involvement.

Please contact either Fr. P.J or myself

with an expression of interest.

Fr. P.J. 087 605 5783 Fr. Joe 087 241 1594

Parish

News



Laois Co. Co. Travelling to Work Survey

Laois County Council are conducting a survey on commuting and have us asked to circulate it

- www.laois.ie/survey.

This Survey focuses on people working outside of the County, so only takes a few seconds to complete for those of us who work within the county.

Bishop Denis'
Pastoral Letter

February 2026

'A Time to Pull in our Nets
and take stock'

A LETTER BY BISHOP DENIS TO THE
PEOPLE and PRIESTS
OF
KILDARE and LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

February 2026

A few weeks ago, we welcomed the arrival of a new year, many of us naturally look forward to what this New Year might bring. In 2022 the diocese took its theme from St. Luke's gospel, where the first disciples were asked to put out their nets for a catch (Luke 5:4). Now, early in 2026, we simply draw in the nets momentarily to reflect on what has been caught and to decide where our next journey might take us.

Sifting through our Nets

In the past year alone, we have seen twenty-five women and men commence formal training to become Lay Pastoral Ministers, specialising in either pastoral care or faith formation.

In time they will support clergy and parish teams in many ways including sacramental preparation, catechesis, adult faith formation, liturgy, bereavement and funeral ministry and ministry to the elderly and the sick.

The past year has seen honest engagement by priests and deacons with a new language of 'Pastoral Area'. We welcomed the ordination last October of another five Permanent Deacons for service in our diocese. In June we hosted another very successful 'Parishes Alive' Day in Carlow College, St. Patrick's.

The theme was 'Moving Forward in Hope' where parishioners learned from one another what gives life to their parish and what makes their parish distinct and special. Next June we will host the third in the series called 'Parishes Alive - Becoming Synodal', with a particular focus on adopting a more synodal way of being Church in the parish context.

In these early weeks of the New Year our Diocesan Pastoral Council is being renewed, our Council of Priests continues to grapple with matters of mutual concern to our clergy and people, and our Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation resumes training for various liturgical ministries following its very successful Liturgy Conference last September.

While rooted in the tradition of the Church, the call to synodality from Pope Francis, and continued by Pope Leo, stands out as a seismic shift in how we are as Church and has inspired us to re-evaluate our mission, to haul in our nets, even if just for a moment.

Appreciating our Fishermen

As I travel around the diocese, visiting parishes, I meet many people and hear many things. I get a real sense of the gratitude among the people for their local priest. This gratitude translates to phrases like "he is our priest", "our man", along with the caveat "don't move him"! There is real affection for the local priest everywhere I go. While parishioners deeply appreciate their priest, he priest is equally appreciative of his parishioners, and I hear this appreciation again and again at clergy gatherings.

With fewer priests it is increasingly challenging to provide a resident priest in every parish and there are a number of parishes now without a resident priest. I'm very conscious that there is a growing cohort of older men in active ministry; I want to assure them, this is not taken for granted and I know the affection and esteem in which each one is held.

As I have said on so many occasions, a priest is fully entitled to retire at 75, having given stellar service to God and His Church for so many years. Where a priest decides to retire I will provide all the support I can to underpin this decision, including suitable accommodation.

While I acknowledge the work of these priests, we remember we have a shared responsibility to care for all our priests, especially our older men and I ask you to be reasonable in any requests made of the local priest; he will not and cannot reach on everything.

Letting Our Nets Down Once Again

The Final Document from the Universal Synod on Synodality emphasises a deeper understanding and appreciation of our baptism as a calling to be lived out fully and completely. As Church there will always be a need to refocus on our core mission, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. For too long we have been overly attentive to the 'maintenance' responsibilities to the neglect of evangelisation, spreading the Word. It is clear that all the baptised have a role in this mission and we must do all we can to foster that sense of mission among all the faithful. All of us are called; all of us are chosen.

Letting Our Nets Down Once Again (Continued)

I see these as moments of transformation; with lay groups supporting the mission of the parish as clergy and laity work side by side, with an awareness of their baptismal calling.

Out of this will emerge ministries to the bereaved and those in mourning; to our schools assisting in the sacramental programmes

and to our parishes in the varied liturgical and pastoral ministries.

A New Language - Pastoral Areas

Pope Leo in speaking recently to clergy and parish representatives of the Diocese of Rome reminded them of the value of Pastoral Areas: "they are designed to better connect neighbouring parishes in a given territory with the centre of the diocese". He went on to say, "we need to think and plan together, going beyond pre-established boundaries and experimenting with joint pastoral initiatives".

Our diocese of 56 parishes,
117 faith communities
built around our churches,
now consists of 11 Pastoral Areas,
collaborative communities of 4 to 6 parishes.

A new model of Church is emerging with fewer clergy and greater lay involvement. It will no longer be possible to have a resident priest in every parish and diocesan appointments have become more challenging for me every year.

I do not see this changing any time soon. Grouping parishes into pastoral areas allows for the considered deployment of clergy and lay ministers as well as providing improvements around training and other supports.

Already, it is
so positive to see the richness of the collaboration
of parish groups.

In Conclusion

Our diocese has a long and distinguished history of communicating our faith and staying connected to one another. The work of Faith Development Services along with the appointment of Pat Roche as Diocesan Director of Parish Development continues to emphasise the importance of supporting the local, while also being attentive to the bigger picture.

We should be under no illusion about the challenges ahead and the changes they will bring. With the reduction in the number of priests it is not going to be possible to sustain the same number of Masses in every church.

The Sunday Mass is what sustains a community and we must consider a schedule of Masses that is more manageable for our clergy and our Pastoral Areas. I believe that lay led liturgies will become a feature of parish life now and into the future, giving parishioners a vital opportunity to come together in prayer.

I ask you all to continue to support and pray for our priests and parish groups and to be generous and welcoming to those who volunteer to take on additional roles in our parishes.

May St. Brigid, St. Conleth, and St. Laserian guide our next steps as we continue to put out our nets for a further catch.

Every blessing,

+ Denis Nulty

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

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 7th March

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 8th March

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Sat. 21st Feb. 7.00 pm

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.

Sun. 22nd Feb. 10.00 am

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 your 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 your 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

LOURDES



MOUNTMELICK, BALLYFIN, MOUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Mícheál Murphy

20th July 2026

7 Nights Hotel La Solitude

€1,120 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights
 - » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
 - » 7 nights' accommodation in the Hotel La Solitude
 - » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
 - » Full religious programme including Mass at the Grotto, Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
 - » Visit places associated with the life of St. Bernadette
 - » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
 - » Single rooms available **supplement is €49 per night**
 - » Travel Insurance available **€55 up to 79 years; €75 for those 80 - 94 years old**
 - » Deadline for deposits (€200 per person) is Friday 30th January 2026.
- LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE.

**For more information and to book please contact:
Ann 087-4186192**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt St, Dublin 2, D02WY88
joewalshstours.ie | info@joewalshstours.ie | Reservations: 012410800
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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.

**In 2024, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented Mountrath Parish finances
by over € 17,000**

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 2024, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented our Parish finances by €12,000

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

Some 2026 Diary Dates

St. Brigid's Day Sun. 1st Feb.

Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin Our No. 1 - Ireland's No. 2

Ash Wednesday 18th February

Mass in Mountrath 10.00 am 7.30 pm Ballyfin 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Tues. 17th March Ireland's National Saint

Masses

Vigil Mass as on Sundays Both Parishes

The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am

Mountrath 10.30 am

Ballyfin 10.00 am

Thurs. 2nd April Holy Thursday Mass at 7.30 pm Both

Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal during Mass

Good Fri. 3rd April (Both) Outdoor Stations of the Cross 10.00 am

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

Easter Vigil - Mass at 8.00 pm Both

Easter Sunday 5th April Ballyfin Ch. Mass at 10.00 am

Mountrath Parish The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am Mountrath Ch. 11.30 am

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. - BOFIE2D

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

Parish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Wed. 18th Feb.

Nos. Drawn 17 26 31 32

No Jackpot Winner

5 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 200 each

1 Local Winner - Mary Hooban

Next Week's Jackpot. € 13,000

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 19th Feb.

Nos. Drawn 17 19 20 21

No Jackpot Winner

13 Match 3's Rec. € 77 each

New Jackpot. € 18,000

Thank you for your continued support of Mountrath Lotto

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 € 18,000

Ballyfin € 13,000



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.

Invitation to Kildare and Leighlin Parishioners: Baptised and Sent in Lent - Exploring the Lenten Sunday Gospels

Our diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation and Diocesan Synod Committee are Inviting parishes, groups and individuals to make this new, short series a centre piece of their Lenten journey this year. *Can you give one hour a week, for five weeks, to join with others to reflect on the Sunday Gospel and its links to what it means to be baptised, as well as its links to some of the pastoral priorities that have emerged in synod conversations in our diocese and beyond? Would you like to find out more about being part of, or even running this series locally?*

An INFORMATION SESSION will take place in Newbridge Parish Centre on Tuesday, 3rd February. Tea/coffee available from 7 pm. Information session starts promptly at 7:30 pm- 9:00 pm.

Registration essential through fds@kandle.ie

If you would prefer to attend via zoom, please email fds@kandle.ie to request a zoom registration link.

Events

at

Bloom HQ



Pilates

With Derinn

Saturdays 11am

6 weeks starting 7th February



***Spaces still available**



Saturday 7th , 14th , 21st , 28th February

Saturday 7th , 14th March

€ 60 for 6 weeks

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

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





Mountrath Community School
PRESENTS

COME FROM AWAY

February 25th-28th

8pm St. Philomena's hall Mountrath

Director Paul Norton

Musical director Anne-Marie Lawlor

Choreographer Julianne Mcnamara

Ticket price: Adult €15, Children/Students/Retirees €10

Family of 2 Adults and 2 Children €45

TICKETS AT: GR8EVENTS.IE (excluding booking fee)

& limited tickets available in school

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**THE GALLERY OF DIVINE INSPIRATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT
AN EXHIBITION OF DOG PAINTINGS**

Art Exhibition

Fri. 6th Feb.

7.00 pm

UNISLIM

JOIN TODAY!



**JOIN WEDNESDAY
BLOOM HQ
MOUNTRATH
7-8PM**

**FIRST WEEK €20 (incl registration)
€12 WEEKLY THEREAFTER**

**4 stone
weight
loss**



Caroline Davis
Unislim Member

MOTHER AND BABY CLASSES STARTING



6 WEEK BLOCK FOR €60

COMING SOON
8 SPACES AVAILABLE

EVERY THURSDAY @10AM

BLOOMHQ,
PATRICK'S ST,
MOUNTRATH,
R32 DC58



CONTACT RUTH
089 264 7761



Kids Fun and Games

Contact Ruth - 089 264 7761

6 Week Block - €60

🕒 5.30PM - 6.20PM

Starting Friday 23rd January

10 Spaces available

Ages: 6-11

*Starting date may be later or differ depending on numbers by the 23rd

Bloomhq,
Patrick's St,
Mountrath,
R32 DC58





Customize your space!

Begin your remote work journey today

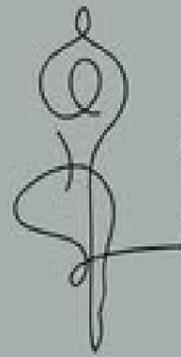
Before

After

Contact US!

manager@bloomhq.ie

089 2722885



Pilates with Claire

€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday
7th of January
@8PM

Limited spaces available



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy



ZUMBA®

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

€60 per
block

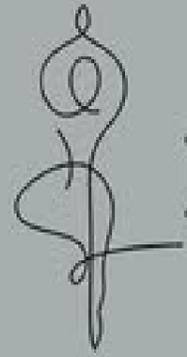
Suitable for all levels
Limited spaces so book today!

Tuesdays @6:30
6 week block starting Tuesday 6th of January



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy





Pilates with Claire

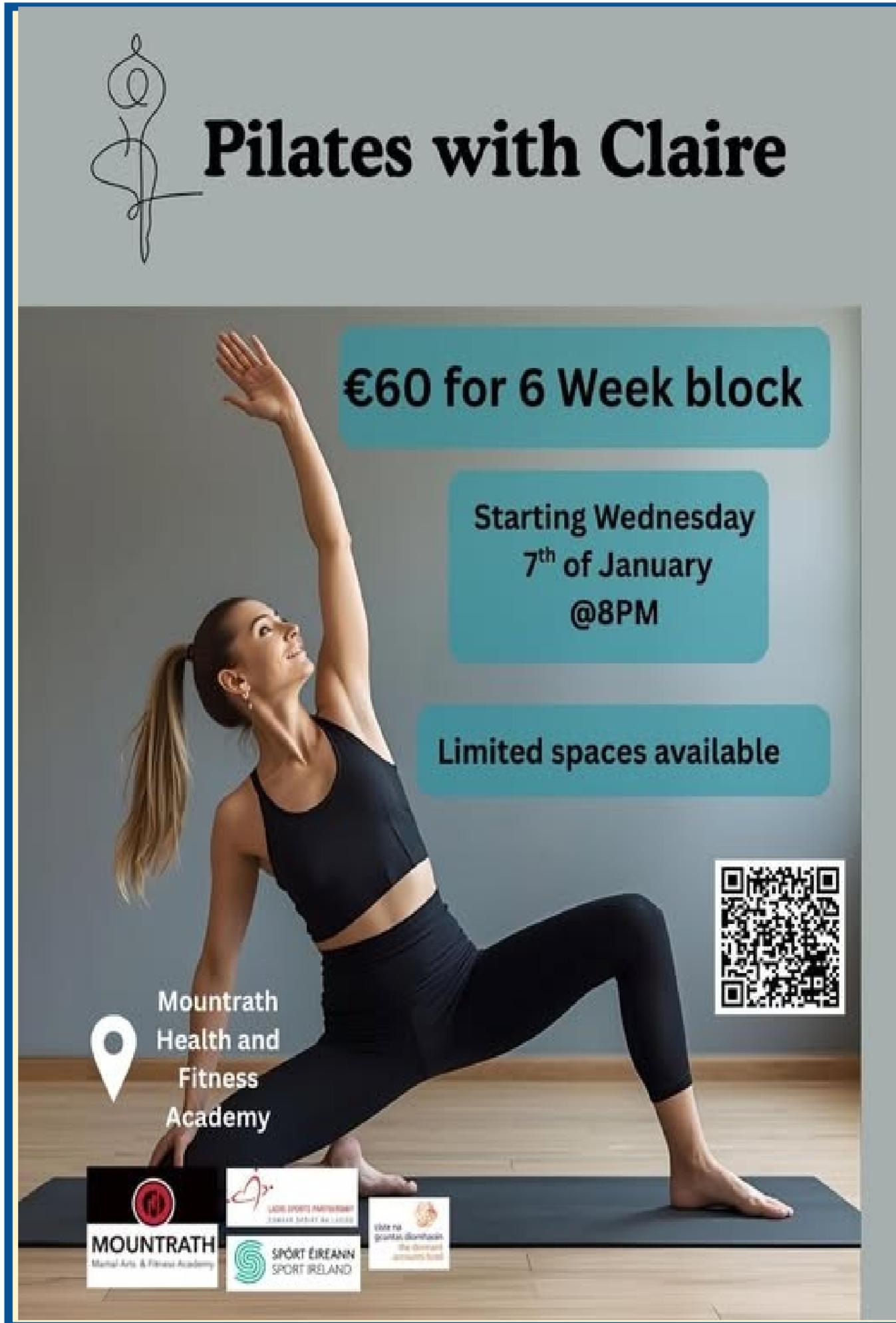
€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday
7th of January
@8PM

Limited spaces available



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy



Embodied hatha yoga with Cathy

€60 per
block

Suitable for all levels
Limited spaces so book today!

Tuesdays @6:30 pm
6 week block starting Tuesday 6th of January



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy



The Gallery of Devine Inspiration

is proud to present an exhibition by student artist

Minxy



friday 28 November 7pm

Bloom HQ, Mountrath

All welcome



ZUMBA®

**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

Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT
Centres in
Waterford, Wexford &
Laois.



IBT (Initial Basic Training)
Pre-Test Lessons
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Advanced Motorcycle Training
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MATHS GRINDS

HIGHER LEVEL
LEAVING CERT
MATHS GRINDS

FOR 5TH AND
6TH YEAR STUDENTS

CONTACT:
Orlaith
0892336930





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- ✓ Flexible Workspace Options
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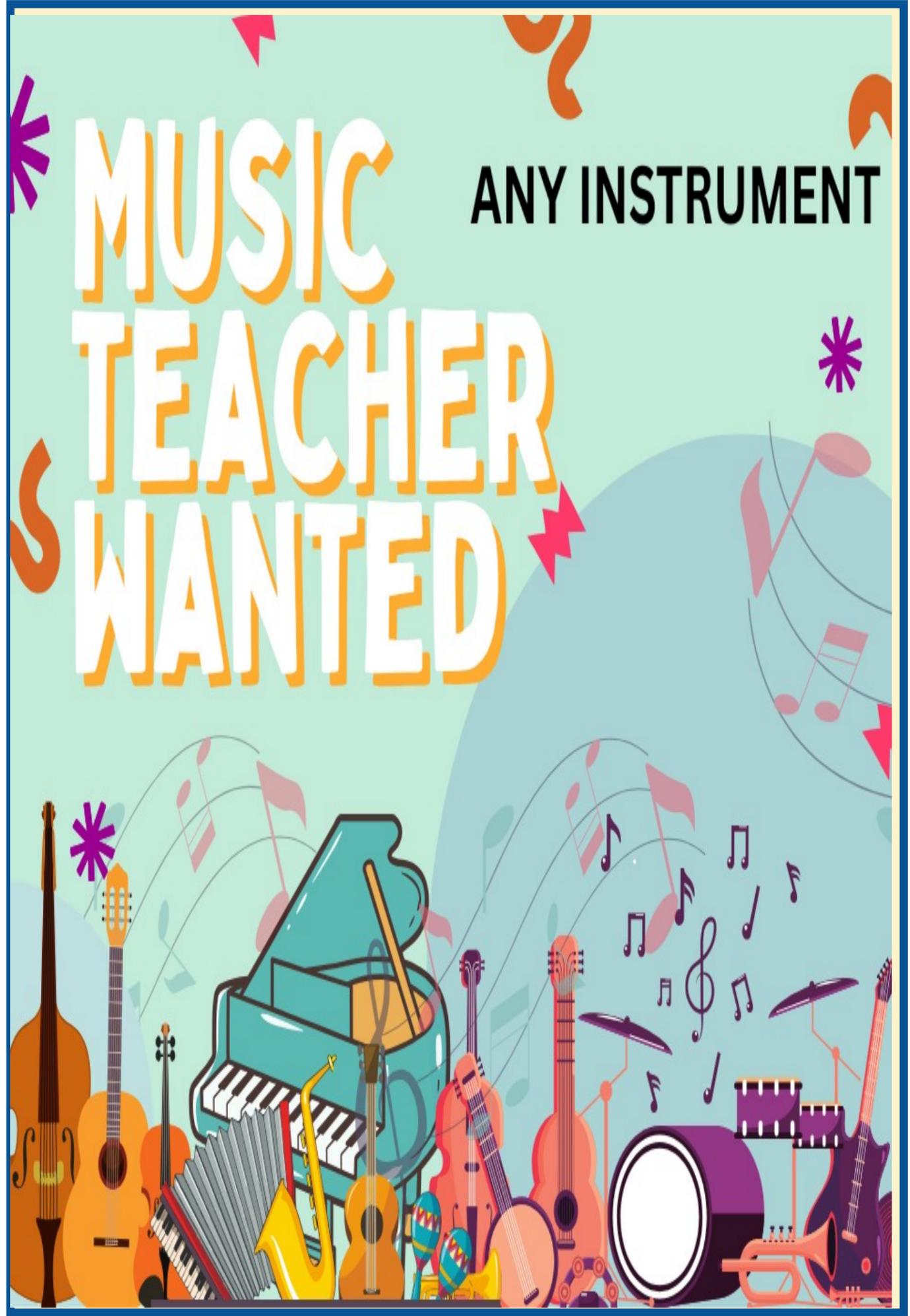
Contact Us



089 2722885

www.bloomhq.ie





MUSIC TEACHER WANTED

ANY INSTRUMENT



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! 🪑



**COMING
SOON**

Talks on...

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!**



**BLOOMHO'S IS DELIGHTED TO
ANNOUNCE.....**

**Child care facilities
coming early 2026**

RIGHT HERE IN BLOOMHQ!!

Keep an eye on our socials for more details,
updates and notices



BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

Everything worth knowing
— all in one place....



www.bloomhq.ie





Calling all teachers & tutors!

Are you offering grinds and looking for a base?

BloomhQ is the place for you...
With dedicated rooms, whiteboards,
free advertising and more!!

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Email: Marketing@bloomhq.ie

Piano Lessons now Available!

- All levels welcome – beginner to advanced!
-  Highly 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**

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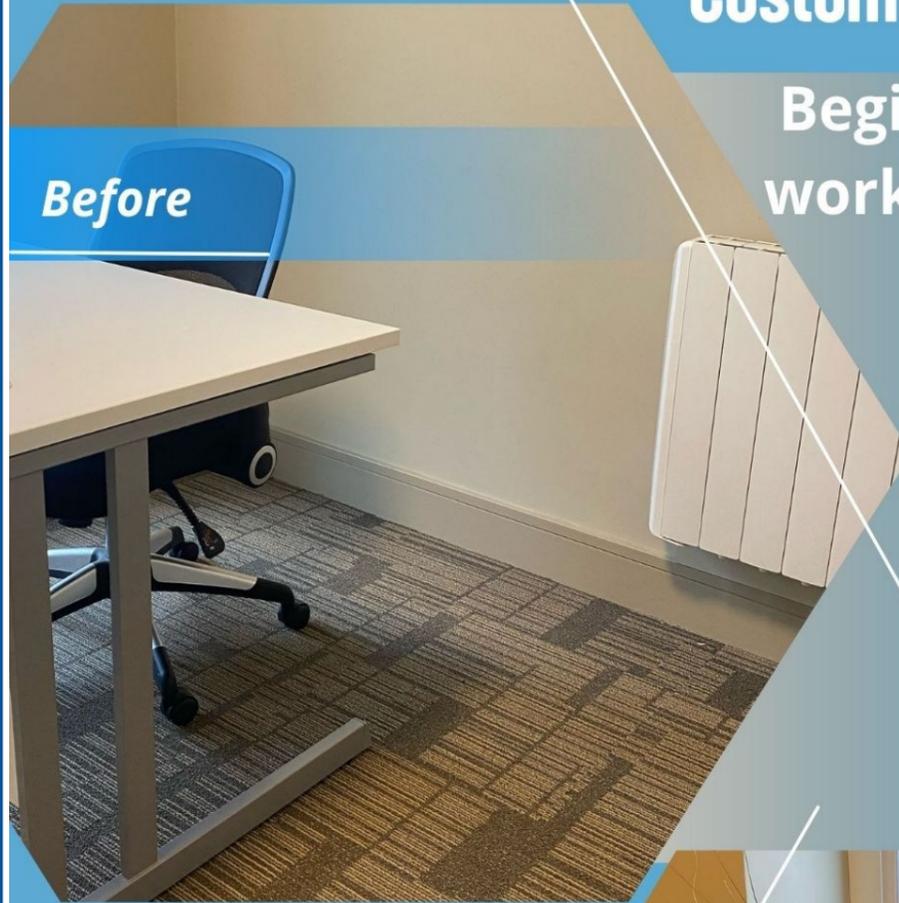
manager@bloomhq.ie

Visit our website www.bloomhq.ie

Customize your space!

**Begin your remote
work journey today**

Before



Contact US!

After



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manager@bloomhq.ie
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**



GYM



- 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



BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

SPACES TO RENT



 **HOT DESKS – JUST €20/DAY!**

JUMP IN, PLUG IN, AND GET TO WORK ⚡

POWER SOCKETS & GREAT LIGHTING 🔌💡

CLEAN, MODERN, AND READY TO GO 🍷🌟

NO COMMITMENT – JUST SHOW UP AND WORK! 🚀



CONFERENCE ROOMS

From just €55

Seating 2-20

**Ideal for company meetings,
general meetings, training
courses etc**

**Contact BloomHQ to book
today.....**

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

www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie



Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on
Patrick Street**



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

Contact 0857053855



**Kindling for sale.
Call in to purchase
on times above**

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



TOTS AND CO PLAYSCHOOL

REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
IN QUALITY CHILDCARE

**ECCE & NCS
SCHEMES AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT COLETTE:
0874162377**

MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS



liveWELL
EXPO

Wednesday 8th April 2026 Midlands Park Hotel 11am - 5pm

Keep an eye out

More details to follow



Healthy
Laois

For more information contact:

LiveWell@laoiscoco.ie

Fiddle workshops with Gerry O'Connor



Followed by
A concert at 8pm
and an open session(9:30pm)

Saturday 24th Jan 2026

Dún Na Sí, Moate,
N37XW31

Beginner workshop 11am-1pm (€15)

Advanced workshop 2pm-4pm (€20)

Workshop fee includes admission to concert

Concert 8pm (€10)



or go to

www.comhaltas.ie/branches/moate-cce/



C

CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing
in Mountrath.....

Coming
Soon
Now
Open



Check out our socials

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. - BOFIE2D

**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

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(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

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(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

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(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 loan Interest: € 5.37

Interest: €-26.26

Total Expenditure € 192,280.83

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(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
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*Thank you for your
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and Mountrath Parish Collections
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*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.**

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. Joe)*

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 € 1,000.00
Other Income € 2,984.00	Printing/Missalettes € 9,233.00
	Altar/Shrine € 10,616.00
	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: € 226,586.00	Total: € 186,173.00

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

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income	Expenses
Basket Collection € 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes € 721.00
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Total: € 226,586.00	Total: € 186,173.00

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

Escorted Tour to Knock Shrine

Pilgrimage Flyer attached for our annual trip down West. I've moved it to March with the hope of a better uptake and it's an extra night for the same price as last year.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 08th March
2026. €699.00 pps. Price includes return train, 5 nights' in 4*
Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch
on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport
included. Visit Knock, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre,
Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick. Single supplement on
Enquiry. Contact 094 900 6426 or 087 1890 236 or
email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.