

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

Sat. 21st to Sun. 22nd March 2026

Wed. 25th March.

Feast of the Annunciation
of the Lord.

--

When it all Began.

Palm Sunday
of the Lord's Passion
(Passion Sunday)

Next weekend
28th / 29th March

"Palms" will be blessed and distributed
during all Masses

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

Margaret Hetherington

(Nee Dunne) New Line Rd., R.I.P.

We pray for Margaret who died peacefully at her home on Wed. 12th March.

Margaret's Funeral Mass was celebrated on Sat. 14th March at St. Fintan's

Church, Mountrath followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend

sympathy to daughters, Pauline, Margaret, Catherine, Teresa, Fiona, Anita

and Regina, son William and families, her 20 grandchildren and

12 great-grandchildren and their families, sons-in-law, nephews, nieces, ex-

tended family and friends. Margaret was very much part of the fabric of

Mountrath throughout her lifetime, especially through her involvement on the

Festival Committee, St. Fintan's Accordion Band, St. Fintan's Hall and Bingo -

was part of the Daffodil Day Team. A Mountrath woman, true and true and

a great Community person who was deeply involved in and committed to

Mountrath Town and Community over the years.

May Margaret rest in the peace of Christ.

Mountrath - Ballyfin,
Mountmellick,
Lourdes Pilgrimage '26

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

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

There are still some places available on this Pilgrimage.

For more information

Contact Ann 087-418 6192.

BLOOD DONATION CLINIC

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**St. Fintan's Hall
Mountrath**

Thursday 26th March '26

From 15.45pm – 20.00pm

Check your eligibility & book your appointment at
giveblood.ie or call us on 1800 222 111

giveblood.ie

Follow us for updates & news



Confirmation Catechesis

Next Weekend

Sat. 21st March after 7.00 pm Mass

In Mountrath Church

Sun. 22nd March after 10.00 am Mass

(Ballyfin Church)

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents

in

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes.

Chrism Mass

You are invited to join Bishop Denis and the clergy of the diocese for the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral, Carlow, on 30th March at 7:30 pm. This is one of the most important Diocesan Masses in the year when the Holy Oils will be blessed and consecrated for use in parishes in the coming year and when the priests of the Diocese will renew their priestly promises.

Music will be led by Fr. Liam Lawton and the Diocesan Choir while tea/coffee will be served in Carlow College, St Patricks afterwards.

Come early to get a seat!

Collection for the people of The Holy Land

Bishop Denis has once again Asked us to take
up a

Collection for the people of the Holy Land

This Collection will be taken up during our main
liturgy on Good Friday afternoon.

Your support of this Collection is greatly
appreciated.

Clean Up Laois Week 2026

Ballyfin Community Alert have registered to take part in Clean Up Week Monday 6th April – Friday 10th April. Collection point for bags of litter is yard behind Deadmans Inn and collection date for Ballyfin is early

Tuesday 14th April.

No bags will be collected after that date.

Contact Sheila 086 1570145

for bags and gloves.

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

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

Trocaire Boxes

Now Available

At back of Church

or

Church Porch

Outdoor Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday

Commencing at Church of the Sacred Heart,

The Hollow, at 10.00 am

Concluding at St. Matthew's Church of Ireland

Church,

Roskelton at about 11.00 am

Lent is What We Do

-

Fasting

Prayer

Almsgiving

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Fish on Fridays

A new short video series from the Diocese exploring Baptism. Videos will be released each Friday of Lent. See Kandle Facebook and X accounts to view this exciting new resource and look out for other Lenten posts on Mondays and Wednesdays on Facebook and X.

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 6 15th / 16th March

1st Place: 13 points

John Neary, (Ballyfin NS)

Patrick Walsh (Bracknagh NS)

2nd Place: 12 points

John Maher, Aidan O'Boyle,

Ciaran Linden, Tony Kilroe,

Colleen Quinn,

Dylan Byrne (Ballyfin NS),

Geoffrey Whittle, Pat Nolan,

William Dowling (Bracknagh NS)

Football Forecasting Competition

Results

Round 5 28th Feb. 1st March

Round 4 21st 22nd Feb.

Round 3 14th / 15th Feb.

Round 2 31st Jan / 1st Feb.

Round 1 24th / 25th Jan.

Football Forecasting Competition,

Round 5

Feb 28th / Mar 1st

1st Place: 15 points

Michael O'Sullivan (Ballyfin NS)

2nd Place: 13 Points

Vinnie Collins 2, Richie Downey,

Grace Noonan (Ballyfin NS),

Thanks to all our participants.

Football Forecasting Competition,

Round 4 21st 22nd Feb.

1st Place: 14 points

Patrick Larkin (Ballyfin NS),

Cathal Bannon, Bracknagh NS),

2nd Place: 13 points

Cora Gorman, Patrick Ryan,

Declan Looby, Aidan O'Boyle (Ballyfin NS),

James Maher, Colm Moynihan, Daniel Gorry, Bracknagh NS

Thanks to all our participants.

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 March

To

Sun. 29th March

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat. 21st Feb. to Sun. 29th March

Fri. 20th March 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 21st March 8.00 pm Joseph and Kathleen Dowling,
Cavanaheath. Sons, Martin and Ollie and Thomas Fitzpatrick

Sun. 22nd March 10.00 am 5th Sun. of Lent

Confirmation Catechesis after Mass

Mon. 23rd March 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 27th March 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 28th March 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Lent.

Marie Connolly (nee Dowling) Esker. Month's Mind

Marie's husband, Joseph (Joe) 3rd Anniv.

Sun. 29th Mch. 10.00 am Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mon. 30th Mch 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 21st to Sun. 29th March

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

Sat. 21st March. 7.00 pm Matthew Keenan, Derrylusk. 13th Anniv.

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

11.30 am Mary Dunne (Nee Parkinson) Danganroe.

Formerly Fr. O'Connor Cresc., Month's Mind

Tues. 24th Mch. 10.00 am

Wed. 25th Mch 10.00 am

Thur. 26th Mch 10.00 am Mary Mc Spadden, Redcastle.

Mary's Daughter, Maura Culleton, Mountmellick. 3rd Anniv.

Josiah Eyong Ekuri. R.I.P. - Cameroon. Died 8th Jan.

Funeral Mass 26th Mch (today) In Cameroon

Remembering his daughter, Anne and Family, Main St,

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 14th to Sun. 22nd March Continued

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

Sat. 28th Mch. 7.00 pm Michael and Christina Tobin,

And daughter, Kathleen Delaney, St. Fintan's Tce.,

Thomas, Josephine and Fr. John Fitzpatrick and deceased family
members, Deerpark - and extended families.

Sun. 29th Mch. 9.00 am [The Hollow Ch.](#)

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

11.30 am Michael Boyhan, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

His brother, Liam and Stephen Smith, Manchester

Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 11th April 7.00 pm Margaret Hetherington, New Line Road.

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

Ballyfin Parish

Ministries Rota

Sat. 28th Sun. 29th Mch

Reader

Ministers of Holy Comm

Sat. 8.00 pm John Coughlan Mary Hooban

Sun. 10.00 am Eva Timmons Breda Merdith

Collectors for March

Sat. Br. Gerry – Pauric Gilligan Sun. Johnny Keenan

Ministries Rota

Mountrath

Sat 28th - Sun. 29th

Readers Sat. 7.00 pm Geraldine Moore

Sun. 11.30 am Emma

Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat. 7.00 pm Collette Byrne

Anne-Marie Byrne Peg Russell

Sun. 11.30 am Dolores Mulhare

Elaine Doheny Rachel Hill

Collectors During March

Sat. Noel Tobin Rita Watkins

Sun. Anthony Deegan

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

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 21st March 7.00 pm

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 22nd March 10.00 am

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

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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.

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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



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,

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Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

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Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Sat. 21st March 7.00 pm

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Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

For Confirmation Candidates

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Sun. 22nd March 10.00 am

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'25 - '26 Ballyfin Parish

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Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17th May 10.00 am

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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
Perma Ltd t/A Joe Walsh Tours is licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority (IA 0884 TO 273)



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

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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 Mch.

Nos. Drawn 2 6 13 26

Jackpot Won – Divided between

3 Parishes, Stradbally,

Kildare and Mountmellick

Each winning €5,334

9 Match 3's rec. € 112.00 each

1 Local Winner Kavanagh Family Promoter, Mary Hooban

Next Week's Jackpot. € 10,000

Congratulations to all our winners.

I wish to extend my very sincere appreciation and thanks
to you for your loyal support of Ballyfin Lotto Parish

(Fr. Joe. P.P.)

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 12th March

Nos. Drawn 5 13 20 23

No Jackpot Winner

14 Match 3's Rec. € 72 each

5 Local Winners

Winner Promoter

Irene Doheny Margaret Doheny

Isabella Farrell Isabella Farrell

Gabrielle Guilfoyle M Farrell

Joyce Dunne Mary Burke

Josie and Thomas Kirwan

Promoter Heather Mortimer

New Jackpot. € 12,000

A Note of Thanks

to everyone involved in
Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos
Organising Committees, Promoters,
Shops and others who facilitate the sale
of Lotto Tickets
and most importantly,

you,

who purchase a Lotto ticket every week.

I extend a very sincere "thank you"
for your continued support and generosity.

Mountrath Ballyfin Lottos

Next Week's



Mountrath € 12,000

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.

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

ACCELERATE YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

with European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and the Applied IoT Technology Gateway Cluster.



25th
March

11:00 - 14:00

Midlands
Park Hotel,
Portlaoise,
Laois

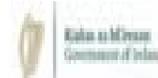
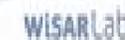
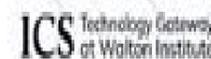
Why attend?

Hear from real case studies using digital technologies from IoT to artificial intelligence.

Understand De Minimus funding for R&D.

Collaborative support between the EDIH's and Applied IoT Cluster.

Supported by:



Embodied Yoga with Cathy

**New 6 Week block
starting:
Tuesday 3rd March,
2026
at 6.30 pm**

Suitable for beginners

€ 60 for 6 weeks

R32 DC58



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy





Free yoga class with Cathy on Monday 2nd March
from 6.30 - 7.20pm

Spaces are limited so book today on what's app
Ruth - 089 2647761

Women in Sports

March 2nd - 8th 2026



-Mountrath health and fitness supporting women in sport-

Bloomhq,
Patrick's St,
Mountrath,
R32 DC58





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>





**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

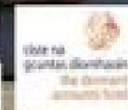
€60 for 6 Week block

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

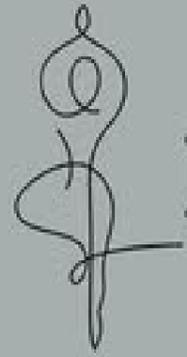
Suitable for all levels
Limited spaces so book today!

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



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy





Pilates with Claire

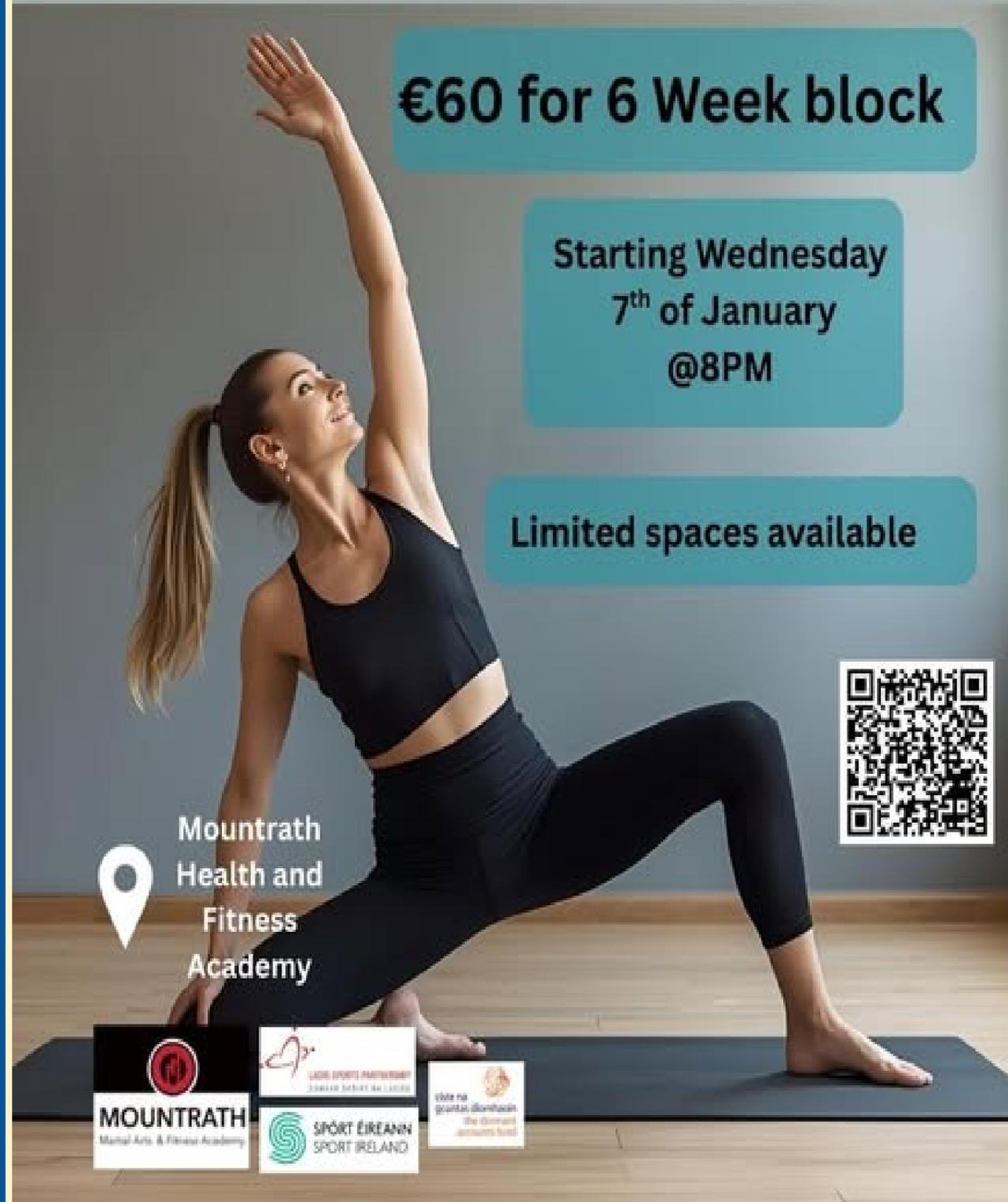
€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday
7th of January
@8PM

Limited spaces available



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy



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€60 per
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Suitable for all levels
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Tuesdays @6:30 pm
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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

Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT
Centres in
Waterford, Wexford &
Laois.



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



Bloom HQ,

MATHS GRINDS

**HIGHER LEVEL
LEAVING CERT
MATHS GRINDS**

**FOR 5TH AND
6TH YEAR STUDENTS**

**CONTACT:
Orlaith
0892336930**

BLOOM HQ



OFFICE SPACE RENTALS

Designed for modern professionals, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, our dynamic 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

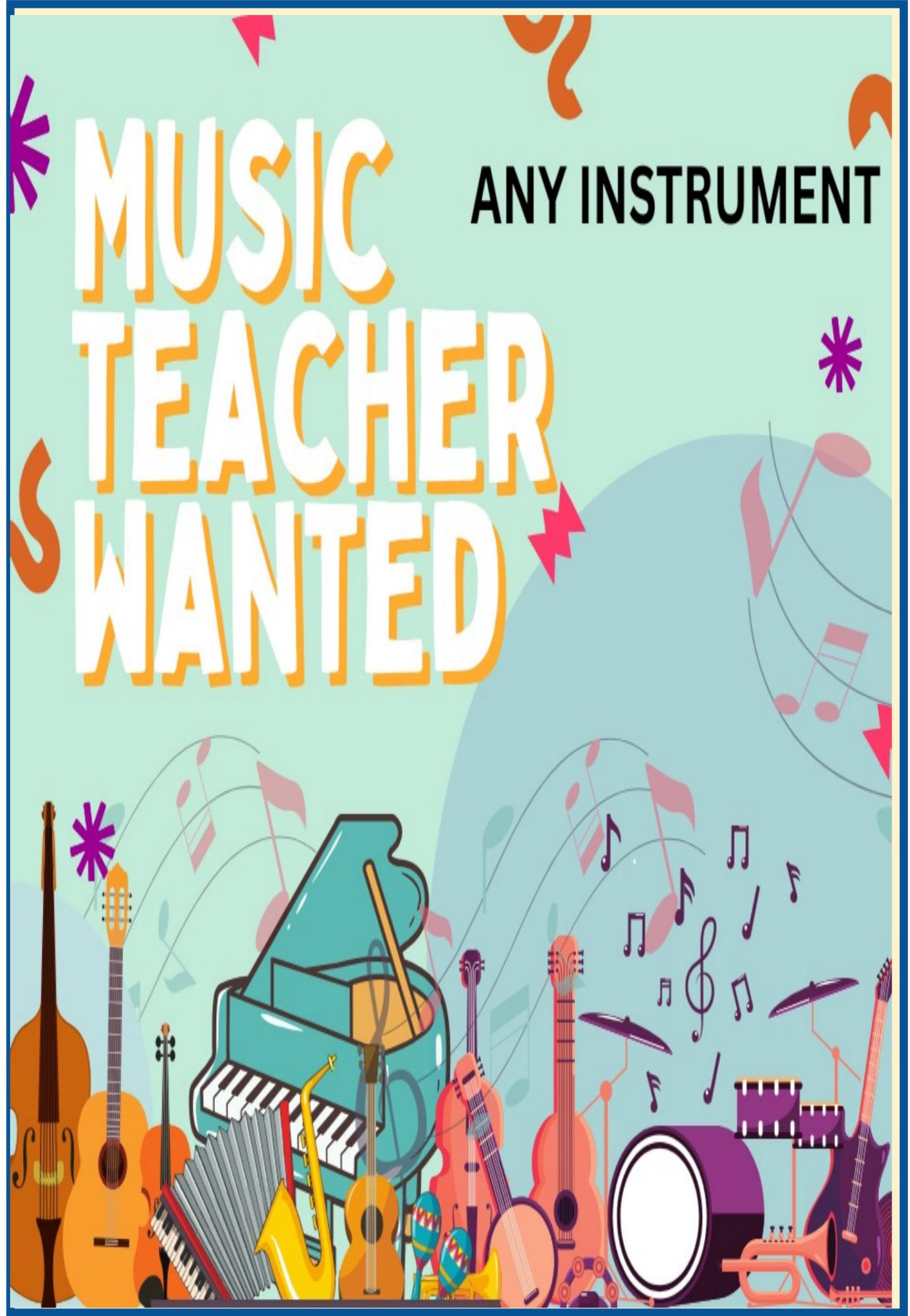
Contact Us



089 2722885

www.bloomhq.ie





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!!

.....
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**

Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?



CONTACT 089 2722885 or

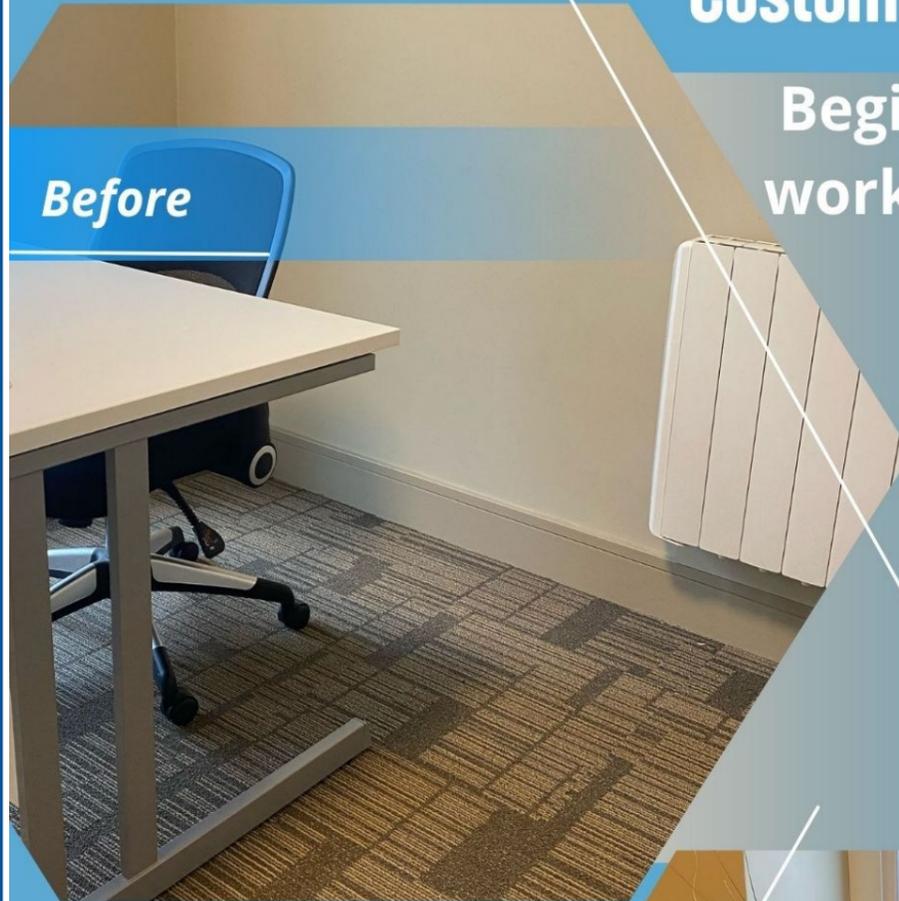
manager@bloomhq.ie

Visit our website www.bloomhq.ie

Customize your space!

**Begin your remote
work journey today**

Before



Contact US!

After



089 2722885
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



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)

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(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account
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BIC. - BOFIE2D

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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.

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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	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 support of Mountrath Parish