

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

29th 30th Nov. 2025

1st Sunday of Advent

New Liturgical (Church) Year A

The Year of Matthew

This weekend we commence a new Liturgical Year

Year A - the year of Matthew -

Each of the 4 evangelists share their own understanding -
their own perspective - of Jesus' life and ministry in their
gospel accounts

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

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Christine Tocker (Nee Parkinson) Glasgow,
Formerly, Clonard. R.I.P.

We pray for Christina, who died peacefully in Glasgow on Mon. 10th Nov. – Christina's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Wed. 19th Nov. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Lindsey, Catherine, Caroline, Linda, spouses, partners and families, 8 Grandchildren, 13 Great grandchildren and families, 1 great great-grand child, sister Molly and her family. relatives, neighbours and friends.

Elizabeth (Lily) Donovan (née O'Neill)
Clonard, Castletown, Tully East R.I.P.

We pray for Lily who died peacefully at Oakdale Nursing Home, Portarlinton on Tues. 25th Nov. Lily's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Thurs. 27th Nov. followed by burial in Churchtown Cemetery, Castletown. We extend sympathy to Billy, Dan, Joseph, Michael, Declan, Paul, Mary, Anne and Caroline and their families, grandchildren and their families, great-grandchildren, relatives, neighbours and friends. (Lily's husband Tom died on 25th Aug)

May Christina, Lily and Tom rest in the peace of Christ

New Church Year

The new church year begins
on Sun. week – 30th Nov.

With the
1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday Cycle Year A
The Year of Matthew

Advent – waiting and preparing
for the coming of Christ

New Liturgical (Church) Year - The Year of Matthew

This weekend we commence a new liturgical year - Year A - the year of Matthew - Each of the 4 evangelists share their own understanding - their own perspective - of Jesus' life and ministry in their gospel accounts

A few things about St. Matthew's Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew is written in "good" Greek.
(as are all the New Testament writings)

Matthew (or more accurately, the gospel of Matthew) is based very much on St. Mark's gospel and expanded on it.

It was written between the years 70 and 90 AD for a Jewish audience and so makes no attempt to explain Jewish customs, but rather emphasizes Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy.

No other evangelist makes so much use of the Old Testament.

Matthew probably lived outside Palestine, perhaps in Antioch in Syria, a town with a large Jewish population.

What's different or unique about St. Matthew's Gospel ?

His task as evangelist was a difficult and sensitive one, as he endeavoured to reconcile the Pharisees and the Nazarenes (as Jesus's followers were called). These two surviving groups of the destruction of Jerusalem each represented a different strain of Judaism. Matthew's writings are sometimes called the 'ecclesiastical' Gospel, for he is the only evangelist to use the word 'church' (ekklēsia), and his teaching shaped the Early Church. Matthew, in his Gospel, gives us the first Baptismal formula and the familiar form of the Lord's Prayer,

Matthew's gospel begins with Christ's genealogy - dating right back to Adam and Eve.

In St. Matthew's Gospel we often encounter the line, (27 times in total)

..... This was to fulfil the words of the Prophet - e.g. Isaiah,



Camp Pio Presents



THE GREAT
ADVENTure

For boys & girls
aged 5-13 yrs



Art & Crafts

Taking time-out to prepare for
Christmas



Music & Drama

Date: Saturday 6th & 13th Dec

Time: 12pm-2pm

Venue: Bloom HQ, Mountrath
Old Convent (R32D29F)



Team Activities
& Prayer

To book contact:

camppio2024@gmail.com

Laura 0876313370

Caroline 0852430529

Mountrath Parish

Ministries Rota

Sat 6th - Sun. 7th Dec.

Readers

Sat. 7.00 pm Mary Hosey Sun. 11.30 am Anne Stanley

Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat. 7.00 pm Mary Kerwin, Niamh O' Hara, Paulo Jacob

Sun. 11.30 am Peter Middleton, Bernie Phelan

Collectors for Dec.

Sat. Noel Tobin, Rita Watkins

Sun. Pat McSpadden, Donal Doheny

Ballyfin Parish

Ministries Rota

Sat. 6th – Mon. 8th Dec.

| | Reader | Ministers of Holy Comm |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sat. 8.00 pm | Michael Rice | Alacoque Gilligan |
| Sun. 10.00am | Br. Matthew Heyes | Noreen Ryan |
| Mon. 8 th Dec. | Br. Nicholas Leahy | Noreen Ryan |

Collectors for December

Sat. Richard Duff Sun. Denis Daly

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the CPSMA.

To honour this milestone, Mass of Thanksgiving will be
celebrated in Portlaoise Parish Church
on Mon. Dec. 8th at 7:30pm.

We warmly invite all who are currently serving and all who have served, on Boards of Management in our Catholic Primary Schools across the Diocese to join us for this celebration. Together, we give thanks for the generosity, dedication, and quiet service that have supported our school communities for five decades.

All are most welcome.

Mountrath Parish Lotto Thurs. 27th Nov.

Nos. Drawn 3 5 19 31

1 € 12,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eimear Murphy and
Promoter, Mai Murphy

16 Match 3 Rec. € 63 each. 6 Local Winners

Winner

Promoter

Sean Byrne

Catherine Byrne

Ann Farrell

M Farrell

Bridie Phelan Mary Therese Burke

Margaret Hetherington M Keegan

Mary Kirwan

Frances Byrne

Mgt. McGrath and Emer Bredin Mgt. McGrath

Next Week's Jackpot € 10,000

An Ideal Christmas Gift

Half year Lotto Vouchers

€ 50.00

Full Year Lotto Vouchers

€ 100.00

Sun. 30th Nov.

4.30 pm

Mass celebrated in Mountrath

Church in Polish

Celebrant, Fr. Piotr Jakubiak,

(Chaplain to Polish Community)

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Mountrath

Sat. 29th Nov.

After 7.00 pm Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 30th Nov.

After 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.

Irish Guide Dogs for The Blind

2026 Calanders

and Christmas Cards

are now available at

Byrne's shop Main St

or ring Sean at 087 7676318.

Your continued support is very

much appreciated.

Our new Deacon, John Delaney

On Sun. 26th Oct. Bishop Denis ordained 5 men to the permanent diaconate. I received an email from Bishop's office yesterday outlining their appointments.

John Delaney, native of Portlaoise received the following appointment,

Abbeyleix, Ballinakill and Raheen
and the Pastoral Area which includes
Ballyadams, Stradbally, Portlaoise,
Ballyfin and Mountrath.

We congratulate John on his ordination as permanent deacon and wish him all the best as he settles into his new ministry with us.

Christmas Events



December 14th



**Mark the date! BloomHQ's yearly Christmas
celebration will kick off at 1pm!
Refreshments, live music, stalls, refreshments and so
much more....**

....and maybe a visit from Santa!!



December
14th



Save the Date

Mountrath Christmas
Country Market

At Bloomhq

1.00 pm ~ 5.00 pm

BLOOMHQ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 14, 1:00-5:00 PM
PHILOMENAS HALL, BLOOMHQ



The Big Christmas Sing

At The Portlaoise Performance and Events Space R32 Y074

Sunday 30th November - 2pm to 4pm



Cosy Choir Mountrath | Wednesday Singing Group | Sing for Joy
Community Of Sound | Malva Ukrainian Choir | Laois Community Choir
St Peter & Pauls Childrens Choir

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,

Stand for Peace – March for Palestine

Saturday December 6th

As we enter the first week of Advent, we remember that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in the land we now call Palestine. Though some relief has come with the ceasefire in Gaza, the humanitarian crisis continues, and the occupation of the West Bank persists. One way we can respond, even when we feel helpless, is to come together in peaceful solidarity.

Please join the Kilkenny, Carlow, Kildare and Laois Palestine solidarity groups for a peaceful

"March for Palestine"

Saturday, 6th at 1 pm

from the Kilkenny Castle Main Gates.

Message from Bishop Denis re.

Department of Education Survey on School Patronage

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

It is important that people who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that people who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for parents who would wish for Sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For these reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a primary school student.

The survey can be accessed

at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>

Survey closes on 16th December 2025



C

CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing
in Mountrath.....

Now
Opening



Check out our socials



Cemetery Prayer

May God remember forever our dear ones,

Who have gone to their eternal rest.

May they be at one with the One

Who is life eternal.

May the beauty of their lives

Shine forevermore,

And may our lives

always bring honour to their memory.

Amen.

In November We Remember

A Prayer at Bedtime

O my God, As the evening falls I come to you in prayer. I thank you for being with me in every moment of this day, guiding me and protecting me, keeping me from harm.

On this November night, I bring before you in prayer all those dear to me who have died.

(Pause a moment and name loved ones for whom you wish to pray)

Remember them God in your loving kindness. I trust your promise, that they now rest in your eternal peace, in that home you prepared for them. May all of us who miss them and grieve them find comfort in our belief that we will one day see them again in the kingdom of heaven. I remember in my prayer this night all who have died and who have no one to remember them in prayer.

For these and for all our loved ones I pray:

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. Amen

In November We Remember

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission
have issued

a beautiful Prayer Card for November.

I have downloaded this Prayer Card and have
printed off copies of same.

Copies of this Prayer Card are available at back
of

Church or in the Porch and you are
most welcome

to take a copy home with you.

In November We Remember

What we leave behind
Is
Not what is engraved
In Stone Monuments
But
What is woven
Into
The lives of others

(Pericles Born in Athens c. 495 BC)

Quote

We can't let failure
define us.

Failure is good
only
in so far as it
teaches us something.

Events at Seanchistin

Irey, R32 X5D6

Maureen Culleton

Tuesday 11a.m. Line Dancing

Wed. 8p.m. Set Dancing

Thurs. 11 am. For persons living with Parkinsons and friends...music, movement singing, poetry, stories, cuppa,

Thursday 8 pm Line Dancing

commencing Thurs. Oct. 9th

Contact Maureen

087 648 2038

or seanchistin@gmail.com for details

Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Ballyfin

Parishes

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 13th December

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 14th December

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis

Mountrath

Sat. 29th Nov. After 7.00 pm Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents
in Mountrath Parish.

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Ballyfin

Sun. 30th Nov after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents /guardians 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. 21st April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1st Holy Communion

Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

"Do This In Memory" Masses

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

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

(Unless otherwise indicated)

Sacramental Dates

'25 – '26 Ballyfin Parish

^{1st} Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17th May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24th May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 2.30 pm

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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 quite 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 Parish

Triona O'Rourke Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish.

Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ms. Ailish Higgins.

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person:

Ms Michelle Hughes c/o

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

*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 1 online Newsletter, uploaded to our Parish App.

(Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)

and to our parish Website,

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

and available to view from early Sat morning.

Deadline 2.00 pm Thursday

Jubilee year
Pilgrims of Hope



Jubilee Year 2025.

Pilgrims of Hope

During the 18th and 19th Century in the time of persecution and the penal laws, the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin resided in Allen Parish. People attended Mass at the Priests Corner Mass Rock in Ballyteague. As part of the Jubilee year - Pilgrims of Hope - Bishop Denis Nulty will celebrate Mass at the Priests Corner Mass Rock in Ballyteague on Sunday 15th June at 2pm.

For people who wish to walk the 2.5kms in pilgrimage, please assemble at 12.30 pm at the GAA clubhouse in Ballyteague W91 VEW8. For people who do not wish to walk, car parking will be available beside the Mass Rock which will be signposted on the day.

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

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

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

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



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

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son,

Jesus Christ, our brother,

and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts

by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope*

for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators

of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity

and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,

your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,

Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of

our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Parish News



Sacramental Dates

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Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

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Nos. Drawn 3 5 19 31

1 € 12,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eimear Murphy and
Promoter, Mai Murphy

16 Match 3 Rec. € 63 each. 6 Local Winners

Winner

Promoter

Sean Byrne

Catherine Byrne

Ann Farrell

M Farrell

Bridie Phelan Mary Therese Burke

Margaret Hetherington M Keegan

Mary Kirwan

Frances Byrne

Mgt. McGrath and Emer Bredin Mgt. McGrath

Next Week's Jackpot € 10,000

An Ideal Christmas Gift

Half year Lotto Vouchers

€ 50.00

Full Year Lotto Vouchers

€ 100.00

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

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and their parents /guardians in Ballyfin Parish

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'25 – '26 Ballyfin Parish

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Sun. 30th Nov. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their
parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Ballyfin Community Alert

Seniors Alert Scheme

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

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

An Tobar Núa.

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

--

Thomas O'Loughlin

An Tobar Nua Counselling

MIACP, BSc

Counselling/Psychotherapy

Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Tax Back Scheme

(Ballyfin Parish)

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

We are deeply grateful.

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

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

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

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

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

Get Well Wishes

We keep and hold in our Thoughts and Prayers,

People, their families and carers,

who are ill or unwell, at home,

in Hospital or Nursing Home

or undergoing any surgical or medical

procedures at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery

Bingo

every Monday night

In St. Fintan's Hall at 8pm.

Come along and bring a friend.!!



Bingo in St. Fintan's Hall

Every Monday night.

Commencing Mon. 1st Dec.,

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

Please support your local Bingo.

All are very welcome.



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

Here are our Bank Account details

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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

Anniversary Masses

Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes

Sat. 29th Nov.

To

Mon. 8th Dec.

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat. 29th Nov. to Mon. 8th Dec

Fri. 28th Nov. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat 29th Nov. 8.00 pm Owen Heffernan, Redgates. 6th Anniv.

Ned and Annie Fitzpatrick, Pallas Big.

Sun. 30th Nov. 10.00 am Paddy and Peggy Brennan, Pallas Big

Paddy's 2nd Anniv – Peggy's 5th Anniv

Liam Linden, O'Moore Forest. 7th Anniv.

Joseph Breen, The Knocks. 9th Anniv.

Richard Butler, The Knocks.

Tom Coleman, Esker.

Paddy Mulligan, Cloughboley, Castlebar. 1st Anniv.

Michael Mulligan, Moygownagh, Ballina, 1st Anniv.

Mon. 1st Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 5th Dec.. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 6th Dec. 8.00 pm Mary Gorman, Cappagh, 18th Anniv.

Sun 7th Dec. 10.00 am Pauline Dunne, Clonrooske Hse.

Month's Mind.

Mon. 8th Dec. 7.30 pm Feast of Immaculate Conception

Apostolate of Sanctification

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 29th Nov. - Mon. 8th Dec.

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

Sat. 29th Nov. 7.00 pm John Keenan, Beech Lawn. 4th Anniv.

Brigid Dunne, Woodbrook. 4th Anniv.

Liz Sinnott, Shannon Rd., 12th Anniv.

Patrick and Philomena Carter, St. Fintan's Tce.

Angela and Patrick Wallace, Patrick St.

Angela's 25th Anniv. Patrick's 40th Anniv.

Sun. 30th Nov. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Jerimiah Delaney, Clonard.

Laurence and Catherine Fitzpatrick, Trumera

11.30 am Peter Bennett, Market Square. 8th Anniv.

Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Clonbarrow. 9th Anniv.

The Grehan Family, Spa Hill

4.30 pm Mass celebrated in Mountrath Church in Polish

(Celebrant, Fr. Piotr Jakubiak, Chaplain to Polish Community)

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 29th Nov. - Mon. 8th Dec. (Continued)

Tues. 2nd Dec. 10.00 am John and Eileen Breslin.

Wed. 3rd Dec. 10.00 am

Thur. 4th Dec. 10.00 am

Fri. 5th Dec. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 6th Dec. 7.00 pm Vigil Mass – 2nd Sun. Advent.

Sun. 7th Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

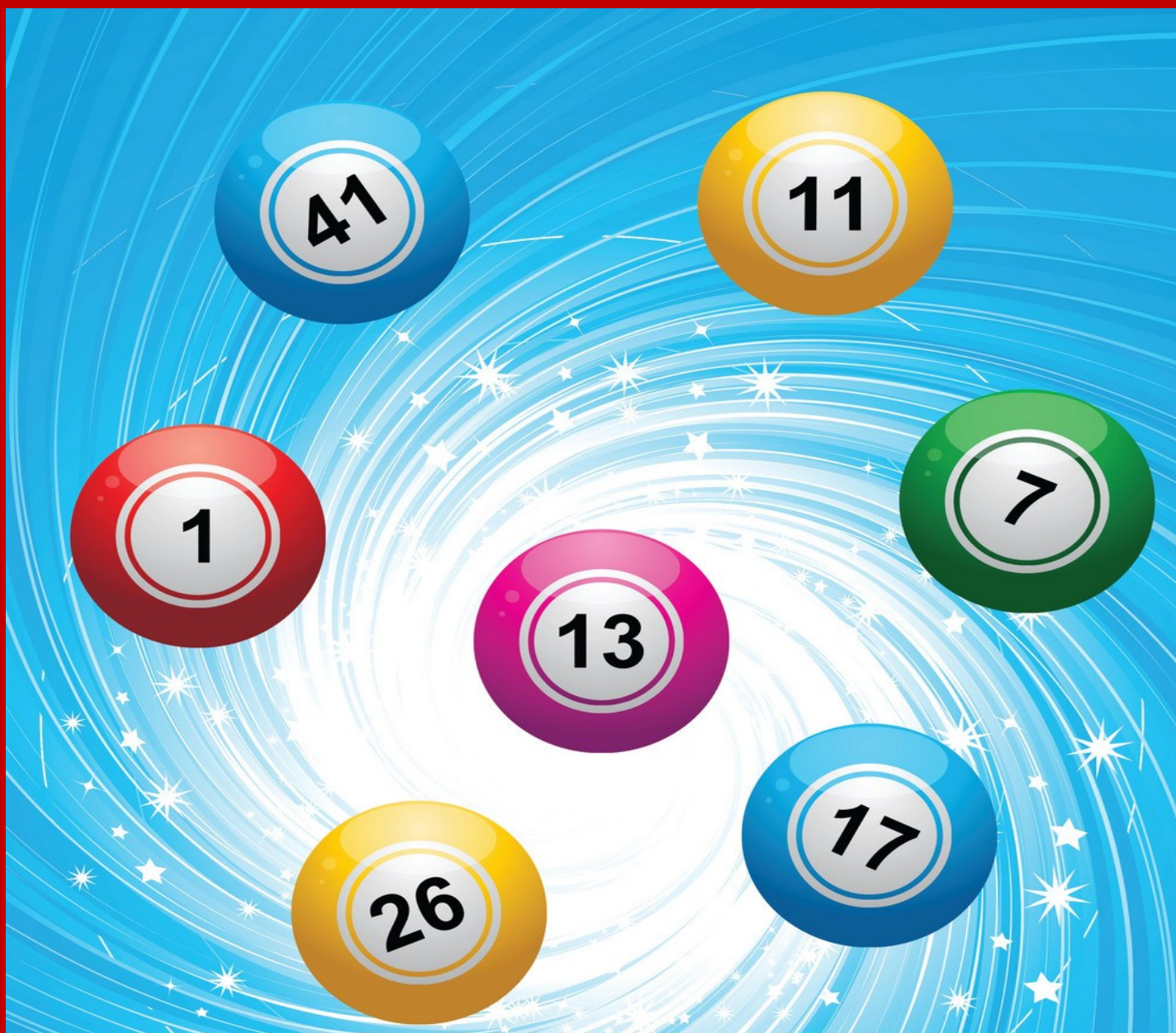
11.30 am 2nd Sun. of Advent

Mon. 8th Dec. 10.00 am

Feast of Immaculate Conception

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

Parish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Wed. 26th Nov.

Nos. Drawn 12 21 22 27

No Jackpot Winner

7 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 143 each

Week's Jackpot € 17,000

Christmas Arrangements for Ballyfin Lotto

Last Draw of 2025 17th Dec.

1st Draw of 2026 7th Jan.

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

Mountrath Parish Lotto Thurs. 27th Nov.

Nos. Drawn 3 5 19 31

1 €12,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eimear Murphy and
Promoter, Mai Murphy

16 Match 3 Rec. €63 each. 6 Local Winners

Winner

Promoter

Sean Byrne

Catherine Byrne

Ann Farrell

M Farrell

Bridie Phelan Mary Therese Burke

Margaret Hetherington M Keegan

Mary Kirwan

Frances Byrne

Mgt. McGrath and Emer Bredin Mgt. McGrath

Next Week's Jackpot €10,000

An Ideal Christmas Gift

Half year Lotto Vouchers €50.00

Full Year Lotto Vouchers €100.00

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 € 10,000

Ballyfin € 17,000



News From Around The Diocese

Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service

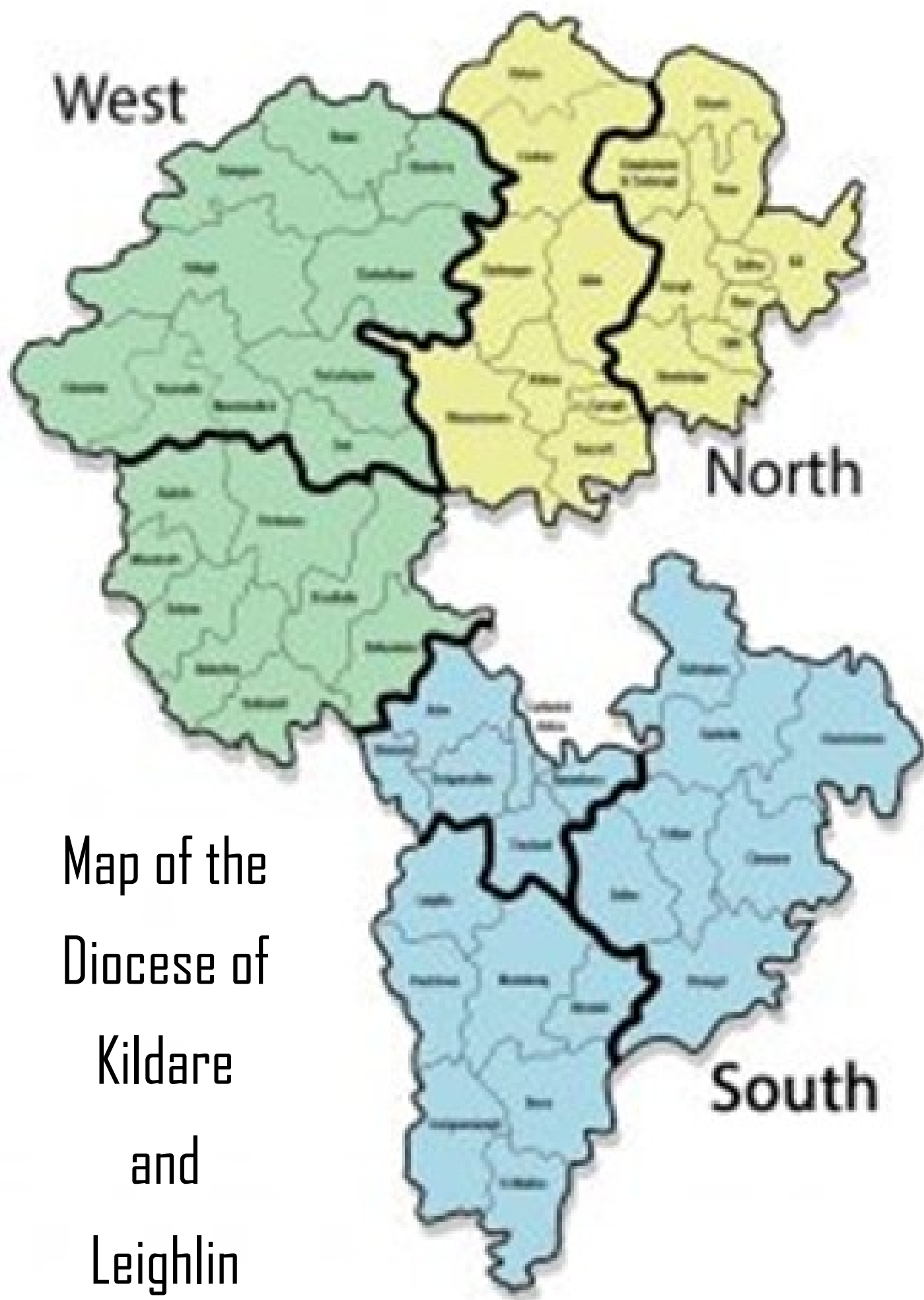
Volunteer Drivers Needed

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.



Synod News

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan synod team attended a national pre-synodal assembly in Kilkenny on 18th Oct. Building on the synodal conversations of the last couple of years, including last Spring, seven key priorities have been identified for the Church in Ireland, as well as the overarching theme of baptism. Delegates on Saturday explored their response to these priorities and overall theme. They also explored what can be undertaken locally and nationally to begin to actively respond to these priorities as we prepare for a national assembly in October 2026. For more information on these priorities and how they were arrived at, we can read 'Baptised and Sent', the preparatory document for last Saturday's gathering, on www.sysnod.ie. The year ahead will be an opportunity for each one of us to reflect on the essential question: **What does it mean for me to be Baptised?**

Events
at
Bloom HQ

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



Comhairle Chontae
Laoise | Laois
County Council

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY AWARDS 2025


People First
CREDIT UNION
We're Stronger Together

 **Public Participation
Network Laois**

Well done to Kevin and Ruth, Unsung Heroes here in Mountrath! A great night and lovely to celebrate them together. Congratulations to all those nominated and the winners too. Our community relies on volunteers and their kindness.



ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE AWARD NOMINEES

Timahoe Male Choir
Comhaltas - Portlaoise Branch
Portlaoise Musical Society
The Slieve Bloom Association
Tonduff Cillin Committee
St. Joseph's Embroidery Group Portlaoise
Mountmellick Community Arts & Culture Centre

SPORTS AWARD NOMINEES

VIP Hub
Arles-Killeen GAA
Stradbally GAA - Dads & Lads
Fit4Life - St. Abban's AC
Laois Camogie Junior Management Team
Trilogy Triathlon Club
Ballinakill Outdoor Swimming Pool

CLIMATE ACTION AWARD NOMINEES

Irish Steam Preservation Society CLG
Crafty Dreams Studio
Mountmellick Women's Shed
Abbeyleix Tidy Towns / Abbeyleix Heritage House
/ Fr. Breen Park Committee
Droimnin Retirement Village Residents Association
Camross Community Association
Rathdowney Men's Shed
Clonad GAA
Laois Teachers Climate Action Committee
Mountmellick Men's Shed

BEST KEPT RESIDENTIAL ESTATE AWARD NOMINEES

Kiln Lane Residents Association
Cherrygrove Residents Group
Clonroosk View Residents Group
Royal Court Residents Association
Slieve Bloom Park Estate
Kylebrook Residents Association

HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD NOMINEES

The ARC Project
Camross Tidy Towns
Portlaoise Community First Responders
Laois Comhairle na nÓg
SOSAD Laois
Borris-in-Ossory Santa Claus Club

SOCIAL INCLUSION AWARD NOMINEES

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association
Portlaoise Family Resource Centre
All Abilities Laois
Laois Traveller Action Group
Laois Africa Support Group
Rosenallis Tidy Towns
Portlaoise Mothers & Others
Camross Active Retired Community
LABRAS - Laois Brazilian Support Association
Laois Baltic Association
Borris-in-Ossory Social Services
Midlands LGBT+ Project
Laois Arch Club

JUNIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Shauna O'Neill | Luke Daly |
| David Shortall | Cillian Lyons |
| Lily O'Connor | Connor O'Carroll |
| Saoirse Oxley | Ailise Dowling McDonald |
| Mariia Yabanzhy | Snizhana Anna Rauth |

UNSUNG HERO NOMINEES

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Louise Foster | Gerry Furlong |
| Sandra Trofimova | Louise McCormack |
| Ruth Delaney | Lindsay Martin-Fenlon |
| Tom & Kathleen Flynn | Trudi Lalor |
| Joe Quigley | Ross Doyle |
| Padraic Dolan | Philip McLoughlin |
| Mary Cuddy | Kevin McCann |
| Ger Browne | Eimear Matthews |
| Sarah Graham | James Kilbride |
| Patrick Blake | Tim Browne |
| Roisin Lawlor | Carmel Farrell |

LAOIS FEDERATION TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Rosenallis Tidy Towns | Mountmellick Tidy Towns |
| Portlaoise Tidy Towns | Clough Tidy Towns |
| Emo Tidy Towns | Killasmeestia Tidy Towns |
| Donaghmore Tidy Towns | Cullohill Tidy Towns |
| Abbeyleix Tidy Towns | Durrow Tidy Towns |

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,

December 14th



Mark the date! BloomHQ's yearly Christmas celebration will kick off at 1pm!
Refreshments, live music, stalls, refreshments and so much more....

....and maybe a visit from Santa!!



BLOOMHQ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 14, 1:00-5:00 PM
PHILOMENAS HALL, BLOOMHQ





Pilates

Wednesdays 8pm

6 weeks starting 5th November



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

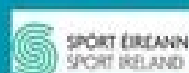
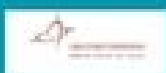
New Block

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

With Shauna Leamy

€ 60 for 6 weeks

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



MATHS GRINDS

**HIGHER LEVEL
LEAVING CERT
MATHS GRINDS**

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

CONTACT:

Orlaith

0892336930





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....

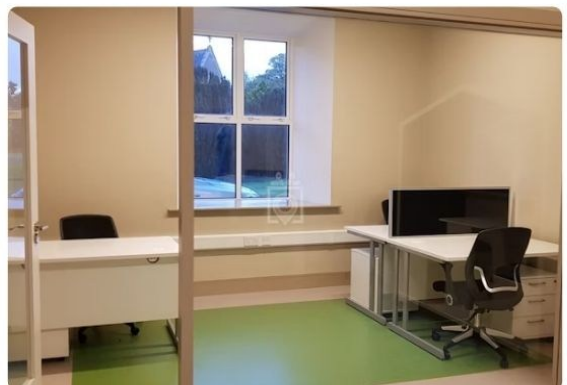
- ✓ Flexible Workspace Options
- ✓ High-Speed Internet
- ✓ Meeting and Conference Rooms

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!

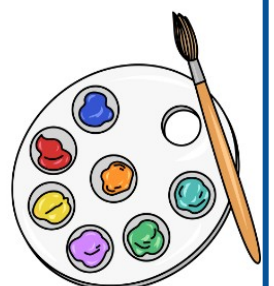


BOOK CLUB

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

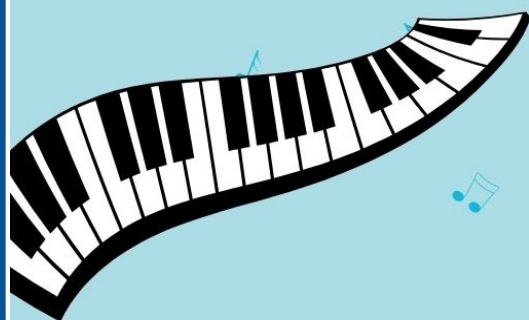


Piano Lessons now Available!



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

UNISLIM

Join Today!

Bloom Hq

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Class Talk 8pm

New members
always welcome!

9 stone
weight
loss



Mairead McCaul
Unislim Member

Join Unislim for €25

Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter

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

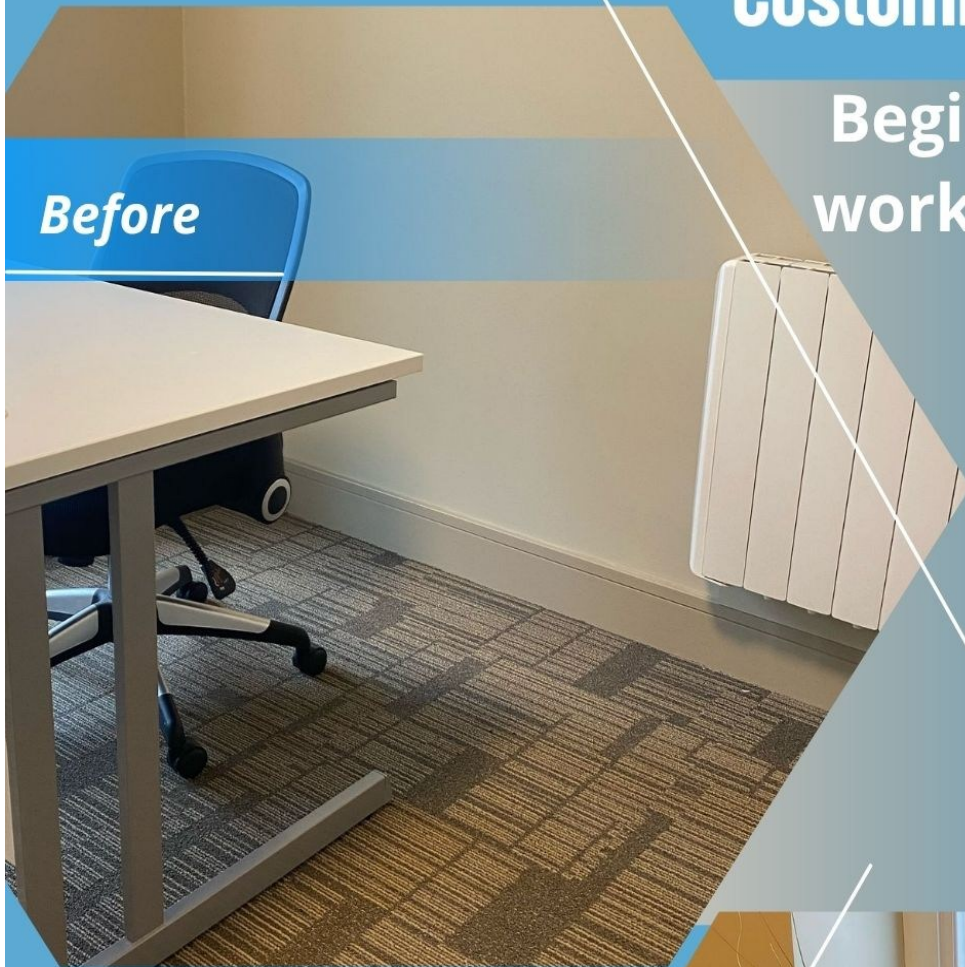


[unislim.com](https://www.unislim.com) | 1800 603020

Customize your space!

**Begin your remote
work journey today**

Before



Contact US!

089 2722885

manager@bloomhq.ie

www.bloomhq.ie

After





**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



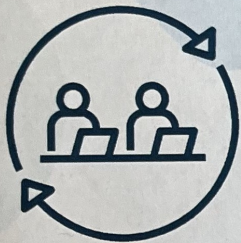
- Join our large, loving gym community! 💪❤️
- Build strength and friendships. 🤝
- Everyone's included —come as you are!
- Don't miss out, join today! 🌟


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



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

CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOTICE

St. Cronan's Church (RC)

Christmas Country Gospel Evening

St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, will host a special Country Gospel Evening &

Festive Celebration with James Kilbane on Sunday, 14th December at 6pm. The young musicians of the Theresa Larkin School of Music will open the event with seasonal music. This joyful evening of Christmas hymns, gospel favourites, and uplifting song is in aid of the parish church heating fund.

Donation tickets €20 available from the parish office, local outlets, organisers, or call 0505 31835.

All are warmly welcome as we prepare for the Christmas season in music and community.

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

Abbey Street, Parkmore, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

PRESENTS

JAMES KILBANE

with JOHN FLATLEY

A Country Gospel Evening & Festive Celebration

Sunday 14th Dec at 6 pm. Doors: 5.30 pm

**IN AID OF NEW CHURCH
HEATING SYSTEM**

**Donation tickets available from the parish
office, local outlets, event organisers or
call 0505 31835 .**

**Donation
TICKETS
€20**



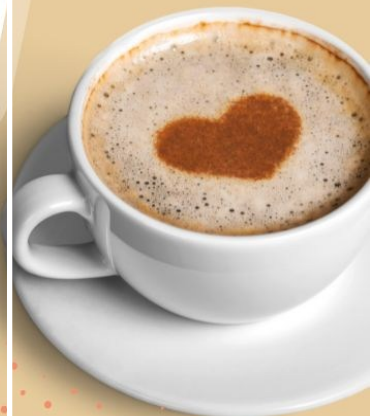


C

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.**

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 |
| Total: | € 226,586.00 | Telephone/Broadband | € 600.00 |
| | | Computer/servicing | € 5,051.00 |
| | | Accountancy Fees | € 540.00 |
| | | Youth/Community | € 260.00 |
| | | Hire of Equipment | € 1,141.00 |
| | | Music/Choir | € 250.00 |
| | | Legal/Professional | € 828.00 |
| | | Donations | € 1,700.00 |
| | | Total: | € 186,173.00 |

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

Ballyfin Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 1,525.00

Peter's Pence € 852.00

World Mission € 1,123.00

Trocaire € 2,462.96

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 500.00

Total € 6462.96

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

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

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|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
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| | | Music/Choir | € 250.00 |
| | | Legal/Professional | € 828.00 |
| | | Donations | € 1,700.00 |
| | | Total: | € 186,173.00 |

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

Mountrath Parish

Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 530.00

Peter's Pence € 550.00

World Mission € 615.00

Trocaire € 2,615.00

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 390.00

Total € 4,700.00

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