

Mountrath
Ballyfin
Online
Newsletter

Celebrating Brigid 1500

From Page 15

28th Jan. 2024

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 28th Jan. 2024

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Best Wishes to
Ballyfin GAA and LGFA** As
they present

Jungle Challenge Fundraiser

Sat. 27th Jan. 2024

Midlands Park Hotel,
Portlaoise.

Tickets € 25 Doors 7.00 pm
Start Time 8.00 pm

Tickets available from the
Deadman's
Bosco's Gala, Portlaoise
Committee Members /
Contestants

School Enrolment

Ballyfin National School will be accepting applications for admissions to Junior Infants for the school year 2024/25 from Monday January 8th to Monday January 29th. Application forms and more information can be found at www.ballyfinns.weebly.com or by contacting the school at office@ballyfinns.ie or 057 8755225'.

World Day of Prayer

Fri. 1st March - 7.30 pm

Bloon HQ - Convent Chapel

You are most welcome to join us

Invitation from Fr. Brian Griffith, P. P. Castletown

Ecumenical Service in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, on Sun. 28th Jan. at 3pm. We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. You are most welcome as we gather to pray and reflect with our Christian brothers and sisters. Refreshments will be served afterwards in De La Salle Centre. (Christian Unity Week)

BALLYFIN GAA & LGFA

PROUDLY PRESENT



JUNGLE CHALLENGE

FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, 27TH JAN 2024
THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL, PORTLAOISE

TICKETS €25 Doors 7.00pm Start Time: 8.00pm

*Tickets available from Deadman's Inn Ballyfin
and Bosco's Gala, Portlaoise,
Committee Members and Contestants*



BRUIGHNÍ TU TUU BY:

FUNDRAISING EVENTS GROUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH EMPOWER EVENTS
WWW.FUNDRAISINGEVENTS.IE | WWW.JUNGLEFUNDRAISER.IE

FUNDRAISING
EVENTS GROUP

EMPOWER
EVENTS

Check out "Ballyfin GAA 6K Run/Walk - Ballyfin Demesne"

Rescheduled

Sun, Jan 28th ■ 11:30 am

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ballyfin-gaa-6k-runwalk-thru-ballyfin-demesne-tickets-796391046057?aff=eand>

Some Parish Events during 2024 (Mountrath)

Ash Wednesday 14th Feb. Mass in Mountrath Ch. 10.00 am and 7.30 pm
Blessing and Distribution of Ashes during both Masses

Easter Season

Palm (Passion Sunday) 24th March

Blessing and Distribution of "Palm" at both Masses.

Holy Thurs. 28th Mch Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm

Renewal of Commitment of Ministers of Holy Communion during Mass

Good Friday 29th Mch Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross - 7.30 pm

Holy Saturday 30th March Easter Vigil 8.00 pm

Easter Sunday 31st Mch

The Hollow Church Mass of the Resurrection 9.00 am

Mountrath Church Mass of the Resurrection 11.30 am

Renewal of Baptismal Promises at both Masses

Ceremony of Confirmation Fri. 26h April

Ceremony in Mountrath Church 11.00 am

Ceremony in Ballyfin Church 2.30 pm

1st Holy Communion Days

The Hollow Ch. Sun. 19th May 9.00 am

Mountrath Church Sun. 26th May 11.30 am

Some Parish Events during 2024 (Ballyfin)

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Renewal of Baptismal Promises at both Masses

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Ceremony in Mountrath Church 11.00 am

Ceremony in Ballyfin Church 2.30 pm

Bishop Denis will lead us in both Ceremonies

1st Holy Communion Days

Sun. 19th May 2.00 pm Sun. 26th May 2.00 p

Prayer attributed to St. John Henry Newman

Lord, may you support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, Lord, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Kathleen Holland (Nee Murray) Trumera. R.I.P.

We pray for Kathleen who died peacefully at Sacred Heart Nursing Home, Crosspatrick on Fri. 19th Jan. Kathleen's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Tues. 23rd Jan followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to daughter Debbie, sons, Kevin and John and their families, grandchildren, daughters-in-law, son-in-law, brother, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Lila Lynch (Nee Nolan) Kiln Lane. R.I.P.

We pray for Lila who died peacefully in Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Mon. 22nd Jan. Lila's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Wed. 24th Jan. followed by burial in St. Fergal's Cemetery, Camross. We extend sympathy to her husband Bernie, sons Ray, Turlough and Darren, daughter Michelle and families, grandchildren, Dylan and Chloe, nephews, nieces, brothers Ollie, Tim, Noel and John, sister Ann and their families, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Breda O'Connor, Elderfield, Castletown. R.I.P.

We pray for Breda who died peacefully on Thurs. 25th Jan. Breda's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Sat. 27th followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Brendan, Eamon, John, Gerard, Aodh and Aonghus and their families, sister Kitty, brother Fr Liam and their families, her eight grandchildren, daughters and son in law, nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbours and friends.

Bill Sinnott Shannon Rd., R.I.P.

We pray for Bill who died peacefully at Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Fri. 26th Jan. Reposing at Burke's Funeral Home, Mountrath this Sat. evening (27th) from 5 o'clock, concluding with Rosary at 8.o'clock. We will celebrate Bill's Funeral Mass on Sun. morning (28th Jan) in St. Fintan's Church at 11. 30 am, followed by Burial in St. Fintan's Cemetery We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers at this time, Bill's family - John, Joe, Francis, Pat, Catherine, Liam and Lisa and their families, Bill's sister Mary and her family,

May Kathleen, Lila, Breda and Bill rest in the peace of Christ.

Ann Holohan (Nee Kane) Springfield. R.I.P.

We pray for Ann who died peacefully at Tallaght University Hosp., on Fri. 19th Jan. Ann's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Wed. 24th Jan. followed by burial in Ballyfin New Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her husband P.J., sons Patrick, Damien, Paul and Martin, daughter Sharon, daughters-in-law Ann, Gemma and Triona, son-in-law Niall, brothers, sisters and their families, grandchildren Aoife, Cian, Eve, Jamie, Ben, Sarah, Emma, Ruairí, Conor, Dan, Tadhg, Darragh, Sisters, brothers, in laws, extended family, neighbours and a large circle of friends.

Ann Earley (Nee Ferriter) Portarlington. R.I.P.

We pray for Ann who died peacefully in Regional Hosp., Portlaoise. on Mon. 22nd Jan. Ann's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Michael's Church, Portarlington on Thurs. 25th Jan. followed by burial in St. Michael's Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her husband P.J., daughter Karen, son-in-law Paul, daughter-in-law Carina, grandchildren Stephen, Noah, Tadhg, Disín and Fionnán, brother Luke, sisters Helen, Siobhan and Cáit and their families, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, extended family, neighbours and friends.

Ann is Karen Gilligan's mother (Brockera) and once again we extend our deepest sympathy to Karen, Paul and family and families at this sad and difficult time. – Karen's brother, Patrick (Paddy) died just over 3 weeks ago (on 1st Jan)

May Ann (Holohan) – Ann and her son, Paddy (Earley) rest in the peace of Christ.

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. -

We wish them a speedy recovery

Mountrath Parish

Distribution of Parish Envelopes for 2024

Thank you if you have taken your box of Envelopes for this year. We appreciate your continued generous support. I ask if you have not already done so - to please put your name and address on just one envelope before you return it - so we can keep track of all your contributions to Parish Funds.

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms. Ailish Higgins.

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,

c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow Ph: 085 802 163

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 26th Jan. – Sun. 4th Feb

Fri. 26th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 27th Jan. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass – 4th Sun. Ord. Time

Maura and Patsy Feighery, O'Moore Forest

And Claudia Buckley (their grand-daughter)

Sun. 28th Jan. 10.00 am Jim Delaney, Clonagown.. 3rd Anniv

Jim's parents, Edward and Brigid Delaney, Clonagown

Seán Keegan. Formerly Birmingham and Mountmellick

Johanna Whitaker. London and Mountmellick.

Michael and Mary McCormack. Fintan and Frances Lawlor.

John and Nora Keating, Brockera

Winnie and Patrick Lalor and Mamie (Mary) Lalor, Upper Ballyfin

Mon. 29th Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

Fri. 2nd Feb. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 3rd Feb. 8.00 pm Feast of St. Blaise (Blessing of throats after Mass this evening)

Pat Hooban (formerly Upper Sconce) 1st Anniv

Deceased members of Hooban family

Kathleen and Matt Dunphy, Barkmills.

Rita Fitzpatrick (Nee Keegan) Esker. 2nd Anniv.

Seán Fitzpatrick. 18th Anniv.

Sun. 4th Feb. 10.00 am 5th Sun. in Ord. Time.

John Dunne, Deerpark. 2nd Anniv.

Seán Heffernan, Brockera. 12th Anniv.

Mon. 5th Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 27th Jan. .7.00 pm Eilis O'Hara (Nee Culleton) Patrick St. 1st Anniv
Philip Murphy, Spa Hill. 2nd Anniv.
George and Alice Tobin, Woodbrook.
Joe Kiely, Shannon Rd., 11th Anniv
Andrew and Amy Moore, Woodbrook.

Sun. 28th Jan . 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Elizabeth Seale and
deceased members of Seale Family, Clonadacasey
11.30 am Bill Sinnott. R.I.P. Funeral Mass
Peg Lalor (Nee Fitzpatrick) Portlaoise Rd., 1st Anniv.
Christopher (Christy) Phelan, Loon, Castlecomer 3rd Anniv.
Joseph (Joe) Dowling, Clonard. 16th Anniv.

Tues.30th Jan. 10.00 am Dan and Anne Costello,

Wed. 31st Jan 10.00 am Teresa O'Keeffe, Woodbrook.

Thurs. 1st Feb. 10.00 am **Feast of St. Brigid.**

Blessing and "sale" of St. Brigid's Crosses. - Sr. Helen and pupils (and staff) of Scoil Bhride are once again making our St. Brigid's Crosses - All donations received through the "sale" of St. Brigid's Crosses will go to Scoil Bhride funds - and will be most welcome.

Fri. 2nd Feb. 10.00 am Anne McCarthy, Knockanina. 36th Anniv.

Sat. 3rd Feb. 7.00 pm Feast of St. Balise **Blessing of throats after Mass this evening.**

Martin Mulhall, Shannon Rd., Month's Mind
Patrick Dunne, Moanbawn.

Sun. 4th Feb. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.**
11.30 am 5th Sun. Ord. Time.
Anthony Heffernan. Ringstown. 1st Anniv.

Month's Mind Mass Sun. 11th Feb. 11.30 am
Peter Redmond, R.I.P. Redcastle.



"Do This in Memory" Programme

1st Holy Communion Preparation Programme in Mountrath Ballyfin

Enrolement Ceremonies

Mountrath Parish Sat. 30th Sept. Mass 7.00 pm All Schools

Ballyfin. Sun. 1st Oct. Mass 10.00 am Both Schools

"Do This in Memory" Children's Masses

1. Sat. 11th Nov Mountrath Church, 7.00 pm
Sun. 12th Nov. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
2. Sat. 9th Dec. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 10th Dec. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
3. Sat. 13th Jan. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 14th Jan. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
4. Sat. 10th Feb. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 11th Feb. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
5. Sat. 9th Mch.. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 10th Mch. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
6. Sat. 13th Apr. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 14th Apr. . Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
7. Sat. 4th May Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 5th May Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

(The) Sacrament of 1st Penance

will be celebrated in March. Arrangements for the celebration of this Sacrament will be put in place in due course in conjunction with the Schools.

Dates for Celebration of 1st Holy Communion

Sun. 5th May The Hollow Church 9.00 am

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

Sun. 26th May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

With Children of all Mountrath Schools -- Note Change of Date

Sun. 19th May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With children of Ballyfin National School

Sun. 26th May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm With Children of Barnashrone National School

Mountrath Parish Lotto

25th Jan.

Numbers Drawn 3 10 19 30

1 €15,00 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Amedeo Visocchi (Portlaoise)

16 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 63 Each.

3 Local Winners

Pam Killeen, Promoter, Pam Killeen

Ann Kelly, Promoter, Ann Kelly

Catherine Doheny. Promoter, David Tobin

New Jackpot - €10,000



A very sincere thank you - for your very generous support of and continued commitment to Mountrath Parish Lotto throughout the year.

Ballyfin Parish Lotto 24th Jan.

Nos. Drawn 2 20 25 29

19 Match 3's won € 53 ea.

New Jackpot €17,000

A very sincere thank you - for your very generous support of
and continued commitment to Ballyfin Parish Lotto throughout
the year.

Next Week's



Ballyfin € 17,000

Mountrath € 10,000

On Thurs. 1st Feb. 2024, Churches across Kildare and Leighlin, and beyond, will come together to participate in a special ecumenical service at 11.00am in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare entitled, 'Celebrating St Brigid. Brigid 1500: A Service of Thanksgiving' dedicated to commemorating the Feast Day of St Brigid and the 1500th anniversary of her death.

The co-leaders of this thanksgiving service are the Most Rev Denis Nulty, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and the Most Rev Patricia Storey, Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare. The Reverend Canon Dr. Alison Joyce, Rector of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street in the heart of London, will deliver the sermon.

At the end of the Service, a Pause for Peace will be observed in the Cathedral at 12 noon. Aligning with a broader initiative whereby the people of Kildare are extending a global invitation, urging individuals worldwide to pause for a minute's silence at midday (local time) on St Brigid's Day, the 1st of February 2024. Livestreaming of the service will also be available worldwide. (Full press release attached and on www.kandle.ie)

Brigid 1500

Cathedral Evening Prayer for St Brigid

February 1st marks the opening of a national year commemorating St Brigid, patron of our diocese and secondary patron of Ireland, 1500 years since her death. Bishop Denis invites people from across the diocese to join him for a special evening prayer in the Cathedral of the Assumption on February 1st at 7:30 pm. Music will be led by Fr Liam Lawton and the diocesan choir.

Welcoming the relic of St Brigid

As we prepare to celebrate the life of St Brigid on February 1st and on this, the 1500th anniversary of her death, the Brigidine Sisters from their convent in Tullow are very generously loaning their relic of St Brigid to Kildare Parish for the year.

The relic will be housed in a specially designed shrine in St Brigid's Church, Kildare. The shrine will be unveiled and Mass will be celebrated in honour of St Brigid and the generosity of the Brigidine Sisters on Sunday 28th January at 11am. This is seen very much as a home-coming for St Brigid and all are most welcome to attend.

St Brigid's Camino Walk, Monasterevin Parish

Takes place on Monday 5th February starting at St Brigid's Shrine, Mountrice at 11am, led by Bishop Denis. The walk will journey to Umeras, reputed birthplace of St Brigid, continue along the new canal Blueway and finish in Sts Peter & Paul Church, Monasterevin with a service of light at 12.30pm. For more details please contact Monasterevin Parish Office 045-525346

Annual Féile Bríde, Solas Bríde Centre, Kildare

Féile Bríde (Brigid's Festival) is a week- long series of events commencing on the eve of St. Brigid's Day, the first day of February.

This year, over the course of 10 days, the festival will mark the 1500th anniversary of St Brigid's death and details of the events planned are available locally and on <https://solasbhríde.ie/feile-bríde-2024/>

All are welcome to celebrate St Brigid with us.

Celebrating Brigid 1500 at Mt St Anne's

Enjoy the St Brigid's Bank Holiday weekend at Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre. Arrive for Supper on Friday 2nd February and depart on Tuesday 6th February after Breakfast. Optional morning and evening sessions of prayer, crafts, reflection and music at Mount St Anne's.

Cost: €450 includes morning and evening sessions, evening meal and B&B or €350 includes evening meal and B&B only. Booking/Enquiries to secretary@mountstannes.com or by phone 057-8626153.

Ballyfin Community Alert Seniors Alert Scheme

As darker evenings are upon us please be aware that grant aided personal 24/7 monitored alarms are available to people aged 65 and over. 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 or for application form

Activities suitable for Senior Citizens in Mountrath

Mature Movers 50 +
Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am



Bowls inclusive 11 am Tuesdays
Bowls 8 pm Thursdays

Mountrath Men's Shed
Tuesdays 10 am- 1 pm
Thursdays 2 pm- 4 pm
contact 085 705 3855



Activator Poles Inclusive
Thursdays 11 am

contact Ruth 086 3262 570



Celebrate St Brigid's Day with us

Thursday 1st February 1-2 pm

The old Brigidine Convent Mountrath

Come make a St Brigid's cross
& have a cuppa



“MY WORLD”



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

by Mountrath & District Camera Club

Opening 7pm Friday 2nd February
in the

Gallery of Divine Inspiration

Bloomhq, Mountrath

All Welcome

Photos will be on display for the month



VIOLIN LESSONS

by Irene Ramos

- Discover the joy of music and unlock your creativity
- Weekly individual and ensemble classes for all ages
- From 3-year-olds to adults
- Studio based Mountrath

FULLY QUALIFIED SUZUKI TEACHER & ABRSM DIPLOMA IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

FOR RATES AND/OR MORE
INFO PLEASE CONTACT ME

Phone: 0773222323

Email: iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com

 Irene Ramos
violin studio



Support & Re-Open
Mountrath Mart

Meeting Thursday 1st February
8pm in Bloomhq Mountrath
Patrick St, R32 DC58

Contact mountrathmart1965@gmail.com

All shareholders, local businesses & interested parties, Please support and help us reopen the Mountrath Mart which has been closed since
2018





Hot Desks in Mountrath

Need somewhere to work for a day with fast broadband?

Free parking, canteen onsite.

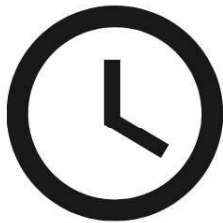
Desks from 10 euro per day

Book on <https://connectedhubs.ie>

Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on
Patrick Street**



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

Contact 0857053855

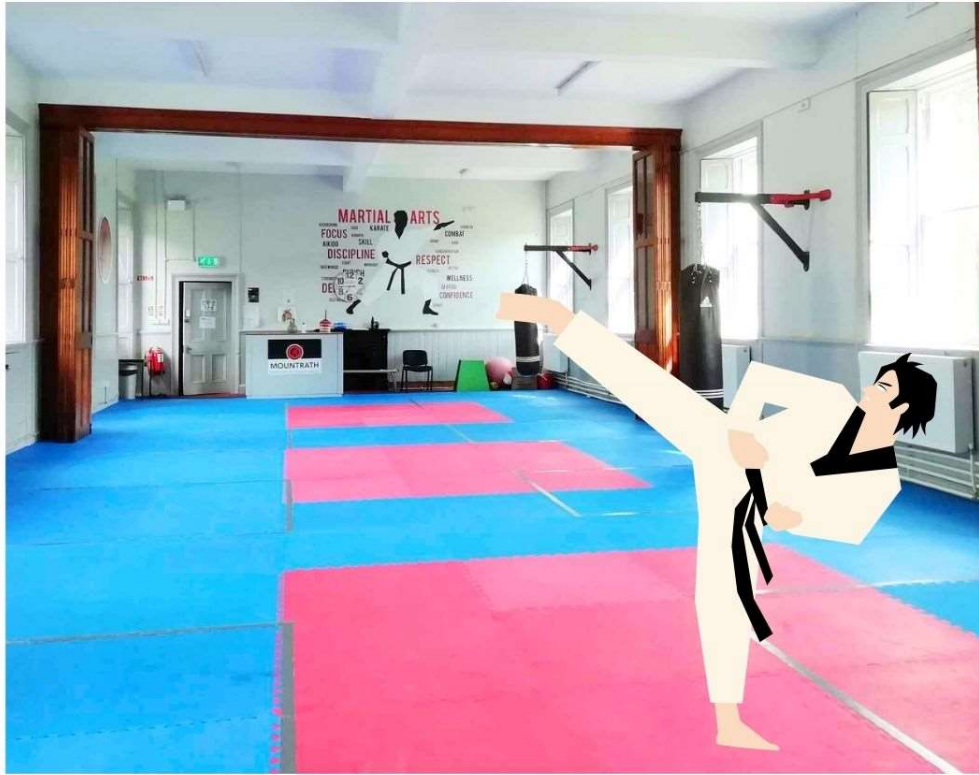




Karate Classes



Mondays & Thursdays 7 - 8 pm



Juniors and Adults



Okinawan Karate



Black Belt Instructors

contact Sensei Donal, 5th dan
087 760 7063

Martial Arts Centre, Old
Convent, Mountrath,
R32 DC58



HIIT LUNCHTIME CLASS

High-Intensity Interval Training

Tuesdays & Thursdays

1.15 pm for 40 mins

5 euro a class

or

**part of your monthly
gym package**

Book with Ruth 086 3262 570





Classes for Primary School aged Children in Mountrath Health & Fitness Academy



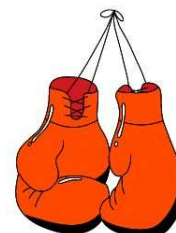
Karate

Mondays & Thursdays 7 pm
from 6 years up, €6 per class
Sensei Donal: 087 760 7063

Kickboxing

First trial class free

Fridays 5.30 pm 3-7 years, €7
6.30 pm 8-12 years, €7
Shane: 086 339 9287



Brazilian Jiu-jitsu*

*starting 14th & 17th Feb
with free trial

8-12 years,
Wednesdays 7-8 pm &
Saturdays 10-11 am
€ 35 per month
Jamie; 085 200 2497



Art & Craft

Wednesdays 5-6 pm, 7-12 years
€ 30 for block of 6 classes
Rhiannon: 089 211 5183

Violin

Thursdays 3.30 pm on. From 3 years - adult
€20 for 30 min individual lesson
Irene: 089 981 8065



Trad Music



Saturdays from 11 am, 6+ years
€8 for 30 min group classes
Eabha 083 8566083



to book talk to the relevant teacher



Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu/BJJ in Mountrath



Thinking about learning self-defence and the Art of Jiu-Jitsu? A sport that suits all ages from 8 years.

- *mobility improvement
- *improve full body strength
- *better cardio
- *helps weight loss
- *improves flexibility

Come join our free trial
Wednesday 14th &
Saturday 17th
February

8 yrs- 18 €35 per month
Adults €45 per month

Wednesdays

Kids 7-8 pm

Teens /Adults 8-9 pm

contact Jamie 085 200 2497

Saturdays

Kids 10- 11 am

Teens /Adults 11 am -12 pm



Brigidine Convent, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32 DC58



Bowls All Inclusive 11am Tuesdays

St. Philomena's Hall,
Brigidine Convent,
Patrick Street,
Mountrath

Contact Ruth 086 3262570





Irish Traditional

MUSIC

LESSONS

Whistle, Flute, Concertina, Accordion,
Fiddle, Banjo and Mandolin



Clíona and Éabha
Dowling McDonald

More Information :

Contact 083

8566083



Music Classes in Mountrath

- **Lessons in BloomHQ**
- **Violin Lessons by
Irene Ramos
0773222323
iramos.violinstudio@
gmail.com**

*Contact the relevant
teacher to arrange
days/times/prices*

- **Irish Traditional
Music, Whistle, Flute,
Concertina,
Accordion, Fiddle,
Banjo and Mandolin
Cliona & Eabha
Dowling McDonald
083 8566083**



School of Music - Mountrath



Please use your recyclable blue token to
vote for us in the Tesco Community Fund.



Synod News

Work is beginning towards the next phase of the Synod and the Second General Assembly in Rome next October.

There is a dedicated page on the diocesan website: www.kandle/synod where we can keep up to date. Much more information can be found at www.synod.ie and on the Vatican website, www.synod.va.

Date for the Diary

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in Mountrath / Ballyfin Parishes on **Fri. 26th April 2024**

The Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Church will Commence at 2.30 pm
Bishop Denis will lead us in both our celebrations

Christian Unity Week

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17:21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held each year at the end of January.

To prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region of the world are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. The materials for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, in West Africa. The theme chosen is "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" (Lk 10:27). Representatives from the Catholic Archdiocese, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections.

These prayers and reflections will be part of an Ecumenical Service which will take place in **St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, on Sun. 28th Janu. at 3pm.** We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. All parishioners are welcome as we gather to pray and reflect with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in De La Salle Centre.