

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 16<sup>th</sup> July '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat.15<sup>th</sup> – Sun.16<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783

Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on

FM 104.5

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

Email [jmbrophy2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrophy2@gmail.com)

### Lourdes Invalid Fund Collection

Many thanks for your most generous contributions to the recent Lourdes Invalid Fund Church Gate Collection for Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

Mountrath Parish € 500.00

Ballyfin Parish € 409.28

### Cemetery Masses In Ballyfin

Clondarrig Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

Boghlone Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Cemetery Masses begin at 7.00 pm

### Clonenagh Cemetery Mass – Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

A note of thanks to everyone involved in our Cemetery Mass. – Organizing Committee, Reader, Ministers of Holy Communion, Thanks to the preparation team who attended in the Cemetery on the lead up our Cemetery Mass. Thanks to the grass cutting team for their work throughout the year.

Thanks to Tommy Ferns and team on sound (PA). It was good that we were all able to remember – once again, in a fitting manner, our loved ones who have been called home, in the way that we do best, - assemble in prayer and in hope as a Christian Community around the graves of our loved ones, to celebrate the Eucharist. Thank you for your participation in our Cemetery Mass and for your dedication to the continued care and attention to your family graves.

*And thank God, we didn't fare our too badly with the weather, in spite of the evening that was in it.*

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.

## YOUTH 2000

Join young people between 16 and 35 this August at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival. The festival takes place in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare from Thursday 10th August to Sunday 13th August 2023.

The festival includes inspiring talks, music, prayer, concert, workshops, dramas, share groups, reconciliation and healing service and Mass. Donation only and we have buses going from all over Ireland.

For more information and to book your place go to [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

## Tributes to Msgr. Caoimhín Ó Néill (One of our own)

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**Msgr. Caoimhín Ó Néill, R.I.P. former President of Carlow College,**

*Extract from, Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh's Homily at Fr. Kevin's Funeral Mass*

In paying tribute, the current President said that as President, Msgr Ó Néill, “oversaw the transformation of Carlow College, providing access to third level education in the Humanities and Social Care in the south east of Ireland and beyond. He appointed many of the current staff members to the staff of the College”. Msgr Caoimhín was co-founder the Carlow Arts Festival, ÉIGSE Carlow. It was during his presidency that the College Trustees provided the site on the College Campus for VISUAL – the George Bernard Shaw Theatre and Exhibition Centre. In recognition of his educational and cultural contribution to Carlow Town and County and the

wider region, Monsignor Ó Néill received the Freedom of Carlow (2006) and was named the Carlow Person of the Year (2009). He was created a Prelate of Honour with the title of Msgr. by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 - *! bParrthas na nGrás go raibh sé.*

**Further tributes to *An Tathair Caoimhín* On Page 28**

## **Retracing the footsteps of St Brigid and St Conleth**

An 8km walk on the Curragh Plains led by Bishop Nulty takes place on Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> July. Walk begins at St Anne's School, The Curragh at 12 noon and concludes with a prayer service in St Brigid's Church, Kildare at 4pm. Refreshments will be available All welcome to join. To register for the walk contact Aras Bhride on 045-521352 or email [kildareparish@gmail.com](mailto:kildareparish@gmail.com)

## **Clonenagh Cemetery Mass – Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

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# RETRACING THE FOOTSTEPS



of St. Brigid & St. Conleth

**An 8km Pilgrim Walk  
on the Curragh Plains.**

- Led by Bishop Denis Nulty -

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

Walk begins at St. Anne's School, The Curragh at 12 noon to  
St. Brigid's Parish Church Kildare

Refreshments available on arrival at Aras Bhríde

Park and Ride available from 11.15 am  
at Kildare Railway Station

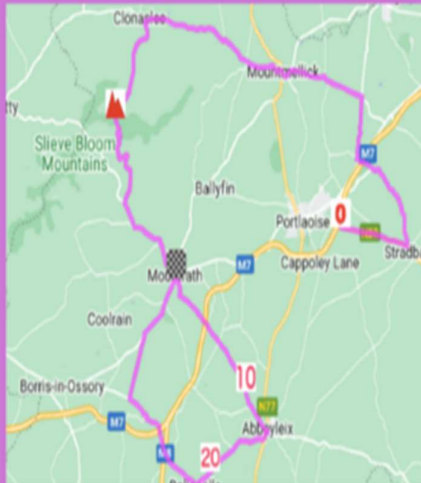
Concluding Service in  
St. Brigid's Parish Church Kildare at 4pm

For more info: Aras Bhríde  
045 321 353 / [kildareparish@gmail.com](mailto:kildareparish@gmail.com)



BRIGID  1500

Kildare Parish



**Stage 3 finishes in Mountrath on Friday September 8th.**  
**Portlaoise – Stradbally – Emo – Mountmellick – Clonaslee – The Cut – Mountrath – Ballacolla –**  
**Abbeyleix – Mountrath**  
 See link for stage route: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41818995>  
 Further Information [www.rasnamban.com](http://www.rasnamban.com)  
 Imagery credit: Rás na mBan



**LAOIS**  
*You're Welcome*



**Laois Chamber Alliance**  
 Advancing business together

## Rás na mBan

Rás na mBan – International Womens Cycle Race –  
 takes place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Stage 3 (102 kilometers) takes place in Laois on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, after a ceremonial start at Aras An Chontae the race will pass through – Stradbally –

Emo - Mountmellick – Clonaslee – The Cut - Mountrath – Aghaboe - Ballacolla -  
Abbeyleix – finishing in Mountrath at approximately 2pm. Riders from all  
over Europe, the USA, Oceania, Africa and Asia as well as the best of Ireland's  
international and locally-based racers will descend on Laois for the event  
which will showcase the beauty and landscape of our county. You are invited  
to the official launch of the Laois Stage of Rás na mBan – International  
Womens Cycle Race on Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> July in Bloom HQ at 7.30pm.

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### A Note from Edel Moloney Mountrath CE Supervisor

We have the following upcoming vacancies :

Caretaker - Mountrath CES 2279374

Env Worker - Mountrath CES 2254234

Env Worker - Castletown CES 2268516

Shop Assistant - Mountrath CES 2261754

Hours 19.5 hours per week. Contract: Temporary

Start date: To be confirmed

Salary: Community Employment Rates

Application Details:

Eligibility to participate on CE is generally linked to those who are 21 years or over and in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment for 1 year or more or 18 years and over for certain disadvantaged groups. Your eligibility will have to be verified by the department.

You can register your interest by selection "Register your interest" on [jobsireland.ie](http://jobsireland.ie), or you can contact a case officer in your local Intreo Centre quoting the relevant reference number above.

You can also call into our office on Patrick St, Mountrath or email [mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com](mailto:mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com)

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## Deadline for Parish Newsletters

Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 12 midday on Thursdays

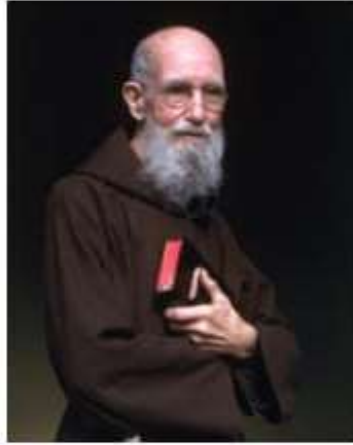
Text Message, Email, Whatsapp, Letter or Pop into Parochial House.

**Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish App. available to download on iPhone and Android**  
*A Very Sincere "Thank you" for Your Most Generous Support*  
*of all our Parish Collections*

# Celebration of the Eucharist

*In honour of*

## ***Blessed Solanus Casey***



**Monday, 31<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**7.30pm**

**St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Co.Laois.**

**R32TD61**



***"Blessed be God in all His designs"***

*-Blessed Solanus Casey- The Doorkeeper*

**All Most Welcome!**

Follow Novena from 22<sup>nd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> July '23

<https://www.swprayer.org>



# In This Issue

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Different ways of Supporting your Parish:

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry

*Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,*

c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

**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

## **Mass Times – Anniversaries**

### **Mountrath Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 pm Michael and Elizabeth Heffernan, Paddock  
and their son, Mick - and

Deceased members of Heffernan and Delaney families

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> July 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.**

Mary (Mary Ellen) and James Fitzpatrick,

The Pole House, Clonadacasey. Mary's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniv

11.30 am Bernard Dowling, Trumera. 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.

Tom Costello, Portlaoise Rd., 4<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 am People who are ill at this time

Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 am

Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 am

Thur 20<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 am

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July 10.00 am Lorcan Fitzpatrick. Trumera. 8<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> July 7.00 pm Seamus Tynan, Link Rd. 8<sup>th</sup> Aniv.

Martin Fitzpatrick, Patrick St. and Forest. 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Fintan and Margo Deleaney, Patrick St.,

Daughters, Mairead Kavanagh and Paula Byrne

Son, James Delaney (Patrick St. and New York)

Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> July 9.00 am [The Hollow Ch.](#)

11.30 am Tom Lanham, Kiln Lane.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversaries in July

Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 pm

Florrie Phelan (Nee Coffey) St. Fintan's Tce.,

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Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> July 11.30 am Billy Bergin, Redcastle

## Ballyfin - Mass Times Anniversaries

Anniversaries Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> July 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament.

7.30 pm Maura and Ted Fitzpatrick, Cappanrush

Maura's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> July 8.00 pm Barney Dunne, Pallas. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

John Murphy, Dunlavin – Recently deceased

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 am

Mon 17<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> July 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Altar List of the Dead.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July 8.00 pm Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Ross.

Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> July 10.00 am Mary Ellen and Patrick Conroy, Ballylusk.

Tom Coleman, Esker.

John and Ruby Seale, Clonboyne

Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

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Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> July 7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist.

Honouring Blessed Solanus Casey, Capuchin

### Month's Mind Mass

Rosaleen (Rosie) Dunne (Nee Gorman) Deerpark

Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> July 8.00 p.m.



## Mountrath - Ballyfin Lotto Results.

Ballyfin Lotto Results for

12<sup>th</sup> July

Nos. Drawn 5 10 14 28

Jackpot €10,000

No Winner

21 Match 3 Rec. € 48 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 11,000



© CanStockPhoto.com

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 13<sup>th</sup>

Nos. Drawn 6 16 17 22

No € 20,000 Jackpot Winner

8 Match 3's Rec. € 125 1 Local Winner



James Jordan Promoter, M. Farrell

**Next Week's Jackpot €20,000**

A note of thanks to everyone involved in Ballyfin Parish Lotto - Organising Committee, 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 support and generosity.

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**Next Week's Jackpot €20,000**

*Next  
Week's*



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**€ 11,000**

**Ballyfin**

# € 20,000 - Mountrath

World Day for Grandparents & Elderly takes place on Sunday, July 23rd.

The National Grandparents Pilgrimage celebrating this day in Knock Shrine will be led by Bishop Denis. The anointing of the sick is at 2.30pm with Mass at 3pm. Families from the diocese are encouraged to travel.

This is the third year celebrating this event. It is hoped that parishes using the attached resources might celebrate and mark this event during one of their Sunday Masses. The theme offered by Pope Francis this year is 'His mercy is from age to age' (Lk.1:50). We all know the wonderful part played by the elderly and by grandparents in all our parishes, so it is all the more important that we mark the celebration locally as well as universally.

**Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock**

The Annual Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock will take place  
next Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Mass at 3pm with Anointing of the Sick at 2:30pm.

## Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock

The Annual Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock will take place next Sunday 16 July.  
Mass at 3pm with Anointing of the Sick beforehand at 2:30pm. Newsletters &  
Emblems available at PTAA stand in St John's Rest & Care Centre or  
via [www.pioneers.ie](http://www.pioneers.ie)



# Dermot & Irene Ring



St. Philomena's Hall, Mountrath

August Bank Holiday Mon. (7<sup>th</sup> Aug) 9.30 - 12

## Retracing the Footsteps of St Brigid and St Conleth

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## *Parish Finances. - A Word of Thanks*

### *Thanks for your generous contributions to Parish Funds.*

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation and gratitude for the ways in which you have found to support the parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful. It has and continues to be a most challenging time for so many; families, self employed, hospitality and so much more. By and large we are not doing too bad, thanks in no small part to your generosity, I wish to acknowledge your support given via the weekly envelopes (2023 boxes are ready for distribution at present). Contributing to the Parish by envelope allows us to keep track of your donations for the whole year and, where possible, (and totally at your discretion) claim the additional 45% back from Revenue under the charity

donations scheme at no cost to yourself. If you are not as yet, part of this scheme – and would like more information, please contact me when you get a chance.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity - it is very much appreciated.

## Different ways of supporting your Parish:

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable to “Mountrath Parish” - or “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.

⇒ Online Facility (See Diocesan Website – [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) ⇐

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ⇐

## The following are our Bank Account Details

### Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

### Ballyfin Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Please include your own name as the reference.

⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ←

If you have any queries or would like to speak with us regarding donating to the Parish or participating in the charity tax donation scheme, just ring me on 087 241 1594 (Fr. Joe)

Stay connected with us!

Parish Website [www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie) -

Links to Webcams on Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish

Cemetery Masses In Mountrath ~ Ballyfin During 2023

Clondarrig Cemetery      Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

Boghlone Cemetery.      Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept.

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All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

# LOURDES



## MOUNTMELICK, MOUNTRATH, BALLYFIN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

Spiritual Director: Fr Noel Dunphy

**2 August 2023**

**7 Nights from Dublin Airport**

**€995 per person sharing**

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights 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
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Optional single supplement €39 per night

For information please contact: **Eleanor Duff 087 7670915**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88

[www.joewalstours.ie](http://www.joewalstours.ie) | [info@joewalstours.ie](mailto:info@joewalstours.ie) | Reservations: 01-2410800

Petriva Ltd T/A Joe Walsh Tours is bonded and licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation in Ireland - TD273 and TA0804 - in compliance with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Package Regulation.



**Contact Person - Eleanor Duff - 087 7670915**

## Laois Relay for Life 2023

We are delighted to confirm that Relay for Life Laois will be back at Emo Court again this year on July 29th & 30th! Individuals / Clubs / Teams / Groups of Friends, from across the county and beyond, coming together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and stand shoulder to shoulder with those battling cancer. Relay For Life is a celebration of solidarity and helps to raise awareness of the services provided by the Irish Cancer Society locally.

If you can't make it to the full event, please come along even for a short while, walking is free! There are so many other ways to support the cause also, you could sponsor wellbeing items / treats for our survivors gift bags You can [donate](#) to any one of the registered walking teams / your favourite fundraising individual at [www.relayforlife.ie/event/laois/donate](http://www.relayforlife.ie/event/laois/donate) Or you can buy a Candle of Hope bag (five euro each) and dedicate it to a loved one and join us at the Candle of Hope ceremony on July 29th at dusk for an evening of music and remembrance.

Please contact any one of the following for any query you may have about the event: Caroline: 087 4499903, Alan: 086 1222227, Fran: 087 9161924

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RelayForLifeLaois/>

## Ballyfin Mountrath Mountmellick

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2<sup>nd</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023

*See online News! For Full details*

*Contact Person - Eleanor Duff* Phone No. 087 767 0915

## Diocesan News

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Portlaoise Parish to the Holy Land led by Msgr John Byrne, travelling from 7th Sept – 15th Sept 2023. Cost per person €2190, single supplement €769. Cost includes coach transfer from Portlaoise to Dublin airport return, flights, accommodation on half board basis, courier service in the Holy Land and a full religious programme. For more details please contact Tullys Travel Carlow on 059-9136100.



## Rally for Life 2023

DON'T MISS IT! Rally for Life on the 1st of July! Join thousands of fellow Catholics & pro-life supporters at the biggest annual pro-life event, now in its 17th year. Gather at 1PM at Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Activities for both children and adults, a family friendly event!

For more info or to book a place on the bus going up to the rally visit [www.thelifeinstitute.net](http://www.thelifeinstitute.net) , or call 01 873 0465

## Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Programme

At University Hospital KERRY, 12-week modules involving education, supervision, faith formation and a clinical placement. January/May/September each year. For further information contact

Dr Margaret Naughton Email: [margaret.naughton2@hse.ie](mailto:margaret.naughton2@hse.ie) Phone: 066 7184000

## Retracing the footsteps of St. Brigid and St. Conleth

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or email [kildareparish@gmail.com](mailto:kildareparish@gmail.com)



# Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Programme

at

## University Hospital KERRY

12-week modules involving education, supervision, faith formation and a clinical placement.

January/May/September each year.

**'Under Mary's Mantle'**

Under Mary's Mantle is a conference on faith and culture for young adults (18-35) with talks, prayer, Mass, Confession, workshops, food and social in the historic All Hallows campus, DCU, Dublin. A chance to build your faith in

friendship with young men and women from across the country.

Keynote speakers include poet and convert Sally Read, a one-time radical feminist who embraced the Faith, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Cistercian Fr Aelred McGee, Marian theologian Professor William A Thomas and many more.

The talks and workshops range widely from poetry to reading the Bible, vocations and Mary in the Liturgical Year! Mass and Confessions take place both days.

The conference takes place Saturday and Sunday, with a discounted ticket available for both days. If you're free for one, single day tickets are also available.

Two day Saturday & Sunday – €60

Day rates – Saturday €40; Sunday €30

STUDENTS get a 10% discount – contact [deusetpatria@gmail.com](mailto:deusetpatria@gmail.com) for discount code.

There is a limited amount of accommodation available in DCU, contact [deusetpatria@gmail.com](mailto:deusetpatria@gmail.com) or call 085 1442423 for rates and more information.



Fr. Kevin O'Neill R.I.P.

The death has been announced of Msgr Caoimhín Ó Néill, retired President of Carlow College, St. Patrick's.

Msgr Caoimhín Ó Néill held the position of College President at Carlow College, St. Patrick's from 1994 to 2015. A native of Trumera, Mountrath, Co. Laois, Msgr Ó Néill was ordained in 1969. He joined the staff of the College in 1972 and was a staff member for forty-three years. He was involved in the training of seminarians for the priesthood and he lectured in English.

In paying tribute, the current President, Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh said that as President, Msgr Ó Néill, "oversaw the transformation of the

College, providing access to third level education in the Humanities and Social Care in the south east of Ireland and beyond. He appointed many of the current staff members to the staff of the College”.

Msgr Caoimhín was co-founder the Carlow Arts Festival, ÉIGSE Carlow. It was during his presidency that the College Trustees provided the site on the College Campus for VISUAL – the George Bernard Shaw Theatre and Exhibition Centre. In recognition of his educational and cultural contribution to the Carlow Town and County and the wider region, Monsignor Ó Néill received the Freedom of Carlow (2006) and was named the Carlow Person of the Year (2009). He was created a Prelate of Honour with the title of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI.

I bParrthas na nGrás go raibh sé.

From the Diocesan Website.

Msgr Caoimhín O'Neill, former President of Carlow College, St Patricks,  
RIP

29 June 2023

**Msgr. Caoimhín Ó Néill RIP**

It is with great regret I announce the death of Msgr. Caoimhín who died today. He was a native of Trumera, Mountrath, Co. Laois. He was ordained in Mountrath on 15 June 1969. He taught in the Parish School in Edenderry from 1969-1972 while also ministering as CC in the parish. In 1972 he was appointed to Carlow College, St. Patrick's where he held many roles and served as President from 1994-2015. There will be plenty of opportunity later to honour his many achievements in the College, achievements that were recognised by being granted the Freedom of Carlow in 2006 and being named Carlow Person of the Year in 2009. He was appointed Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009. Many priests in Kildare & Leighlin and far beyond these Irish shores will be forever indebted to his guidance and support during their formation days. In 2015 he retired to Abbeyleix where he had an opportunity to

pursue his great love of art and culture. He will be remembered as an accomplished artist, a scholarly poet, a raconteur but most of all as a faithful priest who served Kildare & Leighlin for 54 years. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

## Biography

Date of Birth: 14 October 1944

Date of Ordination: 15 June 1969

## Appointments

1969 – 1972: CC Edenderry

1972 – 2015: Various roles in Carlow College, St Patricks where he was appointed President in 1994 and remained until retirement in 2015



Tributes have been paid following the passing of Fr Kevin O'Neill of Abbeyleix and Mountrath.

A respected teacher, Fr O'Neill joined Carlow College in 1972 and was a staff member for forty-three years.

He was involved in the training of seminarians for the priesthood and he lectured in English. He became President of the College in 1994 until 2015.



In that role he oversaw the transformation of the College, providing access to third level education in the Humanities and Social Care in the south east of Ireland and beyond.

He appointed many of the current staff members to the staff of the College. He was co-founder the Carlow Arts Festival, EIGSE Carlow.

It was during his presidency that the College Trustees provided the site on the College Campus for VISUAL – the new George Bernard Shaw Theatre and Exhibition Centre.

In recognition of his educational and cultural contribution to the Carlow Town and County and the wider region, Monsignor O’Neill received the Freedom of Carlow (2006), was named the Carlow Person of the Year (2006) and he was created a Prelate of Honour with the title of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.

Fr Paddy Byrne, Parish Priest in Abbeyleix, paid tribute to Fr O’Neill on Facebook.

He said: "I lost a great friend, Fr. O'Neill. A deeply reflective and honest minister of the Gospel.

"He was kind to me here in Abbeyleix and throughout my priestly life. A prophet who had a wide vision."

Former Laois GAA Chairman Peter O'Neill remembers Fr O'Neill as a young priest.

He said: "The passing of Fr Kevin O'Neill is with great sadness, condolences to all his family and order. Fr Kevin came to Edenderry in about 1969 as a young curate.

"He made a massive contribution to the people of the town in particular the youth.

"He started what was to become one of the most vibrant youth clubs in the Country and when he left Fr Pj Mc Evoy another Laois man grew the club to over 500 members.

“Fr O’Neill also started the Athletics club and I still have one of his certificate of Achievements for competing in Road races ( everyone got one) I met him last year in O Moore Park after almost 30 years and he still had a fantastic charisma about him.

“He left a lasting impression on anyone he crossed paths with and will be sadly missed by all. May he Rest in Peace.”

Predeceased by his parents Liam (Billy) and Brigid and his siblings Barbara, Aengus and Siobhán.

Cúis mhór bróin a bhás dá dheartháracha agus deirfiúracha Brenda, Diarmuid, Colm, Maria, Gráinne, Liam, Mairéad, Gertrude, Suzette agus Killian, nianna, gar-nianna ,neachtanna gar-neachtanna agus gaolta.

Sincerely regretted by Bishop Denis Nulty and clergy of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

May he Rest in Peace.

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Avoid using insecticides, fungicides and herbicides These potent chemical cocktails are designed to kill various organisms. One of the best things you can do for pollinators is avoid using them. Why: Insecticides have been found to kill, harm, and disorientate pollinators. Herbicides kill the 'weeds' that provide them with important food. [www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/](http://www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/)

A Letter from Fiona Boyle <Fiona.Boyle@alone.ie>

Hi, my name is Fiona and I am a Volunteer Support Officer for ALONE.  
ALONE provides many services to Older People in your area to enable them to stay living at home for longer.

ALONE recruits, trains and supports Volunteers for two services:

- 1) Visitation and Befriending Service, which is where a volunteer gives an hour a week of their time to provide companionship to an Older Person.
- 2) Telephone Support and Befriending Service, which is where a volunteer makes friendly calls to Older People once a week for a 2 hour shift.

We currently have older people in your surrounding area looking for both of these services.

*"Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to Older People once a week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided.*

*If interested please sign up here: <https://alone.ie/volunteers/>*

*for more information, contact Fiona on [fiona.boyle@alone.ie](mailto:fiona.boyle@alone.ie) or on 086 1366539."*

Kind Regards Fiona Boyle

Volunteer Support Officer

Tel: 086-1366539

**ALONE**

Aspen House, 76 Seatown, Dundalk, Co. Louth [www.alone.ie](http://www.alone.ie)



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