

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

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

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. 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)

### Rosenallis Festival of the Mountain and Vintage Rally

Sun. next 20<sup>th</sup> August - 1.00 pm.  
Vintage exhibits on field by 12.30 pm  
See Online Newsl. - Parish App. for  
full details

### Mountrath Festival Committee

Presents

### Hawaii 80's Disco

Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. In the Marquee at Eddie  
Kirwan's Pub Tickets €15

All Proceeds will go to fund Mountrath Christmas  
Lights

### Childminder Required

In Castletown / Mountrath area. Contact  
Sandra Reilly at 089 4105926 or 087  
9283752

## Prayer for Fine Weather

*Bishop Denis has included a 'Prayer for Fine Weather' this week and encourages us to use it given that it impacts us in so many ways but particularly people in food production for which we are all reliant.*

All-powerful and ever-living God,

We find security in your care  
and love for us.

Give us the fine weather we pray for  
and now badly need.

Bless the hard work and efforts  
of so many of our people  
that their labours may come  
to fruition.

We ask this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever.

Amen.

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.

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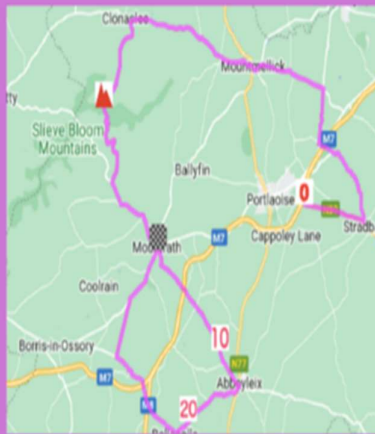
## Breda Heffernan (Nee McCann) Redgates, Ballyfin. R.I.P.

We pray for Breda who died peacefully at Tullamore Gen. Hosp. on Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. Breda's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Aug. followed by burial in Ballyfin Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Mary, Catherine, Donagh, Jimmy and Gene and their families, her 14 grandchildren, The Heffernan and McCann families, , nieces, nephews, extended family, neighbours and her many friends.

Breda's sister. Marie Coleman, Enniscorthy, died on Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Marie's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Colman's Church, Ballindaggin on Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. – the day of Breda's death.

*May Breda and her sister, Marie rest in the peace of Christ.*

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**Stage 3 finishes in Mountrath on Friday September 8th.  
Portlaoise – Stradbally – Emo – Mountmellick – Clonacree – 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



## 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.

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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.

(Our Parish Newsletters are online and on App. from early Saturday morning)

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish App. available to download on iPhone and Android

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Our New-Look Parish App. Came online during the week  
■ Check it out.

*A Very Sincere "Thank you" for Your Most Generous Support  
of all our Parish Collections*

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## In This Issue

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## 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

### Ballyfin Fri, 11<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Fri. 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 5.00 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament.
. 7.30 pm	Liam O'Rourke and Edward and Annie Conroy, Springfield
Sat. 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 8.00 pm	Vigil Mass of 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Ord. Time.
Sun. 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 10.00 am	19 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Ord. Time.
Mon. 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.00 pm	Apostolate of Sanctification..
Tues. 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.30 pm	Mass for Feast of the Assumption. Sheila Egan (Nee Costello) Redgates. 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Fri. 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.30 pm	Brigid and Dan Mooney, Old Post Office, Ballyfin.
Sat. 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 8.00 pm	Peter Coughlan and deceased family members Patricia Allen (Nee Doocey) Pallas – 8 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
Sun. 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 10.00 am	Timothy and Mary-Kate Heffernan, Brockera.
Mon. 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. 7.00 pm	Apostolate of Sanctification

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### **Cemetery Mass** *(Commences at 7.00 pm)*

Mass in Boghlonge Cemetery will be celebrated on Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. If you would like to read at this Mass or if you would like to prepare and lead the Prayer of the Faithful, or prepare (and read) a Post Communion Reflection please let Fr. P.J. know

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

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## **Mountrath - Mass Times Anniversaries**

**Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> Aug.**

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.00 pm Thomas and Dorothy Connor, Cappagh

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.**

11.30 am Jane Reynolds (Nee Whelan) St. Fintan's Tce. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv

Fintan (Ted) McCarthy. 49<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Keith Russell, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance.

Mon. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. 10.00 am People who are ill in the Parish

7.00 pm Vigil Mass for Feast of the Assumption

Paddy Digan, Link Rd., Formerly Clara. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

### Feast of the Assumption

Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. 9.00 am The Hollow Ch. Mass of the Feast.

11.30 am Mary Patterson (Nee Foyle) Patrick St.,

And Deceased members of the Foyle Family

Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. 10.00 am James McCarthy. Knockanina, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.

Vera Rice, Patrick St., 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.

Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. 10.00 am

Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.00 pm Sarah Parkinson, Clonard 17<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> Aug. 9.00 am [The Hollow Church.](#)

(Baby) Conor Dunne, Trumera, 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv

11.30 am Sean Brophy, Knockanina 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

And deceased members of Byrne family.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Remembrance

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.00 pm John Phelan, Knockanina,

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Remembrance

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 7.00 pm Marie Williams (Nee Phelan) Moanbaun

Also, Patrick and Fintan Dunne, Moanbaun

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# Cemetery Mass

Mass in Boghlonge Cemetery will be celebrated on Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. If you would like to read at this Mass or if you would like to prepare and lead the Prayer of the Faithful, or prepare (and read) a Post Communion Reflection please let Fr. P.J. know

*Mass commences at 7.00 pm*



Mountrath - Ballyfin Lotto Results.

**Ballyfin Lotto Results for**

**9<sup>th</sup> August.**

Nos. Drawn 5 11 20 28

**No Jackpot Winner**

**21 Match 3 Winners – Rec. € 48**

**1 Local Winner, Larry Gleeson – Promoter, Kathleen**



## Next Week's Jackpot € 15,000

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.

## Mountrath Lotto - Thurs. 10<sup>th</sup> Aug

Nos. Drawn 22 23 28 30

No Jackpot Winner -

6 Match 3's Rec. € 167 1 Local Winner

Mary Tierney -

Promoter Heather Mortimer

## Next Week's Jackpot. € 12,000

**A note of thanks** to everyone involved in Mountrath 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 continued support and generosity.

*Next  
Week's*



€ 12,000 - Mountrath

€ 15,000 Ballyfin

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

All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

Mountrath Festival Committee

*Presents*

# Hawaii 80's Disco

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

Venue:- The Marquee in Eddie Kirwan's Pub

Bar available on the night

Tickets - €15.00

*Ticket event only – It is a Hawaii themed night*

*All proceeds to fund Mountrath Xmas Lights*

# Rosenallis Festival of the Mountain & Vintage Rally

Sunday, 20th August 2023 @ 1:00 PM  
Vintage exhibits on field by 12:30PM

Vintage and Classic Vehicle Exhibits including Tractors, Cars,  
Lorries, Engines, Motorcycles (Pre-1990)  
Arts and Craft Stalls Music  
Dog Show  
Bread, Butter and Pancake Making  
Spit-Roast Pork and Colcannon  
Children's entertainment  
Food stalls and More!

Venue: Festival Field, Rosenallis

Admission: €10 Adults | Children Free

Contact:

Daniel - 085 184 7390 Ger - 087 213 7494

Email - [info@rdvcc.ie](mailto:info@rdvcc.ie)

# Diocesan News

## *A Special - Thank You - from Bishop Denis*

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all who attended and who organised the Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday evening Aug 6<sup>th</sup> to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my Episcopal Ordination. Thanks also for the good wishes expressed in so many ways. I deeply appreciate all your support during the last ten years, let us continue to 'Serve the Lord with gladness' + Denis

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## Marriage Encounter Weekend

Catholic Marriage Encounter is a Weekend experience for any Sacramentally married couple.

Every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse.

This is a space for you and your spouse to pause, reflect, and reconnect privately. Our next Marriage Enrichment Weekend is Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November 2023.

At "The Cork International Hotel" Cork. To book your place visit our website: [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie) Tel. 087-2162436

## 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.

## 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: 066 718 4000



## 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.

## 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/)



**19-20  
AUGUST**

# UNDER MARY'S MANTLE

*Young Adult Conference*



**BUY TICKETS**

**ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE, DCU D09 N920**

Join us for talks, workshops, mass, guided holy hours, and great socialising!

**BUY TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE.**

**TWO DAY RATE €60, SATURDAY RATE €40, SUNDAY RATE €30.**

**OVERNIGHT RATES AVAILABLE, CALL 085 144 2423.**



**SALLY READ**



**BISHOP CULLINAN**



**MICHAEL KELLY**

EMAIL [DEUSETPATRIA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DEUSETPATRIA@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE INFO

A Legion of Mary Project

## Kildare Carmelite Annual Pilgrimage to Knock

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2023. Bus will leave The Square, Kildare Town at 8 am

SHARP. To secure a place on the bus, inquiries to Carmelite Church

Shop Kildare, or contact: Martin Cowley 087 255 3582

Esther Brady 087 673 2848 - Cost €20 per person.

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

*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

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## Obituary for Robert. 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Spoken by Robert's Uncle, Herbert, at Robert's Funeral Service in St. John the Baptist Church,  
Ballyfin on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Robert William Henry Armitage. Known to many as Bob.

Robert was born on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1972 at Ballyfin, the eldest of a family of five, two boys and three girls.

His parents being farmers, he grew up in an environment surrounded by animals and all the other trappings of agricultural life.

He attended Mountrath National School and later Ballyfin college where he was keenly involved in sport, often as a goalie. He may not have been too often top of the class in his studies, but he always showed a keen intellect that marked him out as someone who would succeed in life, and in due course, school days over, school bag quickly abandoned to the dust bin, he settled down to start his working life on his parent's farm.

Sadly in 1995 when Robert was only 22, his father passed away and at that young age he had to take responsibility for running the business and though life was tough, he manfully shouldered that responsibility as he grew and developed and made a very successful career of his chosen path.

And to boost his income, he began to help in Mountrath mart, where he came to love the comraderie and buzz of the whole place, for cattle, chat and company were his joys in life. And he loved to get a good deal. Was it cows on Done Deal or whatever, he'd say "We'll go have a look. Maybe we'll buy a few." Just last week, he heard about straw that was going at a reasonable price. Today, it is sitting in his shed – a small part of the monument to his lifetimes work.

And he was generous. When he heard that a friend's straw had been burned, he turned up unannounced with a load of straw.

Robert may never have been too sure of where exactly the sweeping brush was stored, and

hoovering out his jeep was a pass-time to be avoided at all costs, but animal welfare and their care and comfort and wellbeing were maybe the most important things in his daily work.

But work alone didn't always hold the centre of his attention. Like all young people, he was out with his friends – parties discos etc. And on the way home very possibly a stop for a Snack Box, and maybe a couple of battered sausages thrown in just to bulk it up a bit. Robert liked his food.

And socialising lead him to Lisdoonvarna, and in 2004 to meet the love of his life, Liz.

Soon he was clocking up the miles up and down to Cork. Liz, you must have been feeding him Barrys Tea.

And then on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.2006, they were married and he became an instant stepfather to Finbarr, Hazel, Noel, Alan, Stephen and Robert, and the family settled down to live, in Ballyfin.

And Robert was a keen church man, serving in this church on the vestry and as a church warden responsible for much of the running of the place.

and the Ballyfin Vintage club reaped the benefit of his membership and enthusiasm as he helped to organise and be involved in the various events of the organisation.

And he could take it easy too. Seated comfortably on a Sunday afternoon, mug of tea in hand – had to be his David Brown mug – watching the Sunday game. If the “Vicar of Dibley” was on, That was his programme.

Anywhere you would meet him, his first remark “How's it going.” if you had some difficulty and asked a favour – only one reply – “That's no problem.”

Sadly, in recent years, Robert suffered health problems and was obliged to spend a number of terms in hospital and return for regular check-ups there, but to the question “how are you?” the answer was always the same. He was fine. Never any complaints. When he was no longer able to do much physical work, he was always happy that he could still drive. It was important to him to be mobile, even if there were frequent stops for his favourite pass-time – the mug of tea, or two or more.

On Saturday morning last Robert was all business organising his day. He phoned a neighbour to say he was going into Mountmellick and would need his help with some farm work when he came

home, and off he went. Having completed his business he went to the chemist to collect his prescription, and said to the girl there that he wasn't feeling great. She got him a chair to sit on, and then, God pulled the plug as darkness fell on all who held him dear, for Robert had started on his final journey, the journey to his heavenly home, and we were left to mourn,

But grieve not friends, for Robert would not want us to be sad. Let us rather turn the darkness into light, as we rejoice in his life, the sport, the fun, and the laughter he has left us all as a memory.

If we can for a moment dream, can we picture Robert approaching Heaven's Gate.

Maybe God says to him "Welcome to Paradise."

I wonder, does Robert look at him in that special way he had and answer "Ok, ok, but first, any chance of a mug of tea?"

And as God gets out the good china and Robert looks at those tiny cups, maybe he might add, "Jeepers, I should have brought my David Brown mug?" for it was the only thing that held a decent amount of his favourite beverage.

Farewell Robert (Bob) dear son, dear husband, dear step father, dear brother, dear nephew, dear friend. From all whom you blessed with your friendship in this life, "May you rest in peace until we meet again."

Amen.



