

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Online

Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2023

Advent 2023      See Page 12

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### V D P Annual Collection

A very special and heartfelt – *Thank You* - for your most generous contributions to our Annual VDP Church Gate Collection which we held at Masses in Mountrath, Ballyfin and the Hollow Church last weekend.

Your generous support is always so much appreciated.

## Christmas Bingo

Continues in St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath this Mon. night, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Extra prize money - Blue Flyer Sheet - Full house €200.; Jackpot Sheet- Full house €200: Lucky Line Sheet - €150. Please support your local Bingo. All are very welcome.

## Kevin McDermott, Nenagh. Formerly, Woodbrook, Mountrath - Ross, Ballyfin

We pray for Kevin who died peacefully in the Beacon Hosp. on Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Kevin's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mary of the Rosary Church, Nenagh on Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. followed by burial in Lisboney New Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his wife, Winnie and family Jennifer and Ciaran - sisters Teresa and Ann, brothers Willie (Barnashrone) Charlie, Michael and John, and their families, nieces and nephews and their families, his colleagues at ESB Portlaoise, cousins, relatives, neighbours and his many friends in Mountrath, Ballyfin, Nenagh and indeed beyond.

## Catherine Tobin (Nee Duggan) Ballyfin Rd. and Rebecca Duggan R.I.P.

We pray for Catherine who died peacefully in Tallaght Hosp., on Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. Catherine's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Pauric, Edel, Patrick, Deborah, Kieran and Róisín, and their families, grandson Nathan, brother Tommy (and Jenny) (Fr. O'Connor Cresc.) sister Mary (and Willie) (Portlaoise Rd) and their families, nephews, nieces, extended family, neighbours and friends.

We pray for Rebecca (Rebecca Duggan, New South Wales, Australia) who died suddenly on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Rebecca is wife of Damian Duggan, formerly Fr. O'Connor Cresc. We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers in a very special way at this very difficult time, Catherine and Rebecca and their families in Mountrath and New South Wales.

Rebecca's husband, Damian is son of Tommy and Jenny and nephew of Catherine.

*May Kevin, Catherine and Rebecca rest in the peace of Christ.*

## *Prayer attributed to St. John Henry Newman*

Lord, as 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.

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

*Let's*



KEEP  
CHRIST  
IN  
CHRISTMAS

*Christmas*  
for Christ

# Christmas Ceremonies



## Christmas Ceremonies

Penitential Services Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Eve.

Individual Confessions immediately after Mass on Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> in Both  
Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches

Vigil Masses in both Parish Churches at 8.00 pm

Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Day.

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am

## 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 1633



# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> Dec

Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Martin Gilligan, Ballyfin Rd. Mt.Rath 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv

Mary Madden and Deceased Family Members, The Knocks

Tim Heffernan, Brockera.

Mary Brady, Clontowra. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent.

Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Christmas Penitential Service

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm .

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00 am 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent

## Christmas Vigil Mass 8.00 pm

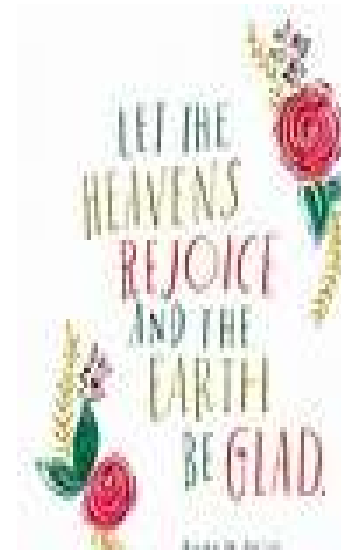
Singing of Christmas Carols from about 7.40 pm

Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Mass of Christmas Morning

Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Tommy and Bernie Fitzpatrick, Cloncullen. 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv. Remembrance

Sun. 14 Jan. 10.00 am Mai. O'Rourke (nee Conroy) Springfield



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

## Mountrath Anniversaries

### Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent - Year B

Ann Grincell, Spring Gardens, Shannon St., 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Gerry and Elizabeth McMahon, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

Maura Kelly (Nee Lalor) Main St. 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Michael and Anne Heffernan,

Joseph and Maryanne Culleton, Gurteen

**11.30 am** Tom Meade, Ringstown.

Patty and John O'Connell, Thomas Court. Patty's 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Joseph and Margaret Connolly and Eilish Tann (Nee Connolly)

Jack and Lil Kelly, St. Fintan's Terrace. Jack's 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv. (today)

Eoin and Dylan Fitzpatrick. (Died tragically on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023)

Fiona Kelly, (nee McParland) Castletown.

Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am

7.00 pm Christmas Penitential Service

Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am

Thur. 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 10.00 am

Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm Simon Walsh, Clonard. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Margaret Mary (Rita) Brophy, Roscrea Formerly Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Thomas Taylor, Moonbawn

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.**

**11.30 am** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B.

**8.00 pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve.**

Brigid and Michael O'Rourke, Lower Sconce. - Tom Grehan, Dysartbeigh

Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Church **Christmas**

11.30 am Mass of Christmas Morning





## "Do This in Memory" Programme

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation Programme in Mountrath Ballyfin

### Enrolement Ceremonies

Mountrath Parish Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Mass 7.00 pm All Schools

Ballyfin. Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Mass 10.00 am Both Schools

### "Do This in Memory" Children's Masses

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

### (The) Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> May The Hollow Church 9.00 am

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

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

Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With children of Ballyfin National School

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm With Children of Barnashrone National School

## Christmas Ceremonies

Penitential Services Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

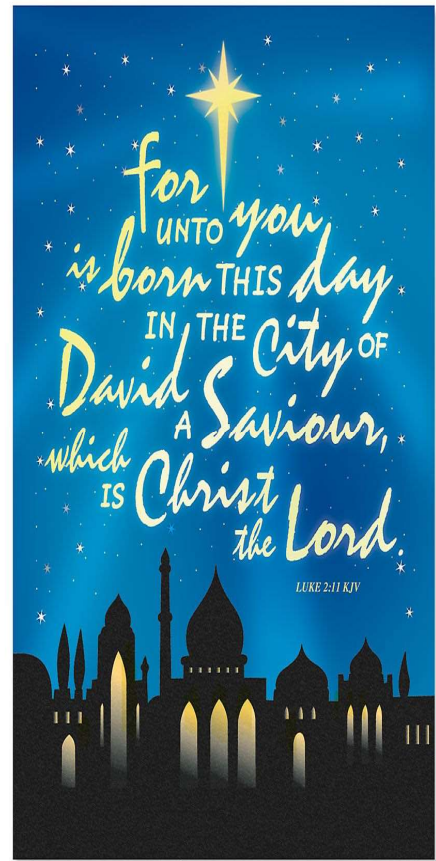
Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Eve.

Individual Confessions immediately

after Mass on Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> in both

Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches



Vigil Masses in Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches at 8.00 pm

**Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Day.**

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am



# Mountrath Parish Lotto 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

New Jackpot, € 10,000

Lotto Gift Cards now available from Promoters



*Numbers Drawn 1 6 13 19 - 1 Jackpot Winner of € 18,000*

*Congrats. to Tim Fitzpatrick (Portlaoisee)*

13 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 77 Each. 3 Local Winners

P.J. Murphy, Promoter Bernie Phelan - Eddie Phelan, Promoter, Eddie Phelan -  
Anthony Kirwan, Promoter, M. Farrell

Lotto Gift Cards now available from Promoters

# Ballyfin Parish Lotto - Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Nos. Drawn 1 2 19 32

No Jackpot Winner

11 Match 3's Rec. € 91

New Jackpot € 12,000

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Last Draw of '23 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. - 1<sup>st</sup> Draw of 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

# Advent Prayer

Kandle.ie

Loving God,  
as your light grows in the dark of winter,  
bring its strength and its hope  
to the people of the Holy Land and to all  
people who suffer through war and conflict.  
Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem  
to lead the way to your Son,  
guide all people – leaders and citizens –  
to follow your ways of peace and justice.  
As we remember the difficult journey  
of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family  
be a source of courage for each of us,  
helping us to reach out in friendship  
to the oppressed and displaced of this world.  
Help us to see in the Christ-child  
we welcome this Christmas,  
the one who came to bring an end  
to all divisions.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
And may the Lord bless us  
and keep us safe  
this Advent day and always.  
Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

**Advent 2023**





# Waiting in Hope Longing for Peace

An Advent bulletin for home and parish  
Week One 2023

## • An Advent Household Prayer

- *We invite you take a moment each day in Advent to light your Advent wreath/ candle,*
- *to thank God for your Advent Day and to pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family,*
- *praying for peace in our world and in our lives.*
- - Loving God,
  - as your light grows in the dark of winter,
    - bring its strength and its hope
  - to the people of the Holy Land and to all people
    - who suffer through war and conflict.
    - Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem
      - to lead the way to your Son,
    - guide all people - leaders and citizens -
    - to follow your ways of peace and justice.

- As we remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family be a source of courage for each of us, helping us to reach out in friendship
  - to the oppressed and displaced of this world.
- Help us to see in the Christ-child we welcome this Christmas,
  - the one who came to bring an end to all divisions.
    - Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
  - And may the Lord bless us and keep us safe
    - this Advent day and always. Amen.
    - Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent*



*Advent*

## An Advent Hymn to think about

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

In many parishes the first sound of Advent is the singing of this traditional hymn. The text for the verses comes from what are known as the 'O antiphons'

that are sung at Evening Prayer on the last days of Advent.

Sometime around the year 1100 an unknown author took these antiphons and turned them into a metrical Latin poem.

Eventually, an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English.

It was published in an 1853 hymnal by Thomas Helmore, using a 15<sup>th</sup> century French melody.

From these origins we now

have one of the most popular and well known Advent hymns.

The verses convey a plaintive mood of longing and yearning for God with each verse giving a name for Jesus that is full of hope. Notice how the petition of the verse

is met by the joyful promise of the refrain –

'O Come, O come, Emmanuel...Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel'.

In this Advent season we can call on God to come to us,

knowing in faith, hope and joy that God answers us

# *Mature Movers*



Strength

Flexibility

Balance

Strength

a bit of Endurance

& Lots of Fun

## 50 + gym classes

6 weeks starting Wed 8th Nov

Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am

45 min classes

**only 3 places left**

€60 for 6 Weeks

Contact Ruth 086 3262570





# 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.





# Arrangements for our Christmas Ceremonies

Penitential Services Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Eve.

Individual Confessions immediately after Mass on Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> in

both Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches

Vigil Masses in Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches

at 8.00 pm

Singing of Carols in Ballyfin Church from 7.40 pm

**Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Day.**

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am

## Mary's Meals Christmas Gifts Campaign

With the cost of living crisis, times are that bit harder for us all. The Global School Feeding Movement Mary's Meals have launched our Christmas Gifts Campaign - giving gifts that have a real and tangible impact on those in need. From as little as €5.50, which will provide 50 meals for children in their place of education, we can play our part in changing the lives of those most in need. Visit [marysmeals.ie](http://marysmeals.ie) to download a gift today or call 01-853 5163 / 089-433 9592.

## Christmas Bingo

In St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath on Mon. night, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm.  
Extra Prize Money - Blue Flyer Sheet - Full House €200.; Jackpot Sheet- Full House €200: Lucky Line Sheet - €150. Please support your local Bingo. All welcome.

# 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](http://www.kandle/synod) where we can keep up to date. Much more information can be found at [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) and on the Vatican website, [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va).

## Date for the Diary

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

The Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Church will Commence at 2.30 pm

Bishop Denis will lead us in both our celebrations

*Our hope  
for a bright future,*

*Our peace  
in times of need,*

*Our joy  
for all eternity*

*Jesus*



