

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Online

Newsletter

31st Dec. 2023

A New Year Blessing *Page 5*

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 31st Dec. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

Feast of the Holy Family.

Enda Byrne, Celbridge, Formerly Ormond St., Nenagh R.I.P.

We pray for Enda who died peacefully at his home on Thurs. 21st Dec. Enda's Funeral Service was held at Victorian Chapel, Mount Jerome on Wed. 27th Dec. We extend sympathy to his family, wife Tanya, son Max, parents Moira and Larry, brothers Brian, Alan and Eoin, sister Michelle and their families, nephews, nieces, relatives and many friends. We extend sympathy also to John Byrne and Family, Redcastle on Enda's death. (Enda is John's nephew)

(Enda's brother, Paul died on 13th July of this year).

Bridie (Bridget) Nicholson (Nee Higgins) Oxford, England (Formerly The Knocks) R.I.P.

We pray for Bridie who died peacefully on Christmas Day (Mon. Dec. 25th Dec) (Beloved sister to Annie and the late Kathleen and brother P.J.) Bridie's Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Sat. 13th Jan. followed by burial in Ballyfin Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her husband, Sean, daughter Paula sons Gabriel and Alan, sister Annie (Carroll) son in law Cliff, daughters in law Joan and Mandy, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

May Enda, Paul and Bridie rest in the peace of Christ.

Lord, ay 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**



*A Table Prayer
for Christmas Day*



Loving God,
on this Christmas day we give thanks
that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world
bringing us gifts of peace and joy.
Bless us as we sit down together at this table
for our Christmas meal.
Bless the food we share and help us to
remember those who are hungry.
Be with our neighbours and our friends, those
who are lonely, sick or away from home.
We pray that our departed loved ones may sit
now at your table in heaven.
May the joy of this feast give us strength and
light, now and in the days ahead. Amen.



A New Year Blessing

May God make this new year a fulfilling one,
 Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
 But by strengthening us to bear it, as it unfolds.

Not by making our path easy,
 But by making us sturdy to travel any path.

Not by taking hardships from us,
 But by taking fear from our heart.

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping our face bright,
 even in the shadows.

Not by making our life always pleasant,
 But by showing when people
 and their causes need us most
and by making us anxious to be there to help.

*God's Love, Peace, Hope, and Joy to you,
 in abundance, for the year ahead.*

A Christmas Blessing by John O'Donohue

May the Angels in their beauty bless you.
 May they turn toward you streams of blessing.
 May the Angel of Awakening stir your heart
 To come alive to the eternal within you,
 To all the invitations that quietly surround you.
 May the Angel of Healing turn your wounds
 Into sources of refreshment.
 May the Angel of the Imagination enable you
 To stand on the true thresholds,
 At ease with your ambivalence
 And drawn in new direction
 Through the glow of your contradictions.
 May the Angel of Compassion open your eyes
 To the unseen suffering around you.
 May the Angel of Wildness disturb the places
 Where your life is domesticated and safe,
 Take you to the territories of true otherness
 Where all that is awkward in you
 Can fall into its own rhythm.
 May the Angel of Eros introduce you
 To the beauty of your senses
 To celebrate your inheritance
 As a temple of the holy spirit.
 May the Angel of Justice disturb you
 To take the side of the poor and the wronged.
 May the Angel of Encouragement confirm you
 In worth and self-respect,
 That you may live with the dignity
 That presides in your soul.
 May the Angel of Death arrive only
 When your life is complete
 And you have brought every given gift
 To the threshold where its infinity can shine.
 May all the Angels be your sheltering
 and joyful guardians.

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. 29th Dec - Sun. 7th Jan.

Fri. 29th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 30th Dec. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass – Feast of the Holy Family.

Sun. 31st Dec. 10.00 am Feast of the Holy Family.

Tommy and Bernie Fitzpatrick, Cloncullen. 3rd Anniv.

Fri. 5th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of Bl. Sacrament

Sat. 6th Jan. 8.00 pm Feast of the Epiphany

Sun. 7th Jan. 10.00 am *The Baptism of the Lord.*

Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 20th Jan. 8.00 pm Fr. Terry Moore,

Salt Lake City, Utah, Formerly, O'Moore Forest.

1st 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. 30th Dec. Sun. 7th Jan.

Sat. 30th Dec. 7.00 pm Vigil Mass - Feast of the Holy Family

Peter Delaney, Clonard - 8th Anniv.

Sun. 31st Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Feast of the Holy Family

Michael Seale and deceased members of Seale family.

11.30 am Jimmy Birney, Crannagh. 1st Anniv.

Martin Dunne, Trumera. 6th Anniv.

Kavanagh Family, Kilbricken.

Tues. 2nd Jan. 10.00 am

Wed. 3rd Jan. 10.00 am

Thur. 4th Jan. 10.00 am People who are ill in the Parish.

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

Sat. 6th Jan. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** Feast of the Epiphany.

10.00 am (Mountrath Ch.) Feast of the Epiphany.

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

. **11.30 am** Tom Fitzpatrick, Derrylusk 6th Anniv.

Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 13th Jan. 7.00 pm Catherine Tobin (Nee Duggan) Ballyfin Road.

Bishop Denis' Christmas Message

There is something about a baby that captures all our attention. It's magnetic. Even the most stubborn heart softens in the presence of a new born baby. I saw it recently on a visit to bless a school extension, in the staff room later when their colleague on maternity leave, called in with her new bundle of joy, everyone just wanted to see the baby. The adult in us becomes the child again, cooing and making all sorts of funny faces! Babies make people smile and that's such a good thing.

Christmas is about smiling, it takes much less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. We adults complicate matters. In the words of Pope Francis "*Jesus is God's smile ... when we look down at the nativity scene; when we look at Baby Jesus, we can feel God smiling at us*". It all began in Bethlehem, in the simplicity of a stable. This is the essence of what we celebrate at Christmas. God becoming a baby. God stooping down to be like one of us.

We are all conscious of the turmoil in the world at present. War in Ukraine and absolute terror in Gaza and Israel, the Holy Land, the place of that Bethlehem stable. Sadly too many babies and children are caught up in conflicts.

My prayer and hope to all is that you will feel God smile on you this Christmas. Also that you might smile, as you thank God for those around you, family, friends and colleagues.

And next time you see a new born baby, remember that as you smile, God is smiling on you. We need to realise this, this year more than ever, in our war-weary and broken world. Into it a fragile baby is born, a baby whose smile has the capacity to soften the hardest of adult hearts.

Every blessing for Christmas and 2024,

✠ Denis Nulty - Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

"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

Lotto Gift Cards available

from Promoters



28th Dec.

Lotto Gift Cards available from Promoters

Numbers Drawn 6 7 9 15

10 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 100 Each. 2 Local Winners

Margaret Doheny. Promoter, Betty O'Rourke

Breda Phelan. Promoter, David Tobin.

New Jackpot, € 12,000

Lotto Gift Cards available from Promoters

Ballyfin Parish Lotto Jackpot €13,000

Next Draw 3rd Jan.



Ballyfin
Parish Lotto

Next Draw

Wed. 3rd Jan

New Jackpot €13,000

Next Draw 3rd Jan.

A Prayer before our Family Christmas Meal

Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may sit now at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. Amen.

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 to download a gift today or call 01-853 5163 / 089-433 9592.



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.

TESCO
////

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**

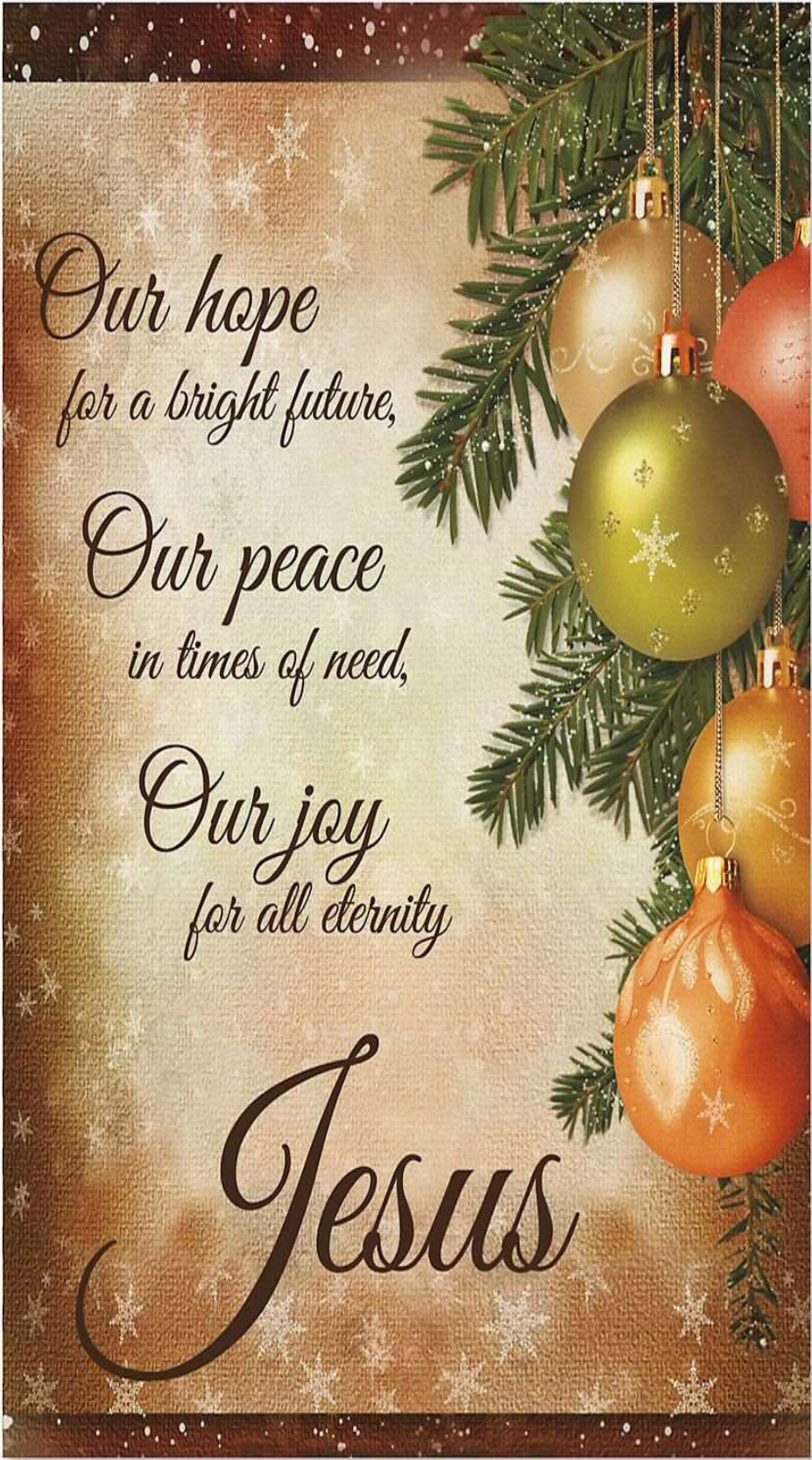
The Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Church will Commence at 2.30 pm
Bishop Denis will lead us in both our celebrations

Brigid 1500

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)



*Our hope
for a bright future,*

*Our peace
in times of need,*

*Our joy
for all eternity*

Jesus

