Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

6th - 7th December 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

Christmas in BloomHQ with Our Primary Schools

Gaelscoil Thromaire.

Ceolchoir Na Nollag Wed. 10th Dec. 7.00 pm Convent Chapel

St. Fintan's Boy's School Christmas Concert

Thurs. 11th Dec. 7.00 pm St. Philomena's Hall

Scoil Bhride - Girls School

Tues. 16th Dec. St. Philomena's Hall Matinee 12 o'clock (Midday) Main Event 6.30 pm

Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

(Online from Early Saturday mornings)

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald S.P.S C.C. (087) 605 5783 Fr. Joe Brophy P.P. (087) 241 1594

Website www.mountrathparish.ie

or www.ballyfinparish.ie

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Name of Parish App.

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

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Oliver Phelan, Cardtown, Clonbarrow. R.I.P.

We pray for Oliver who died peacefully at Portlaoise Reg.
Hosp., on Wed. 26th Nov. Oliver's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Fri. 28th Nov. followed by burial in St. Fergal's Cemetery, Camross. We extend sympathy to Mary, Kathy, Sharon, Olive, Danny, Roisin and their families, his 8 grandchildren, brother Martin, sisters Patricia and Philomena and their families, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Tom Hayden, St. Mary's Tce, Shinrone. R.I.P.

We pray for Tom who died peacefully at Ealga Lodge Nursing Home, Shinrone, on Mon. 10th Nov. Tom's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Shinrone on Thurs. 13th Nov. followed by burial in local Cemetery. We extend sympathy to all Tom's family.

We extend sympathy also to Edel Moloney, Supervisor, Mountrath Community Employment Sch., who is a niece of Tom's.

P.J. Keenan, Roundwood R.I.P.

We pray for P.J. who died peacefully at his home on Tues. 2nd Dec. P. J's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fergal's Church, Camross on Fri. 5th Dec. followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his brother Frank, sister Sheila (Dowling) and families, nephews and nieces Tina, Barry, Yvonne, Damien, Thérése, Fran, Zane, Declan, Majella and Jackie, and their families, cousins, all his friends at the Muiríosa Foundation, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Oliver, Tom and P.J. rest in the peace of Christ.

New Church Year

The new church year begins on Sun. week – 30th Nov.

With the 1st Sunday of Advent Sunday Cycle Year A
The Year of Matthew

Advent – waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ

New Liturgical (Church) Year - The Year of Matthew

This weekend we commence a new liturgical year - Year A - the year of Matthew - Each of the 4 evangelists share their own understanding - their own perspective - of Jesus' life and ministry in their gospel accounts

A few things about St. Matthew's Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew is written in "good" Greek.

(as are all the New Testament writings)

Matthew (or more accurately, the gospel of Matthew) is based very much on St. Mark's gospel and expanded on it.

It was written between the years 70 and 90 AD for a Jewish audience and so makes no attempt to explain Jewish customs, but rather emphasizes Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy.

No other evangelist makes so much use of the Old Testament.

Matthew probably lived outside Palestine, perhaps in Antioch in Syria, a town with a large Jewish population.

What's different or unique about St. Matthew's Gospel?

His task as evangelist was a difficult and sensitive one, as he endeavoured to reconcile the Pharisees and the Nazarenes (as Jesus's followers were called). These two surviving groups of the destruction of Jerusalem each represented a different strain of Judaism. Matthew's writings are sometimes called the 'ecclesiastical' Gospel, for he is the only evangelist to use the word 'church' (ekklēsia), and his teaching shaped the Early Church. Matthew, in his Gospel, gives us the first Baptismal formula and the familiar form of the Lord's Prayer,

Matthew's gospel begins with Christ's genealogy – dating right back to Adam and Eve.

In St. Matthew's Gospel we often encounter the line, (27 times in total)

..... This was to fulfil the words of the Prophet - e.g. Isiaih,



Camp Pio Presents





Art & Crafts



Music & Drama



Team Activities & Prayer

For boys & girls aged 5-13 yrs

Taking time-out to prepare for Christmas

Date: Saturday 6th & 13th Dec

Time: 12pm-2pm

Venue: Bloom HQ, Mountrath Old Convent (R32D29F)

To book contact:

camppio2024@gmail.com

Laura 0876313370

Caroline 0852430529

Mountrath Parish Ministries Rota Sat 13th Sun. 14th Dec.

Readers Sat. 7.00 pm Paulo Jacob

Sun. 11.30 am Niamh Cahill

Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat. 7.00 pm Sheila Cullen, Mai Murphy, Cait Tobin

Sun. 11.30 am Margaret Carroll, Margaret Keegan

Collectors Sat. (and Christmas Eve) Noel Tobin, Rita Watkins

Sun (and Christmas Day) Pat McSpadden, Donal Doheny

Ballyfin Parish

Ministries Rota

Ministries Rota Mon. 8th - Mon. 14th Dec.

Reader Ministers of Holy Comm

Mon. 7.30 pm Br. Nicholas Leahy Noreen Ryan

Sat. 8.00 pm Joe Fingleton Sheila Dowling Sun.10.00am Mary Finn Brid Duff

Collectors for December

Sat. Richard Duff Sun. Denis Daly

"Do This In Memory"

Our Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass is arranged for next weekend

Mountrath Church

Sat. 13th Dec. 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church.

Sun. 14th Dec. 10.00 am

Irish Guide Dogs for The Blind 2026 Calanders and Christmas Cards are now available at Byrne's shop Main St or ring Sean at 087 7676318. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the CPSMA.

To honour this milestone, Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in Portlaoise Parish Church on Mon. Dec. 8th at 7:30pm. We warmly invite all who are currently serving and all who have served on Boards of Management in our Catholic Primary Schools across the Diocese to join us for this celebration. Together, we give thanks for the generosity, dedication and quiet service that have supported our school communities for five decades.

All are most welcome.

Christmas

Evants



S V P Annual Collection

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will take place this weekend, 13th – 14th Dec. at our Masses in Mountrath, Ballyfin and the Hollow Church.

Your generous support is always very much appreciated.

Children's Christmas Day Choir Practice Ballyfin Church

Children's Christmas Day Choir Practice



For any children from 4th, 5th and 6th class age-group interested in singing in the choir Christmas morning in Ballyfin, we will be holding a practice in the church straight after 10 o' clock Mass on Sunday 14th and Sunday 21st.

All Welcome.

Contact Caitriona if interested 086 3292863

Christmas Market

In The Convent

Next Sunday. (14th Dec)

1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Christmas Markets

Carol Singing

Lots of Activities for Kids

Santa Visit

A Note from Rev. Alec Purcer (Rector, Ballyfin Parish)

Christmas Carol Service

in

St. John the Baptist Church, Ballyfin

on

Sun. 21st Dec.

commencing at 7.30 pm

Christmas in BloomHQ with Our Primary Schools Gaelscoil Thromaire.

Ceolchoir Na Nollag Wed. 10th Dec. 7.00 pm Convent Chapel

St. Fintan's Boy's School Christmas Concert

Thurs. 11th Dec. 7.00 pm St. Philomena's Hall

Scoil Bhride - Girls School

Tues. 16th Dec. St. Philomena's Hall

Matinee 12 o'clock (Midday) Main Event – 6.30 pm

Junior Classes will be performing 'Whoopsy Daisy Angel'

Senior Classes will be performing 'The Wizard of Oz'.



Mark the date! BloomHQ's yearly Christmas
celebration will kick off at 1pm!
Refreshments, live music, stalls, refreshments and so
much more....

....and maybe a visit from Santa!!





Save the Pate

Mountrath Christmas

Country Market

At Bloomhg

1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

BL00MHQ

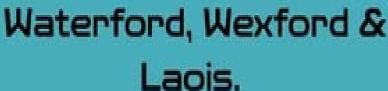
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 14, 1:00-5:00 PM PHILOMENAS HALL, BLOOMHQ



Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT Centres in





IBT (Initial Basic Training)
Pre-Test Lessons
Insurance Skills Assessments
Advanced Motorcycle Training
School Bike Hire



Stand for Peace – March for Palestine Saturday December 6th

As we enter the first week of Advent, we remember that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in the land we now call Palestine. Though some relief has come with the ceasefire in Gaza, the humanitarian crisis continues, and the occupation of the West Bank persists.

One way we can respond, even when we feel helpless, is to come together in peaceful solidarity.

Please join the Kilkenny, Carlow, Kildare and Laois Palestine solidarity groups for a peaceful

"March for Palestine"

Saturday, 6th at 1 pm from the Kilkenny Castle Main Gates.

Message from Bishop Denis re.

Department of Education Survey on School Patronage

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

It is important that people who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that people who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for parents who would wish for Sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For these reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a primary school student.

The survey can be accessed

at https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/
primary-school-survey/

Survey closes on 16th December 2025



CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing in Mountrath....



Check out our socials

Sunday Missals 2026. (Year A)

Our Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) are invited to collect their Sunday Missals for next year. (they are on the church organ) A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various Ministries here at Ballyfin Church. Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion - Collectors — Church Cleaners — Ministries coordinators, Esther and Crescentia, Sacristans, Musicians, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and to all who enrich our celebration of the Eucharist here in Ballyfin Church.

Sunday Missals 2026. (Year A) Mountrath

Our Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) are invited to collect their Sunday Missals for next year.

A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various

Ministries here at Mountrath Church. Servers, Readers

(Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion
Collectors - Church Cleaners - Ministries co-ordinators,

Geraldine and Paulo, Sacristans, Musicians, Singers, Choirs

and coordinators and to all who enrich our celebration of the

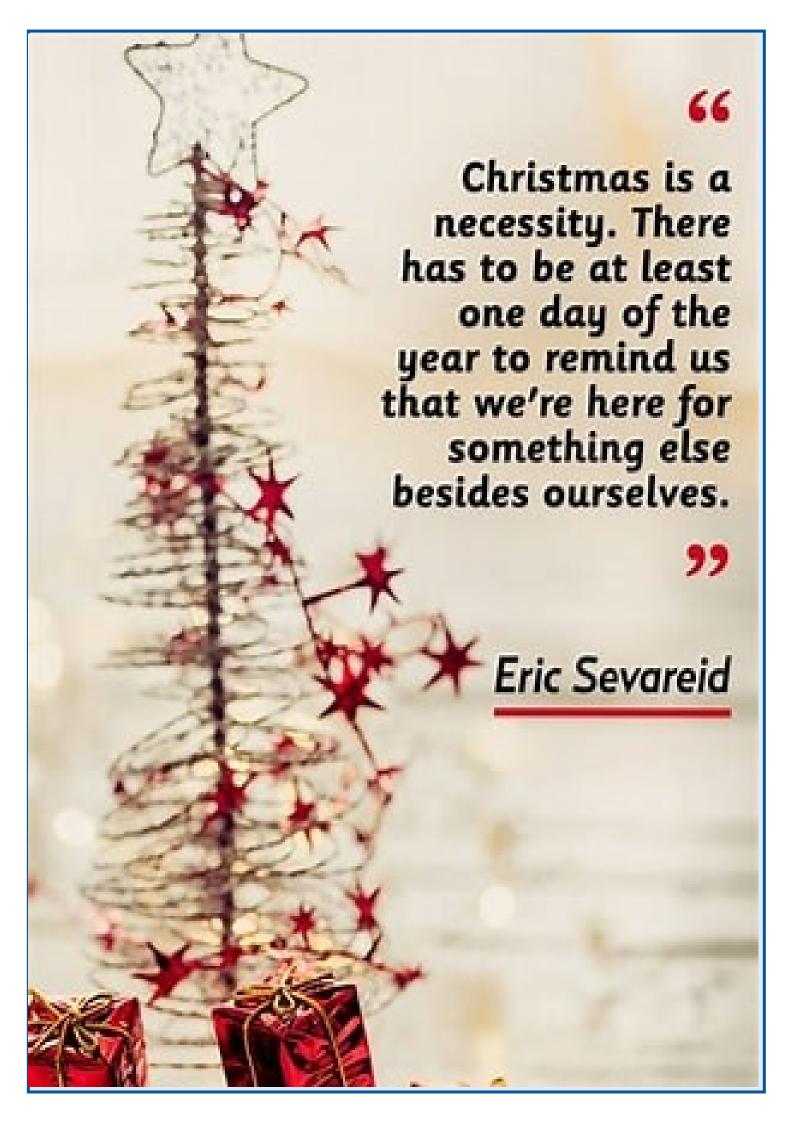
Eucharist here in Mountrath Church.

Christmas

A time when we reconnect with family and friends and focus on remembering what matters the most in life

"What I like about Christmas Is that you can Make people Forget the past With the present."

- Don Marquis



Events at Seanchistin

Irey, R32 X5D6

Maureen Culleton

Tuesday 11a.m. Line Dancing

Wed. 8p.m. Set Dancing

Thurs. 11 am. For persons living with Parkinsons and friends...music, movement singing, poetry, stories, cuppa,

Thursday 8 pm Line Dancing

commencing Thurs. Oct. 9th

Contact Maureen

087 648 2038

or seanchistin@gmail.com for details

Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Ballyfin

Parishes

1st Holy Communion Preparation Next "Do This In Memory" Mass. Sat. 13th December Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation
Next
"Do This In Memory" Mass.
Sun. 14th December
Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Mountrath

Sat. 29th Nov. After 7.00 pm Mass
For Confirmation Candidates and their parents
in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis -Ballyfin

Sun. 30th Nov. after 10.00 am Mass
For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Sacramental Dates Mountrath Parish

1st Holy Communion Sun. 26th April 11.30 am Ceremony of Confirmation Friday 1st May 11.00 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,
Tues. 21st April 11.30am
The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)
with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1st Holy Communion Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

"Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

(Unless otherwise indicated)

Sacramental Dates

'25 - '26 Ballyfin Parish

Ist Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17th May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24th May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation Friday 1st May 2.30 pm Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children Thurs. 23rd April 11.30am The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions) with Confirmation Candidates Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Ballyfin Church)

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

(Unless otherwise indicated)

1st Eucharist Preparation Programme

All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion next year are required to attend all "Do This In Memory" Masses with their parents or guardian.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath you are most welcome to bring you child to the Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am on the following morning.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin you are most welcome to bring you child to the Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath Church 7.00 pm on the previous evening

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

Arranging Anniversary Mass or Month's Mind Mass

The traditional way of arranging an Anniversary Mass remembrance was by visiting the Sacristy before or after Mass and making the necessary arrangement with the priest, who wrote the intention into the Anniversaries Diary, there and then. However, since Covid this practice has changed.

Arrangements for Anniversary Mass remembrances and Month's Mind Masses are, more often than not, now arranged by email, text message, whatsapp, by phone, among many other ways. Which is great.

On the down-side, it can be quiet difficult to keep track of all these ways. - Sometimes emails can go to folders on the computer other than the main folder and are not seen straight away. The same can apply to text messages and Whatsapp. messages. This can cause a problem when I have no knowledge of these emails / messages coming in and are sometimes not detected at the time.

Can lask you -

if you send me an email, text message or a message on Whatsapp, or any way, other than visiting the Sacristy, requesting an Anniversary Mass remembrance or arrangements for a Month's Mind Mass and don't hear from me or don't see the relevant name / names in the Newsletter,

please give me a call on 087 241 1594

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps. Ballyfin Parish

Triona O'Rourke Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish.

Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ms. Ailish Higgins.

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person:

Ms Michelle Hughes c/o

Bishop's Hse, Dublin Rd, Carlow Phone 085 802 1633

If you wish to contribute directly through your Bank account to Parish funds

Here are our Bank Account details

Ballyfin Parish - (A.I.B. Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Mountrath Parish - Rank Account Details

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIIE2D

If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account please include your own name as the reference.

Parish Newsletters.

There are three Parish Newsletters prepared and published each week -

2 A4 Print editions for Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes - available at all our Masses

and I online Newsletter, uploaded to our Parish App.

(Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)

and to our parish Website,

(www.mountrathparish.ie)

and available to view from early Sat morning.

Deadline 2.00 pm Thursday

Jubilee year Pilgrims of Hope



Jubilee Year 2025.

Pilgrims of Hope

During the 18th and 19th Century in the time of persecution and the penal laws, the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin resided in Allen Parish.

People attended Mass at the Priests Corner Mass Rock in Ballyteague.

As part of the Jubilee year - Pilgrims of Hope - Bishop Denis Nulty will celebrate Mass at the Priests Corner Mass Rock in Ballyteague

on Sunday 15th June at 2pm.

For people who wish to walk the 2.5kms in pilgrimage, please assemble at 12.30 pm at the GAA clubhouse in Ballyteague W91 VEW8. For people who do not wish to walk, car parking will be available beside the Mass Rock which will be signposted on the day.

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.



DICASTERY FOR EVANGELIZATION

SECTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS REGARDING EVANGELIZATION IN THE WORLD

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son,

Jesus Christ, our brother,

and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope*for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Parish Ngws



Sacramental Dates Mountrath Parish

1st Holy Communion Sun. 26th April 11.30 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 11.00 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,
Tues. 21st April 11.30am
The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)
with Confirmation Candidates
Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1st Holy Communion Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

"Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

Mountrath Parish Lotto Thurs. 27th Nov.

Nos. Drawn 3 5 19 31 1 € 12,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eimear Murphy and Promoter, Mai Murphy

16 Match 3 Rec. € 63 each. 6 Local Winners

Winner Promoter

Sean Byrne Catherine Byrne

Ann Farrell M Farrell

Bridie Phelan Mary Therese Burke

Margaret Hetherington M Keegan

Mary Kirwan Frances Byrne

Mgt. McGrath and Emer Bredin Mgt. McGrath

Next Week's Jackpot € 10,000

An Ideal Christmas Gift

Half year Lotto Vouchers € 50.00

Full Year Lotto Vouchers € 100.00

1st Holy Communion Preparation Next "Do This In Memory" Mass. Sat. 13th December Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation
Next
"Do This In Memory" Mass.
Sun. 14th December
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Confirmation Catechesis Mountrath

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For Confirmation Candidates and their parents
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Confirmation Catechesis -Ballyfin

Sun. 30th Nov after 10.00 am Mass
For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Sacramental Dates

'25 - '26 Ballyfin Parish

Ist Holy Communion

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Barnashrone School

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(Unless otherwise indicated)

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All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion next year are required to attend all "Do This In Memory" Masses with their parents or guardian.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath you are most welcome to bring you child to the Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am on the following morning.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin you are most welcome to bring you child to the Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath Church 7.00 pm on the previous evening

Πr

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation Confirmation Catechesis Mountrath Church

Sat. 29th Nov. After 7.00 pm Mass For Confirmation Candidates and their parents / guardians in Mountrath Parish

Parish Confirmation Preparation Confirmation Catechesis

Sun. 30th Nov. after 10.00 am Mass For Confirmation Candidates and their parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Ballyfin Community Alert Seniors Alert Scheme

Grant aided personal 24/7 personal monitored alarms help people aged 65 and over to live securely in their homes with peace of mind. 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/application form.

An Tobar Núa.

Confidential Counselling nationwide via telephone and Zoom. Our Service is donation-based, because we do not want finances to prevent anyone from receiving support. If you are struggling with grief, anxiety, depression, or other life challenges, please know that we are here to help. Phone: 091 562 175

Email: counselling@antobarnua.com

Thomas O'Loughlin

An Tobar Nua Counselling

MIACP, BSc

Counselling/Psychotherapy

Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you supported the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Mountrath Parish of over €250 have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme. It is of huge benefit to the Parish if we know the amount parishioners donate and the name of the donors. Hence this year we are sending out numbered boxes to all households in the Parish.

We sent out CHY3 Forms to eligible parishioners (who donated over € 250) for the first time in 2023 and we were able to claim back over € 13,739 for the years 2021 and 2022. This is of immense benefit to the Parish. Thank you to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

If you receive a CHY3 Form later on in the Spring please consider completing the details and returning it . If you would like more information please contact me.

If you are already part of the Tax Back Scheme — *Thank You*

If you are not yet part of the tax back Scheme, I ask you to consider becoming part of it - It is of huge benefit to the Parish

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Tax Back Scheme (Ballyfin Parish)

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you support the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year.

We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Ballyfin Parish of over €250 via the Parish envelopes have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme.

"Thank you" to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

In 2023, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented our Parish finances by almost € 23,000

If you are not, as yet, part of this scheme and would like more information, please contact me at your convenience. *(Fr. Jae)*

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

Get Well Wishes

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 at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery

Bingo

every Monday night
In St. Fintan's Hall at 8pm.
Come along and bring a friend.!!



Bingo in St. Fintan's Hall

Every Monday night.

Commencing Mon. 1st Dec.,

Blue and Yellow Sheets will be increased by €50, bringing the Full House to €300.

Please support your local Bingo.

All are very welcome.



If you wish to contribute directly through your Bank account to Parish funds

Here are our Bank Account details

Ballyfin Parish - (A.I.B. Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIIE2D

If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account please include your own name as the reference.

Anniversary Masses

Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes

Sat. 6th Dec.

To

Sun. 14th Dec.

Lord, for your faithful people, Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries Anniversary and Mass Times Sat. 6th Dec. to Sun. 14th Dec

Fri. 5th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Sat. 6th Dec. 8.00 pm Mary Gorman, Cappagh, 18th Anniv.

Sun 7th Dec. 10.00 am Pauline Dunne, Clonrooske Hse. Month's Mind.

Mon. 8th Dec. 11.15 am

Feast of Immaculate Conception

Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with pupils and staff of Ballyfin National School

All welcome to attend this Mass

7.30 pm Feast of Immaculate Conception

Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 12th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Sat 13th Dec. 8.00 pm Pauline McManus, Briscula.

. Monsignor Terry Moore, O'Moore Forest. 2nd Anniv.

Sun. 14th Dec. 10.00 am Carmel and Joseph Croke, Pallas Carmel's 4th Anniv. Joseph's 60th Anniv. .

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 6th Dec. - Sun. 14th Dec.

Mass times as listed below are for Mountrath Church unless otherwise indicated

Sat. 6th Dec. 7.00 pm Vigil Mass – 2nd Sun. Advent.

Sun. 7th Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Church

11.30 am 2nd Sun. of Advent

Mon. 8th Dec. 10.00 am Feast of Immaculate Conception.

Tues. 9th Dec. 10.00 am Frank and Mary Brophy, Clonin.

Wed. 10th Dec. 10.00 am Tom and Anna Mai Martin,

Woodbrook and their son, Seán (Ballyvaughan)

Thur.. 11th Dec. 10.00 am

Fri. 12th Dec. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Continued on next frame

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 6th Nov. - Sun. 14th Dec. (Continued)

Sat. 13th Dec. 7.00 pm Catherine Tobin, Ballyfin Rd., 2nd Anniv

John Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 7th Anniv.

Ann Grincell, Spring Gardens, 7th Anniv.

Denis Carroll, Shannon Rd., 9th Anniv.

Eugene and Seán McCarthy, Thomas Court.

Maura Kelly, Main St. 14th Anniv.

Sun. 14th Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Ch.

11.30 am Bernard Gillane, Peterswell, Galway. 1st Anniv.

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

Patty and John O'Connell (Patty's 8th Anniv)

Thomas Court, Margaret and Joseph Connolly, Main St.

their daughter Eilish and her husband, Willie Tan.

Michael (Mick) Cole (Camross) 22nd Anniv.

Tom Cole (Mick's Dad) (Camross) 22nd Anniv.

Darish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Wed. 3rd Dec.

Nos. Drawn 7 10 27 28 No Jackpot Winner

10 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 100 ea

1 Local Winner - Denis Bowe

Promoter, Patrick O'Rourke

Next Week's Jackpot € 18,000

Arrangements for Ballyfin Lotto

Last Draw of 2025 17th Nec.

1st Draw of 2026 7th Jan.

Thank you for your continued and generous support of Ballyfin Parish Collections and Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Nos. Drawn 4 15 27 32

No Jackpot Winner

3 Match 3 Rec. € 334 each.

Next Week's Jackpot € 11,000

An Ideal Christmas Gift

Half year Lotto Vouchers € 50.00

Full Year Lotto Vouchers € 100.00

A note of thanks

to everyone involved in

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

Organising Committees, Promoters,

Shops and others who facilitate the sale

of Lotto Tickets

and most importantly,

уоц,

who purchase a Lotto ticket every week.

I extend a very sincere "thank you" for your continued support and generousity.

Mountrath Ballyfin Lottos

Next Week's



Mountrath € 11,000 Ballyfin € 18,000



News From Around The Diocese

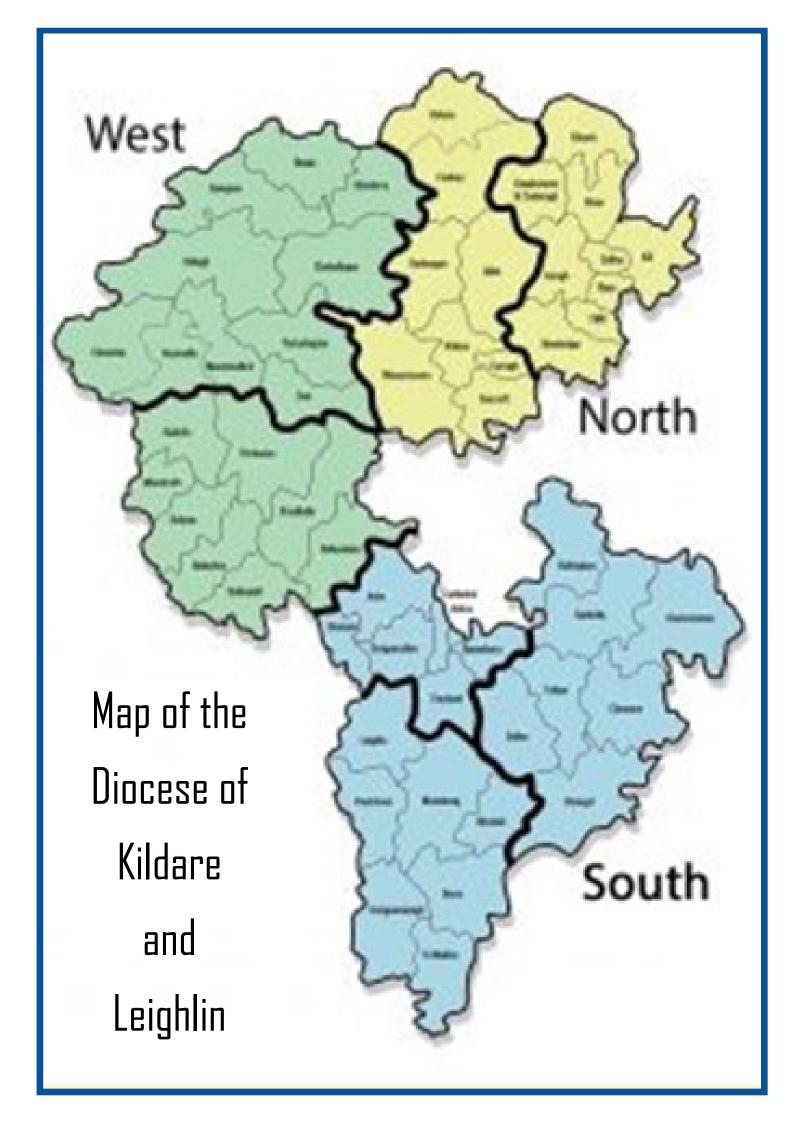
Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service Volunteer Drivers Needed

The Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service is seeking compassionate volunteer drivers in your community. Your time can help to continue the vital service of providing transport for patients attending cancer treatment appointments.

If you have a minimum of 2 days per month to spare, a valid driving license, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you're the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. Your generosity can ease the journey for many during a challenging time, offering comfort and support when it's needed most.

Full training will be provided. There are a number of essential post-drive administration tasks that will require either existing knowledge of basic computer or IT skills, or the willingness to acquire such skills (such as scanning and uploading documents or attending virtual meetings).

For more information and to become a volunteer driver, contact Monica at volunteer irishcancer.ie.





Events at Bloom HQ

Embodied hatha yoga with Cathy

Suitable for all levels Limited spaces so book today! €60 per block

Tuesdays @6:30 pm 6 week block starting Tuesday 6th of January











Mountrath Health and **Fitness** Academy

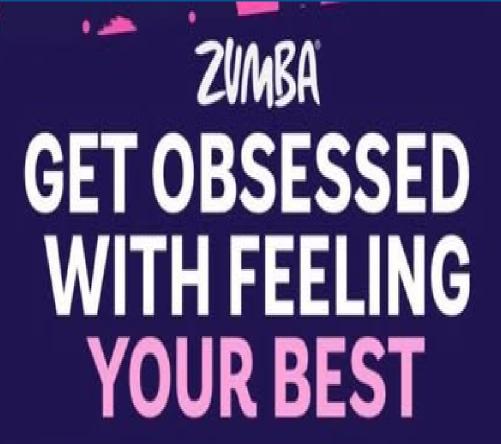
The Gallery of Devine Inspiration

is proud to present an exhibition by student artist
Minxy



friday 28 November 7pm Bloom HQ, Mountrath All welcome





Zumba® Class at BLOOM HQ MOUNTRATH WEDNESDAY AT 7PM

RSVP BY CONTACTING AMY 0868424791

€70 FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING
JANUARY 7TH

R32DT9F - free car parking available



Well done to Kevin and Ruth, Unsung Heros
here in Mountrath! A great night and lovely to celebrate
them together. Congratulations to all those nominated and
the winners too. Our community relies on volunteers and
their kindness.





Ballinakill Outdoor Swimming Pool CLIMATE ACTION AWARD NOMINEES

Irish Steam Preservation Society CLG
Crafty Dreams Studio
Mountmellick Women's Shed
Abbeyleix Tidy Towns / Abbeyleix Heritage House
/ Fr. Breen Park Committee

Droimnin Retirement Village Residents Association
Camross Community Association
Rathdowney Men's Shed
Clonad GAA
Laois Teachers Climate Action Committee
Mountmellick Men's Shed

BEST KEPT RESIDENTIAL ESTATE AWARD NOMINEES

Kiln Lane Residents Association Cherrygrove Residents Group Clonroosk View Residents Group Royal Court Residents Association Slieve Bloom Park Estate Kylebrook Residents Association

HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD NOMINEES

The ARC Project
Camross Tidy Towns
Portlaoise Community First Responders
Laois Comhairle na nÓg
SOSAD Laois
Borris-in-Ossory Santa Claus Club

JUNIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Shauna O'Neill David Shortall Lily O'Connor Saoirse Oxley Mariia Yabanzhy Luke Daly Cillian Lyons Connor O'Carroll Ailise Dowling McDonald Snizhana Anna Rauth

UNSUNG HERO NOMINEES

Louise Foster
Sandra Trofimova
Ruth Delaney
Tom & Kathleen Flynn
Joe Quigley
Padraic Dolan
Mary Cuddy
Ger Browne
Sarah Graham
Patrick Blake
Roisin Lawlor

Gerry Furlong
Louise McCormack
indsay Martin-Fenlon
Trudi Lalor
Ross Doyle
Philip McLoughlin
Kevin McCann
Eimear Matthews
James Kilbride
Tim Browne

LAOIS FEDERATION TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

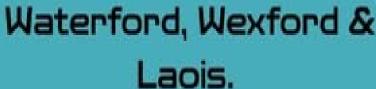
Rosenallis Tidy Towns
Portlaoise Tidy Towns
Emo Tidy Towns
Donaghmore Tidy Towns
Abbeyleix Tidy Towns

Mountmellick Tidy Towns Clough Tidy Towns Killasmeestia Tidy Towns Cullohill Tidy Towns Durrow Tidy Towns

EXPRESS

Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT Centres in





IBT (Initial Basic Training)
Pre-Test Lessons
Insurance Skills Assessments
Advanced Motorcycle Training
School Bike Hire







Mark the date! BloomHQ's yearly Christmas
celebration will kick off at 1pm!
Refreshments, live music, stalls, refreshments and so
much more....

....and maybe a visit from Santa!!



BL00MHQ

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 14, 1:00-5:00 PM PHILOMENAS HALL, BLOOMHQ









Pilates

Wednesdays 8pm 6 weeks starting 5th November





Wednesdays 5th, 19th & 26th Nov 3rd, 10th & 17th December

Mountrath Health & Fitness Academy, Patrick st, Mountrath R32 DC58

With Shauna Leamy

€ 60 for 6 weeks

https://www.mountrathgym.com/memberships/pilatesinmountrath









HIGHER LEVEL LEAVING CERT MATHS GRINDS

FOR 5TH AND 6TH YEAR STUDENTS

> CONTACT: Orlaith 0892336930





Designed for modern professionals, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, our dynamic workspace offers the perfect blend of flexibility, community, and productivity.

From hot desks to gym areas....

- Flexible Workspace Options
- High-Speed Internet
- Meeting and Conference Rooms

Contact Us

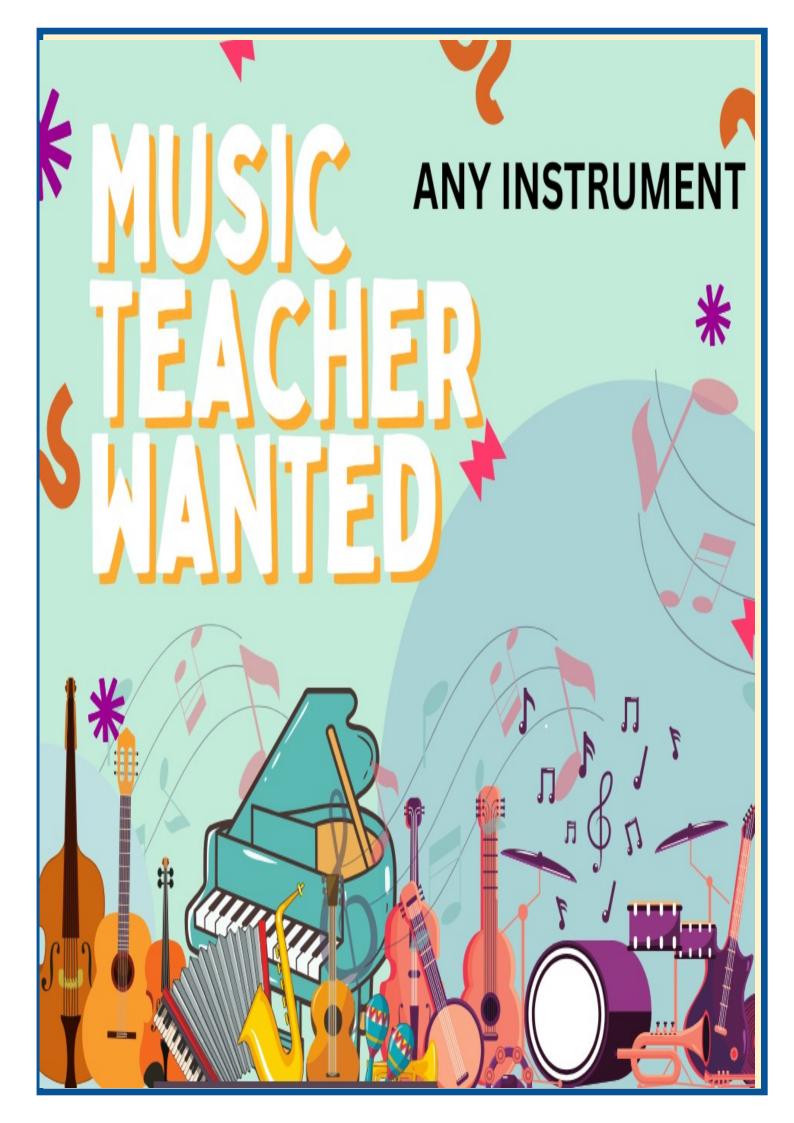


089 2722885

www.bloomhq.ie











R32DT9F,
Patrick St,
Mountrath,
Co.Laois

Contact us: 089 264 7761

Bowls

© Enjoy competitive yet friendly games, perfect for all skill levels. Roll with us and make new friends!



Seated exercise

Thurs - 11am

Move, stretch, and stay active!





Talks on...

Help with using MiGov.ie

How to use phones better





Using local bus services

NEW ACTIVITIES

Exciting games and activities —laughter, challenges, and good vibes guaranteed!



BOOK CLUB

Dive into new worlds—our book club is starting soon!

ART CLASSES

Embark on your creative journey
—art classes starting soon!





Child care facilities coming early 2026 RIGHT HERE IN BLOOMHQ!!

Keep an eye on our socials for more details, updates and notices







BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

Everything worth knowing

– all in one place.....

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www.bloomhq.ie

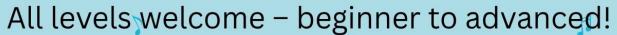








Piano Lessons now Available!



- Eacher & choral conductor
- Over 30 years' experience in piano & music education
 - 😔 🧝 Lessons for all ages kids & adults
 - Director of children's choirs in
 - Ukraine & Ireland
 - 📍 BloomHQ, Mountrath



for more details>>



Free first meeting - come meet the teacher!



Book now – Call Lana: 087 3347112

Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?



CONTACT 089 2722885 or

manager@bloomhq.ie Visit our website www.bloomhq.ie

Unislim

Join Today! Bloom Hq

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Class Talk 8pm

New members always welcome

9 stone weight



Mairead McCaul Unislim Member

Join Unislim for €25
Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter









unislim.com | 1800 603020

For more info visit unislim.com





Dive into your remote work with every thing you need on hand

Hot desks at BloomHQ



Contact: manager@bloomhq.ie





For just €20 a day

BOWLS Thursdays @ 8pm

Philomenas Hall

R32DT9F,
Patrick St.
Mountrath,
Co.Laois





BLOOMHQ MONTHLY





- Join our large, loving gym community!
- Build strength and friendships.
- Everyone's included
 –come as you are!
- Don't miss out, join today!

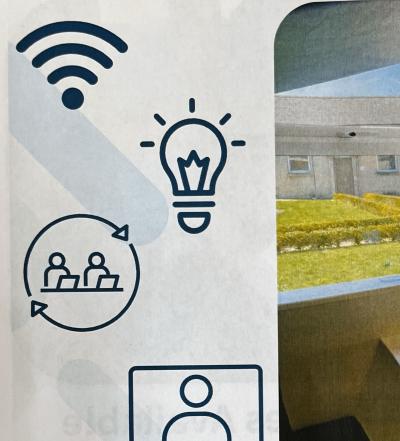
New timetable each month





BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

SPACES TO RENT





HOT DESKS - JUST €20/DAY!

JUMP IN, PLUG IN, AND GET TO WORK +

POWER SOCKETS & GREAT LIGHTING

CLEAN, MODERN, AND READY TO GO

NO COMMITMENT – JUST SHOW UP AND WORK!

CONFERENCE

ROOMS

From just €55

Seating 2-20

Ideal for company meetings, general meetings, training courses etc

Contact BloomHQ to book today.....

Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

Mick Smith is teaching the new

RSA approved Motorcycle Initial Basic Training (IBT)

here in BloomHQ, the old Convent Mountrath.

For more details and to book see:

www.roadcraft.ie

www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie



Mountrath Men's Shed







Old School on Patrick Street



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

Contact 0857053855





Mountrath Scouts



Looking for a way for your kids to learn new skills and spend time in the great outdoors why not try scouts!

For all ages from beavers to ventures and into leaders!



Scouts is a way to

- Meet new people.
- Learn new skills.
- Spend time outside.
- Make friends for life.

Friday nights

In the brigidine convent (Bloom HQ) Patrick street mountrath R32 DC58

7:00 till 8:30

€5 pp or €4 per sibling



Other Hews

CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOTICE

St. Cronan's Church (RC)
Christmas Country Gospel Evening

St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, will host a special Country
Gospel Evening & Eamp;

Festive Celebration with James Kilbane on Sunday, 14th December at 6pm. The young musicians of the Theresa Larkin School of Music will open the event with seasonal music. This joyful evening of Christmas hymns, gospel favourites, and uplifting song is in aid of the parish church heating fund.

Donation tickets €20 available from the parish office, local outlets, organisers, or call 0505 31835.

All are warmly welcome as we prepare for the Christmas season in music and community.

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH

Abbey Street, Parkmore, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

PRESENTS

JAMES KILBANE

with JOHN FLATLEY

A Country Gospel Evening & Festive Celebration

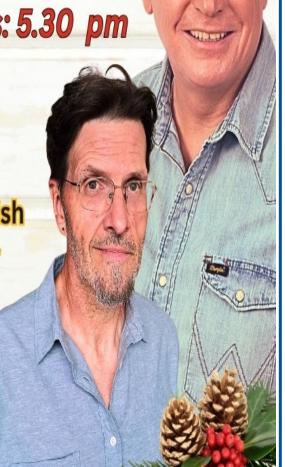
Sunday 14th Dec at 6 pm. Doors: 5.30 pm

IN AID OF NEW CHURCH HEATING SYSTEM

Donation tickets available from the parish office, local outlets, event organisers or call 0505 31835.



Donation TICKETS €20





CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing in Mountrath....





Check out our socials

Parish Finances

If you wish to contribute directly through your Bank account to Parish funds

Here are our Bank Account details

Ballyfin Parish - (A.I.B. Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIIE2D

If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account please include your own name as the reference.

Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you supported the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Mountrath Parish of over €250 have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme. It is of huge benefit to the Parish if we know the amount parishioners donate and the name of the donors. Hence this year we are sending out numbered boxes to all households in the Parish.

We sent out CHY3 Forms to eligible parishioners (who donated over € 250) for the first time in 2023 and we were able to claim back over € 13,739 for the years 2021 and 2022. This is of immense benefit to the Parish. Thank you to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

If you receive a CHY3 Form later on in the Spring please consider completing the details and returning it . If you would like more information please contact me.

If you are already part of the Tax Back Scheme — *Thank You*

If you are not yet part of the tax back Scheme, I ask you to consider becoming part of it - It is of huge benefit to the Parish

Tax Back Scheme (Ballyfin Parish)

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you support the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year.

We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Ballyfin Parish of over €250 via the Parish envelopes have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme.

"Thank you" to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

In 2023, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented our Parish finances by almost € 23,000

If you are not, as yet, part of this scheme and would like more information, please contact me at your convenience. *(Fr. Jae)*

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes € 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance € 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security € 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat € 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225 .00	Cleaning € 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste € 579.00
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€ 3,121 .00	Maintenance/Repairs € 79,602.00
Church Bookings	€ 500.00	Diocesan Levy € 11,006.00
Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest € 3.00
Office	€ 1,899 .00	Bank Charges € 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund € 1,000 00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/Missallettes € 9,233.00
		Altar/Shrine € 10,616.00
Total:	€ 226,586.00	Telephone/Broadband € 600.00
		Computer/servicing € 5,051.00
		Accountancy Fees € 540.00
		Youth/Community € 260.00
		Hire of Equipment € 1,141.00
		Music/Chair € 250.00
		Legal/Professional € 828.00
		Donations € 1,700.00
		Total: € 186,173.00

A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous

Ballyfin Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 1,525.00

Peter's Pence € 852.00

World Mission € 1,123.00

Trocaire € 2,462.96

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 500.00

Total € 6462.96

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests

Fund throughout the year .

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

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		Hire of Equipment € 1,141.00
		Music/Choir € 250.00
		Legal/Professional € 828.00
		Donations € 1,700.00
		Total: € 186,173.00

A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous support of Mountrath Parish

Mountrath Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 530.00

Peter's Pence € 550.00

World Mission € 615.00

Trocaire € 2, 615.00

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 390.00

Total € 4,700.00

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests

Fund throughout the year.