

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

8th - 9th Feb. 5th Sun. In Ordinary Time

Feast of our Lady of Lourdes Parish Anointing

Tues. 11th Feb. is the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes and is world day of Prayer for the sick. Pope St. John Paul II began its tradition on this day in Parish communities across the world of celebrating the Sacrament of Anointing.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Oh ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfortess of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look upon me with mercy. When you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where you dispense your favours, and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. My loving Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your virtues so that I may one day share your company and bless you in eternity. Amen

Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

(Online from 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

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Name of Parish App.

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish

Triona O'Rourke Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish.

Caroline Moore Pachelli 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

Completion of Painting work at Mountrath Church

We will shortly begin phase three, the final phase, of the painting of Mountrath Church. This work is linked in with the replastering of part of the back wall of the church. Now that the leaking valley is repaired (and the walls have finally dried out) we are in a position to go ahead with the remainder of the work. To access this work (in the gallery area) we will be erecting a scaffolding tower adjacent to the right internal church door entrance. As regards restoring the plaster work on part of the back wall we will be using a lime plaster in keeping with the style and type and age of the building. This process takes a bit longer to apply and cure (in comparison to more conventional methods) but it is firmly in keeping with best practice. When the plasterwork is complete we will then be in a position to go ahead and complete the painting of the back wall -

Once again we rely on your goodwill and co-operation and once again with your goodwill and co-operation we will keep Mountrath Church open and in use (and safe to use) for the duration of this final works phase. Also work has begun on the provision of toilet facilities and some office space (at the back of the church) for the convenience of church users.

St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath

The Annual General Meeting of St. Fintan's Community Hall Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 26th at 8pm. All committee members are requested to attend. As this is an open meeting of the Community Hall it would be nice to see more people show an interest in it and attend the meeting. All are very welcome.

Bingo every Monday night at 8pm.

Come along and bring a friend!!

Jubilee Year 2025.

We are "Pilgrims of Hope"

With the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, the Holy Year was begun. Across the world, the Jubilee Year began on the feast of the Holy Family. (Sun. 29th Dec. 2024) To echo the theme of hope, Pope Francis is calling on us all to renew the hope of Christ, using Saint Paul the Apostle as a guide for this special year.

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.

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load*

(From the Servant Song by Richard Gillard)

Safeguarding Sunday

9th February 2025

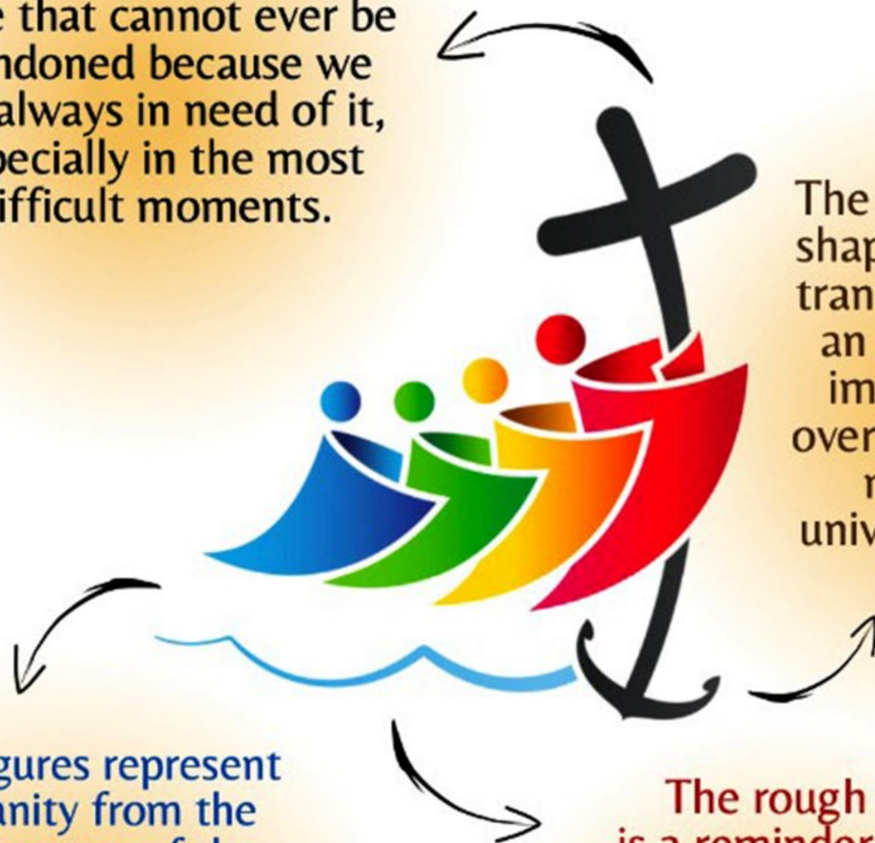
- “The life of a parish is often defined by the active engagement of young people. Safeguarding Sunday is a reassurance to all that being involve in the parish is governed by best practices in safeguarding”

• *Bishop Denis*

Jubilee year
Pilgrims of Hope



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.



Confirmation Catechesis

with Confirmation Candidates and
their parents continues following
10.00 am Sunday Mass on the
following dates

23rd Feb. 23rd March

4th May 18th May

Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Coinciding with the Jubilee for Teenagers, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocese is travelling for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, 25th - 29th April.

This pilgrimage includes a day trip to Assisi, trips to the pilgrims' sites of Rome and of course the Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square when Blessed Carlo will be declared the first 'Millennial Saint.'

Bishop Denis will join us for the pilgrimage as well as Fr. David Vard. Places are limited and can be booked through Marian Pilgrimages or forms and itinerary can be collected in Portlaoise Parish Centre.

FOOTHOLDS: MEDITATION IN PRACTICE

DONAGH O'SHEA OP

Four Thursdays, 8pm—9pm, beginning 27 February 2025

Cost: €40 for four evenings



Meditation can appear obscure and intangible. The practical task is to pin it down to ordinary experience.

To that end we have planned a series of sessions where we concentrate on some tangible object, or on a projected image, or sometimes a very brief text (even a single sentence), staying with it and letting it introduce us to its own depth. We can think of these as footholds. The depth in things is not hidden; it is in plain sight, if we have eyes to see, ears to hear. These sessions will be a kind of rooted meditation—meditation in practice.

For bookings contact:

Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght, Dublin, D24 KA40

Phone: 404 8123 / 404 8189 or email: dominicanretreats@gmail.com

SHARING FAITH IN TODAY'S WORLD

Fr Michael Hurley

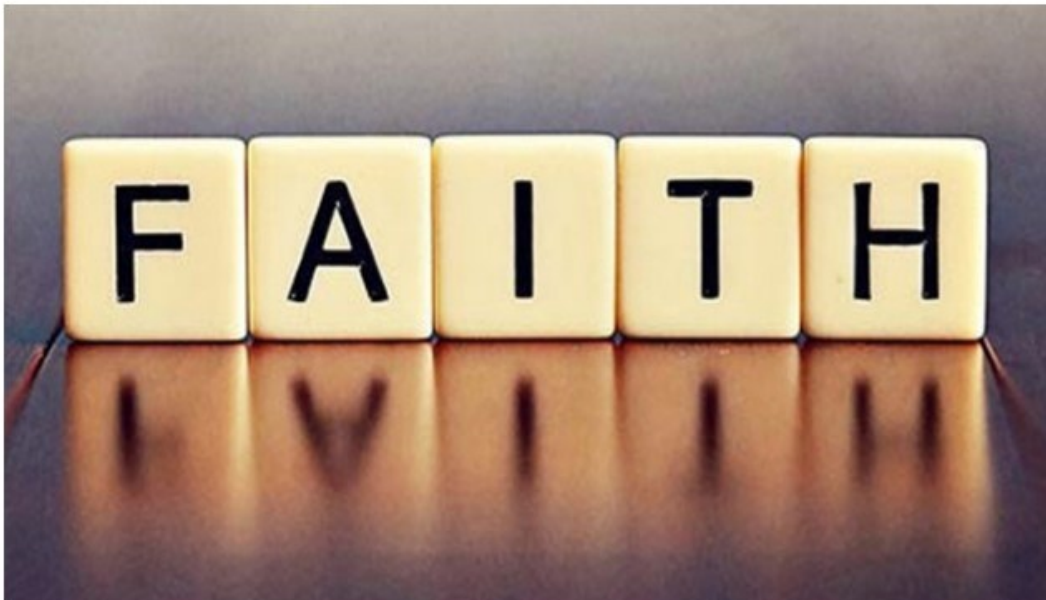
- What does this mean? Where can we begin?

Fr Michael Hurley, a priest of the Dublin Diocese, has been personally involved in evangelization for most of his priestly life. He strongly believes that personal faith brings purpose, healing, happiness and reconciliation to people's lives and is thus all the more necessary in today's world.

Over three Monday evenings,
10th, 17th and 24th February 2025 (7.30pm to 9pm),
Fr Michael will input and facilitate conversation and reflection.

Includes tea/coffee break.

*Cost €40 for the three weeks payable in advance
(or €15 per week if paying weekly)*



For bookings contact:

Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 KA40

Phone: 404 8123 / 404 8189 or email: dominicanretreats@gmail.com

Important Synod Update

Two strands of current work:

The Final Document of the Universal Synod can be viewed on www.kandle.ie/synod. This document is now part of the ordinary Magisterium (teaching) of the Church and Pope Francis has asked members of the Church across the world to accept and implement its findings. The Diocesan Pastoral Council and Council of Priests will study and reflect on this document and they invite parishioners, especially members of parish pastoral councils, to take up and begin to reflect and act upon this document also.



LIAM'S ART JOURNEY



BLOOM HQ

R32 DT9F.

The Gallery of Divine Inspiration

is proud to present an

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

by local artist

LIAM PHELAN

All welcome for the month of February

Launching: Friday 31st January @ 7pm



Some 2025 Diary Dates

St. Brigid's Day Sat. 1st Feb.

Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin

Our No. 1 - Ireland's No. 2

Ash Wednesday 5th March

Mass in Mountrath 10.00 am 7.30 pm

Ballyfin 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Mon. 17th March

Ireland's National Saint

Masses The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am

Mountrath 10.00 am

Ballyfin 10.00 am

Thursday 17th April Holy Thursday 7.30 pm

Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal during Mass

Good Fri. 18th April

Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 10.00 am - 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday 20th April

Mary Conroy, Sutton, Dublin Ross, Ballyfin. R.I.P.

We pray for Mary who died peacefully at Raheny Nursing Home on Mon. 27th Jan. Mary's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Thurs. 30th Jan. followed by burial in Ballyfin Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her brother Michéal, Maureen and family, Pallas, her sister Dina and Brother in law Noel, sister in law Pauline, nephews, nieces. Grand nephews, grand nieces and all her former colleagues in Roches Stores.

John Duffy, Cappard, Rosenallis R.I.P.

We pray for John who died peacefully at his home following illness on Wed. 5th Feb. John's Funeral Service was held at Glasnevin Crematorium on Sat. 8th Feb. We extend sympathy to John's family, his wife Muireann, children Doireann, Rossa and Maebh Áine, sisters Catherine, Helen, Aunt Marjorie and their families, niece and nephews, neighbours and friends. At an open meeting in Ballyfin Old School in Spring of last year, John was elected Chair of the newly reformed Ballyfin Players Group, was an inspirational leader and had been an integral part and a great supporter of the Group until the onset of his illness.

May Mary and John rest in peace

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

Cemetery Masses

2025

Ballyfin Cemetery Sun. 8th June (2nd Sun. June)

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 27th June (Last Fri. Jun)

Clonenagh Fri. 11th July (2nd Fri. July)

Cemetery on Right - Mountrath to Portlaoise

Clondarrig Wed. 6th Aug. (1st Wed. August)

Boghlone Wed. 3rd Sept. (1st Wed. Sept)

All Cemetery Masses commence at 7.00 pm

Ballyfin National School Football Forecasting Competition

Round 1, Jan 25th/26th

1st place,

Sean Larkin: 14 points

2nd place,

Greg Kerrigan: 13 points

3rd place,

Niall Westman, John Maher, Michael McNamee: 12 points

Thanks to all participants.

It's not too late to join the fun – sign up by contacting the school

or at <https://forms.gle/BAD6WzZkSD37Bft47>

Ballyfin National School,

Roll Number: 15537E

Ballyfin, Co Laois R32 N920

Ballyfin National School

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 2 1st / 2nd Feb

1st Place

George Lanham, John Farrell: 14 points

2nd Place

Colleen Quinn, Pauric Carroll, Tom Glynn: 13 points

3rd Place

Aiden & Deirdre Heffernan, Anna Rowney, Brendan Quigley, Conor Sweeney, Darren Hanlon, Declan Looby, Greg Kerrigan, Laura Ruane, Mark Gavin, Martina Kelly, Paraic Crone, Patrick Larkin, Stephen McGlynn, Timmy Quillinan, Tom Behan, Tom Finn, Tori Holohan, Vinnie Collins: 12 points

Thanks to all participants. It's not too late to join the fun – sign up by contacting the school or at <https://forms.gle/BAD6WzZkSD37Bft47>

BUJOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

Lovely LAOIS

HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

GALA DINNER

THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL, PORTLAOISE
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 Course Dinner
- Official Presentation to a well known Laois Celebrity
- Official Presentation to 4 unsung hero's from Lovely Laois
- Folk & Ballads by The Musketeers (Mick Foster, Billy Morrissey & TR Dallas)
- Dancing to Trudi Lalor, Shawn Cuddy & Damien Bowe

Doors Open 7pm
Dinner served
@ 8pm sharp

TICKETS
€59



Ash Wed. 5th March

Mass in Mountrath

10.00 am

7.00 pm

Mass in Ballyfin

7.30 pm

Ballyfin Community Alert

Grant aided personal monitored alarms are available to people aged 65 and over. If you know of a family member, friend or neighbour in Ballyfin who could benefit from this scheme. Please contact Sheila on 086 1570145 for information / application form.

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

"Do This In Memory" Mass

Mountrath Sat. 8th Feb.

Ballyfin Sun. 9th Feb.

This Weekend

1st Holy Communion Preparation

All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion in May of next year are required to attend all these Masses with their parents or guardian, family.

SeniorLine

Would like someone to talk to at this time ?

SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year
10am-10pm,

Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family.

SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen,
to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary.

So don't be alone and lift the phone.

Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91,
No problem too big or too small.

Diary Date 2025

Ceremony of Confirmation in Ballyfin

Parish will be

celebrated in St. Fintan's Church,

Ballyfin

on Fri. 23rd May 2025

Ceremony will commence at 11.00 am

The Ceremony of Confirmation will be led by Bishop Denis Nulty

Gaelscoil Thromaire

(057) 8756306

School Enrolment

2025/2026

Príomhoide: Áine Mhic Aodha Bhuí

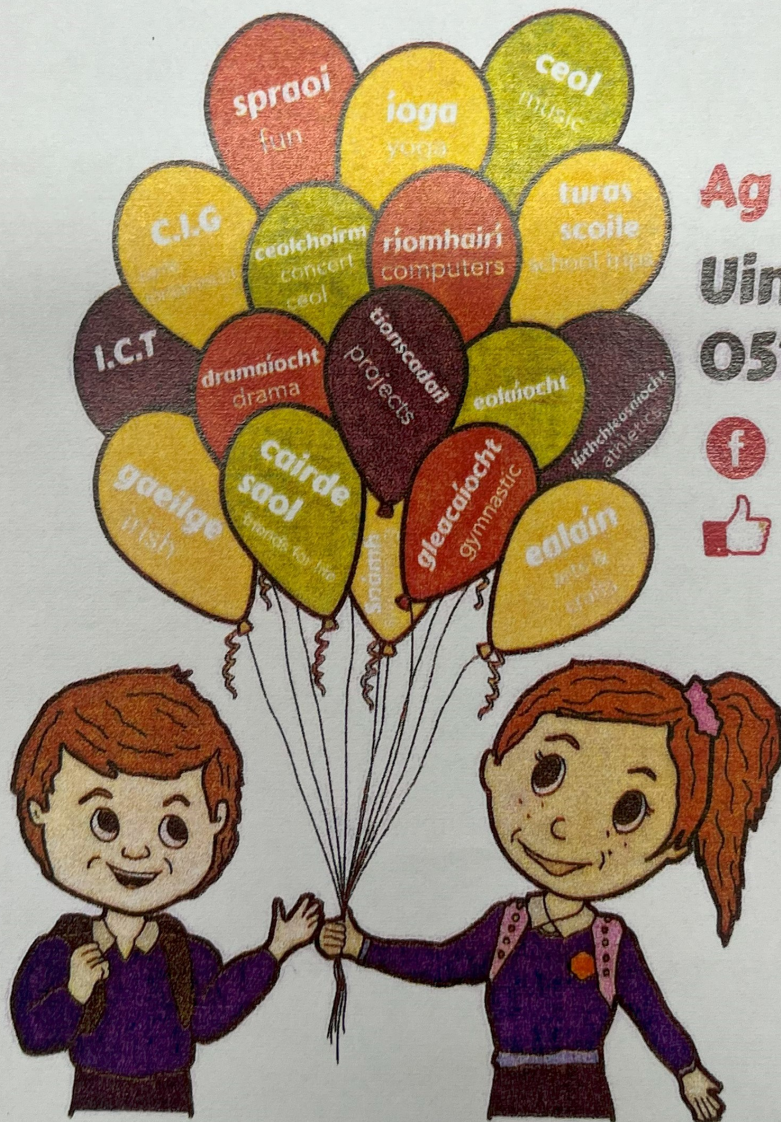
Enrolment Forms now available

for the above School for Junior Infants
and any other classes.

Gaelscoil Thromaire, Trumera, Mountrath,
Co. Laois R32R5RF

Gaelscoil Thromaire

Would you like your child to be
bilingual?



Ag clárú anois

Uimhir:

057 8756306



Gaelscoil



Thromaire

Fáilte roimh gach duine.

gaelscoilthromaire00@gmail.com

1st Holy Communion Days in 2025

Mass Dates and Times

Gaelscoil Thromaire Sunday 4th May 2025

The Hollow Church - 9.00 am

Barnashrone National School Sunday 4th May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Scoil Bride, Mountrath.

St. Fintan's Boys School, Mountrath

Sunday 11th May 2025 St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath

Time 11.30 am

Ballyfin National School

Sunday 25th May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Dates of "Do This in Memory" Masses,

Mountrath and Ballyfin, 2024/25

Preparation Masses for 1st Holy Communion 2025.

"Do This In Memory" Masses

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Sat. 8th Feb.

Sun. 9th Feb.

Sat 8th March

Sun 9th March

Sat. 5th April

Sun. 6th April

1st Holy Communion Preparation - Continued

All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion in May of next year are required to attend all these Masses with their parents or guardian — family

Ref. Mountrath Parish

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.

Ref. Ballyfin Parish

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 at 7.00 pm on the previous evening.

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 I ask 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

*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. - BOFIE2D

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

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri. 7th to Sun. 16th Feb.

Fri. 7th Feb. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 8th Feb 8.00 pm Jim Fingleton, Ross. 33rd Anniv.

Sun. 9th Feb 10.00 am John Dunne, Deerpark, 3rd Anniv.

Seán Heffernan, Brockera. 13th Anniv.

Mon. 10th Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

Fri. 14th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 15th Feb. 8.00 pm Daniel Dunne, Catholes. 14th Anniv.

Joe and Kathleen Lanham and Michelle, Upper Sconce

Patricia Lambe

Sun. 16th Feb. 10.00 am Catherine Gilligan, 7th Anniv.

Joan Gilligan. 15th Anniv.

Greenhills, Ballyfin Rd., Mountrath.

Breda and Gerry Thompson, Ballylusk.

Breda's 3rd Anniv Gerry's 13th Anniv.

Mon. 17th Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries _ Sat. 8th to Sun. 16th Feb

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

Sat. 8th Feb. 7.00 pm Richard Maybury, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. M.M.

Tom Lalor, Portlaoise Rd., 1st Anniv.

Margaret (Peg) Lalor (Nee Fitzpatrick) Portlaoise Rd., 2nd Anniv.

Sun. 9th Feb. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** 5th Sun. in Ord. Time

John, Dan and Marie Tynan, Clonkeen.

. **11.30 am** John McDermott, Trumera. Month's Mind.

James and Kathleen Tynan, Patrick St.,

Tues. 11th Feb. 10.00 am **Feast of our Lady of Lourdes**

Celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing will take place during this Mass. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing on this day and are unable to be part of our celebration in the Church, please let Fr. P.J. or myself know and we will be happy to attend you in your own home, either on this day, or the following day.

Wed. 12th Feb. 10.00 am

Thur. 13th Feb. 10.00 am

Fri. 14th Feb. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 8th to Sun. 16th Feb.

Continued from previous page

Sat. 15th Feb. 7.00 pm Patrick Murphy, Spa Hill. 4th Anniv.

Sun. 16th Feb. 9.00 am 6th Sun. in Ord. Time

9.00 am *The Hollow Church*

.Brendan Fitzpatrick, Clonboyne, 25th Anniv.

Brendan died in Lebanon on 14th Feb. 2000. Aged 19 years.

11.30 am 6th Sun. in Ord. Time.

1st Anniversary Remembrances

Sat. 1st March. 7.00 pm Phil Ryan (Nee Connolly) Patrick St.,

Sun. 2nd March. 11.30 am Ned Tynan, Kilbricken.

Sat. 8th March. 7.00 pm Michael Dunne, Clonard

And his parents, Michael and Brigid Dunne.

Lord, for your faithful people, life is changes s, not ended.

Ballyfin Parish Statement of Account 2023

| Income | | Expenses | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Basket Collection | €16,305 | Pastoral Programmes | €1,720 |
| Envelope Collection | €25,986 | Insurance | €5,775 |
| Shrine Income | €876 | Security | €273 |
| Rental Income | €5,800 | Light/Heat | €17,570 |
| Fundraising | €3,141 | Cleaning | €264 |
| Donations | €1,050 | Rates/Water/Waste | €422 |
| Tax Refunds/Rebate | €22,807 | Maintenance/Repairs | €21,532 |
| Church Bookings | €460 | Diocesan Levy | €6,576 |
| Lotto Income | €13,898 | Diocesan Retirement Fund | €1,000 |
| Other Income | <u>€ 2,421</u> | Printing/Missalettes | €1,870 |
| Total: | € 92,744 | Altar/Shrine | €3,657 |
| | | Telephone/Broadband | €1,379 |
| | | Computer/servicing | €2,750 |
| | | Accountancy Fees | €1,000 |
| | | Youth/Community | €640 |
| | | Bank Charges | €863 |
| | | Donations | €200 |
| | | Loan Interest | <u>€485</u> |
| | | Total: | €67,976 |

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

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/Missalettes | € 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/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

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. Joe)*

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

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

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 .

Ballyfin Parish Lotto,

Wed 5th Feb.

Nos. Drawn 7 10 11 32

No Jackpot Winner

20 Match 3 's Rec € 50 each

1 Local Winner John Coughlan.

Promoter, Mary Hooban

Next Week's Jackpot €11,000

Thanks for oyur support

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 6th Feb..

Numbers Drawn 11 14 17 26

No Jackpot Winner

7 Match 3 winners

Rec. € 143 each 1 Local Winner

Winner and Promoter , Vera Richardson

Next Week's Jackpot € 19,000



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,
you,

who purchase a Lotto ticket every week.

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

Mountrath Ballyfin Lottos

Next Week's



Mountrath € 19,000

Ballyfin € 11,000

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE, RDS Dublin,

Day return bus (from Jnl7 plaza Portlaoise)
Sat. 22nd Feb. Fantastic speakers including
His Excellency Archbishop Farrell, Fr. Pat
Collins, Fr. Jim Blount and many more, great
day of spiritual inspiration and refreshment.

€70 for bus and entry ticket. Contact via WhatsApp/text
please: Karen 087-4160385 or Séamus 087-2752578 for
enquiries and bookings. €40 deposit via Revolut, PayPal or
Post secures bus.

if you like to ask any more on this notice please contact
Seamus on 087 2752578.

Bus To Knock

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock and Co Mayo, 10th Feb.

€699.00 pps. Price includes return train, 4 nights' in 4*

Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch

on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport

included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh

Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre, Quiet Man Museum.

Single supplement on Enquiry.

Contact 094 900 6426 or 087 1890 236

or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Courses at the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght

Footholds: Meditation in Practice, Donagh O'Shea OP Four Thursdays, Time 8 – 9 pm beginning 27th February 2025. Cost €40.00 for four evenings Sharing Faith in Today's World, Fr Micheal Hurley Over 3 Monday Evening 10/17/24th February 2025, Time 8 – 9 pm. Cost €40.00 for 3 weeks in advance/€15.00 if paying weekly. For Bookings contact: Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght, Dublin D24 KA 40 Phone: 01 4048123/4048189 Email: dominicanretreats@gmail.com

Kilkenny Bereavement Support Service

Kilkenny Bereavement Support invites you to an evening with Fr. Jim Cogley, Thursday, 20th February, from 7.00pm to 10.00pm, In Newpark Hotel. Admission is free.

Fr. Jim will present his renowned approach to grief and healing through his use of wooden symbols. Fr. Jim is Parish Priest and Director of Pilgrimage at Our Ladys Island (Wexford) and author of 12 books in the 'Wood You Believe' series and facilitates retreats and seminars on Spirituality, Human Development and Healing in his own unique way.
(Website www.jimcogley.com).

The Kilkenny Bereavement Support Service provides free one to one listening support to people who are bereaved and can be contacted on 086 0670566 website:
www.kilkennybereavementsupport.com .

Events

at

Bloom HQ



LIAM'S ART JOURNEY



BLOOM HQ

R32 DT9F.

The Gallery of Divine Inspiration

is proud to present an

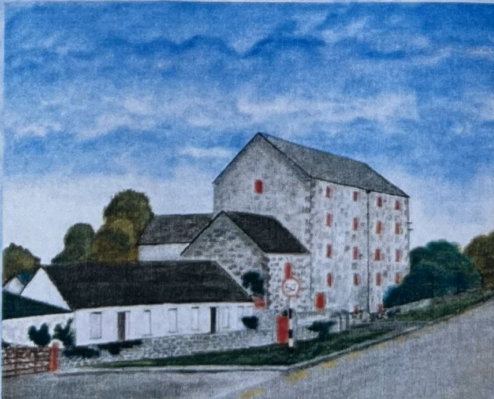
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

by local artist

LIAM PHELAN

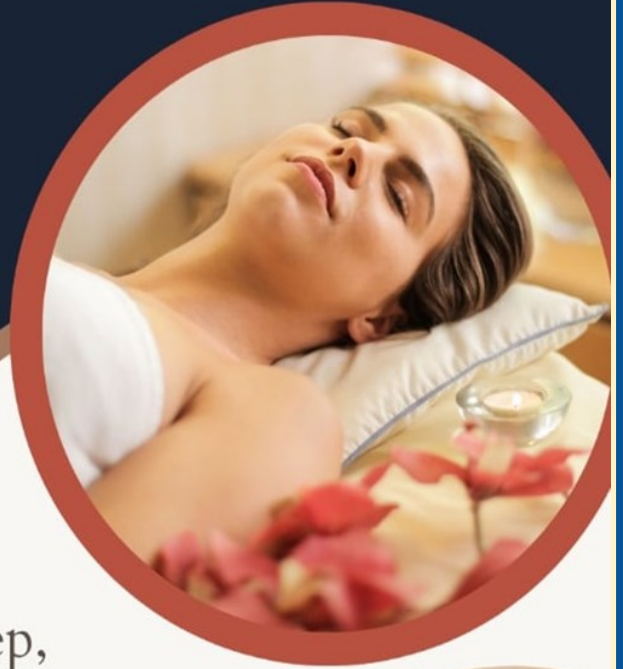
All welcome for the month of February

Launching: Friday 31st January @ 7pm



Revive Swedish Massage

— — — — —
REVIVE SWEDISH MASSAGE
RELAX AND REVIVE TODAY



Swedish Massage is gentle yet deep, it is used to aid relaxation, relieve tension energize the body and improve overall health.

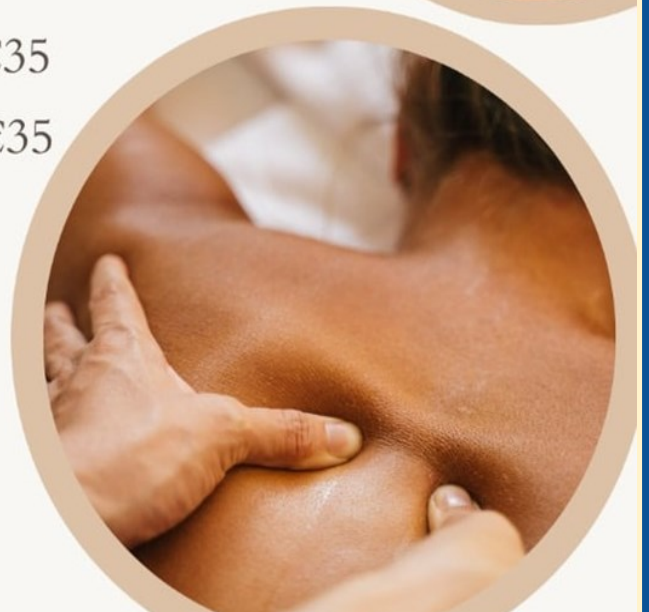
Our Services

- Full Body Massage 1 hour €50
- Upper Body Massage 45 minutes €35
- Lower Body Massage 45 minutes €35

 085 200 2497

 Bloomhq, Mountrath, R32 DC58

[Book Your Appointment](#)



Congratulations to
The Class of '90
And to all involved in
Brigid in Bloom Festival
Which was held in Bloom HQ
In August.



Winner

Brigid In Bloom Festival

The Class of 1990 (Brigidine
Convent, Mountrath, Laois)



2024
National
Heritage Week
Awards

A Heritage Council programme



*County Laois
National Heritage Week*

*Winners
2024*





White-Horse

Adults

INDOOR BOWLS

Every Thursday (8pm)
St Philomena's Hall -Bloom HQ

Beginners Very welcome
Come along and give it a try!
Runners or Flat sole shoes are all you need!



Feeling tired sitting at your desk all day?

LUNCHTIME HIIT WORKOUT



Tuesdays and Thursday @1.00pm

Contact Ruth 089 264 7761

Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32DT9F



LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

September 2024 TIMETABLE

Monday

10 am Mature Movers
11 am School Program
2 pm Golden years club
7 pm Mixed Circuit
Training
7 pm Karate*
7.30 pm Mum Dance*

Tuesday

10 am Beginner TRX
10 am Mother & Baby
class*
11 am Activator Poles Inc
1 pm Lunchtime HITT

Wednesday

11 am Mature Movers
7 pm Mixed Circuit
Training

Thursday

9 am Beginner TRX
11 am Seated Exercise Inc.
1 pm Lunchtime HITT
7 pm Karate*
8 pm Bowls*

Friday

5.30 pm Kickboxing (3-7)*
6.30 pm Kickboxing (8-12)*
7.30 pm Kickboxing (13+)*

Saturday

12 am Pilates*
11.00 am Kids Basketball*

PAYG
and
Members
Always
Welcome

*These Classes
are not included
in the
Membership fee

For more info contact
Ruth on 089 2647761

French Grinds with native speaker



Games, conversation practice, writing, reading and help with homework



Available times slots :

- 5pm to 6pm Monday to Thursday
- 1pm to 2pm Friday

Group classes in Bloom HQ (min. 3 students) or one on one in student's home (Mountrath town centre)



Fees:

Group classes: 20€/hour
Private classes: 25€/hour

✉ Email:

youandfrench@gmail.com



Phone:

+353 89 491 3931
Myriam Schultz

OFFICES TO RENT IN LAOIS



FREE WIFI



SPACIOUS PARKING



CANTEEN ACCESS



089 2722885



www.bloomhq.ie



manager@bloomhq.ie



Mountrath Health and Fitness Academy



JOIN NOW

Ruth- 086 326 2570



www.bloomhq.ie



R32 DT9F, Patrick St.
Mountrath, Co.Laois



Kids Birthday Party

2 hours of fun entertainment

Party includes:

2 rooms, food, games, sweets, drinks

You just bring the Cake !!

€200 for 15 KIDS

€10 A HEAD FOR EXTRA

R32 DTF, Patrick St. Mountrath, Co.Laois

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
loss



Mairead McCaul
Unislim Member

Join Unislim for €25
Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter
For more info visit unislim.com



unislim.com | 1800 603020

Music Teachers wanted



for Mountrath Music School

***soundproof rooms**

***free parking**

***waiting area for parents**



contact Lucy 087 259 7895

LOOKING FOR AN
OFFICE TO RENT
IN LAOIS?

**FULLY SERVICED
OFFICES
FREE PARKING
CANTEEN
POSTAL ADDRESS
PHOTOCOPYING**

**CONTACT 089 272 2885
OR
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**



Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58





Basketball in Mountrath

Now 11-12 am **Saturdays**



Kids 6-10 years

1 hour sessions



€2 per child per session



Outside in Bloomhq or in Philomena's
hall if raining!

VENUE

BLOOMHQ, PATRICK ST,
MOUNTRATH, R32 DC58

Contact Ruth 089 264 7761

Music Classes in Mountrath



Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772



LOOKING FOR AN
OFFICE TO RENT
IN LAOIS?

**FULLY SERVICED
OFFICES
FREE PARKING
CANTEEN
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**CONTACT 089 272 2885
OR
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**



Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58



Music Classes in Mountrath



Violin

Thursdays 3-30 pm on from 3 years -adult

€ 20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene 089 981 8065



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Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772





**Brigidine Convent,
Patrick st,
Mountrath,
R32 DC58**

State of the Art Conference Centre with 7M Screen, projector, Full AudioVisual, Gigabyte Broadband





Meeting Room

"Rachel's Room"

Brigidine Convent,
Patrick Street,
Mountrath

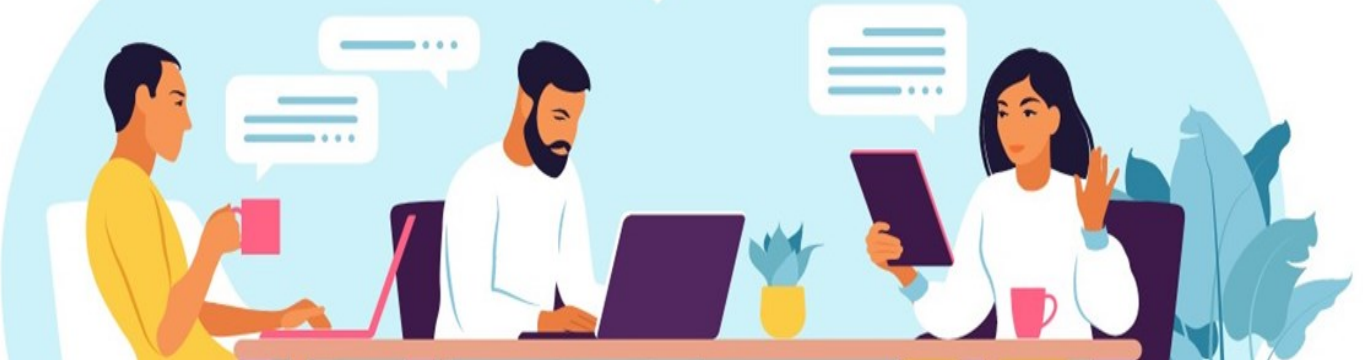
- Broadband Wifi
- Ample free parking
- Canteen

Contact
manager@bloomhq.ie
089 2722885

LOOKING FOR AN
OFFICE TO RENT
IN LAOIS?

RENT FOR AN HOUR/A
DAY/WEEKLY

CONTACT 089 272 2885 OR
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE



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Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772





Classes for Primary School aged Children in Mountrath Health & Fitness Academy



Karate

Mondays & Thursdays 7 pm
from 6 years up, €6 per class
Sensei Donal: 087 760 7063

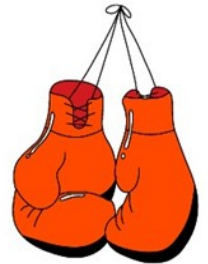
Fridays 5.30 pm 3-7 years, €7

Kickboxing

6.30 pm 8-12 years, €7

First trial class free

Shane: 086 339 9287



Brazilian

8-12 years,

Wednesdays 7-8 pm & Saturdays 10-11 am

Jiu-jitsu*

€ 35 per month or €5 per class

Jamie; 085 200 2497



Art & Craft

Wednesdays 5-6 pm, 7-12 years

€ 30 for block of 6 classes

Rhiannon: 089 211 5183

Violin



Thursdays 3.30 pm on. From 3 years - adult

€20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene: 089 981 8065



Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am, 6+ years

€8 for 30 mins group classes

Eabha 083 8566083



Piano

Sunday mornings €20 for 30 min individual

lesson Heather 083 054 7772

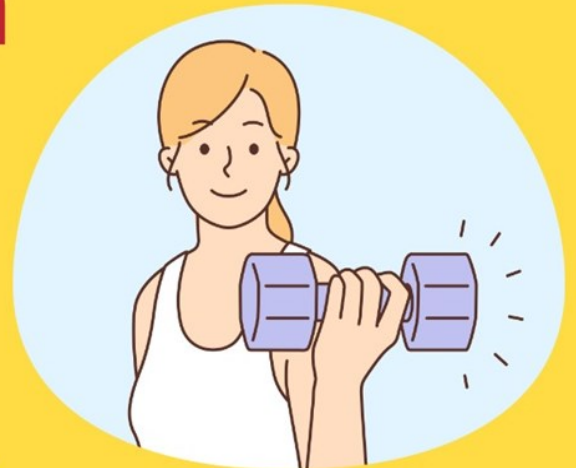
to book talk to the relevant teacher



Saturday Morning Circuit Training



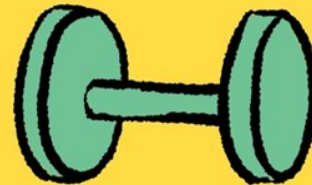
9-10 am



€ 7 PAYG

or

part of your monthly
membership



contact 086 3262 570

**The Old Convent,
Patrick St,
Mountrath, R32 DC58**



Mountrath Music Rooms

Lessons in BloomHQ



Violin Lessons

by Irene Ramos

089 9818065

iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com

Thursdays



Irish Traditional Music, Whistle,
Flute, Concertina, Accordion, Fiddle,
Banjo and Mandolin

Cliona & Eabha Dowling McDonald

083 8566083

Saturdays



Piano Lessons

by Heather Gavigan 083 054 7772

Sundays



Contact the relevant teacher
for times, prices etc

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu/BJJ in Mountrath



Thinking about learning self-defence and the Art of Jiu-Jitsu? A sport that suits all ages from 8 years.

- *mobility improvement
- *improve full body strength
- *better cardio
- *helps weight loss
- *improves flexibility

8 yrs- 18 €35 per month
Adults €45 per month

€5 per class for under 18's
€7 per class for Adults
or included in Monthly Membership

Wednesdays

Kids 7-8 pm

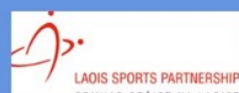
Teens /Adults 8-9 pm

Saturdays

Kids 10- 11 am

Teens /Adults 11 am -12 pm

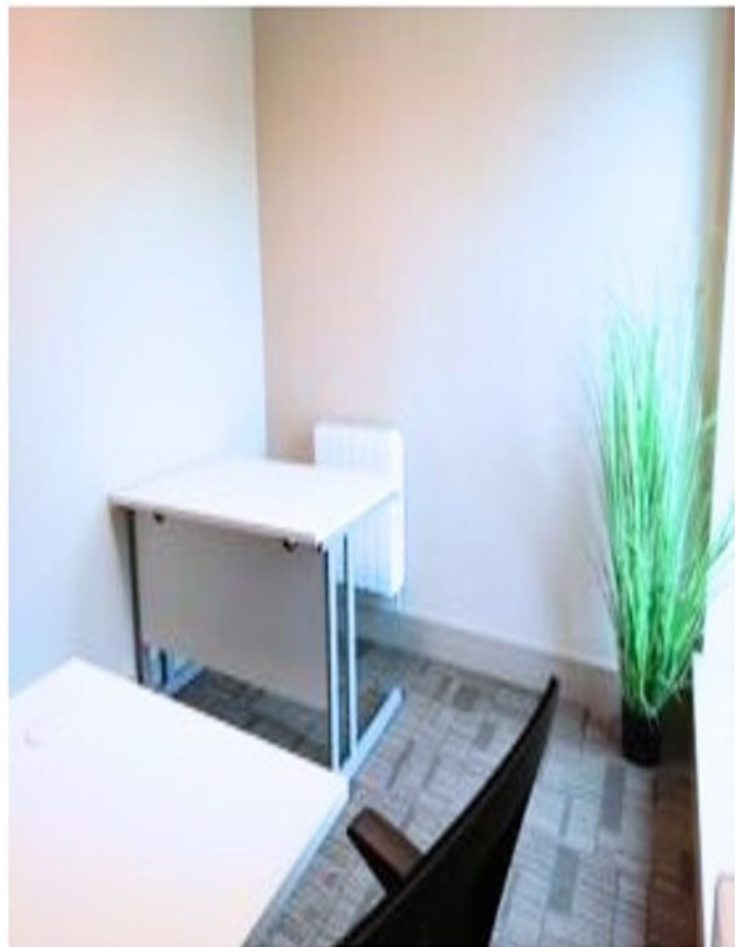
contact Jamie 085 200 2497



Brigidine Convent, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32 DC58



1 - 2 person offices for rent in our Social Enterprise centre in Mountrath



Contact 0892722885 manager@bloomhq.ie



Mountrath Music Rooms



**Contact 089 272 2885
or 057 930 0036**

***Soundproof rooms**

***From € 15 per hour**

***Perfect for music lessons, counselling or grinds**

***free easy car park**

***Waiting space**

Brigidine Convent,
Patrick St,
Mountrath R32 DT9F





Classes for Secondary School aged teens in Mountrath Health & Fitness Academy



Karate

Mondays & Thursdays 7 pm

€6 per class

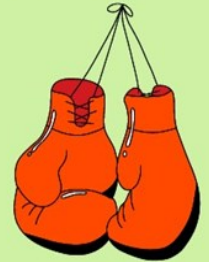
Sensei Donal: 087 760 7063

Kickboxing

First trial class free

Fridays 7.30-8.30 pm €7

Shane: 086 339 9287



Brazilian

Wednesdays 8-9 pm & Saturdays 11-12 am

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Thursdays 3.30 pm on.

€20 for 30 min individual lesson

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Saturdays from 11 am,

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Eabha 083 8566083



Piano

Sunday mornings

20 for 30 min individual lesson

Heather 083 054 7772

to book talk to the relevant teacher





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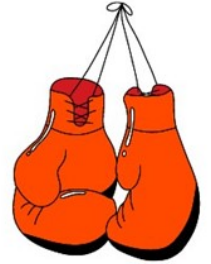
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Saturdays from 11 am, 6+ years

€8 for 30 mins group classes

Eabha 083 8566083



Piano

Sunday mornings €20 for 30 min individual

lesson Heather 083 054 7772

to book talk to the relevant teacher



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



Music Teachers wanted



for Mountrath Music School

*soundproof rooms

*free parking

*waiting area for parents



contact Lucy 087 259 7895

Activities suitable for Senior Citizens in Mountrath

Mature Movers 50 +
Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am



Bowls inclusive 11 am Tuesdays
Bowls 8 pm Thursdays

Mountrath Men's Shed
Tuesdays 10 am- 1 pm
Thursdays 2 pm- 4 pm
contact 085 705 3855



Activator Poles Inclusive
Thursdays 11 am

contact Ruth 086 3262 570



VIOLIN LESSONS

by Irene Ramos

- Discover the joy of music and unlock your creativity
- Weekly individual and ensemble classes for all ages
- From 3-year-olds to adults
- Studio based Mountrath

FULLY QUALIFIED SUZUKI TEACHER & ABRSM DIPLOMA IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

FOR RATES AND/OR MORE
INFO PLEASE CONTACT ME

Phone: 0773222323

Email: iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com

 Irene Ramos
VIOLIN STUDIO



Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on
Patrick Street**



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

Contact 0857053855





Karate Classes



Mondays & Thursdays 7 - 8 pm



Juniors and Adults



Okinawan Karate



Black Belt Instructors

contact Sensei Donal, 5th dan
087 760 7063

Martial Arts Centre, Old
Convent, Mountrath,
R32 DC58



HIIT LUNCHTIME CLASS

High-Intensity Interval Training

Tuesdays & Thursdays

1.15 pm for 40 mins

5 euro a class

or

part of your monthly
gym package

Book with Ruth 086 3262 570





Irish Traditional
MUSIC
LESSONS

**Whistle, Flute, Concertina, Accordion,
Fiddle, Banjo and Mandolin**



Clióna and Éabha
Dowling McDonald

More Information :

Contact 083
8566083

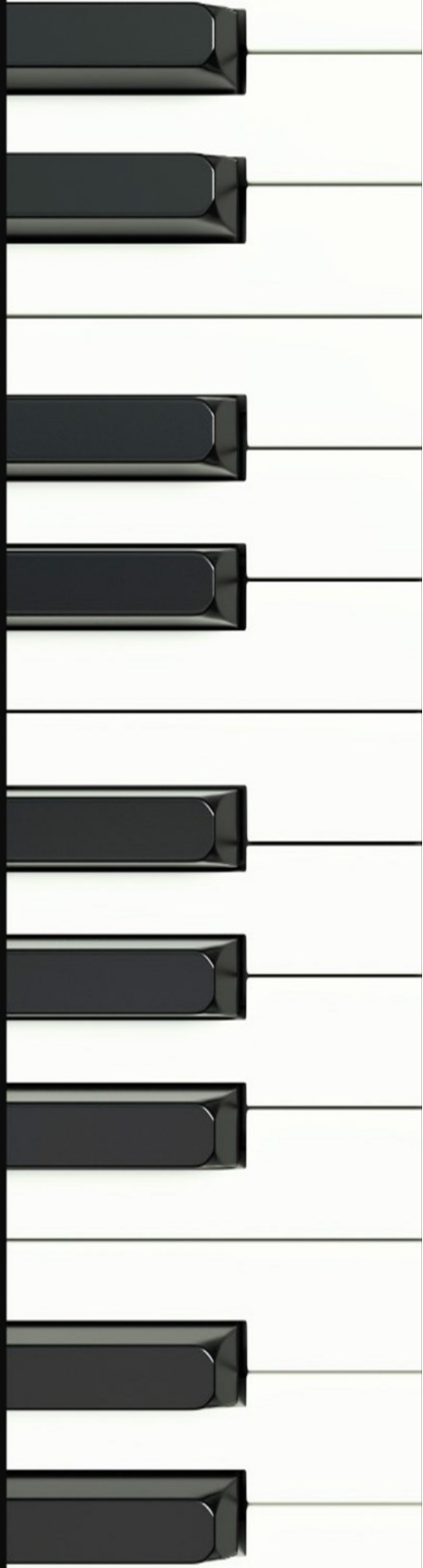


PIANO TEACHER WANTED



For our new Music Rooms
Contact Lucy 087 259 7895

The Old Convent,
Patrick St,
Mountrath,
R32 DC58



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

News

Special Kildare/Carlow Pilgrimage
(Limited availability)
to Fatima EX Dublin Easter 2025

Flying with TAP Airlines

Also 13th June 2025 for Feast of Saint Anthony,

13th October 2025 for Miracle of Sun

Contact James Treacy 061921470

jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com

Payment can be made by instalments

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 - Holy Thursday (Apr 17th)

- Depart Dublin Airport at 05.35 a.m. and arrive into Lisbon Airport at 08.35a.m.
- On arrival transfer to Fatima where we will check into our hotel.
- Lunch will be provided at the hotel.
- Free time for optional activities.
- Dinner at Hotel.
- This evening we will attend Holy Thursday Mass.

Day 2 - Good Friday (Apr 18th)

- Following breakfast at our hotel we will walk the Way of the Cross.
- Lunch in Hotel.
- This afternoon, we will have a guided tour of the Sanctuary area visiting, the Capelhina, Rosary Basilica, the graves of the three children.

Day 3 - Holy Saturday (Apr 19th)

- This morning after breakfast we will visit the Parish Church, Valinhos and Aljustrel.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Following dinner we will attend the Vigil Mass in the Sanctuary.

Day 4 - Easter Sunday (Apr 20th)

- Following breakfast, we will attend the Rosary and international Mass in the Sanctuary on this Easter Sunday morning.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Afternoon is free for optional activities.
- Dinner in Hotel.

Day 5 - Easter Monday (Apr 21st)

- After breakfast, we will depart Fatima on our optional tour of Nazare & Bathala.
- A packed lunch will be provided.
- For those staying in Fatima, lunch will be provided in the hotel.
- Dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - Tuesday (Apr 22nd)

- We bid farewell to Fatima and make our way to Lisbon Airport.
- Enroute, we will have a short visit to Santarem and visit the Church of The Holy Miracle. We will have time for private prayer in this special place.
- We will then continue onto Lisbon Airport.
- Our flight departs Lisbon at 3.20pm and arrives into Dublin Airport at 6.10pm.





FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

**Barter's
Travelnet**

17th - 22nd APR '25

Group Leader: James Treacy

Escorted Tour

FATIMA where the Blessed Virgin appeared to the three children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in 1917 is now one of the greatest Marian Shrines in the world.

VISITING: Chapel of the Apparitions - The Church of the Holy Trinity - Guided tour of the Sanctuary - Hungarian Stations of the Cross - Aljustrel - Partake in the Easter Celebrations

INCLUDES:

- Return flights ex Dublin to Lisbon
- 23kg checked in luggage per person
- Coaching as per the itinerary
- 5 nights full board basis staying at 3* Santo Amaro Hotel
- Religious itinerary with a guided tour of the Sanctuary area and excursion to Aljustrel
- Taxes and Charges

EXTRAS:

- Single room supplement: €200.00 for duration (first come first served basis)
- Travel Insurance*: €50 per person up to 79 years of age and €75 per person between 80 & 94 years of age
- Items of personal nature.
- Additional meals not listed.
- Valid Passports are required.
- Optional Day Trip - prices will be given locally by our guide.

**Any person taking our travel insurance must get a form signed by their GP at time of booking and this form must be taken to Fatima with you.*

HOTEL SANTA AMARO:

Located a 5-minute walk from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Hotel Santo Amaro is the place where comfort and well-being are privileged. Hotel Santo Amaro offers you services of the highest quality so that you can enjoy your stay to the fullest. Our two excellent restaurants, where you can taste the typical cuisine of the region, are worthy of special mention. The hotel also has a chapel, two bars, and a souvenir shop. All guests have access to free wifi.

Cost Per Person

€859pp sharing

Non-refundable €300 deposit plus insurance premium required at time of booking to secure place



For further information please contact:

Group Leader James Treacy : Tel 061-921470 or Mob 086-0572216

Barter's Travelnet : 021 485 1700 or kcallaghan@travelnet.ie

Medjugorje Pilgrimages

April - Oct 2024

Medjugorje Pilgrimages April – Oct 2024.

7 Nights Apartment B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. Contact us for details and book the dates that suit you.

Tel. 01 4434510 or website www.med-irishcentre.com

Email: reservations@med-irishcentre.com
