

Mountrath  
Ballyfin  
Online  
Newsletter

Celebrating Brigid 1500 From Page 16

14<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Note from Diocesan Office in Carlow*

### Safeguarding Evening, Thurs. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, Mt St. Annes

An evening for priests and local safeguarding representatives will be held in Mt St Annes on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The evening will be led by Dr Jesse Rogers who will give an address on "The Theology of Safeguarding" Representatives from

Parish Youth Groups will also give information on how their youth groups are working and the engagement they are receiving from young people and the wider parish community. Tea and coffee will be available from 7pm and all parish clergy and safeguarding representatives are encouraged to attend.

### School Enrolment

Ballyfin National School will be accepting applications for admissions to Junior Infants for the school year 2024/25 from Monday January 8th to Monday January 29th. Application forms and more information can be found at [www.ballyfinns.weebly.com](http://www.ballyfinns.weebly.com) or by contacting the school at [office@ballyfinns.ie](mailto:office@ballyfinns.ie) or 057 8755225'.

### School Enrolment

Gaelscoil Thromaire invite applications for admissions to the school year 2024/25 from Mon. Jan. 15th to Mon. Jan. 29th. Application forms and more information can be found at [www.gaelscoilthromaire.ie](http://www.gaelscoilthromaire.ie) or by contacting the school at - [gaelscoilthromaire00@gmail.com](mailto:gaelscoilthromaire00@gmail.com)

### Invitation from Fr. Brian Griffith, P. P. Castletown

Ecumenical Service in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, on Sun. 28th Jan. at 3pm. We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. You are most welcome as we gather to pray and reflect with our Christian brothers and sisters. Refreshments will be served afterwards in De La Salle Centre. (Christian Unity Week)

## **Ger (Gerard) Halpin, Ballyfin Rd., Formerly Skerries. R.I.P.**

The Halpin Family (Ballyfin Rd.) have asked me to include the following in our Newsletter, this week.

It is with great appreciation that we, the Halpin family, express thanks to all who supported us in our recent bereavement. Thank you to Father Joe, for taking the time to liaise with us, and for the Mass that readied Gerry on his journey home to Skerries. Thanks to all who attended the Mass, both in person and virtually, and thanks to the carers, neighbors, and friends for all their kindness and help. Special thanks to the Kirwan family who were such a blessing to us during the last couple of years, and final thanks to Burke's Funeral Directors for their professional services.

## **Martin Mulhall, Shannon Rd., R.I.P.**

We pray for Martin who died peacefully in Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Martin's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his mother Kathleen, her partner Tom, sisters Deborah, Linda, Martina, Catherine and Ellen, brothers George and Michael and their families, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, extended family and a large circle of friends.

## **Peter Redmond, Redcastle. R.I.P.**

We pray for Peter who died peacefully at Regional Hosp., Tullamore on Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Peter's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. followed by burial in Clonenagh Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Margaret, Carmel, Donal, Nuala and Peter and families, grandchildren Conor, Seán, Róisín, Dearbhla, Brian, Enda and Edel, great-grandson Aidan, brother Bernie, sisters Rose, Sheila and Joan and their families, sons-in-law Ger, Joseph and Lar, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, nieces, nephews, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

## **Niall Coffey, Old Church Avenue. R.I.P.**

We pray for Niall who died peacefully at Tallaght Hosp., on Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Niall's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his wife Frances and all his family, neighbours, relatives and friends.

*May Ger (Gerard) Martin, Peter and Niall rest in the peace of Christ.*

## Patrick (Paddy) Earley, Portarlinton R.I.P.

We pray for Paddy who died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. Paddy's

Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Michael's Church, Portarlinton on Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan.

followed by burial in St. Michael's Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his wife Carina, sons Stephen and Noah, father P.J., mother Ann, sister Karen, brother-in-law Paul, sister-in-law Nicola, nephews Tadhg, Disín and Fionnán, and their families, uncles, aunts, extended family, neighbours and a wide circle of friends.

Paddy is brother of Karen Gilligan, Brockera and we extend our deepest sympathy to Karen, Paul and family at this sad and difficult time.

*May Paddy rest in the peace of Christ.*

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

We pray for Bridie who died peacefully on Christmas Day (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. 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Bridie rest in the peace of Christ.*

## Fr. Eddie Lalor. S.P.S. 1939 - 2024

We pray for Fr. Eddie who died peacefully on Tues. morning in St. Vincnet's Hosp., Dublin. Fr. Eddie's Funeral Mas will be celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Raheen on Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. followed by burial in Raheen Cemetery.

Fr. Eddie was curate in Portlaoise Parish from 2013 to 2000 and often helped us out here in Ballyfin Parish. More about Fr. Eddie next week.

*"A Blessed Life, Well Lived"*

## 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

### Ballyfin Community Alert Seniors Alert Scheme

As darker evenings are upon us please be aware that grant aided personal 24/7 monitored alarms are available to people aged 65 and over. 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 or for application form

## 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: 085 802 163

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. Ord. Time

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Mai. O'Rourke (nee Conroy) Springfield  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of Bl. Sacrament

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 8.00 pm Fr. Terry Moore, Month's Mind  
Salt Lake City, Utah, Formerly, O'Moore Forest.  
Julia Gorman, Ireys 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 10.00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Ord. Time.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Cappinacclare. 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.

Tommy O'Rourke, Ballycormick 4<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Patrick (Paudge) Quinn, Pallas. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv

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

Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 8.00 pm Pat Hooban

Cherrygarth, Portlaoise, .Formerly Upper Sconce.

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

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan .7.00 pm Catherine Tobin (Nee Duggan) Ballyfin Rd. M. M.  
 John Connor, Cappagh, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.  
 Jackie Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv  
 Seamus Osborne, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv  
 Joe and Sheila Moore, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.  
 James McSpadden, Redcastle.

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan . 9.00 am [The Hollow Ch.](#)

**11.30 am** Noel Ryan, (Jnr) Factory St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.

Tues.16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Elizabeth and John Lowry, Clogrennan.

Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am

Thur. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am

Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00 pm Billy Brophy, Woodbrook. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.  
 Eileen Fahy, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 21<sup>th</sup> Jan. 9.00 am [The Hollow Church.](#)

Patricia Fleming (Nee Graham) R.I.P.

11.30 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Ord. Time.

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

Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00 pm Eilis O'Hara (Nee Culleton) Patrick St.,

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 11.30 am Anthony Heffernan, Ringstown.

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

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## "Do This in Memory" Programme

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

### Enrolement Ceremonies

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

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

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

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

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

will be celebrated in March. Arrangements for the celebration of this Sacrament will be put in place in due course in conjunction with the Schools.

### Dates for Celebration of 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

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

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

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

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

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

With children of Ballyfin National School

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



# Mountrath Parish Lotto

Lotto Gift Cards available

from Promoters **11<sup>th</sup> Jan.**



*Numbers Drawn 2 23 214 25*

2 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 500 Each.

**New Jackpot, € 14,000**

*A very sincere thank you - for your very generous support of and continued commitment to Mountrath Parish Lotto throughout the year.*

**Ballyfin Parish Lotto 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

Nos. Drawn 8 10 20 22

1 Match 3's won €91 ea. **2 Local Winners**

Larry Ryan Promoter, Mary McEvoy

B. Dunphy. Promoter, Gemma

**New Jackpot €15,000**

A very sincere thank you - for your very generous support of  
and continued commitment to Ballyfin Parish Lotto throughout  
the year.

## Next Week's



**Ballyfin      € 15,000**

**Mountrath    € 14,000**

# 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](http://www.kandle.ie) )

# 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  
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# Synod News

Work is beginning towards the next phase of the Synod and the Second General Assembly in Rome next October.

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

## Date for the Diary

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

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

## Christian Unity Week

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held each year at the end of January.

To prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region of the world are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. The materials for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, in West Africa. The theme chosen is "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" (Lk 10:27). Representatives from the Catholic Archdiocese, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections.

These prayers and reflections will be part of an Ecumenical Service which will take place in **St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, Co. Laois on Sunday 28th January at 3pm**. We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. All parishioners are welcome as we gather to pray and reflect with our Christian brothers and sisters.

**Refreshments will be served afterwards in De La Salle Centre.**

# Brigid 1500

## Cathedral Evening Prayer for St Brigid

February 1st marks the opening of a national year commemorating St Brigid, patron of our diocese and secondary patron of Ireland, 1500 years since her death. Bishop Denis invites people from across the diocese to join him for a special evening prayer in the Cathedral of the Assumption on February 1st at 7:30 pm. Music will be led by Fr Liam Lawton and the diocesan choir.

## Welcoming the relic of St Brigid

As we prepare to celebrate the life of St Brigid on February 1<sup>st</sup> and on this, the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, the Brigidine Sisters from their convent in Tullow are very generously loaning their relic of St Brigid to Kildare Parish for the year.

The relic will be housed in a specially designed shrine in St Brigid's Church, Kildare. The shrine will be unveiled and Mass will be celebrated in honour of St Brigid and the generosity of the Brigidine Sisters on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 11am. This is seen very much as a home-coming for St Brigid and all are most welcome to attend.

## St Brigid's Camino Walk, Monasterevin Parish

Takes place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February starting at St Brigid's Shrine, Mountrice at 11am, led by Bishop Denis. The walk will journey to Umeras, reputed birthplace of St Brigid, continue along the new canal Blueway and finish in Sts Peter & Paul Church, Monasterevin with a service of light at 12.30pm. For more details please contact Monasterevin Parish Office 045-525346



## Annual Féile Bríde, Solas Bríde Centre, Kildare

Féile Bríde (Brigid's Festival) is a week- long series of events commencing on the eve of St.Brigid's Day, the first day of February.

This year, over the course of 10 days, the festival will mark the 1500th anniversary of St Brigid's death and details of the events planned are available locally and on <https://solasbhríde.ie/feile-bríde-2024/>

All are welcome to celebrate St Brigid with us.

## Celebrating Brigid 1500 at Mt St Anne's

Enjoy the St Brigid's Bank Holiday weekend at Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre. Arrive for Supper on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and depart on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February after Breakfast. Optional morning and evening sessions of prayer, crafts, reflection and music at Mount St Anne's.

Cost: €450 includes morning and evening sessions, evening meal and B&B or €350 includes evening meal and B&B only. Booking/Enquiries to [secretary@mountstannes.com](mailto:secretary@mountstannes.com) or by phone 057-8626153.



Guidelines for the  
Celebration of Conf

