

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

10th - 11th Jan. 2026

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

A New Year Thought

Guide us, O Lord ... Grant us, O Lord:

The hope to envision new dreams;

The strength to rise above our limitations, our fears and
whatever holds us down;

The courage to stand on our own,
to stretch our imagination

and to experience being fully human, fully alive;

The faith to live our lives in your image and likeness.

Guide us, O Lord, this new year,
every way, every day. Amen.

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

A New Year's Prayer and Blessing

Taken from "The Gate to the Year"
by Minnie Louise Haskins – Written in 1909

And I said to the man who stood
at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely
into the unknown."

And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and
put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God,
trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking
of day in the lone East.

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John Delaney, Kiln Lane. R.I.P.

We pray for John who died unexpectedly at Reg. Hosp., Portlaoise on Sun. 28th Dec. John's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Wed. 31st Dec. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to daughters Rachel and Ruth and their partners Dillon and Andrew, grandchildren Séan and Riley, mother-in-law Detta Reynolds and family, Patrick St., brothers and sisters, Mike, Joe, Billy, Finty, Noel, Eddie, Patsy, Breda, Maura, Sheila and families, Uncles, Liam, Jimmy, Johnny and families, nieces, nephews and families, cousins, relatives, extended family, his wide circle of friends, neighbours and many work colleagues over the years.

May John rest in the peace of Christ.

Catholic Schools Week 2026

- 18th to 24th January

Catholic Schools Week 2026 celebrates the extraordinary call to holiness in the midst of ordinary life. Inspired by Pope Francis's reflection on Saint Carlo Acutis, recently canonised as the first millennial saint – This year's theme invites pupils, teachers, families and parishes to explore the call to holiness as something both universal and accessible.

Holiness is not for the few, but for all; not reserved for religious professionals or mystics, but for every student, teacher, parent, - and grandparent ! living each day in friendship with Jesus Christ.

Football Forecasting Competition

It's time for the Football Forecasting Competition again! We were delighted with its success last year here, both in terms of funds raised and fun generated and hope for more of the same in 2026.

The proceeds this year will go towards funding equipment for our newly opened ASD classroom.

To recap, and for our new families, the Football Forecasting is based around the 7 weeks of the National Football League. Each week participants will be asked to predict the outcomes of the matches, gaining one point for a successfully predicted win and 3 points for a successfully predicted draw.

The person with the highest score each week wins €100, with the overall winner at the end of the competition winning a €500 prize.

Last year six people shared the final prize, as each scored 71 points. Can Greg Kerrigan, Greg Corcoran, John Clare, Pauric Carroll, Sean Larkin and Ballyfin's own Tom Finn be surpassed this year?

For added interest, for 2026 we are being joined by participants from Bracknagh National School, on the Offaly Kildare border. (The proceeds raised by each school will be retained by them).

Even if you are not in the running for the prize-money, bragging rights can be earned by being the best in your family/workplace etc! An online sign-up form is available

at <https://forms.gle/JvbFcMJ4AceY39vg8>

Hard copy sign-up forms will also be sent home tomorrow – one for each family and one to be passed on to a family member or neighbour please. It is hoped that every household in Ballyfin will be offered the chance to participate, even those with no direct connection to the school. All aspects of the competition can be completed online weekly via a google form, so please do spread the word among friends and family living further afield. There will also be a paper option for people who are not comfortable using google forms.

How to Enter

Entry for the seven weeks of the competition is €40,
with a weekly €6 payment option also offered if you prefer.

Details are available on the sign-up sheets.

As the league starts on Jan 24th, we hope to have everyone signed up
by **January 21st**

to allow time for the response forms to be circulated.

Your support for and advertising of this fundraiser
for us will be hugely appreciated.

Thanking you in advance,
Brigid (Bennett (Principal, Ballyfin N.S.)

New Year Blessing

..... *A New Year Thought*

Guide us, O Lord ... Grant us, O Lord:
The hope to envision new dreams;
The strength to rise above our limitations,
our fears and whatever holds us down;
The courage to stand on our own,
to stretch our imagination
and to experience being fully human,
fully alive;
The faith to live our lives in your image and likeness.
Guide us, O Lord, this new year,
every way, every day. Amen.

Thank You (Ballyfin Parish)

A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various and enriching Ministries here at Ballyfin Church, throughout the year.

Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion - Collectors - Church Cleaners - Ministries co-ordinators, Esther and Crescentia, Sacristans, Musicians, Organists, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and all who enhance our celebration of the Eucharist and liturgies here in Ballyfin Parishes.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and decoration of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Crib and thanks to all who helped with all our Christmas preparations inside and outside. Please know that our help and co-operation is very much appreciated.

Fr. Joe - Parish Priest

Thank You

A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various and enriching Ministries here at Mountrath Church, throughout the year. Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion - Collectors - Church Cleaners - Pauric. Ministries co-ordinators, Geraldine and Paulo, Musicians, Organists, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and all who enhance our celebration of the Eucharist and liturgies here in Mountrath Parish. Thanks to Geraldine, Niamh and Pauric and everyone who helped with the preparation and decoration of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Crib, and indeed all the other decorations, Imelda, for her beautiful flower arrangements (as always) Organists, musicians and our lovely choirs, members of Mountrath CE Scheme, Servers and thanks to all who helped with all our Christmas preparations inside and outside. Thanks to the people who supplied our beautiful Christmas wreaths.

Please know that your help and co-operation is very greatly acknowledged and much appreciated.

Portlaoise and District Ploughing Assoc.

Table Quiz

In the "Deadmans"

Sat. 17th Jan. 8.00 pm

Table of 4 € 40.00

Great Prizes -

Fun for All the Family

Your support much appreciated

Mountmellick, Ballyfin Mountrath Lourdes Pilgrimage '26

Spiritual Director Fr. Micheál Murphy

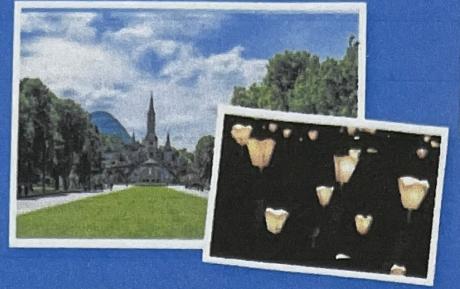
(P.P. Mountmellick)

20th July - 7 Nights Hotel La Solitude

€ 1,120.00 per person sharing

See next frame for Details

LOURDES



MOUNTMELLICK, BALLYFIN, MUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Micheál Murphy

20th July 2026

7 Nights Hotel La Solitude

€1,120 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights' accommodation in the Hotel La Solitude
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Mass at the Grotto, Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Visit places associated with the life of St. Bernadette
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Single rooms available supplement is €49 per night
- » Travel Insurance available €55 up to 79 years; €75 for those 80 - 94 years old
- » Deadline for deposits (€200 per person) is Friday 30th January 2026.
LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE.

For more information and to book please contact:
Ann 087-4186192

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt St, Dublin 2, D02WY88
joewalshtrips.ie | info@joewalshtrips.ie | Reservations: 012410800
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Thank You (Mountrath Parish)

A very special note of thanks to all involved in our various and enriching Ministries here at Mountrath Church, throughout the year. Servers, Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) - Ministers of Holy Communion - Collectors - Church Cleaners - Pauric Ministries co-ordinators, Geraldine and Paulo, Musicians, Organists, Singers, Choirs and coordinators and all who enhance our celebration of the Eucharist and liturgies here in Mountrath Parish.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and decoration of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Crib and thanks to all who helped with all our Christmas preparations inside and outside. Please know that our help and co-operation is very much appreciated.

Fr. Joe - Parish Priest

TOTS AND CO PLAYSCHOOL REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



**20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
IN QUALITY CHILDCARE**

**ECCE & NCS
SCHEMES AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT COLETTE:
0874162377**

MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

**Copy of Financial Statements
(For Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)
available on
Notice Board at back of Church
and on Online Newsletter**

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Accounts
for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

**Thank you for your continued and generous
support of
Mountrath / Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lottos
and Mountrath / Ballyfin Parish Collections.**

Your kind and generous support is much appreciated

See Below Under Parish Finances

Anniversary Masses

Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes

Sat. 10th Jan.

To

Sun. 18th Oct.

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

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat. 10th to Sun. 18th Jan.

Fri. 9th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 10th Jan. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - Baptism of the Lord.

Sun. 11th Jan. 10.00 am Mai and Liam O'Rourke, Springfield
Mai's 3rd Anniv. Liam's 42nd Anniv.

Mon. 12th Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 16th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 17th Jan. 8.00 pm Ann Holohan, Springfield. 2nd Anniv.
Denis and Brigid Walsh

Patrick and Maureen Lynch

Sun. 18th Jan. 10.00 am Sheila Fitzpatrick, Cappinaclaire
5th Anniv.

Mary and Michael McCormack, Clonurk.

Fintan Lawlor, Cappinaclaire

Mon. 19th Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

1st Anniversary Mass Remembrances

Sun. 25th Jan. 10.00 am Mary Conroy, Ross - Sutton, Dublin

Sun. 8th Feb. 10.00 am John Hearn, Hillview, Portlaoise.

Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 24th Jan. 8.00 pm Margaret (Maggie) O'Rourke,
(nee Bowe) R.I.P. Lower Sconce.

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 11th - Mon. 19th Jan.

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

Fri. 9th Jan. 10.00 am Pauline Whinnery, 1st Anniv.

Bridie Nicholson (Nee Higgins) Oxford,

Formerly The Knock. 2nd Anniv.

Paddy (P.J.) Higgins, The Knock. 8th Anniv.

Kathleen Higgins, Oxford, Formerly The Knock. 10th Anniv.

Sat. 10th Jan. 7.00 pm Anne Farrell (Nee Lowry) Patrick St., M. M.

Richard Maybury, Fr. O'Connor Cr., 1st Anniv

John Connor, Cappagh South. 5th Anniv.

Joseph, Mary and John Byrne, Redcastle

Sun. 11th Jan. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Feast of Baptism of the Lord.

11.30 am John McDermott, Trumera. 1st Anniv

Peter and Mary Redmond, Redcastle

and deceased family members

Peter's 2nd Anniv. Mary's 8th Anniv.

Andy Sinnott, Lower Sconce. 6th Anniv.

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 10th - Sun. 18th Jan. Continued

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

Tues. 13th Jan. 10.00 am James McSpadden, Redcastle.

Matt, Teresa and Edward O'Donovan, Roscrea.

Wed. 14th Jan. 10.00 am Andrew and Mairead Nichol and

Thur. 15th Jan. 10.00 am

Fri. 16th Jan. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 17th Jan. 7.00 pm Noel Ryan (Jnr) Patrick St., 5th Anniv.

Jackie Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cr. 5th Anniv.

Sun. 18th Jan. 9.00 am The Hollow Church

11.30 am Kathleen Holland, Trumera, 2nd Anniv.

Month Mind Masses Sat. 24th Jan. 7.00 pm

John Delaney, Kiln Lane R.I.P.

Phina and Pat Kavanagh, Clonard, Kilbricken R.I.P.

Mountrath Parish

Ministries Rota

Ballyfin Parish

Ministries Rota

Sat. 17th - Sun. 18th Jan

Reader Ministers of Holy Comm

Sat. 8.00 pm Katie Mahon Alacoque Gilligan

Sun. 10.00 am John McNamara Noreen Ryan

Collectors for January

Sat. Denis Bowe Sun. John Coughlan

“Do This In Memory”

Our Next

“Do This In Memory” Mass

is arranged for this weekend

Mountrath Church

Sat. 10th Jan. 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church.

Sun. 11th Jan. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 24th Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 25th Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.



CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing
in Mountrath.....

*Coming
Soon*
Now
Open



Check out our socials

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.

Sunday Missals 2026. (Year A)

Mountrath

Our Readers (Proclaimers of the Word) are invited to collect
their Sunday Missals

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 and Ballyfin Churches.

Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Ballyfin

Parishes

1st Holy Communion Preparation

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 10th January

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 11th January

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 24th Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 25th Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents 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

1st 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

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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 your 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 your child to the Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath Church 7.00 pm on the previous evening

Or

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 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

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 - 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.**

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 1 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 12.00 midday Thursday

Parish News



Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Parish

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Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 11.00 pm

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1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,

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Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

“Do This In Memory” Masses

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2nd Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

Sunday Missals 2026.

(Year A)

Ballyfin and Mountrath

Our Readers (Proclaimers of the Word)

are invited to collect their

Sunday Missals for next year.

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 10th January

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

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"Do This In Memory" Mass.

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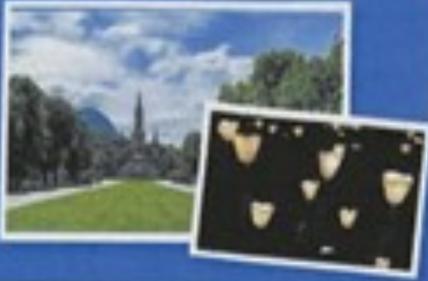
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Or

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

LOURDES



MOUNTMELLICK, BALLYFIN, MUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Micheál Murphy

20th July 2026

7 Nights Hotel La Solitude

€1,120 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights' accommodation in the Hotel La Solitude
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Mass at the Grotto, Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Visit places associated with the life of St. Bernadette
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Single rooms available supplement is €49 per night
- » Travel Insurance available €55 up to 79 years; €75 for those 80 - 94 years old
- » Deadline for deposits (€200 per person) is Friday 30th January 2026.
LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE.

**For more information and to book please contact:
Ann 087-4186192**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt St, Dublin 2, D02WY88
jewalshtours.ie | info@jewalshtours.ie | Reservations: 012410800

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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.

Portlaoise and District Ploughing Assoc.

Table Quiz In "The Deadmans"

Sat. 17th Jan. 8.00 pm

Table of 4 € 40.00

Great Prizes - Fun for All the Family

All support much appreciated

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.

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A very sincere *Thank You*

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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.



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Here are our Bank Account details

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Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

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IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

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(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 Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto

1st Draw of 2026

Wed. 7th Jan.

Nos. Drawn 3 6 25 26

No Jackpot Winner

(€ 10,000)

12 Match 3 Rec. € 84 each

Next Week's Jackpot. €11,000

I wish to extend my very sincere appreciation to you for your
loyal support of Ballyfin Parish Lotto throughout 2025.

Fr. Joe Brophy -

Parish Priest.

Mountrath Parish Lotto

1st Draw of 2026

Thurs 8th Jan.

Nos. Drawn 7 8 23 26

No Jackpot Winner

11 Match 3 Rec. € 91 each

1 Local Winner, M. Hanlon

Promoter, M. Farrell

Next Week's Jackpot. €12,000

I wish to extend my very sincere appreciation to you for your
loyal support of Mountrath Parish Lotto throughout 2025

Fr. Joe Brophy - Parish Priest.

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 € 12,000

Ballyfin € 11,000



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.

250 Years of Presentation Sisters

A proud legacy that has deep roots in our Diocese. Tullow St., Carlow founded in 1811 and from Carlow, Portlaoise founded in 1824; Kildare in 1830; Stradbally in 1852; Portarlington and Mountmellick in 1854; Clondalkin in 1857 and Baltinglass in 1873. from Portlaoise, Bagenalstown founded in 1837 and Clane in 1839. From Kildare, Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, Australia founded in 1874 and from Clondalkin, Lucan was founded in 1867 and Warrenmount in 1892, Lismore, New South Wales in 1896 and Rockford Manor in 1958.

Quote from Bishop Denis Nulty

**Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre,
Killenard, Portarlington, Co. Laois. R32 WN59**

Mount St Anne's is looking for dynamic and experienced people to join
our Team at this busy Centre.

Job Vacancies:

Domestic Assistants

Duties include: cleaning, vacuuming, preparing bedrooms
for overnight guests, assisting in the Kitchen when required, etc.

Chef

Duties include: prepare and serve fresh food daily, create menus,
ensure the Health and Safety of the kitchen environment is maintained
in line with HACCP, keep accurate records within

HACCP and MSA policies and handbook.

Adhere to the day-to-day kitchen operations complying
with policies and procedures of MSA.

Please email your CV to:

operationsmanager@mountstannes.com

For information about the Centre visit our
website: www.mountstannes.com

Mount St Anne's is an equal opportunities employer.

Events
at
Bloom HQ



Customize your space!

Begin your remote
work journey today

Contact US!

manager@bloomhq.ie

089 2722885



Pilates with Claire

€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday
7th of January
@8PM

Limited spaces available



Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy





ZUMBA

GET OBSESSED

WITH FEELING

YOUR BEST

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

Embodied hatha yoga with Cathy

Suitable for all levels

Limited spaces so book today!

€60 per
block

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



SPORT ÉIREANN

Mountrath
Health and
Fitness
Academy



Pilates with Claire

€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday
7th of January
@8PM

Limited spaces available



Mountrath
Health and
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Academy



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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

GET OBSESSED

WITH FEELING

YOUR BEST

Zumba® Class at BLOOM HQ
MOUNTRATH
WEDNESDAY AT 7PM

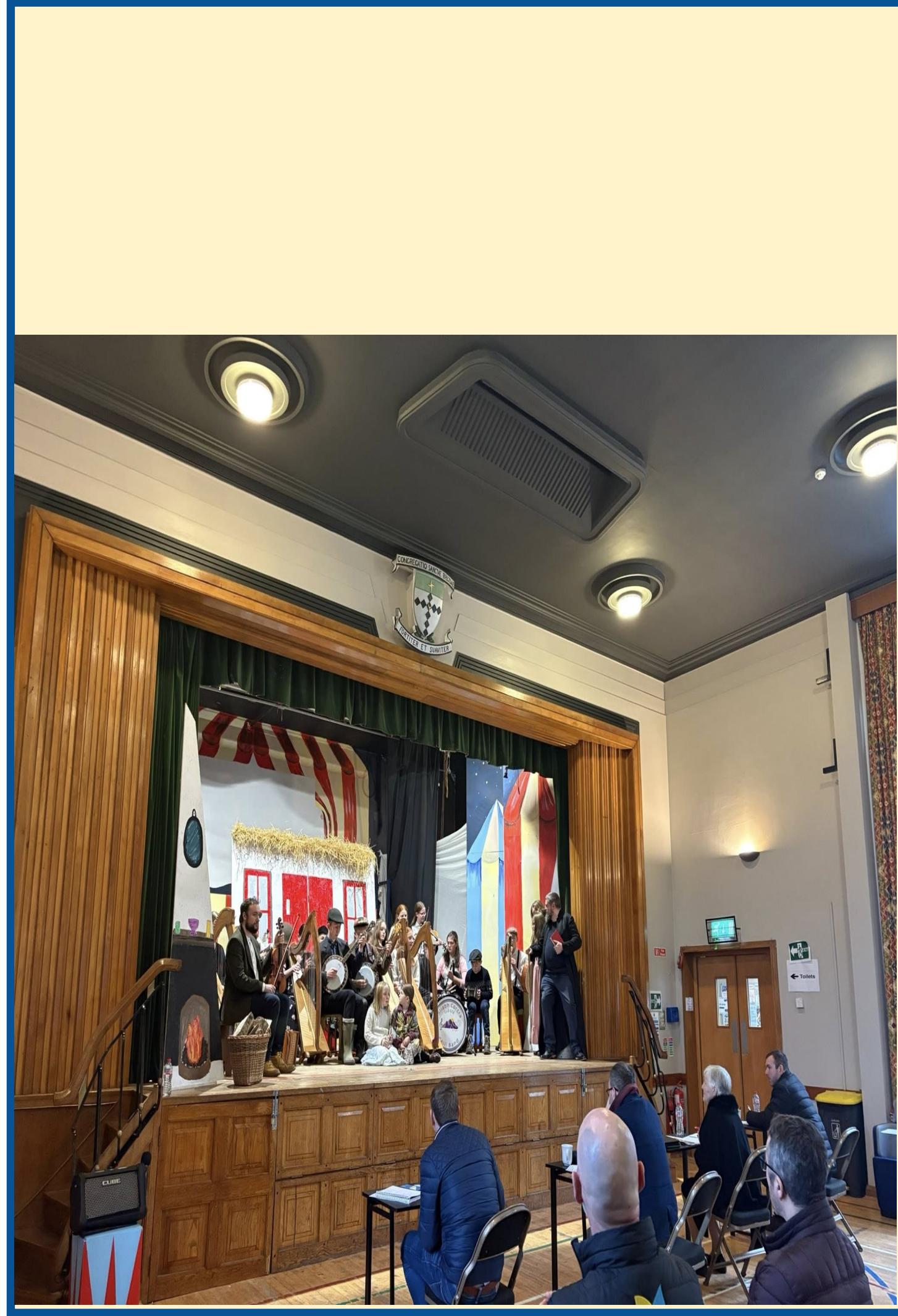
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R32DT9F - free car parking available













Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT

Centres in
Waterford, Wexford &
Laois.



IBT (Initial Basic Training)

Pre-Test Lessons

Insurance Skills Assessments

Advanced Motorcycle Training

School Bike Hire



Bloom HQ,

Bloomhq

We were delighted to host the Leinster
Ceoltás event at BloomHQ recently.

A big "thank you" to Phelan's Catering for the
fantastic service,

and well done to everyone who took part.

Your talent and energy made it
a truly memorable day!

MATHS GRINDS

**HIGHER LEVEL
LEAVING CERT
MATHS GRINDS**

**FOR 5TH AND
6TH YEAR STUDENTS**

CONTACT:

Orlaith

0892336930





OFFICE SPACE RENTALS

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

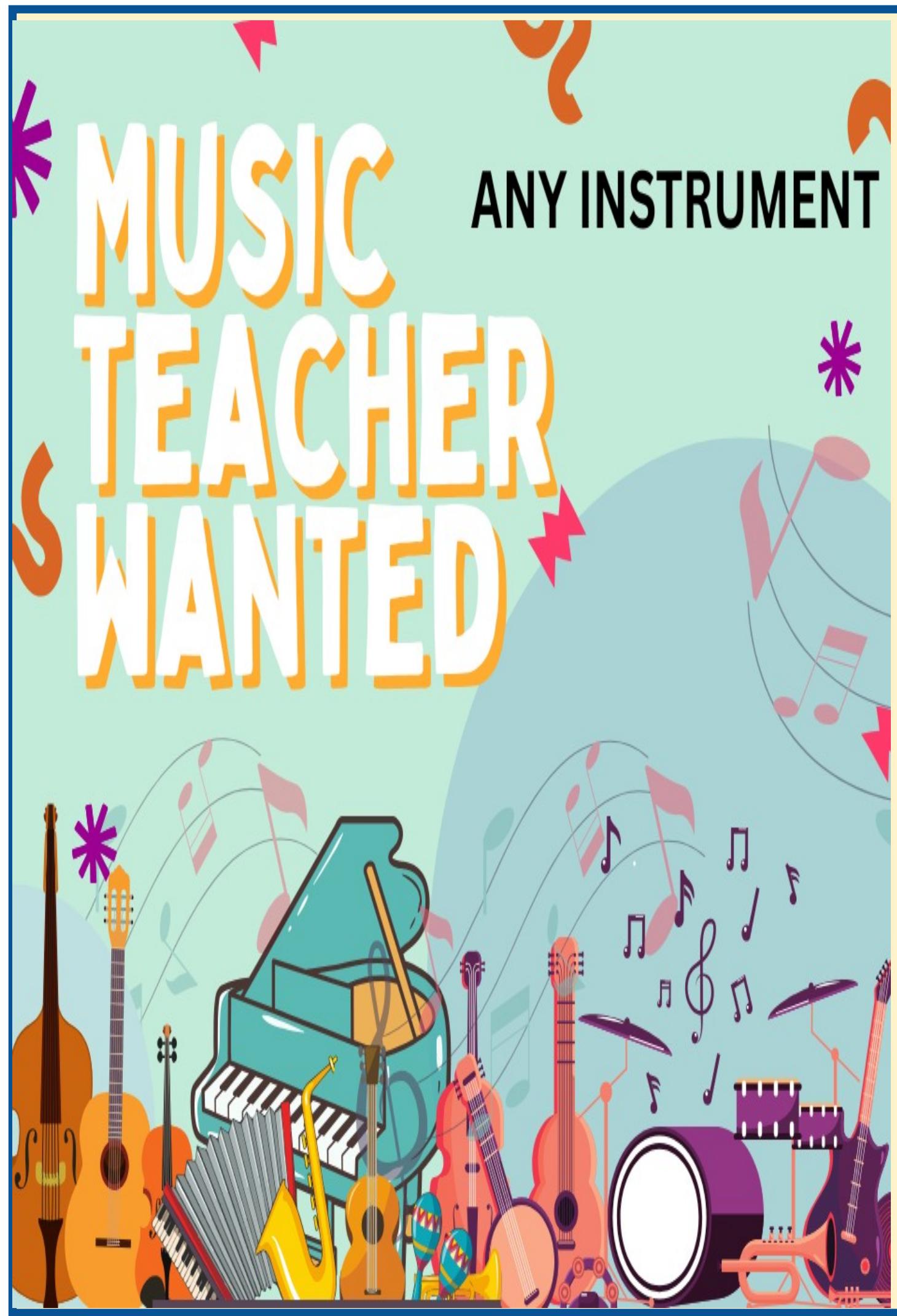
Contact Us



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! 🪑



**COMING
SOON** **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!



BLOOMHQ'S IS DELIGHTED TO
ANNOUNCE.....

**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.....



www.bloomhq.ie



Calling all teachers & tutors!

Are you offering grinds and looking for a
base?

BloomhQ is the place for you...
With dedicated rooms, whiteboards,
free advertising and more!!

Email: Marketing@bloomhq.ie

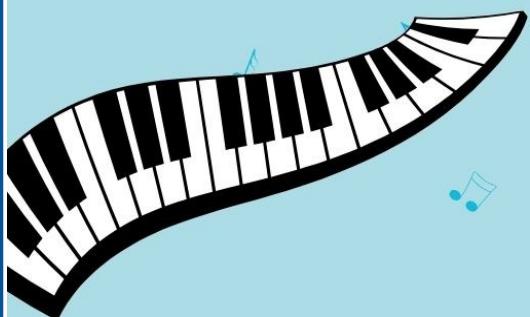


Piano Lessons now Available!



All levels welcome – beginner to advanced!

- Highly qualified teacher & 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
loss

Mairead McCaul
Unislim Member

Join Unislim for €25

Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter

For more info visit unislim.com

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) [y](#)
unislim.com | 1800 603020

Customize your space!

Begin your remote work journey today

Before

Contact US!

After

089 2722885

manager@bloomhq.ie

www.bloomhq.ie



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**



GYM



- 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
News

TOTS AND CO PLAYSCHOOL REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



**20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
IN QUALITY CHILDCARE**

**ECCE & NCS
SCHEMES AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT COLETTE:
0874162377**

MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

Fiddle workshops with Gerry O'Connor



Followed by
A concert at 8pm
and an open session(9:30pm)

Saturday 24th Jan 2026
Dún Na Sí, Moate,
N37XW31

Beginner workshop 11am-1pm (€15)
Advanced workshop 2pm-4pm (€20)

Workshop fee includes admission to concert

Concert 8pm (€10)



or go to
www.comhaltas.ie/branches/moate-cce/



Comhaltas For queries contact Dave 087 2249725



CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing
in Mountrath.....

Coming
Soon
Now
Open



Check out our socials



Parish Finances

*If you wish to contribute directly through your Bank account
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Here are our Bank Account details

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

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BIC. - AIBKIE2D

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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.**

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account
for Ballyfin Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Income:

Basket Collection: € 15,971.70

Envelope Collection: € 36,274.99

Shrine income: € 569.24

Rental income: € 14,320

Tax Refunds / Rebate: € 12,000.07

Church Bookings: € 250

Lotto income: € 11,036.10

Other Income: € 1,389

Total Income € 91,811.10

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account
for Ballyfin Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Expenditure:

Pastoral Programmes: € 1,895

Insurance: € 4,042.27

Security: € 579.16

Light and Heat: € 13,266.21

Rates, Water, LPT : € 736.78

Repairs and Maintenance: € 11,930.20

Diocesan Levy: € 6,576.

Diocesan Retirement Fund: € 1,000

Missalettes/Printing: € 7,692.22

Altar, Shrine Requisites: € 4,176.35

Telephone, Broadband: € 1,165.16

Computer servicing cost/hardware: € 690

Hire of Equipment: € 1,333

Music/choir expenses: € 200

Accountancy Fees: € 300.29

Bank Charges: € 828.11

Donations/Collections: € 880

Total :Expenditure € 57,290.75

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

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throughout the year.*

Your kind and generous support is much appreciated

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account
for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Income:

Basket Collection: € 40,269

Envelope Collection: € 41,068

Shrine income: € 9,059

Rental income: € 34,425

Donations: € 6,615

Tax Refunds / Rebate: € 17,018.07

Church Bookings: € 635

Deposit interest: € 127.44

Office: € 978

Lotto Income: € 30,157

Other Income: € 15,732.87

Total Income € 196,084.38

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account
for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Expenditure

Pastoral Programmes: € 1,412

Insurance: € 19,107.29

Security: € 484.54

Light and heat: € 19,823.12

Rates, Water, LPT : € 1,444.69

Repairs and Maintenance: € 103,631.35

Diocesan Levy: € 11,005.80

Diocesan Retirement Fund: € 1,000

Clergy Fund: € 2,342

Missalettes/Printing: € 13,534.29

Altar, Shrine Requisites: € 8,353.98

Telephone, Broadband: € 1,400

Computer servicing cost/hardware: € 2,880

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account
for Mountrath Parish for 1st Jan. 2024 to 31st Dec. 2024)

Expenditure (Continued)

Hire of Equipment: € 2,903

Music/Choir Expenses: € 525

Accountancy Fees: € 300.29

Bank Charges: € 969.37

Donations/Collections: € 1,185

Other loan Interest: € 5.37

Interest: € -26.26

Total Expenditure € 192,280.83

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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 Retirement 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/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

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR , NEW LIFE

TIME IS LIFE - LIFE IS PRECIOUS

EVERY DAY IS PRECIOUS

Time is treasure; using it in a worthwhile way makes every day special and life becomes fulfilling.

EVERY BREATH IS PRECIOUS

Just as an ocean absorbs rivers, I must learn to merge everything that comes to me so that deep within there is always calmness.

EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS

Let me fill myself with so much peace and stability that whoever comes in front of me at any time is at ease and uplifted.

EVERY FEELING IS PRECIOUS

When there are pure feelings in my heart they will keep my head cool and clear and will be expressed through my eyes.

EVERY THOUGHT IS PRECIOUS

The more I am able to keep thinking positively and kindly, the more I accumulate inner power.

EVERY WORD IS PRECIOUS

Let me fill every word that I speak with love, wisdom and honesty and then be confident that the truth will prove itself, just as a diamond will sparkle even in the dark.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS

When I see the light in the eyes of a child full of life and joy of the moment, let me remember my own original freedom and purity of spirit.

