

# Mountrath Ballyfin

## Online Newsletter

17th - 18th Jan. 2026

### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Catholic Schools Week 2026

18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

or [www.ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.ballyfinparish.ie)

Email [jmbrophy2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrophy2@gmail.com)

**Name of Parish App.**

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*



The people of Kildare, Ireland, call on people worldwide to Pause for Peace for 1 minute's silence/reflection at 12 noon, local time, on St. Brigid's day, February 1<sup>st</sup> each year. By pausing for Peace we send out a message that we actively oppose warfare and the proliferation of arms in our world.

The Pause for Peace is promoted by trained peace ambassadors from schools throughout County Kildare and further afield – an initiative of Kildare Town Community School.

**Join us! Answer the call!**

A global Pause for Peace Movement was jointly launched by Kildare Tourism and Solas Bhríde in Kildare in 2023 to mark the new national holiday in honour of St. Brigid who was renowned as a Peacemaker in early Ireland. One of the most popular legends associated with Brigid is that of giving away her father's precious sword to a poor person so that it could be bartered for food to feed his family. It is a rolling pause for peace commencing in New Zealand and moving seamlessly through continents and islands on St. Brigid's Day.

Since its inception in 2023, the Pause for Peace is gaining widespread support nationally and internationally.

Let us continue to sow seeds of peace across the globe.

[www.solasbhride.ie](http://www.solasbhride.ie) [www.intokildare.ie](http://www.intokildare.ie)

Supporters for the Pause for Peace Movement include

Michael D. Higgins, Former President of Ireland  
Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann  
Kildare Local Authority  
Irish Embassies and Consulates

A quotation from President Higgins with reference to the Pause for Peace:

"Your efforts to bring together communities from across the globe in the name of Naomh Bríd (St. Brigid) is truly admirable. Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann (As President of Ireland) may I thank you for this initiative which constitutes a form of active global citizenship at its best.

This new Pause for Peace Movement is a unique event which breaks new ground in recognising the cultural and historical importance of St. Brigid beyond borders and aims to form a spirit of solidarity and peace in societies all over the globe."

# In This Issue

Leader Page (Parish Contacts)	Page 2
A Pause for Peace on St. Brigid's Day	Pages 3 / 4
In This Issue	Pages 4 to 7

## Obituaries

Thomas (Tom) Cripps, Roskelton R.I.P.	Page 9
Poet's Cornet - Mary Oliver	Page 10
Catholic Schools Week	Page 11
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Page 12
Football Forecasting Competition	Pages 13 to 15
Table Quiz - Ballyfin NS Parents Council	Page 16
Thank You - Ballyfin Parish	Page 17
Thank You - Mountrath Parish	Page 18
Table Quiz in "The Deadman's	Page 19
Lourdes Pilgrimage July 2026	Pages 20 / 21
Thank You - Mountrath Parish	Page 22
Tots and Co. Playschool — Promotion	Page 23
Ref. Financial Statements	Page 24

Anniversary Masses

From Page 25

# In This Issue Page 2

Ministries Rota Mountrath	Page 30
Ministries Rota Ballyfin	Page 31
Next "Do This In Memory Masses"	Page 32
Parish Confirmation Programmes	Page 33
Café Donate Open on Patrick St.	Page 34
Sunday Missals 2026	Page 36
Sacramental Dates	From Page 33
Next "Do This In Memory" Masses	Page 35
Parish Confirmation Preparation Dates	Page 36
Sacramental Dates Mountrath	Page 37
Sacramental Dates Ballyfin Parish	Page 38
1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Preparation Programme	Page 39
Arranging Anniversary Mass or Month's Mind Mass	Page 43
Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.	Page 44
Parish Bank Account Details	Page 45
Re. Parish Newsletters - Deadline	Page 46
Seniors Alert Scheme (Ballyfin)	Page 44

# In This Issue Page 3

Ways of Supporting Mountrath Parish From Page 47

Ways of Supporting Ballyfin Parish From Page 48

Times of Funeral Masses Page 49

Would you like to become more involved  
in Mountrath or Ballyfin Parish ? Page 50

Parish News. From Page 51

Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish Page 61

Tax Back Scheme – Ballyfin Parish Page 62

“Thank You” Note Page 63

Get Well Wishes Page 64

Some 2026 Diary Dates Page 65

Bingo in Mountrath Hall Page 66

## Ways to Contribute to Parish Funds

Bank Details Page 68

Parish Lotto Results From Page 69

K and L News From Page 74

# In This Issue Page 4

Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre

Promotion Page 77

Events in Bloom HQ From Page 78

Café Donate - Now Open on Patrick St., Page 110

## Parish Finances

Parish Finances From Page 113

Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024 From Page 115

Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024 From Page 118

Happy New Year - New Life Page 128

## Tom (Tommy) Cripps, Roskelton. R.I.P.

We pray for Thomas who died peacefully at Reg. Hosp., Portlaoise on Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. Thomas' Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Raheen on Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. followed by burial in Raheen Cemetery.

We extend sympathy to his sister Christina, brother Seamus, their families and all the Cripps family, nieces, nephews and their families, gran-nieces, gran-nephews, relatives, neighbours and friend.

Tom joined us for Mass and prayed with us in the Hollow Church every Sunday morning over many years.

One tribute on r.i.p.ie described Tommy as a dedicated and dependable member of Laois Co. Co. Machinery Yard Staff,  
- a pleasant and likeable gentleman.

*May (Tommy) Tom rest in the peace of Christ.*

## *Poet's Corner*

### **Wild Geese** by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

# Catholic Schools Week 2026

## - 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
takes place from 18 to 25 January.

The theme this year is

**"One Body, One Spirit"**

based on Ephesians 4. For '26, the prayers and reflections  
for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared  
by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with  
their brothers and sisters of the  
Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

# 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 24<sup>th</sup>, we hope to have everyone signed up  
by **January 21<sup>st</sup>**

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.)

# Table Quiz

Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

The Deadman's 8.00 pm

Ballyfin National School

Parents Council

€ 5 per ticket

Your Support much Appreciated

Raffle on the Night

## *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"

(This) Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> 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)

20<sup>th</sup> July - 7 Nights Hotel La Solitude  
€ 1,120.00 per person sharing

See next frame for Details

# LOURDES



## MOUNTMELICK, BALLYFIN, MOUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Mícheál Murphy

**20<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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  
joewalsh tours.ie | info@joewalsh tours.ie | Reservations: 012410800  
Petriva Ltd T/A Joe Walsh Tours is licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority TA 0804 TO 273



## *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 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Parish Finances From Page 113

# *Anniversary Masses*

*Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes*

Sat. 17th Jan.

To

Sun. 25th Jan.

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri.. 16th to Sun. 25th Jan.

Fri. 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 11.00 am Anne Kehoe (Nee Murphy) Boughlone

Funeral Mass R.I.P

5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 8.00 pm Ann Holohan, Springfield. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

Julia Gorman, Irej. 8<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Denis and Brigid Walsh

Patrick and Maureen Lynch .

Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Sheila Fitzpatrick, Cappinacaire 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv

Mary and Michael McCormack, Clonurk.

Sally Lalor, Clonagown. 10th Anniv.

Her daughter, Margaret Brown (nee Lalor) .

Fielbrook, who died on Tues. 13th Jan. R.I.P.

Fintan Lawlor, Cappinacaire

Mon. 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

**Ballyfin Anniversaries**  
**Anniversary and Mass Times**  
**Fri.. 16th to Sun. 25th Jan. Continued**

Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 8.00 pm Margaret (Maggie) O'Rourke,  
(nee Bowe) R.I.P. Lower Sconce. Month's Mind  
Maura and Patsy Feighery, O'Moore Forest.

and their grand-daughter, Claudia Buckley

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Mary Conroy, Ross - Sutton 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.  
Jim Delaney, Clonagown 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

And parents, Edward and Brigid Delaney

Thomas (Tommy) O'Rourke, Ballycormack. 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv

Seán Keegan, Bermingham and Mountmellick

Johanna Whitaker, Ashgrove, Mountmellick.

Formerly London

Mon. 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

---

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass Remembrance**

Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00 am John Hearn, Hillview, Portlaoise.

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> - Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan.

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

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

Jackie Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cr. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Seamus (Seamie) Osborne, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Kathleen Lalor (née Delaney) Northgrove, Mountrath. R.I.P.

Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

**11.30 am** Kathleen Holland, Trumera, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

Billy Brophy, Woodbrook. 4<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Tues. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am

Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Ann Farrell (nee Lowry) Patrick St., R.I.P.

Ann died on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

(Mass at request of Mountrath St. Vincent de Paul Society)

Thur. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Peter, Brigid and Kieran Farrell, Dysartbeigh

Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 17th - Sun. 25th Jan. Continued

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

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00 pm John Delaney, Kiln Lane. Month's Mind  
Phina and Pat Kavanagh, Clonard, Kilbricken. Month's Mind  
Bernadette (Bernie) Tynan (Nee Carroll) Fr. O'Connor Cresc.  
Bernadette (Bernie) died on Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 2025

(Mass at request of Fr. O'Connor Cresc. Residents Assoc)

Lyla Lynch, Kiln Lane / Main St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

Peter and Molly Rice, Val and Vera Rice

And Rosie Kenny

Kay Downey (Nee Delaney) The Hermitage

Formerly, Trumera. 9<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Joseph (Joe) Dowling, Clonard. 18<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.**

Elizabeth (Liz) Seale, Clonadacasey.

**11.30 am** Seán and Eileen Moore, Woodbrook.

Jimmy Lalor Fitzpatrick, Kiln Lane. 8<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

# Mountrath Parish

## Ministries Rota

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

Readers Sat. 7.00 pm Pauric Tobin  
Sun. 11.30 am Niamh Cahill

### Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat. 7.00 pm

Mary Kerwin, Niamh O'Hara, Paulo Jacob

Sun. 11.30 am

Dolores Mulhare, Elaine Doheny, Rachel Hill

### Collectors

Sat. William Fitzpatrick Joe Hosey

Sun. Anthony Deegan

# Ballyfin Parish

## Ministries Rota

Ministries Rota Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Reader      Ministers of Holy Comm

Sat. 8.00 pm   Sheila Dowling      Sheila Dowling

Sun. 10.00 am   Br. Gerry Reburn      Brid Duff

Collectors for January

Sat. Denis Bowe      Sun. John Coughlan

# "Do This In Memory"

Our Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass

is arranged for

Mountrath Church

Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church.

Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00 am

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.



C

# CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing  
in Mountrath.....

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

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 7th February

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 8th February

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates  
and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates  
and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.

# Sacramental Dates

## Mountrath Parish

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> April 11.30 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 11.00 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1<sup>st</sup> Penance with 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion children,

Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

## "Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

(Unless otherwise indicated)

# Sacramental Dates

'25 – '26 Ballyfin Parish

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2.30 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1<sup>st</sup> Penance with 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion children

Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm (Ballyfin Church)

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

(Unless otherwise indicated)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Preparation Programme

All candidates preparing to receive 1<sup>st</sup> 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 quite 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. - BOFIE2D

**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 online (in PDF format)  
and 1 online Newsletter, uploaded to our Parish App.  
[Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes](#)  
and to our parish Website,  
[www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie)  
and available to view from early Saturday morning.

Deadline for items for Parish Newsletters

12.00 midday Thursday

Items for Parish Newsletters always most welcome

## Ways of Supporting Mountrath Parish:

Weekly Envelopes

Contributing to the Offertory Collection during Mass

Supporting Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Standing Order or Transfer directly to Parish Account

Direct payment - Cash / Cheque

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable  
to "Ballyfin Parish"

Please indicate - Parish Fund

or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin,  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

or deposited in the wall safe at back of Church

Online Facility See Diocesan Website – [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

## Ways of Supporting Ballyfin Parish:

Weekly Envelopes

Contributing to the Offertory Collection during Mass

Supporting Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Standing Order or Transfer directly to Parish Account

Direct payment - Cash / Cheque

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable  
to "Ballyfin Parish"

Please indicate - Parish Fund

or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin,  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

or deposited in the wall safe in the Church porch

Online Facility See Diocesan Website – [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

## Ballyfin Parish

### Times of Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are celebrated in Ballyfin Parish at the following times

Weekdays (Monday to Saturday) 11.00 am

Sundays 10.00 am

The Celebrant is the priest on duty in the Parish.

Funeral Masses are transmitted live on the Parish Webcam

And are recorded and available to playback or download

## Mountrath Parish

### Times of Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are celebrated in Mountrath Parish at the following times

Weekdays (Monday to Saturday) 10.00 am

Sundays 11.30 am

The Celebrant is the priest on duty in the Parish.

Funeral Masses are transmitted live on the Parish Webcam

And are recorded and available to playback or download

Would you like to become more involved  
in Mountrath or Ballyfin Parish ?

As

- Minister of Holy Communion
- Member of our hospitality team who looks  
after our church building
- Reader, Proclaimer of The Word
- Collector at Mass
- ▪ Member of our parish choir
- Member of any of our Parish Organisations
- Server at Mass

We would welcome your involvement.

Please contact either Fr. P.J or myself  
with an expression of interest.

Fr. P.J. 087 605 5783      Fr. Joe 087 241 1594

# Parish News



## Sacramental Dates

### Mountrath Parish

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> April 11.30 am

#### Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 11.00 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1<sup>st</sup> Penance with 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion children,

Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

#### Enrolment for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

## "Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> February

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> February

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis - Mountrath

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Mountrath Parish.

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis Ballyfin

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates

and their parents in Ballyfin Parish.

# Sacramental Dates

'25 – '26 Ballyfin Parish

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2.30 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1<sup>st</sup> Penance with 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion children

Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm (Ballyfin Church)

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

(Unless otherwise indicated)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Preparation Programme

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

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

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

Or

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

# LOURDES



## MOUNTMELICK, BALLYFIN, MOUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Mícheál Murphy

**20<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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  
joewalsh tours.ie | info@joewalsh tours.ie | Reservations: 012410800  
Perma Ltd t/A Joe Walsh Tours is licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority IA 0004 TO 273



# 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. 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

In 2024, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented Mountrath Parish finances  
by over € 17,000

If you receive a CHY3 Form later on in the Spring please consider completing the details and returning it .

If you would like more information please contact me.

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

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

## Tax Back Scheme (Ballyfin Parish)

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

We are deeply grateful.

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

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

In 2024, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented our Parish finances by €12,000

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

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

# Get Well Wishes

We keep and hold in our Thoughts and Prayers,

People, their families and carers,

who are ill or unwell, at home,

in Hospital or Nursing Home

or undergoing any surgical or medical

procedures at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery

## Some 2026 Diary Dates

St. Brigid's Day Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin Our No. 1 - Ireland's No. 2

Ash Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Mass in Mountrath 10.00 am 7.30 pm Ballyfin 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> March Ireland's National Saint

### Masses

Vigil Mass as on Sundays Both Parishes

The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am

Mountrath 10.30 am

Ballyfin 10.00 am

Thurs. 2nd April Holy Thursday Mass at 7.30 pm Both

Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal during Mass

Good Fri. 3rd April (Both) Outdoor Stations of the Cross 10.00 am

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

Easter Vigil - Mass at 8.00 pm Both

Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April Ballyfin Ch. Mass at 10.00 am

Mountrath Parish The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am Mountrath Ch. 11.30 am

# 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.,

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

Please support your local Bingo.

All are very welcome.



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

*Here are our Bank Account details*

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

**Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details**

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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

# Parish Lottos



# Ballyfin Parish Lotto

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

No Jackpot Winner

Nos. Drawn 1 24 26 32

8 Match 3 Rec. € 125 each

## Next Week's Jackpot.

## €12,000

# Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Nos. Drawn 4 9 10 21

No Jackpot Winner

16 Match 3 Rec. € 63 each

2 Local Winners, Celine Cripps

Promoter, Celine Cripps

Eileen, Joan, S.C and D

Promoter, Joan Bergin

Next Week's Jackpot.

€13,000

# 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      € 13,000

Ballyfin      € 12,000



# 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](mailto: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; Portarlinton 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](mailto:operationsmanager@mountstannes.com)

For information about the Centre visit our

website: [www.mountstannes.com](http://www.mountstannes.com)

Mount St Anne's is an equal opportunities employer.

Events  
at  
Bloom HQ

# Unislim

## JOIN TODAY!



**JOIN WEDNESDAY  
BLOOM HQ  
MOUNTRATH  
7-8PM**

**FIRST WEEK €20 (incl registration)  
€12 WEEKLY THEREAFTER**

**4 stone  
weight  
loss**



Caroline Davis  
Unislim Member

# Kids Fun and Games

Contact Ruth - 089 264 7761

6 Week Block - €60

🕒 5.30PM - 6.20PM

Starting Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

10 Spaces available

Ages: 6-11

\*Starting date may be  
later or differ depending  
on numbers by the 23rd

Bloomhq,  
Patrick's St,  
Mountrath,  
R32 DC58



*Before*



Customize your space!

Begin your remote  
work journey today

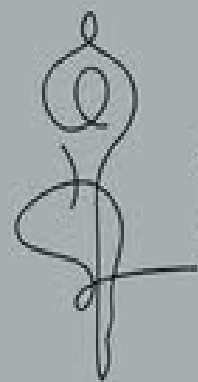
*Contact US!*

[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)

089 2722885



*After*



# Pilates with Claire

€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> 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

€60 per  
block

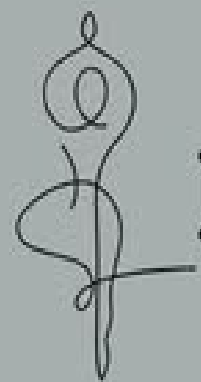
Suitable for all levels  
Limited spaces so book today!

**Tuesdays @6:30**  
6 week block starting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January



Mountrath  
Health and  
Fitness  
Academy





# Pilates with Claire

€60 for 6 Week block

Starting Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> of January  
@8PM

Limited spaces available



Mountrath  
Health and  
Fitness  
Academy



# Embodied hatha yoga with Cathy

€60 per  
block

Suitable for all levels  
Limited spaces so book today!

Tuesdays @6:30 pm  
6 week block starting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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

RSVP BY CONTACTING AMY  
0868424791

€70 FOR 8 WEEKS STARTING  
JANUARY 7TH

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,

# MATHS GRINDS

HIGHER LEVEL  
LEAVING CERT  
MATHS GRINDS

FOR 5TH AND  
6TH YEAR STUDENTS

CONTACT:  
Orlaith  
0892336930

BLOOM HQ



# 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....

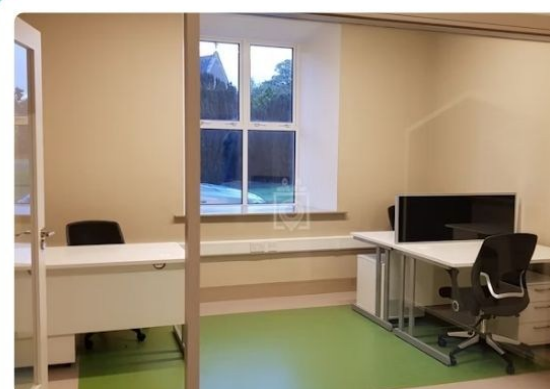
- ✓ Flexible Workspace Options
- ✓ High-Speed Internet
- ✓ Meeting and Conference Rooms

**Contact Us**



**089 2722885**

**[www.bloomhq.ie](http://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!**



**BLOOMHO'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](http://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](mailto: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**

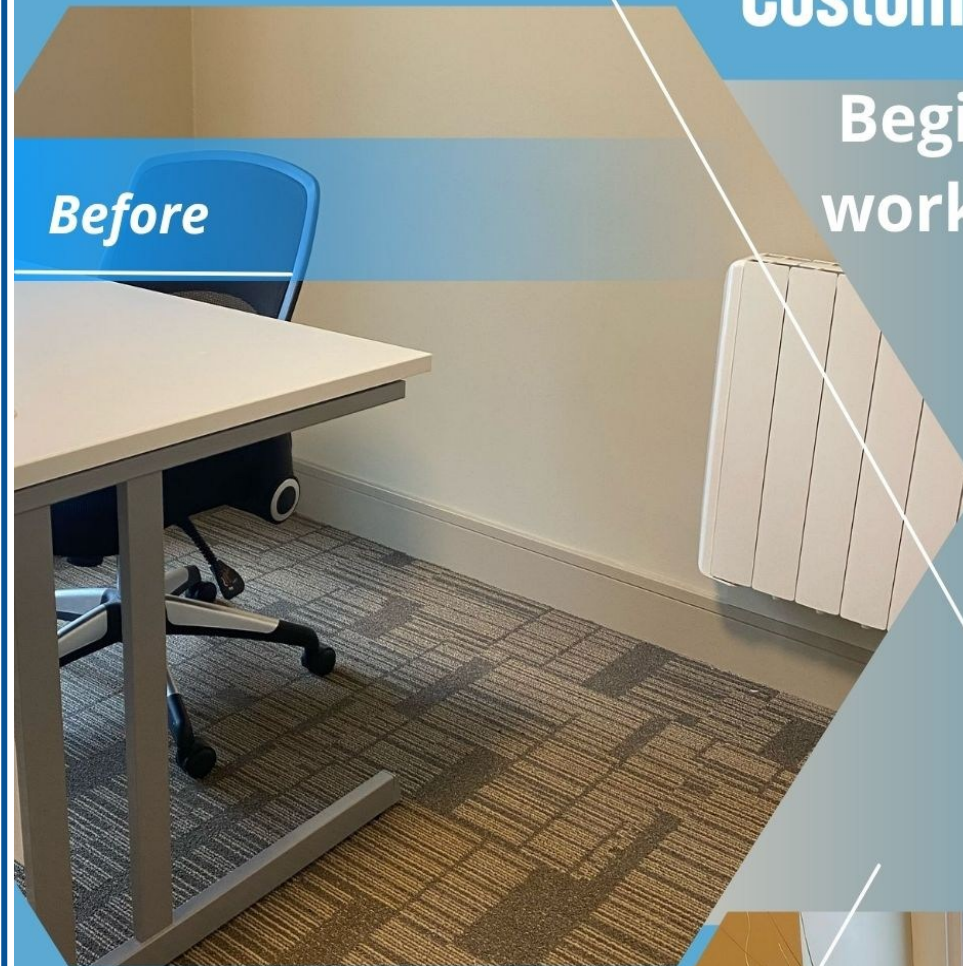
**[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**

**Visit our website [www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)**

**Customize your space!**

**Begin your remote  
work journey today**

*Before*



*Contact US!*

**089 2722885**  
**manager@bloomhq.ie**  
**www.bloomhq.ie**

*After*



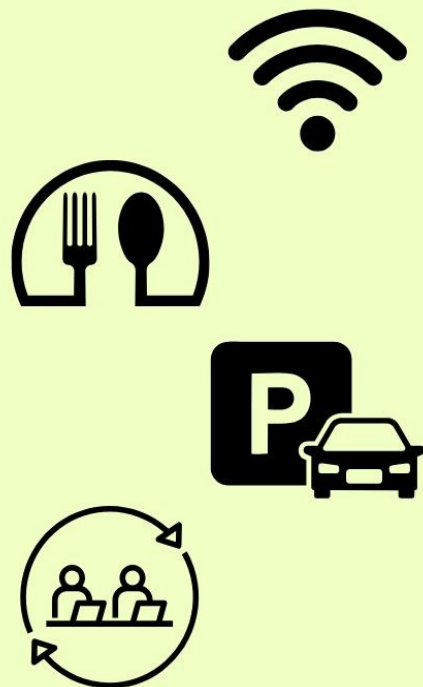


**Dive into your  
remote work  
with every thing  
you need on  
hand**

## **Hot desks at BloomHQ**



**Contact:  
manager@bloomhq.ie**



**For just €20 a day**

# ***BOWLS***

**Thursdays @ 8pm**

**Philomenas Hall**

**R32DT9F,  
Patrick St.  
Mountrath,  
Co.Laois**



BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

# GYM



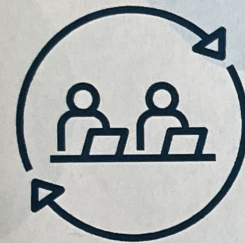
- Join our large, loving gym community! 💪❤️
- Build strength and friendships. 🤝
- Everyone's included —come as you are!
- Don't miss out, join today! ☀️


**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](http://www.roadcraft.ie)

[www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie](https://www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie)



# Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on  
Patrick Street**



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

**Contact 0857053855**



**Kindling for sale.  
Call in to purchase  
on times above**

# ***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/](http://www.comhaltas.ie/branches/moate-cce/)



For queries contact Dave 087 2249725



C

# 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  
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 Parish Accounts 2024

(Summary of Income and Expenditure Account  
for Ballyfin Parish for 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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

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

*Thank you for your  
continued and generous support  
of Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lotto  
and Ballyfin Parish Collections  
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 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

# Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

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

# Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

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

*Thank you for your  
continued and generous support  
of Mountrath Parish Weekly Lotto  
and Mountrath Parish Collections  
throughout the year.*

*Your kind and generous support is much appreciated*

*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.**

## Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Tax Back Scheme (Ballyfin Parish)

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

We are deeply grateful.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

## Mountrath Parish    Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat	€ 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225 .00	Cleaning	€ 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste	€ 579.00
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€ 3,121 .00	Maintenance/Repairs	€ 79,602.00
Church Bookings	€ 500.00	Diocesan Levy	€ 11,006.00
Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest	€ 3.00
Office	€ 1,899 .00	Bank Charges	€ 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund	€ 1,000 .00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/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*

## 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*

# 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.

