

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

24th - 25th Jan. 2026

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

## Deputy Diocesan Liaison

Michelle Hughes c/o Bishop's House,

Dublin Rd., Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Ms. Ailish Higgins is now on Maternity Leave

*We extend our best wishes to Ailish and her partner  
at this special time*

# 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)

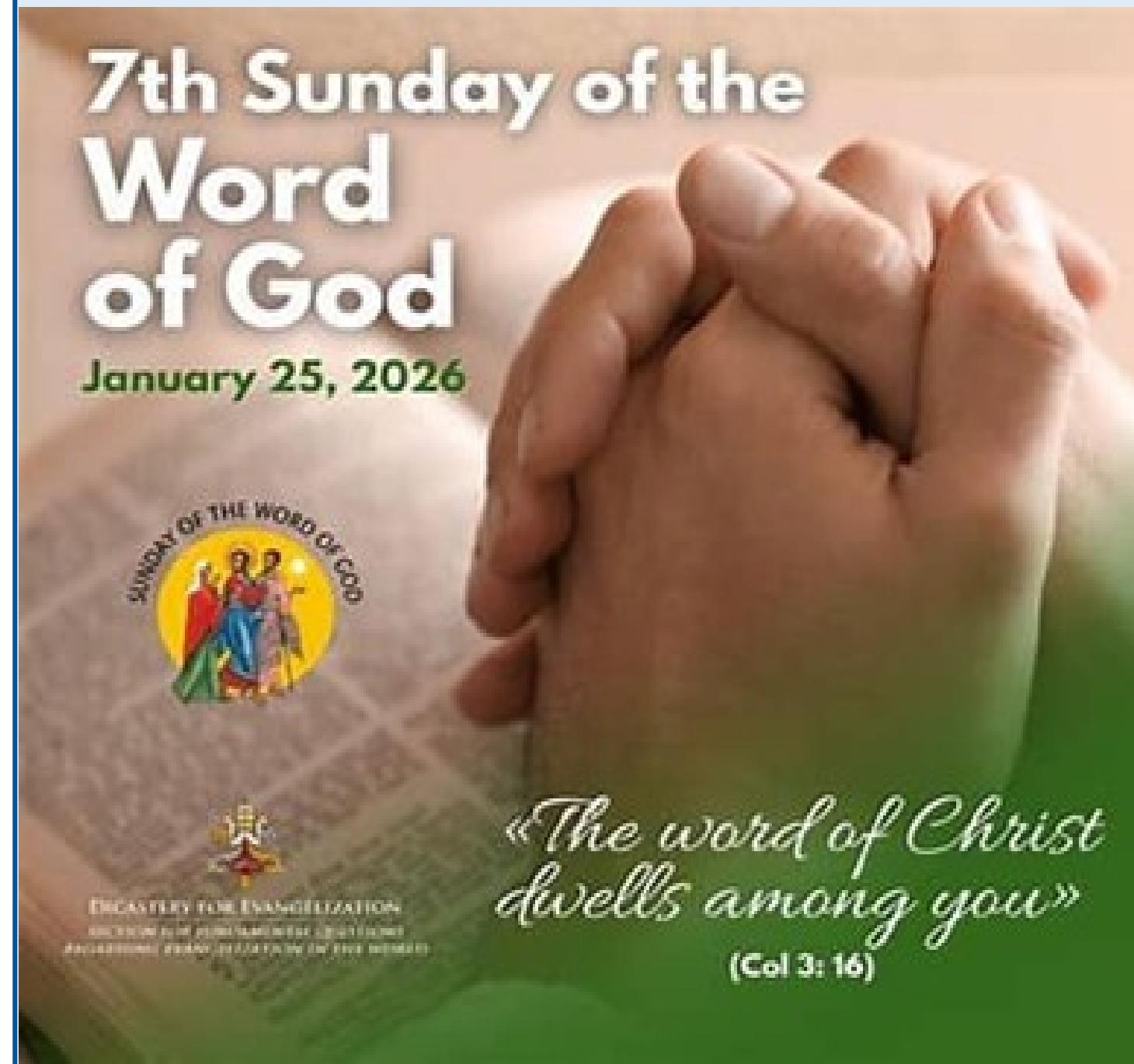
Name of Parish App.

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*

# Sun. 25th January

## Sunday of the

## Word of God



# Dick Downey, Clondarrig. R.I.P.

We pray for Dick who died peacefully at his home on Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. Dick's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Tues. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. followed by burial in Clondarrig Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Kathleen and her family, Elaine, Caitriona, John, Richard, and spouses Karen, Martina, Jim, Noel and families, Grandchildren, Jessica, Louise, Sophie, Ellen, Laura, Patrick, Daniel, Philip, R J., Clodagh, Isaac - Sisters Lucy and Eileen and families. brothers in law, nieces and nephews, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

*Dick Downey, Born, Lived and Toiled on Clondarrig soil  
- Laid to rest in Clondarrig soil.*

*May he rest in the peace of Christ.*



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."

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# Sean Chistin Events R32X5D6

Monday 11.00 am

Sequence Dancing for older adults

(waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, jive)

Tuesday 11.00 am Line Dancing

Wednesday 8.00 pm Set Dancing

Thursday 11.00 am Movement to Music for  
persons living with Parkinsons Disease.

Thursday 8.00 pm Line Dancing.

Details from Maureen 087 648 2038.

*Poet's Corner*

Waiting by Uinsin O'Donovan

No work in life

As wearisome as waiting.

But I must wait for the great waiter -

Just as the great waiter

Waits for me.

Eternally.

My hurried hours and bustling times

But hinder me.

'Cause I must be

Where I should be

At journey's end.

If I but wait

While the Great Waiter,

Waits on me.

Mountmellick Drama Group

Presents

“Albertine in Five Times”

A Play by Michael Tremblay

Mountmellick Arts Centre

Thurs. 12th, Fri. 13th,

Sat. 14th Feb.

8pm Nightly

## *Prayer for the Day*

I pray that I may get myself  
out of the way,

so that God's power  
may flow in.

I pray that I may  
surrender myself  
to that power.

# 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.)

# Ash Wednesday

Wed. 18th February

Mass in Mountrath

10.00 am 7.30 pm

Mass in Ballyfin

7.30 pm

# Table Quiz

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

The Deadman's 8.00 pm

Hosted by

Ballyfin NS Parents Council

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€ 5 per Ticket

Your Support Much Appreciated.

Raffle on the Night

# Mountmellick, Ballyfin Mountrath Lourdes Pilgrimage '26

Spiritual Director Fr. Micheál Murphy

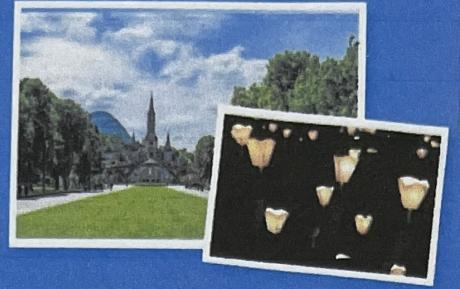
(P.P. Mountmellick)

20<sup>th</sup> July - 7 Nights Hotel La Solitude

€ 1,120.00 per person sharing

See next frame for Details

# LOURDES



## MOUNTMELLICK, BALLYFIN, MUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Micheál 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  
joewalshtrips.ie | info@joewalshtrips.ie | Reservations: 012410800  
Petriva Ltd T/A Joe Walsh Tours is licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority TA 0804 TO 273



# **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. 24th Jan.

To

Sun. 1st Feb.

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri. 23rd Jan. to Sun. 1st Feb.

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

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 11.00 am John Moore, O'Moore Forest. R.I.P.

Funeral Mass. John Died on Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

---

8.00 pm Margaret (Maggie) O'Rourke,

(nee Bowe) R.I.P. Lower Sconce. Month's Mind

Stella McHugh, Clondarrig. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

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, Birmingham and Mountmellick

Johanna Whitaker, Ashgrove, Mountmellick.

Formerly London

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

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

Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 8.00 pm Rita Fitzpatrick, Esker 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv  
Seán Fitzpatrick, Esker 20<sup>th</sup> Anniv

Lily O'Connor, Knocknakeran. 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Ann Costello, Ballyfin Rd.,

Deceased members of Hooban family, Upper Sconce

Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 10.00 am Elsie Lanham, Upper Sconce. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv

Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

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

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

Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00 am Micheál Conroy, Ross.

Night Vigil in honour of St. Brigid in St. Peter and Paul Ch.  
Portlaoise, - Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. after 6.30 pm Mass

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 24th Jan. - Mon. 1st Feb.

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)

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

Peter and Molly Rice, Val and Vera Rice. 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.

Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10.00 am

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

**Sat. 24th Jan. - Sun. 1st Feb Continued**

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

**Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.** 7.00 pm Bill Sinnott, Shannon Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv

Teresa O'Keeffe, Woodbrook.

And her son, Bernard O'Keeffe (Jnr)

George and Alice Tobin, Woodbrook.

May and Billy Tynan, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

Dan and Anne Costello, Mountrath

**Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.** St. Brigid's Day. Patron Saint of our Diocese

9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

**11.30 am** Mass of Feast of St. Brigid.

## Vigil in honour of St. Brigid

Night Vigil in honour of St. Brigid will take place in St. Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise R32 R684 after the 6.30pm Mass on Sat. 31st Jan. ending with 8am Benediction on Sun 1st Feb (Feast of St. Brigid)

# Mountrath Parish

## Ministries Rota

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

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Readers Sat. 7.00 pm John Mulhare

Sun. 11.30 am Michael Keegan

### Ministers of Holy Communion

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

Sun. 11.30 am Peter Middleton,

Bernie Phelan

### Collectors During February

Sat. Niamh O'Hara

Sun. Donal Doheny Pat McSpadden

# Ballyfin Parish

## Ministries Rota

**Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. - Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.**

Reader   Ministers of Holy Comm

Sat. 8.00 pm   Ken Molloy   Mary Hooban

Sun. 10.00 am   Laura Ruane   Breda Merdith

**Collectors for February**

**Sat. Mick Rice   Sun. Chris Phelan   Tom Bowe**

“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.

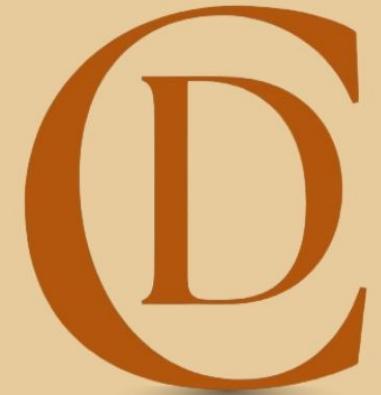
# Parish Confirmation Preparation

## Confirmation Candidates

This years Confirmation Candidates, from both Parishes, have been invited to the Cathedral in Carlow to Meet Bishop Denis on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Bishop Denis will preside at a Ceremony of Blessing of the Holy Oils (Oils which will be used at Confirmation Ceremonies) as he begins this years' Confirmation Ceremonies throughout the Diocese.

This Ceremony of Blessing will commence at 12 midday



# 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

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 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 Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

## Deputy Diocesan Liaison

Michelle Hughes c/o Bishop's House,

Dublin Rd., Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Ms. Ailish Higgins is now on Maternity Leave

*We extend our best wishes to Ailish and her partner*

*at this special time*

*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.

## 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.

All items for Newsletters are always most welcome

Letter, email or WhatsApp

Email address for Newsletters - [jmbrophy2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrophy2@gmail.com)

As Newsletters go to print at 2.00 pm Thursdays, the Deadline for items for Parish Newsletters is 12.00 (midday) Thursday

## 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 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

LOURDES



## MOUNTMELLICK, BALLYFIN, MUNTRATH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr Micheál 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  
[jewalshtours.ie](http://jewalshtours.ie) | [info@jewalshtours.ie](mailto:info@jewalshtours.ie) | Reservations: 012410800

Permit Ltd t/a Joe Walsh Tours is licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority TA 0884 10 273



# 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.

## 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. - BOFIIE2D

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

# Parish Lottos



# Ballyfin Parish Lotto

## Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

Nos. Drawn 7 10 14 24

No Jackpot Winner

20 Match 3 Rec. € 50 each

1 Local Winner

Gemma Dunphy

Next Week's Jackpot. €13,000

# Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

Nos. Drawn 3 7 11 12

No Jackpot Winner

40 Match 3 Rec. € 25 each

7 Local Winners

Winner	Promoter
Breda Carter	Rita Watkins
Ava and Jack Westin	Mary Burke
David Doheny	Mgt Doheny
Mgt. Keegan	Mgt. Keegan
Amy and Shane Dowd	
Promoter	Catherine Kearns
Alan Killeen	Pam Killeen
Morrin Family	Teresa Morrin

Next Week's Jackpot. € 14,000

# 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      € 14,000

Ballyfin      € 13,000



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).

# Confirmation Candidates

This years Confirmation Candidates, from both Parishes, have been invited to the Cathedral in Carlow to Meet Bishop Denis on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. – Bishop Denis will preside at a Ceremony of Blessing of the Holy Oils (Oils which will be used at Confirmation Ceremonies) as he begins this years' Confirmation Ceremonies throughout the Diocese.

.

This Ceremony of Blessing will commence at 12 midday

# 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](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

# MOTHER AND BABY CLASSES STARTING



6 WEEK BLOCK FOR €60

COMING SOON  
8 SPACES AVAILABLE

BLOOMHQ  
PATRICK'S ST,  
MOUNTRATH,  
R32 DCS8

EVERY THURSDAY @10AM



CONTACT RUTH  
089 264 7761

# 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





Customize your space!

Begin your remote  
work journey today

Contact US!

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

089 2722885



# 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

Suitable for all levels

Limited spaces so book today!

€60 per  
block

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**





# 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

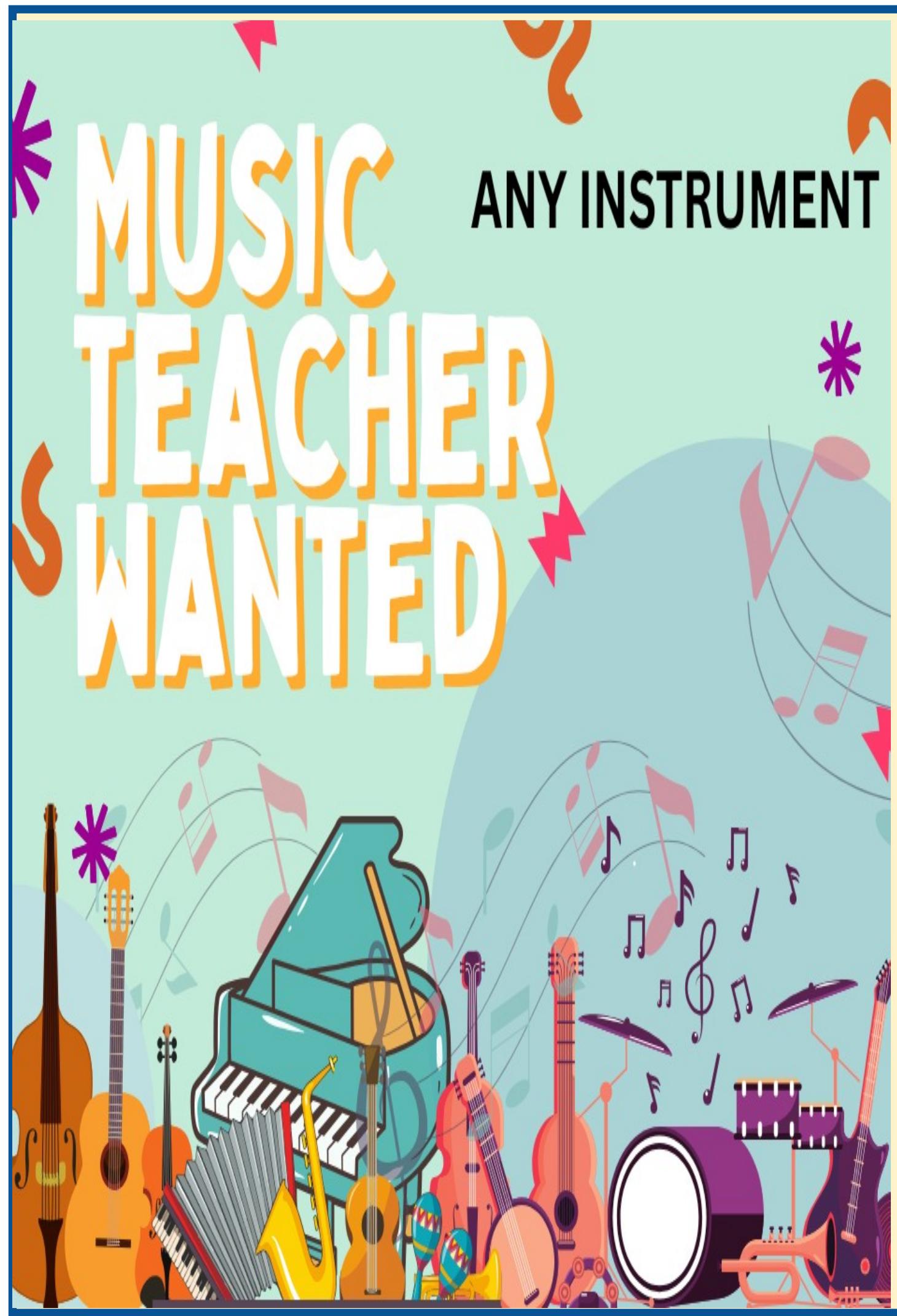
Contact Us



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!



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](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)

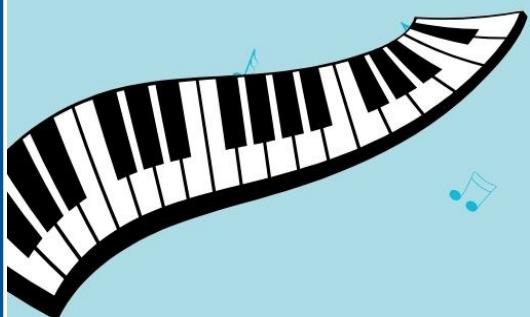


# Piano Lessons now Available!



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!*

*After*

**089 2722885**

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

[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)



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

## Hot desks at BloomHQ



Contact:  
[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto: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](http://www.roadcraft.ie)

[www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie](http://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/](http://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  
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.**

# 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. - BOFIIE2D

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

## Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Tax Back Scheme

### (Ballyfin Parish)

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

We are deeply grateful.

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

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

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

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

