

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 12th March '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin



Next Friday is St. Patrick's Day



Mountrath does carnival for 50th
St. Patrick's Day Parade Anniversary

*With a theme of Carnival, the Mountrath St. Patrick's Day Parade
this year is set to be more colourful, glitzy, and fun than ever.*

*A Very Sincere "Thank you" for your
Most Generous Support of all our Parish Collections*

Sat. 11th March - Sun. 12th March. 2023

3rd Sunday of Lent

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783

Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on FM 104.5

www.ballyfinparish.ie www.mountrathparish.ie -

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Ballyfin – Mountrath – Mountmellick

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

2nd August – 9th August 2023

Full Details on Page 30

Hungry Syria Earthquake Appeal

Mountrath Parish € 3,000.00

Ballyfin Parish € 3,000.00

A Cheque for € 3,000.00 from
both Parishes has been
forwarded to Diocesan Office in
Carlow.

*Bishop Denis has expressed a big
"Thank You" for your most
generous contributions to this
Collection.*

Deadline for Parish Newsletters

Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 11.00 am on Thursdays

Text Message, Email, Whatsapp, Letter or Pop into Parochial House.

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish App. available to download on iPhone and Android



Adam Kirwan, Derrough, Mountrath R.I.P.

We pray for Adam who died following a tragic road traffic accident on Thurs. 2nd Mch. . Adam's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Sun. 5th March, followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Lourda and Paul, and Marie. grandparents Timmy and Mary Kirwan, Pat and Breda Hosey, aunts and uncles Colm, Bernie, Barbara, Peter, Emer, Stephen, Tadhg, Elaine, Diarmuid, Karen, Tom, Brian, Ann Marie, Barbara, Eamon, Donna, Gary, and families, Cousins Mark, Mikey, Eimee, Oisin, Jack, Ben, Lily, Fiadh, Willow, Craig, Cora, Patrick, Kate, Ava, Michael, Eóghan, Páidí and Saoirse, extended family, neighbours and a large circle of friends.

Philomena (Phil) Moore, Lacca, R.I.P.

We pray for Phil who died peacefully at Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise on Fri. 3rd Mch. Phil's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fergal's Church, Camross on Mon. 6th Mach. Followed by burial in local cemetery. We extend sympathy to family, Séan, Mary, Ann, Anthony, Phelim, Darragh and Jennifer, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, extended family, relatives, neighbours and close circle of friends.

Maura Culleton (nee McSpadden) Garoon, Mountmellick R.I.P.

Originally Deerpark, Ballyfin We pray for Maura who died peacefully at her home on Wed. 8th March. Maura's Funeral Mass was celebrated on Fri. 10th March in St. Joseph's Church, Mountmellick followed by burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Martin and Claire, Liam and Derval, Damien and Ber,

Maria and David, Linda, Robert and their families, her adored grandchildren Ciaran, Matthew, Muireann, Padraig, Daniel, Grace, Clodagh, Jack and Tom, brothers Donal, Tom, Jimmy and Paddy, sister Margie Slattery and their families, extended family, relatives, former work colleagues, (at Regional Hosp., Portlaoise) neighbours and many friends.

Lucy Gantly (née Geoghegan) Rathfarnham /

Borris-in-Ossory, R.I.P.

We pray for Lucy who died peacefully at Millbrook Nursing Home on Sat. 4th March. Lucy's Funeral Mass was celebrated in Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballyroan (Dublin) on Tues. 7th Mch. Followed by Committal ceremony at Mt. Jerome Crematorium. We extend sympathy to Michael, Patrick, Disín and Cathal and their families, grandchildren Sarah, Rachel, Myles and Niamh, - Sisters, Eileen (Sr. Catherine and Brigidine Community, Castletown Rd.) Marie, Agnes, Rena and their families, extended family, relatives, friends and neighbours.

Michael Scully, Killanure R.I.P.

We pray for Michael, who died peacefully at Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise on Wed. 8th March. Michael's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Aidan's Church, Killanure on Fri. 10th Mch. followed by burial in Camross Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Geraldine, Carmel, Mick, Claire and Eoin. Sadly missed by his loving family, 12 grandchildren Jack, Savannah, Ally, Naoise, Breena, Rory, Conor, Aoife,

Katie, Ben, Will and Caiden, sisters Teresa (Lynch), Kathleen (Kennedy) and Marian (Carey), brother Martin, sons-in-law Sean, Alan and Robbie, daughters-in-law Catherine and Elaine, sisters-in-law, Bridie Lalor, Mary McGrath and Kathy Scully, brothers-in-law Michael Lynch and Paddy Carey, nieces, nephews, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Joseph (Joe) Connolly, Esker, Ballyfin R.I.P.

We pray for Joe who died peacefully at his home on Fri. 3rd March. Joe's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Mon. 6th March followed by burial in Ballyfin Cemetery. We extend sympathy to wife, Marie, - Aisling, Barry, David, Colin and Nicola. and families Grandchildren Thomas, Eoin, Glen, Caoímhe, Conor, Fionnán, Sophie, Muireann, Laura, Bláthnaid, Méadhbh, Pádraig and Seán. daughters-in-law Stacey, Eithne and Maria, son-in-law Nigel, brother Donal, sister Eileen, and their families, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Adam, Phil, Maura, Lucy, Joseph and Michael rest in the peace of Christ.

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,
c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

We keep in our Prayers

People, their families and carers, who are ill – at home, in Hospital or in a
Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical procedures, at this time.

Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 11th Sun. 19th Mch.

Mountrath Parish

Sat. 11th Mch. 7.00 pm Matt. Keenan, Derrylusk. 10th Anniv.

Rita Moloney, Avondale. 12th Anniv

Sun. 12th Mch. 9.00 am The Hollow Church.

11.30 am Leo Dowling, Knockanina. 1st Anniv.

Also Leo's wife, Mary 13th Anniv.

Annie Hill, St. Fintan's Tce. 2nd Anniv.

Martin Lowry, Lower Sconce. 2nd Anniv.

Mon. 13th Mch. 10.00 am

Tues. 14th Mch. 10.00 am Jean Power, 5th Anniv.

Wed. 15th Mch. 10.00 am

Thur. 16th Mch. 10.00 am

7.00 pm Vigil Mass for feast of St. Patrick.

Fri. 17th Mch. 9.00 am The Hollow Church - St. Patrick's Day.



11.30 am

Paddy and Mary Hosey and deceased members
of Hosey Family, Trumera.



Sat. 18th Mch. 7.00 pm

Sun. 19th Mch. 9.00 am The Hollow Church

11.30 am James and Kathleen Fitzpatrick and deceased
members of Fitzpatrick Family.

Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 3rd – 19th March '23

Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 10th Mch. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist

Sat. 11th Mch. 8.00 pm Joseph and Kathleen Dowling, Cavansheath
(and) sons, Martin and Ollie and Thomas Fitzpatrick
Pauline and John Fitzpatrick, Barkmills and
deceased members of Fitzpatrick family.

Sun. 12th Mch. 10.00 am Sadie Breen (Nee Thompson) Craydon Ct, 9th Anniv.
David Fitzgerald, Cappina Claire. 9th Anniv.

Mon. 13th Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.



Thur. 16th Mch. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for Feast of St. Patrick

Fri. 17th Mch. 10.00 am **St. Patrick's Day.**

William Bennett, Campcloon. 26th Anniv. .

Sat. 18th Mch. 8.00 pm

Sun. 19th Mch. 10.00 am

Mon. 20th Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

Guidelines for Confirmation start on Page 17

P.T.A.A. Short Term Pledge

Consider taking the Pioneer Short-Term Pledge for lent? For the duration of Lent, many people choose to abstain from alcohol. If you would like to make this pledge for six weeks, you can join online

at www.pioneerassociation.ie

Prayer For Temperance

Dear Lord, let temperance grow in me and lead me to discover other virtues that bring deeper union with you. In your sacred name, I pray.

Temper my desires, O Lord, and turn my focus towards you. Deliver me from the tendency to go to extremes that strain both body and soul. Free me from all that harms or enslaves me and turn my heart towards eternal joys. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Diary Dates for 2023

Confirmation Date - Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 12th May 2023 Time 11.00 am - Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Holy Communion Date – Mountrath Parish Sun. 7th May 2023 -
With children of Scoil Bhride and St. Fintan's

The Hollow Church

Sun. 21st May Time 9.00 am - With children of Gaelscoil Thromaire.

1st Holy Communion Date – Ballyfin Parish

Sun. 21st May 2023 Time 2.00 pm

Sun. 28th May (With children of Barnashrone NS) Time 2.00 pm

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish Lottos

9th March 2023

Nos. Drawn 2 8 17 23

Jackpot €12,000.00 No Winner

17 Match 3 Rec. € 59

5 Local Winners

Buddy Kelly - Promoter, Ann Kelly

Mary Crawford - Promoter, Peg Keenan

Breda Hosey - Promoter, Bernie Tynan

Colm Delaney - Promoter, M. Farrell

Michelle Duggan - Promoter, David Tobin

Next Week's Jackpot € 13,000

Ballyfin Parish Lotto Results

8th Mch.

Nos. Drawn 5 24 25 28

No Jackpot Winner. 7 Match 3 Rec. € 143

Next Week's Jackpot € 12,000

Very Sincere thanks to everyone involved in in our 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. We extend a very sincere "thank you" for your loyal support and your unending generosity throughout the year.



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Living Well for Longer



Expo Event



Healthy Laois & Age Friendly Laois

Thursday, 13th April, 4-8pm
 Portlaoise College, Mountrath Road,
 Portlaoise,
 R32 N795

...showcasing the supports, services, groups and activities available to all ages in Laois- 50 + stands in attendance

**HSE HEALTH
 SCREENING**

**SUPPORT
 GROUPS**

**HEALTHY AGE
 FRIENDLY
 HOMES**

**HEALTHY
 COOKING
 DEMOS**

**ASSISTIVE
 TECHNOLOGY
 TALK, STANDS
 + DEMOS**

**GRANT
 INFORMATION**

**ACTIVITY HUB
 STANDS**

**COMMUNITY
 GROUPS**

FOR MORE INFO & TO PRE -REGISTER:

Contact:

tcurran@laoiscoco.ie 086 0363426

AND MANY MORE

AGE FRIENDLY & HEALTHY LAOIS



INFORMATION STANDS INCLUDE

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE
COMMUNITY GROUPS
SUPPORT SERVICES & GROUPS
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES
AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND
LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
CITIZENS ADVICE
LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
NETWORK.
LAOIS MONEY ADVICE &
BUDGETING SERVICE
TUNSTALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MUSIC GENERATION LAOIS
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY LAOIS
DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE
ALONE
NCBI
LAOIS FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
MARIE KEATING FOUNDATION
HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES
LAOIS SERVICES TO OLDER PEOPLE
JIGSAW LAOIS OFFALY
LAOIS CHAMBER ALLIANCE
THE HOMESHARE
LAOIS CIVIL DEFENCE

ISAAC CARE
UCELLO DESIGNS
LAOIS SPORTS & LEISURE
LAOIS SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY
LAOIS I.C.A.
EILA CONNECT
TASK COMMUNITY CARE
LOCAL LINK LAOIS OFFALY
LAOIS VOLUNTEER CENTRE
MUSIC GENERATION LAOIS
LAOIS OFFALY EDUCATION & TRAINING
BOARD
NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS
NETWORK
ALONE

TALKS & DEMOS BY

AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND
LOETB COOKING DEMO
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS
MEALS ON WHEELS NETWORK
LAOIS DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE
LAOIS CHAMBER ALLIANCE

HEALTH SCREENING ON THE DAY by the
HSE. & BREAST CHECK IRELAND

.....AND MANY MORE

Bus to Portlaoise from Ballyfin

Bus Service to Portlaoise from Ballyfin every Tuesday and Friday and Tullamore on Thursdays. - Pick up at home. between 10.00 and 11 o'clock. Travel Pass accepted.

€3 return for adults and children over 5 years. Must book passage evening before – before 5.00 pm Contact number 057 869 2168

Parish Finances. - A Word of Thanks

Thanks for your generous contributions to Parish Funds.

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation and gratitude for the ways in which you have found to support the parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful. It has and continues to be a most challenging time for so many; families, self employed, hospitality and so much more. By and large we are not doing too bad, thanks in no small part to your generosity. I wish to acknowledge your support given via the weekly envelopes (2023 boxes are ready for distribution at present). Contributing to the Parish by envelope allows us to keep track of your donations for the whole year and, where possible, (and totally at your discretion) claim the additional 45% back from Revenue under the charity donations scheme at no cost to yourself. If you are not as yet, part of this scheme – and would like more information, please contact me when you get a chance.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity - it is very much appreciated.

Different ways of supporting your Parish:

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable
to "Mountrath Parish" - or "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.

⇒ Online Facility (See Diocesan Website - www.kandle.ie) ⇐

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ⇐

The following are our Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

Ballyfin Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Please include your own name as the reference.

⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ←

If you have any queries or would like to speak with us regarding donating to the Parish or participating in the charity tax donation scheme, just ring me on 087 241 1594 (Fr. Joe)

Stay connected with us!

Parish Website www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie - Links to Webcams on Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish

Cemetery Masses In Mountrath ~ Ballyfin

During 2023

Ballyfin New Cemetery Sun. 11th June

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 28th June

Clonenagh Cemetery. Fri. 7th July

C;ondarrig Cemetery Wed. 2nd Aug.

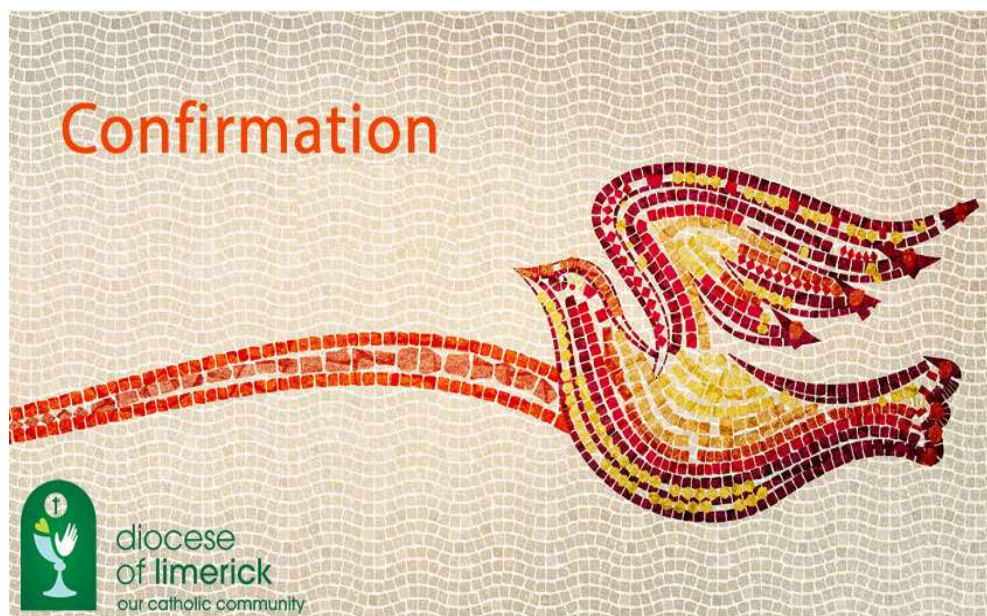
Boghlone Cemetery. Wed. 6th Sept.

All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

2023

From the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin



Confirmation marks a unique moment in a person's life when one is invited to grow in faith and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace a new maturity where all that has gone before takes on richer and deeper meaning further forming one as a faithful disciple, grateful steward, and active evangelist of the Risen Christ.

(Rev. Ronald Rolheiser - Secularity and the Gospel)

Theme for Confirmation 2023

'Making a choice to take my place in the tent'

'Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs' (Is 54:2).

'Listened to today, these words of Isaiah invite us to imagine the Church similarly as a tent, indeed as the tent of meeting, which accompanied the people on their journey through the desert: called to stretch out, therefore, but also to move. At its centre, stands the tabernacle, that is, the presence of the Lord. The tent's hold is ensured by the sturdiness of its pegs, that is, the fundamentals of faith that do not change but can be moved and planted in ever new ground, so that the tent can accompany the people as they walk through history. Finally, in order not to sag, the structure of the tent must keep in balance the different forces

and tensions to which it is subjected: a metaphor that expresses the need for discernment. This is how many reports envision the Church: an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out (cf. Jn. 10:9), and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity.'

Working Document for the Continental Stage 27

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION IN 2023

These Guidelines are designed to help parishes, particularly those where Bishop Denis will preside, in their preparation and planning of the celebration of Confirmation. They will also help Bishop Denis in his preparation for the celebration in each parish.

It would be very helpful if parishes where Bishop Denis is not presiding at Confirmation this year would let Aisling know, by emailing aisling@kandle.ie, when their celebration is and how many candidates are being confirmed. It is hoped that these guidelines will also be of use in those parishes.

CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION OUTSIDE OF MASS

COVID 19 continues to impact on the way we gather and it is important to acknowledge that Confirmation celebrations may take place outside of Mass as allowed by Canon 882. The experience of focusing on the Rite of Confirmation over the past three years was a very positive one for a significant number of people and it is hoped that parishes will choose to continue to celebrate Confirmation this way in the coming year.

There is a template for the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation on pages 7-11.

If you choose to celebrate Confirmation within the Eucharist, then further Guidelines are available from aisling@kandle.ie.

COVID19 & CONFIRMATION 2023

COVID 19 and a number of other infectious viruses continues to pose challenges for all communities. There continue to be significant numbers of children and staff absent daily in our school communities. It would be helpful for parishes to offer guidance in advance to parents based on the most up to date HSE advice available at the time. It would also be helpful for parishes to have contingency plans in place in the event that one or more candidates cannot present for Confirmation on the day.

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE: Bishop Denis asks that the Planning Form be completed and returned to him three weeks before the date of Confirmation in your parish.

Schools, please note that this form is sent to the parish to complete and return.

CONFIRMATION BOOKLETS: Parishes and schools are asked to consider carefully the environmental impact of printing booklets. If your parish is preparing a booklet for use on the day, please send a copy to Bishop Denis in advance.

The following notes are designed to help ensure the best possible experience of the celebration of Confirmation for all.

1: PARISH PREPARATION:

Bishop Denis would like a brief description of the type of preparation undertaken by the candidates and their families in the parish. This can be as simple as naming the preparation programme such as *You Shall Be My Witnesses*,

We Belong to Christ or providing an outline of any initiatives used by the parish team to engage the candidates and their families in a programme of preparation in the months

prior to Confirmation. This will enable him to encourage and affirm the work of preparation in the parish during the ceremony.

2: LETTER TO THE BISHOP: Bishop Denis would like all candidates who will be confirmed by him to submit a letter prior to Confirmation. This letter is to be written at home by the candidates in consultation with their parents/guardians and then signed by the candidates and their parents/guardians. The letters should then be sent by the parish to the bishop together with the enclosed form three weeks before the celebration of Confirmation in your parish. If your parish has multiple confirmatiOns please ensure that the letters are bundled together and labelled with the names of schools and the corresponding Confirmation Ceremony. The following information should be included in the letters:

BIOGRAPHY: The candidate should introduce themselves to Bishop Denis using some of the following information

- Their name and age
- The name of their school and the class that they are in
- The name of their parish
- Something about their family
- Their interests/hobbies / favourite things to do

DESCRIPTION OF PREPARATION AT HOME, IN THE PARISH AND IN SCHOOL:

The candidate needs to say something to the bishop about how he or she has prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PERSONAL MEANING: The candidate should reflect on what the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation means to them.

CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR: The candidate should tell the bishop what name they are choosing and why. They might also say something about their sponsor and the reason for choosing this person.

FOR 2023: The candidate should say something to the bishop about each of the following:

- what would help them to be more involved in their parish community once they have been confirmed. This could be based on the discussion that they will have in class about their choice of word for the Poster that they will present to Bishop Denis on the day of Confirmation. This word will describe their hope for the church of the future. It might also be helpful for them to reference the following in their letters:

1) Do I know of any opportunities for me to be involved in my local parish community after Confirmation?

2) What could my local parish do to help me be more involved?

3) What would you say to Bishop Denis about how the church in Kildare & Leighlin could help you and other young people stay involved?

3: **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

The sacrament of reconciliation should be celebrated by all candidates prior to the celebration of Confirmation. A suggested outline for a Reconciliation Service and for a combined Reconciliation and Ceremony of Light Service is available for download on www.kandle.ie.

4: **RETREAT:** Many parishes provide candidates with the opportunity of a retreat before or after Confirmation.

5: **SPONSOR:** Each candidate has a sponsor for confirmation. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, is to be at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic and living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. A parent may not act as a sponsor for his or her child (Canon 874). A Baptismal sponsor is desired as the Confirmation sponsor, in order to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893.2).

6: **PLEDGE:** The Pledge Commitment is an important part of the candidate's preparation. All parishes are expected to include a Pledge Commitment Ceremony as part of the preparation or post celebration process. You can find a copy of a Confirmation Pledge Certificate <https://app.growinlove.ie/en/user/professional-development>. There are also useful resources for exploring the Pledge on

https://www.irishbishopsdrugsinitiative.ie/what_we_do_category/confirmation-commitment/

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY:

Under the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines best practice would suggest that no photography or videography should take place in the Church. Therefore, the taking of photographs and of videos is not permitted during the ceremony and this must be communicated to candidates, parents/guardians, sponsors and family members prior to the celebration of Confirmation. This can be done at the rehearsal and on the day itself in

the time before the liturgy begins. The turning off of mobile phones should also be requested at this time.

Stewards can help to ensure that the taking of photographs or videos is discouraged. Bishop Denis suggests that a group picture of him with the candidates be taken after the ceremony and that the organisation of this should be done at the rehearsal for Confirmation.

If a videographer is being used in an official capacity, he/she should be instructed not to distract from the solemn nature of the celebration and at no time should he/she enter the sanctuary area. Parental consent for the taking of the video must also be obtained from all parents in advance of the ceremony.

PRELUDE Five minutes before the Confirmation ceremony begins it is useful for the priest or other nominated person to begin preparing the congregation for the celebration which is to follow. This is an opportunity to quieten the gathering, remind them of the need to switch off mobile phones, not to take pictures and to invite them to spend a moment in quiet prayer for the candidates who are to be confirmed. This may be accompanied by some quiet instrumental music that can continue until the liturgy is ready to begin.

TEMPLATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION 2023

CAN. 881 It is desirable to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in a church and during Mass; for a just and reasonable cause, however, it can be celebrated outside Mass and in any worthy place.

GATHERING SONG: Suggestions for all music on pages 15

WORD OF WELCOME:

SIGN OF THE CROSS: As we begin our celebration let us mark ourselves with the sign of that faith as we did on the day of baptism:

You might consider inviting the parents to make the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead as they did on the day of their baptism.....

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

If there is a space dedicated to symbols of the candidate's work in preparation for Confirmation now would be an appropriate time to refer to it.

COLLECT:

Fulfill for us your gracious promise, O Lord, we pray,
so that by his coming the Holy Spirit may make us witnesses before the world to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The names of the candidates are called, and they stand as they are presented to the Presider and the community alternatively see the suggestion for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises where the candidate's names might also be called.

Homily

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

If baptismal candles are to be lit the priest could introduce the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

in these or similar words while standing near the Paschal Candle

Our Paschal Candle is a sign of hope for all who believe that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that can never be quenched, a light that will always brighten our way. On the day of your baptism your parents took light from the Paschal Candle to light your baptismal candle as a sign of the faith that they wanted to pass on to you. They were asked to keep the light burning brightly until you were ready to say yes to your faith for yourselves. They obviously have done a good job because you are here, ready to confirm what they did for you at baptism, ready to say yes to continuing to live as Jesus wants you to. Now as they light your baptismal candle again, we pray that you will continue to walk as a child of the light and keep this light of faith burning brightly for all to see.

Each candidate and their parent/s are called forward individually, they light their baptismal candle and then return to their seats and remain standing

CELEBRANT: Do you renounce Satan,
And all his works and all his empty show?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son ,our Lord,
Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried,
rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, Who came upon
the apostles at Pentecost And today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CANDIDATES: Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

CELEBRANT: My dear friends, In baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life

to his chosen sons and daughters.

Let us pray to our Father That he will pour out the Holy Spirit To strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts And anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

The celebrant(s) stretch out their hands over the candidates and pray:

All powerful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, By water and the Holy Spirit

You freed your sons and daughters from sin And gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, To be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The spirit of right judgement and courage,

the spirit of knowledge and reverence.

Fill them with the spirit of wonder, and awe in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

ANointing with Chrism

CELEBRANT: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. CANDIDATE: Amen.

CELEBRANT: Peace be with you. CANDIDATE: And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (see suggestions on pages 13 & 14)

We pray to the Lord: Lord hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER ALL: Our Father.....

PRESENTATION OF POSTER TO BISHOP DENIS/CELEBRANT

The poster (no larger than an A2 size page) contains one word that, following discussion in their classroom, describes the church that the Confirmation candidates want to belong to, the church that they would like to help make a reality in the future. The poster can be decorated however the candidates decide.

CELEBRANT: Let us pray

Lord, help those you have anointed by your Spirit.

Support them through every trial

and by their works of love

build up the Church in holiness and joy

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

CONCLUDING RITE FINAL BLESSING & DISMISSAL

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Facilitators

Accord is
currently

recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators. Marriage facilitators are part of a team that prepare couples for the sacrament of marriage. Couples find our courses fun, engaging and very relevant, while facilitators gain valuable life skills. If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact marriagepreparation@accord.ie for more information.

LOURDES



MOUNTMELICK, MOUNTRATH, BALLYFIN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

Spiritual Director: Fr Noel Dunphy

2 August 2023

7 Nights from Dublin Airport

€995 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
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- » 7 nights in the Hotel La Solitude
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- » Optional single supplement €39 per night

For information please contact: **Eleanor Duff 087 7670915**

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Contact Person - Eleanor Duff - 087 7670915




HAVE YOUR SAY!

to shape the next LEADER Programme, Laois Partnership wants to hear from you

Public community workshops will be taking place below



Date:	Time	Location
10th March	7:30pm	Killeshin Community Centre
11th March	11am	Portlaoise Laois Partnership Office
14th March	7:30pm	Borris in Ossory - Old Mercy Convent
22nd March	7:30pm	Mountmellick - Beale Centre
23rd March	7:30pm	Ballinakill Parochial Hall
25th March	11am	Portarlington Community Centre

for more info: please phone 057 86 61900




Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future

Press Release:

Laois Partnership is hosting public consultations on the creation of the new Local Development Strategy for LEADER 2023-2027.

Laois Partnership Company have been responsible for the implementation and delivery of the LEADER rural development programme since the 1990's. This EU funding has allowed for the investment of €100million into Laois with business, tourism, heritage,

communities, community councils, youth groups and the local environment benefiting from this unique grant aid programme.

The LEADER programme works on the theory of Bottom-up and community led local development. With the inception of the new LEADER programme Laois Partnership Company must create a new Local Development Strategy in order to tender for the delivery of the programme locally.

The local development strategy will not be innovative or meet the needs of communities throughout Laois if it does not have direct input from the people living and working in Laois.

Laois Partnership Company are holding public consultation workshops where your ideas and input will directly feed into this strategy – Laois Partnership have organised 6 of these workshops that they are inviting you to and hope you can attend one of them.

- 10th March 7:30pm in Killeeshin Community Centre, Killeeshin co Laois.
- 11th March 11am in Laois Partnership Offices, New Rd, Portlaoise.

- 14th March 7:30pm in Borris Innovation Centre, Old Mercy Convent, Borris in Ossory.
- 22nd March 7:30pm in the Beale Centre, Webmill, Mountmellick, Co Laois
- 23rd March 7:30pm in Ballinakill Parochial Hall, Ballinakill, co Laois
- 25th March 11am in Portarlinton Community Centre, Portarlinton Co Laois.

Please phone our office if you require more information on 057 8661900 or alternatively visit our website www.laoispartnership.ie

Annual General Meeting of

St. Fintan's Community Hall

committee will take place on Wednesday next, March 8th - 8pm. All Clubs using the Hall are requested to please send a representative.

It would be very much appreciated if some new members were to join the committee and be prepared to help out with the running of the Hall.



Parents First
(Laois, Offaly) CLG

Parents First (Laois, Offaly) CLG
Unit 11 B, Cluster 1,
Axis Business Park,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly,
Ireland, R35 HF99.

T: 057 9322996

E: office@parentsfirst.ie

W: www.parentsfirst.ie

01 March 2023

To whom it may concern

I would be very grateful if you would include the following in your notices for the next few weeks, please.

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Are you a parent or grandparent with a few hours free each week?

If so, please consider offering friendly support to young parents with Parents First. There is free training and ongoing mentoring

Find out more, call Dolores or Paula at 086 1959221 or 0579322996

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards

Paula Ruane

Parents First (Laois, Offaly) CLG