

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 16th April '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

2nd Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

Sat. 15th - Sun. 16th April 2023

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

Launch of Mountrath Town Plan

See Page 2

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Sun. 23rd April For transport
details contact

Brendan 087 653 7753,

Margaret 087 979 3005

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Sun. 23rd April - € 499.00 per person sharing.
Price includes return train, 3 nights in Knock
House Hotel with full board. All entertainment
and excursions included. Day trips to Westport,
Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick. Fr.
Payton Centre. Single supplement € 100.00.

Contact Patricia on 087 1890 236 or
email knockpilgrimage@gmail.com

Social Dancing

in

St. Philomena's Hall, Mountrath

Mon. 1st May (May Bank Holiday)

Music by Declan Aunger.

9.00 pm - 12.00

Refreshments will be served

Subscription €10.00

You are most welcome.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE
MOUNTRATH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES' TOWN PLAN**

and the formal launch of the online 3d viewer for

Mountrath's Future Vision

***BY* URBANARQ**

***ON* TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2023**

***AT* 7.30PM**

***IN* ST FINTANS HALL, MOUNTRATH**

*'This Sustainable Communities Plan for Mountrath town, has been
developed using*

*public consultation to develop policies and projects that will impact on the
economic, social,*

infrastructural, visual and on-going development of our community.

***This project is funded by the Department of Rural and
Community Development.***

HOSTED BY MOUNTRATH TOWN STRATEGY GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

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



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

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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 and hold in our thoughts and prayers

 People, their families and carers, who are ill or unwell – at home, in hospital or
 Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical or medical procedures. –

We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mass Times – Anniversaries

Mountrath

Sat. 15th - Sun. 23rd April

Sat. 15th Apr. 7.00 pm Helena McEvoy, Trumera. 1st Anniv.

Andy O'Connor, Dysartgeigh. 3rd Anniv.

Anthony Tobin, Woodbrook. 4th anniv.

Sun. 16th Apr. 9.00 am The Hollow Church - Divine Mercy Sunday.

Maura and Frank Byrne, Patrick St.,

And daughter in law, Paula Byrne.

11.30 am Mícheál and Maura Moore, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

Mon. 17th Apr. 10.00 am Ambealet Bettus Nyeazeh

Tues. 18th Apr. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

- Wed. 19th Apr. 10.00 am James (Jim) Wall, Woodbrook. 4th Anniv.
- Thurs 20th Apr. 7.30 pm People who are ill in the Parish
- Fri. 21th Apr. 10.00 am Thomas and Terese Kavanagh, St. Fintan's Tce.
 And Renee Gooding
 Bill and Mai Thompson, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.
 Bill's 4th Anniv. – Mai's 15th Anniv.
- Sat. 22nd Apr 7.00 pm Paddy and Mai Keogh, St. Fintan's Terrace.
 Thomas and Margaret Phelan, 40th and 20th Anniv.
 Seamus Fitzpatrick, Woodbrook. 19th Anniv.
- Sun. 23rd Apr.. 9.00 am The Hollow Church.
 . 11.30 am David Gerard (Gerry) Seale, Clonenagh. Month's
 Mind

1st Anniversary Remembrance

- Sat. 29th April 7.00 pm - Denis Connor, Clonenagh,
 Parents, Michael and Julia and brother, Stephen.

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

Ballyfin - Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 15th - Sun. 23rd April

Sat. 15th Apr. 8.00 pm Julia Fitzpatrick, Ross. 12th Anniv.

Sun. 16th Apr. 10.00 am Edward and Mary Brennan, Brockera.

Mon. 17th Apr. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 21st Apr. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm John (Johnny) Downey, Clondarrig. 5th Anniv.
and Deceased members of Downey Family.

Sat. 22nd Apr. 8.00 pm

Sun. 23rd Apr. 10.00 am

Mon. 24th April 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification



Peg Maguire, New Line Road. R.I.P.

We pray for Peg who died peacefully at her home on Tues. 11th April. Peg's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Fri. 14th

April followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to husband, Joe, and family, Gerard, Annette, Julie, Shirley, David and Karen and their families, daughters-in-law Linda and Dearbhla, son-in-law Trevor, grandchildren Seán, Bróna, Tadhg, Fionn, Fey and Calum, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Peg rest in the peace of Christ.

Bridie McCloskey (nee McCullagh) Formerly Ross. R.I.P.

We pray for Bridie who died peacefully on Thurs. 13th Apr. (formerly of Ross, Ballyfin). Predeceased by her husband Barney McCloskey. Living since 1999 in Carrickmore, Tyrone. Missed by her daughter Anne Marie, 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, her loving nieces and nephews, wide circle of friends Bridie will be laid to rest at 2pm Sunday, in the Parish she grew up in, Greencastle, Co. Tyrone.

May Bridie rest in the peace of Christ.

Emmanuel House, Clonfert, Co. Galway

Sunday April 16th at 11.00am - Celebration of the



Feast of God's Divine Mercy Sunday

Fullness of God's Mercy is exercised by Deed, Word and Prayer as described in Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Included are Talks, Confession and Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Holy Mass. Bring a packed lunch.

Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday and leaflets available at the back of the Church.

St Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise

Celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday starting at 2.00 pm on 16th April



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 Lotto Results.

Ballyfin Lotto Results 12th April

Nos. Drawn 3 1 29 32

No Jackpot Winner. 16 Match 3 Rec. € 63

3 Local Winners

Linda Farrell, Promoter, Sheila Dowling

Paddy and Anne Fitzpatrick, Promoter John Fitzpatrick.

Joan Bergin. Promoter Mary Hooban



© CanStockPhoto.com

Next Week's Jackpot € 17,000

Next Week's Jackpot € 16,000

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 13th April -

Nos. Drawn 1 11 12 30

No Jackpot Winner

6 Match 3 - Received € 167 each -

1 Local Winner Deirdre Bredin

New Jackpot € 18,000

*Next
Week's*



€ 16,000 Ballyfin

€ 18,000 - Mountrath

A Note from Edel, Mountrath CE Scheme Supervisor

We have the following upcoming vacancies in the coming weeks:

Env. Worker - Mountrath CES 2254234 Hours 19.5 hours per week.

Env. Worker - Castletown CES 2268516 Hours 19.5 hours per week.

Shop Assistant - Mountrath CES 2261754 Hours 19.5 hours per week.

Salary: Community Employment Rates - **Application Details:**

Eligibility to participate on CE is generally linked to those who are 21 years or over and in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment for 1 year or more or 18 years and over for certain disadvantaged groups. Your eligibility will have to be verified by the Department.

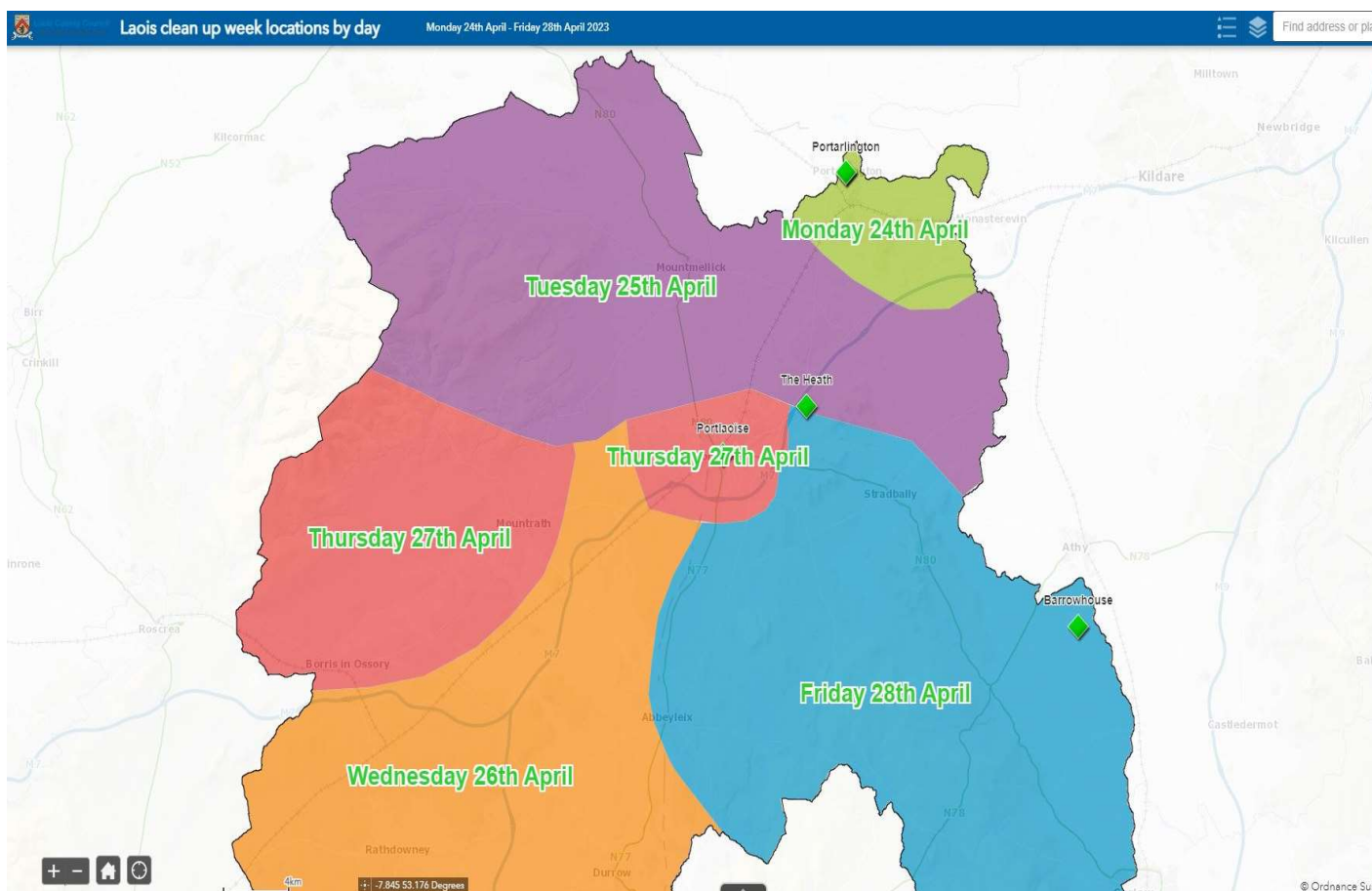
You can also call into our office on Patrick St, Mountrath or email mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com

Clean Up Laois Week



Ballyfin Community Alert have registered with Laois County Council to take part in Clean Up Week 17th – 21st April.

Bags, gloves and pickers will be given out on Saturday 15th April from 10.30 -11am at the Community Centre or contact Sheila on 086 1570145. All bags of litter to be left behind Recycling Bank for collection by the Council on Tuesday 25th April.



“Living Well” Expo

The “Living Well” Expo takes place on Thurs 13th April, from 4 to 8pm in Portlaoise College, Mountrath Road Portlaoise, which will be opened by Anna Mai McHugh, who needs no introduction. This event is a joint collaboration between Age Friendly Laois & Healthy Laois, which aims to showcase the supports available to all ages in Co Laois to Live Well. There will be a main expo area, with 70 exhibitors in total attending on the day, including sports and community groups, health services and technology providers who offer products to enable people to live independently for longer. There will be presentations from the team at Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, which is to be rolled out nationally in support of aging at home. There will be talks by Teac Tom, Meals on Wheels Network, Garda Crime Prevention, Fire & Rescue Service and more.

Along with the main arena, there will be 4 other areas offering health screening, demos on safety technology in the home- personal alarms , GPS devices and more. Edufit will have their own area with information and talks on Perimenopause Menopause and Post Menopause and healthy cooking demos will be provided by the LDETB and our own Coalition Chefs.

The above is just a taste of what is happening on the day (a full list of exhibitors is attached above). To find out more, or to pre register groups, call Tom (contact details below) or Emma on 0860665215 (eoconnor@laoiscoco.ie)



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

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
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights 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
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Optional single supplement €39 per night

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

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88

www.joewalstours.ie | info@joewalstours.ie | Reservations: 01-2410800

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Contact Person - Eleanor Duff - 087 7670915

Silver Screenings

The IMC Cinema, Fairgreen, Carlow are running a weekly over 60's club on Thursdays at 1.30pm. Latest releases, reduced volume, raised lighting and special rate of €7.

Diocesan News

The Matt Talbot Prayer Society – Praying for those suffering from Addiction

The Matt Talbot Mass is celebrated on the first Monday of the Month in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow on Monday, next Mass takes places on Monday 3 April at 10.00 am.

This Prayer Society has been created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members. As we know addiction takes many forms from alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography to other less acknowledged addictions. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene's

Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Mission Team

Will meet in the Parish Centre in Newbridge on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm which will last approximately 1 hour. We will be looking at ways in which we can promote mission awareness and the work of missionaries overseas during October Mission Month. It has been a very long time since we met before and we look forward to seeing you all in the parish centre in Newbridge. If you know of anyone who would like to come to our mission team meeting, please ask them to email me at jim.farrell@missio.ie or Fr George at pageorge26@gmail.com

All are most welcome.

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock

Calling All Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament in this Diocese, the National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock is on Sunday 23rd April (2nd wk after Easter) and all are welcome. For contact the relevant people for bus enquiries from these area's Tullow, Carlow - Phone Brendan

0876537753, Ballylinan, Stradbally, Portlaoise - Phone Margaret
0879793005

Full Details and poster for download at www.eucharisticadoration.ie

Also See Local Churches for Poster and Schedule & Local Information.

Burren Outdoor Retreat. Sunday 16th to Tuesday 18th April

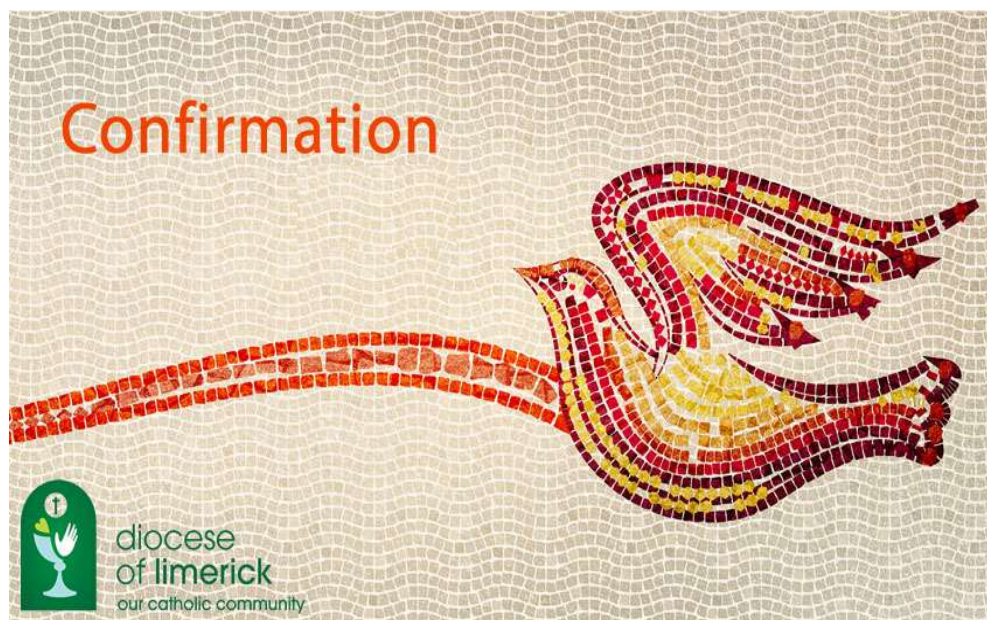
Would you like to come on a guided journey through the Burren with its limestone pavements, rare flora and ancient sacred sites? Let the beauty of the amazing Burren landscape renew you in body and soul. Information: Mary 087 970 1130. Booking: Des 085 1614951

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Portlaoise Parish to the Holy Land led by Mgr John Byrne, travelling from 7th Sept – 15th Sept 2023. Cost per person €2190, single supplement €769. Cost includes coach transfer from Portlaoise to Dublin airport return, flights, accommodation on half board basis, courier service in the Holy Land and a full religious programme. For more details please contact Tullys Travel Carlow on 059-9136100.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD [Suggested Readings on page 12](#)

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

