

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

29th - 30th March 4th Sunday of Lent



Summer time begins this Weekend

Betty Moore (nee Hanlon) Ballycleary.

Castletown. R.I.P.

We pray for Betty who died peacefully at Midlands Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Fri. 21st March. Betty's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Mon. 24th March followed by burial in Churchtown Cemetery.

We extend sympathy to Sinead and Jim, grandchildren Méibh, David, Erin and Darcey, and their families, sisters and brothers, Mary, Breda, Bernie and Trisha, Eamon, Paddy and Danny and their families, nieces and nephews and their families, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Betty rest in the peace of Christ.

24 Hours for the Lord

Four Parishes in the Diocese have agreed to Host - 24 Hours with the Lord Carlow Cathedral - Cill Mhuire, Newbridge

Portlaoise Parish Church Commencing at 10.00 am on Fri. 28th Mch Finishing at 10.00 am Sat. morning

Portarlinton Parish Church (Supported by local Parishes)

For Full Details regarding times and events see

Online Newsletter.

24 hours with the Lord is a worldwide event begun in 2014 by Pope Francis to encourage extended periods of Eucharistic Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament as well as the Sacrament of Penance / Reconciliation.

It offers us an opportunity during this Lenten Season to give some time to the Lord.

Lent is What We Do

24 Hours for the Lord

YOU ARE MY HOPE Psalm 71.5



Carlow Cathedral

Friday March 28th

Opening Mass at 7pm
Stations of the Cross 9pm

Saturday March 29th

10am Morning Mass
12 noon Directed Prayer –
Sorrowful Mysteries
3pm Directed Prayer – Divine
Mercy

6.15pm Evening Mass/Closing
Liturgy

*Sacrament of Reconciliation
throughout the 24 hours except
during Mass and hours of
Directed Prayer*

Portaoise Parish Church

Friday March 28th

10am Opening Mass
Adoration will take place
throughout the day.
Confessions after 10am Mass
and from 6pm – 7pm.

7:30pm Mass (Remembering
those who died during
lockdown).

9pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 29th

10am Concluding Mass

Cill Mhuire, Newbridge

Friday March 28th :

10am Opening Mass
Morning Time for Schools
3pm Directed Prayer – Divine
Mercy

7pm Stations of the Cross
8pm Directed Prayer – Polish
Community

9pm Directed Prayer – Indian
Community

Confessions 7pm – 11pm
Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament throughout the night

Saturday March 29th :

10am Closing Mass

Portarlinton Parish Church

Supported by local parishes.

Friday March 28th

7pm Mass (inc Penitential
Service)

8pm Rosary

10pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 29th

3am Divine Mercy & Rosary

10am Mass (inc Penitential
service)

1pm Stations of the Cross

3pm Divine Mercy & Rosary

6:15 Vigil Mass

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD is a worldwide event begun in 2014 by Pope Francis to encourage extended periods of Eucharistic Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament as well as the Sacrament of Confession. It offers us an opportunity during this Lenten season to give some time to the Lord.

Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

(Online from 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

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Name of Parish App.

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish

Triona O'Rourke Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish.

Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ms. Ailish Higgins.

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person:

Ms Michelle Hughes c/o

Bishop's Hse, Dublin Rd, Carlow Phone 085 802 1633



*Remembering Pope Francis
at this time*

Remembering
Pope Francis
at this time



Brigidine Convents

Annual Past Pupils Dinner

Sunday 27th April in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

at 12.45pm

for the Past Pupils of

Abbeyleix, Mountrath,

Tullow and Goresbridge.

Cost €50 and booking to be made before

Thursday 17th April.

Contact Dolores 087 414 8093 to book.

Please copy and like and share on

Social Media to spread the word.

Jubilee Year

2025

“We are
Pilgrims
of
Hope”

Jubilee year
Pilgrims of Hope



Jubilee Year 2025.

We are "Pilgrims of Hope"

With the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, the Holy Year was begun. Across the world, the Jubilee Year began on the feast of the Holy Family. (Sun. 29th Dec. 2024) To echo the theme of hope, Pope Francis is calling on us all to renew the hope of Christ, using Saint Paul the Apostle as a guide for this special year.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,

Pilgrims of Hope,

a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

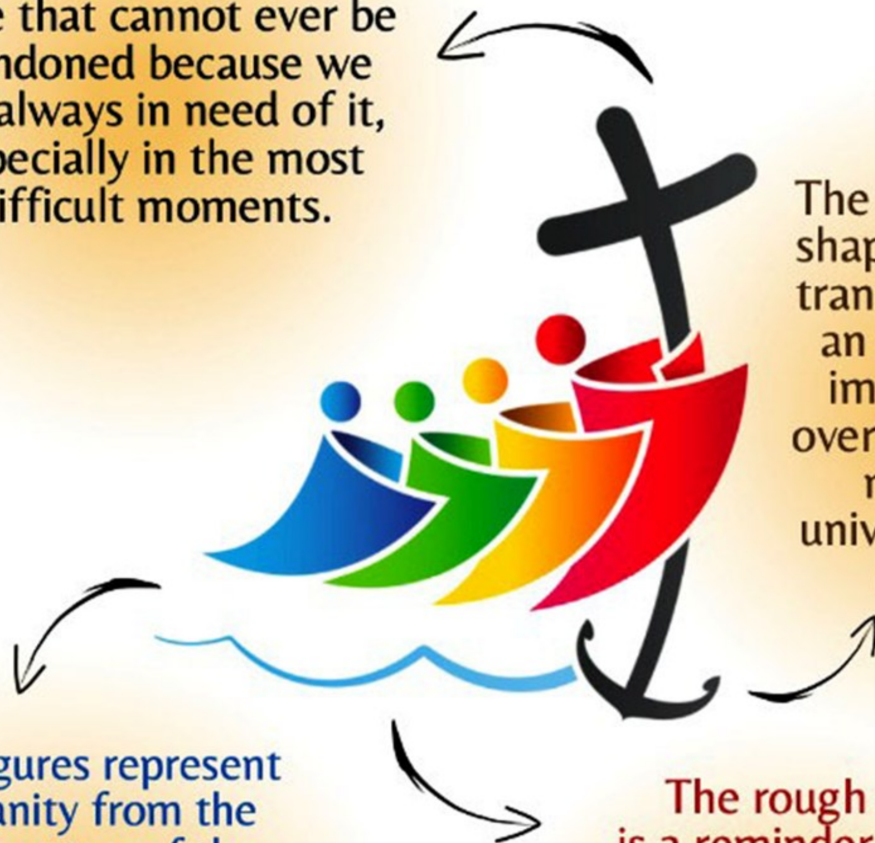
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load*

(From the Servant Song by Richard Gillard)

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.



The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son,

Jesus Christ, our brother,

and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts

by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope*

for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators

of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity

and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,

your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,

Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of

our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Confirmation

2025

Ballyfin Parish

Confirmation Catechesis

with Confirmation Candidates and
their parents continues following
10.00 am Sunday Mass on the
following dates

4th May 18th May

Ceremony of Confirmation in
Ballyfin Parish will be
celebrated in St. Fintan's Church,
Ballyfin

on Fri. 23rd May 2025

Ceremony will commence at 11.00 am

The Ceremony of Confirmation will be led by
Bishop Denis Nulty

Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Coinciding with the Jubilee for Teenagers, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocese is travelling for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, 25th - 29th April.

This pilgrimage includes a day trip to Assisi, trips to the pilgrims' sites of Rome and of course the Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square when Blessed Carlo will be declared the first 'Millennial Saint.'

Bishop Denis will join us for the pilgrimage as well as Fr. David Vard. Places are limited and can be booked through Marian Pilgrimages or forms and itinerary can be collected in Portlaoise Parish Centre.

Schools

News

O'MOORES CAMOGIE CLUB

Our Parishes, Our Club!



For more information
contact: 083-3374165

REGISTRATION OPEN!

WHERE:

Rosenallis Community Centre,
R32VK64

WHEN:

Friday 21st of March 2025

TIME:

7:30pm - 9:00pm

COST OF REGISTRATION:

- Adult- €100
- Student adult player- €75
- Juveniles (age 9-18)- €60
(Second juvenile same family €40,
Third juvenile same family €25)
- Juveniles (age 6-8)- €30
- Non playing members- €25

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME



"Do This In Memory"

Masses

Next "Do This In Memory"

Sat. 5th April 7.00 pm

(Mountrath)

Sun. 6th April 10.00 am

(Ballyfin)

Parish

News



East Midlands Parkinsons

East Midlands Parkinsons Support Group will hold a General Meeting for all people with Parkinsons and their Carers on Saturday, March 29th at 2p.m. in The Community Centre, Monasterevin, W34 FH24.

This meeting is open to all persons with Parkinsons in Counties Laois and Kildare.

Kathy Foley, Parkinsons Nurse Specialist will give a presentation on the day on all aspects of Parkinsons Disease.

For further information contact John 087-2712448

Walk in the Park for Parkinsons will take place on Saturday, 5th April at 11a.m. in Colt G.A.A. Grounds, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois. R32 V085.

Visit www.parkinsons.ie to register in advance or - register on the day.



Family
Carers
Ireland

No one should have to care alone

**Are you caring for a loved one
at home with additional
care needs?**

NO ONE SHOULD CARE ALONE.

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, but it can also be difficult, frightening and isolating. It shouldn't be.

Family Carers Ireland (FCI) want carers to know they have the support they need to care safely, to make it less of a battle and to know they are not alone. We are the national charity supporting the 500,000+ family and young carers across the country who are caring for their loved ones with additional care needs. We believe no one should care alone.

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS!

Alongside our FREE supports and services, FCI offers an annual membership for family carers (and young carers for free), with over 100+ discounts, such as free venue entry, fuel discounts, Three mobile/broadband deals plus much more, for only €20 per year!

Apply online or call us on 057 9370 221.



Local
Centre
Support

Freephone
National
Careline

Rights &
Entitlements
Guidance

One-One
Advocacy

Learning/
Training

Crisis Support/
Counselling

Family Carer Support Groups are also organised locally across all our centres nationwide.

www.familycarers.ie

Freephone Careline 1800 24 07 24

Search 'Carers Ireland'    

A Note from Bishop Denis' Desk

As we draw closer to Holy Week, a request to hold a special collection on Good Friday to support the struggling Christian Community in the Holy Land. It is our response to

“the cry of those who suffering so much”.

The ceasefire has ended and Christians, like all communities there, are under serious attack and constant danger. In the words of Pope Francis in a letter to the Catholics of the Middle East (7 October 2024) “you, brothers and sisters in Christ who dwell in the lands of which scriptures speak most often, are a small, defenceless flock, thirsting for peace. Thank you for what you are, thank you for wanting to remain in your lands, thank you for being able to pray and love despite everything”.

The collection, which I encourage, should take place on Good Friday. It is supported by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Ireland, and when it's forwarded to Bishop's House it will be sent to the Order of Friars Minor Holy Land Account for distribution.

Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration Knock Pilgrimage

Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration – Knock Pilgrimage takes place on Sun. April 6th 2025. Coach departing Athy (St Michael Carpark) 7.45 am sharp. Pick-ups in Ballylinan-Stradbally-Portlaoise can be arranged, please see

<https://eucharisticadoration.ie/kildare-leighlin-bus-times/>

Cost €25.00 Adults (children free)

For further information please also visit

<https://eucharisticadoration.ie/>

2025

**A COMMUNITY
IN ACTION**



The Book Bank

A social enterprise prioritizes social and environmental goals alongside financial objectives. All money generated is reinvested into the activities of the social enterprise.

The Bookbank social enterprise aims to create positive impacts, by providing social & cultural spaces, skills training & generating sustainable income. This income will be reinvested in education, creativity, art, culture & events for the community to enjoy.

By blending the efficiency and innovation of business with a commitment to social change, we can offer a sustainable approach to community challenges.

WE NEED YOU!



THE BOOK BANK

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP



**JOIN IN
GIVE BACK**



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Board of Management
- Shop Volunteers
- Events Organisation
- Social Media Promotion

Public Information Meeting The Book Bank 26th March 1pm & 6pm

Clean Up Laois Week

Ballyfin Community Alert have registered to take part in Clean Up Week - Monday 31st March – Friday 4th April. Collection point for bags of litter is yard behind Deadmans Inn and collection date for Ballyfin is Tuesday 8th April.

Contact Sheila 086 1570145
for bags and gloves.

Some 2025 Diary Dates

St. Brigid's Day Sat. 1st Feb.

Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin

Our No. 1 - Ireland's No. 2

Ash Wednesday 5th March

Mass in Mountrath 10.00 am 7.30 pm

Ballyfin 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Mon. 17th March

Ireland's National Saint

Masses The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am

Mountrath 10.00 am

Ballyfin 10.00 am

Thursday 17th April Holy Thursday 7.30 pm

Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal during Mass

Good Fri. 18th April

Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 10.00 am - 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday 20th April

Lent is what we Do.

Trócaire Boxes are available to collect from the Churches from Ash Wednesday onwards... This year, meet Lima, Julio and their family who live in a rural village in Guatemala. Their eldest daughter, Miriam, would like to go to secondary school but with climate change and erratic weather destroying their crops, they have less food to feed their family and can't afford their children's secondary school education.

By cutting out on snacks or some other unnecessary expenditure each day in Lent and placing the money saved into your Trócaire Box, you can help families adapt to climate change and build resilience for their future.

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

Cemetery Masses

in

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Parishes

Cemetery Masses

2025

Ballyfin Cemetery Sun. 8th June (2nd Sun. June)

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 27th June (Last Fri. Jun)

Clonenagh Fri. 11th July (2nd Fri. July)

Cemetery on Right - Mountrath to Portlaoise

Clondarrig Wed. 6th Aug. (1st Wed. August)

Boghlone Wed. 3rd Sept. (1st Wed. Sept)

All Cemetery Masses commence at 7.00 pm

Ballyfin NS

Football

Forecasting

Competition

Complete Results for
Entire Competition Below

Ballyfin National School Football Forecasting Competition

Round 1, Jan 25th/26th

1st place,

Sean Larkin: 14 points

2nd place,

Greg Kerrigan: 13 points

3rd place,

Niall Westman, John Maher, Michael McNamee: 12 points

Thanks to all participants.

It's not too late to join the fun – sign up by contacting the school

or at <https://forms.gle/BAD6WzZkSD37Bft47>

Ballyfin National School,

Roll Number: 15537E

Ballyfin, Co Laois R32 N920

Ballyfin National School

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 2 1st / 2nd Feb

1st Place

George Lanham, John Farrell: 14 points

2nd Place

Colleen Quinn, Pauric Carroll, Tom Glynn: 13 points

3rd Place

Aiden & Deirdre Heffernan, Anna Rowney, Brendan Quigley, Conor Sweeney, Darren Hanlon, Declan Looby, Greg Kerrigan, Laura Ruane, Mark Gavin, Martina Kelly, Paraic Crone, Patrick Larkin, Stephen McGlynn, Timmy Quillinan, Tom Behan, Tom Finn, Tori Holohan, Vinnie Collins: 12 points

Thanks to all participants. It's not too late to join the fun – sign up by contacting the school or at <https://forms.gle/BAD6WzZkSD37Bft47>

Ballyfin National School

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 3 15th 16th Feb

1st Place:

Colette Duff, Dan Molloy, Dylan Liam Linden, Marc Byrne, Michael McNamee,
Nigel Sweeney, Seán Larkin, Timmy Quillinan:

13 points

2nd Place:

Alison Groves, Anna Rowney, Colin Connolly, Darren Hanlon, John Dowling,
John Farrell, Laura Ruane, Laz Molloy, Michael O'Sullivan, Ollie Cronin,
Patrick and Molly Ryan, Paul Finn, Tommy Doyle,

12 points

3rd Place:

George Lanham, Greg Corcoran, Greg Farrelly, Helen Stack, Jean-Marc Gasche,
John Byrne, John Joe O'Connor, Kieran Cuddy, Mark Gavin, Michelle Fitzpatrick,
Seán Bell, Tom Finn, Tom Glynn, Vinnie Collins, Bernadette Spillane,
Cathal Phelan, Ciaran Linden, Colleen Quinn, Conor Sweeney,
Declan Looby, Diarmuid Farrell, Gary Moore,

11 points.

Ballyfin NS Football Forecasting Competition

Round 4 22nd/23rd Feb

1st place:

John Maher, 11 points

2nd place:

Gerard Reynolds, John Clare, Lianne McGrath,
Pauric Carroll, 10 points

3rd place:

Adrian Molloy, Berna Bennett, Brigid Meade ,
Brigid Bennett, Cora Gorman, Donal Scanlon,
Ger Lowry, Greg Corcoran, Greg Kerrigan,
James Finn, John Farrell , Mark Gavin, Martina
Downey, Martina Kelly, Michael O Sullivan,
Michelle Fitzpatrick, Ollie Ryan, Paul Phelan,
Peter Brady, Tiernan McBride, Tom Behan,
Tom Finn, Tori Holohan, Yvonne Thompson,

9 points

Ballyfin NS Football

Forecasting Competition

Round 5 1st - 2nd March

1st place:

Diarmuid Fennell, Damien Piggot,

14 points

2nd place:

Adrian Molloy, Niall Westman, Ollie Ryan,

13 points

3rd place:

Michelle Fitzpatrick, Pat Swaine,

12 points

Ballyfin NS Football

Forecasting Competition

Round 5 1st – 2nd March

1st place: Diarmuid Fennell, Damien Piggot,

14 points

2nd place: Adrian Molloy, Niall Westman,
Ollie Ryan,

13 points

3rd place: Michelle Fitzpatrick, Pat Swaine,

12 points.

Ballyfin NS Football

Forecasting Competition

Round 6 15th/16th March

1st place: Tori Holohan, 12 points

2nd Place:

Aiden and Deirdre Heffernan, Avril and Stephen Fitzgerald,
Bernadette Spillane, Billy O'Connor, Denise Ryan, Emer and Barry Heffernan,
Helen Stack, John Clare, John Neary, Laura Ruane, Michael Brady,
Patrick Larkin, Philly, Sam Heffernan, 11 points

3rd Place:

Brian Dollard, Brigid Meade, Cathal Phelan, Ciara Conlon,
Ciara Dunphy, Dylan Liam Linder, Gary Moore, Ger Lowry, Jamie Croke,
Martina Kelly, Ray Dermody, Ryan Family, Sean Larkin, Stephen McGlynn,
Tom Finn, Yvonne Thompson, 10 points.

Ballyfin NS

Football Forecasting Competition

Round 7, Mar 23rd (Final Round)

1st place:

Sam Heffernan, Peter Brady,

13 points

2nd place:

Grace Milne, James Finn, Niall Scully, Tom Behan, Vinnie Collins,

12 points

3rd place:

Avril and Stephen Fitzgerald, Bernie & Mick Clancy,
Colm Coss, Cora Gorman, Declan Looby, Donncha Phelan,
Ger Lowry, Golden Girls, Greg Corcoran, Kieran Cuddy,
Laura Ruane, Marc Byrne, Mel Keenaghan, Niall Westman,
Paul Phelan, Philly, Tom Finn, Yvonne Thompson,

11 points.

Ballyfin NS

Football Forecasting Competition

Huge congratulations to our overall winners for 2025:

Greg Corcoran, Tom Finn, John Clare, Pauric Carroll,
Sean Larkin, Greg Kerrigan,

71 points.

Thanks to everyone who participated this year.

*We hope you enjoyed the competition and are
very grateful for your support.*

Brigid Bennett, Principal, Ballyfin N.S.

Ballyfin National School

Astroturf Project

Dash to 44 Challenge

Sat. 22nd March

A huge word of thanks and very special congratulations to everyone who participated in and who were involved in our history making – Dash to 44 Challenge on Saturday last. A word of thanks also to the 44 GAA Clubs we visited who facilitated us as we descended on them over the course of a very long day.

Total donated as of 9.00 pm Friday - € 53,944.00

*See following pages for Note of Thanks for Brigid Bennett
Principal, Ballyfin National School*

. It wasn't quite a case of 'before we knew it the Dash was done' perhaps (certainly not for the runners), but nonetheless the success of last Saturday's 'Dash to 44' exceeded even our most optimistic expectations. We are all thrilled with how it went – in terms of the day itself, the huge community effort that rowed in behind it so effectively, and the money raised for the Astroturf project (€53, 984 on idonate as I type, and it's not quite stopped yet). There are so many people to be thanked that we are still working on the full list, and it is difficult to express the extent of our gratitude to everyone who got involved. The following doesn't even include all those businesses and individuals who so generously sponsored the event and/or runners– we'll get to them in another email!

A huge thanks of course to the runners, who so energetically and enthusiastically embraced the challenge and ran full laps at such speeds around every GAA club. Well done to the three time coaches, Shane Conlon, Michelle Fitzpatrick and Aidan Keenaghan who achieved the seemingly impossible feat of actually getting the runners back ahead of schedule. Ray Dermody made a huge contribution to the final route, and he arranged for the Garda Escorts in Abbeyleix, Stradbally and Graiguecullen. Paul and Catriona Phelan checked all the Eircodes, and researched which pitches had running tracks.

We are very grateful to the First Aiders (Gayle Kelliher, Avril Fitzgerald, Mary Troy, Sharon O'Loughlin, Ilkay Yildiz and Joe Dunne) who followed the convoy so diligently throughout the day, and whose services were happily not much needed. We are very grateful to Donncha Phelan who offered his physio services on Saturday. Thanks also to all those who acted as stand-by First Aiders for the day. Declan Looby, Martina Kelly and Cora Gorman drove the 'sweeper' cars behind the convoy, with Grace Milne on stand-by. Niall Scully and Linda Meredith accompanied the convoy in the 'Dash' car which catered for lunch, tyre repair and other random things. Niall and Linda, helped by Ella and Leah, also took many of the pitch-side videos and photos that were posted on Facebook and Instagram during the day. Indeed, there was huge work done behind the scenes promoting the event on social media, both on Saturday and for weeks beforehand – the challenges of that job cannot be underestimated, and huge credit is due to Alice Quillinan and Ciara Conlon for their diligence and creativity. Alan Hartnett, Steven Miller and Laois Today gave us great publicity. Jean-Marc Gasche was here before dawn to help load the buses, and Paul Phelan and Declan Looby stood out in the wet dark parking cars. Thanks to everyone who supplied the baked goods, and to those who helped prepare/tidy the dining areas and serve the food - Mary Phelan, Dolores Prendergast, Helen Moore,

Veronica Lanham, Wendy O'Reilly, Grace Milne, Laura Linehan, Mary Claire Cuddy, Helena Horan, Caitriona Phelan, Laura Thompson, Aoife Phelan and Cathy Graham, among others. Tom Thompson came at very short notice to solve a Burco related disaster, and Dan Hooban delivered the tables from the Hall down to us. Thanks to Aiden, Colm and Aodhán Heffernan who helped construct the Finish line arch, and to Laois Sports Partnership who supplied it to us. A huge thanks to Slieve Bloom Coaches for going with what originally seemed like a mad idea, and to the bus drivers who so cheerfully and helpfully took on the driving on the day - Pat O'Sullivan, Peter Cosmas and Tony Walsh. Thanks to everyone on the Parent Association committee, who contributed in so many different ways since this idea first germinated back in November - Laura Linehan, Jean Marc Gasche, Caitriona Phelan, Aoife Phelan, Linda Meredith, Ciara Conlon, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Finn, Laura Thompson, Cassandra Comerford and Webster Mut-satsa. Dan Slevin (Catholes Sauna) brought a box of beanie hats on Saturday morning, which came in very handy in light of the weather. Damien and Gráinne Quigley most generously sponsored the striking 'Dash' t-shirts that the participants wore so proudly. Barry Linden provided water for the buses, Carroll's Spar Mountrath provided fruit, Mulhall's Supervalu Portlaoise provided energy drinks and sweets, Downey's Centra sponsored the lunch in Stradbally, and Brady's Signs provided signage and decorated the Dash car - we are very appreciative of all the generosity.

Away from the Dash excitement, Yvonne and Ed Thompson, Alan Connolly, Tadhg, Fionnan and Oisin Gilligan collected for us in O'Moore Park on Saturday afternoon. Thanks to everyone who came to the various pitches to offer support throughout the day – I know that was hugely appreciated by the runners. A huge thanks to the many, many people who stood in the sheeting rain at the pitch in Ballyfin to welcome us back, the volunteers who helped at the pitch and all those who added so much to the atmosphere in the school hall afterwards.

Two people deserve a separate paragraph. Without Sean Connolly we would not have had the Dash idea, and he deserves huge credit for his passion and commitment to it, and his confidence that it would work. If I was to list all the contributions to the Dash made by the indefatigable Sarah Heffernan, this email would be too long to send. Suffice to say that Sarah was absolutely indispensable to the project, and was involved in every aspect of it –as many of you know from phone-calls and emails! I cannot imagine the 'Dash to 44' without Sarah's energy, efficiency and drive behind it.

Thanks are due also to all the club secretaries in every GAA club in Laois who facilitated us so readily, with some really going out of their way to help us. A particular note of thanks to Stradbally Club, who not only gave us access to their kitchen facilities, and a great welcome, but also made a donation to the Dash.

I am terrified that I have left someone out as so many people helped in so many ways, some I might not even be aware of. Please forgive me if I did.

We will be holding a celebration night in the Deadman's on Thursday April 3rd at 9pm, at which the runners will be presented with their Certificates of Completion, and the cheque for € 2,500 presented to Kolbe School.

Hopefully we will see many of you there.

Many thanks to all, Brigid Principal, Ballyfin N.S.

The Dash 44

On Saturday, there was the Dash 44,
All the participants had to run more and more.
Because of the busy day planned ahead,
No-one, yes, no-one could stay in bed.
From the beginning we had great faith,
And pitch after pitch it just went great.
At the last pitch we had to run, run, run,
And before we knew it the Dash 44 was done!

-Fiadh Conlon, 3^d class

Get Well Wishes

We keep and hold in our Thoughts and Prayers,

People, their families and carers,

who are ill or unwell, at home,

in Hospital or Nursing Home

or undergoing any surgical or medical

procedures at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery

Bingo

every Monday night

In St. Fintan's Hall at 8pm.

Come along and bring a friend!!



SeniorLine

Would like someone to talk to at this time ?

SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year
10am-10pm,

Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family.

SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen,
to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary.

So don't be alone and lift the phone.

Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91,
No problem too big or too small.

Table Quiz.

Presented by Class of 90 at Bloom HQ.

Thurs. 1st May

8.00 pm Sharp.

€ 10.00 per person. Tables of 4

All proceeds to

- Class of 90 Restoration Project.

Monster Raffle

Trophies for 1st 2nd 3rd

Winners

1st Holy
Communion
(1st Eucharist)
2025

1st Holy Communion Days in 2025

Mass Dates and Times

Gaelscoil Thromaire Sunday 4th May 2025

The Hollow Church - 9.00 am

Barnashrone National School Sunday 4th May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Scoil Bride, Mountrath.

St. Fintan's Boys School, Mountrath

Sunday 11th May 2025 St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath

Time 11.30 am

Ballyfin National School

Sunday 25th May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Dates of "Do This in Memory" Masses,
Mountrath and Ballyfin, 2024/25

Preparation Masses
for 1st Holy Communion 2025.

"Do This In Memory" Masses

Mountrath

Sat. 5th April

Ballyfin

Sun. 6th April

1st Holy Communion Preparation - Continued

All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion in May of next year are required to attend all these Masses with their parents or guardian — family

Ref. Mountrath Parish

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

Ref. Ballyfin Parish

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

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

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

Here are our Bank Account details

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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

Anniversary Masses

Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes

Sat. 29th March

To

Sun. 6th April

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri. 28th Mch to Sun. 6th April

Fri. 28th Mch. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 29th Mch. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass 4th Sun. of Lent

(Summer time begins)

Sun. 30th Mch 10.00 am 4th Sun. of Lent (Mother's Day)

Mon. 31st Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 4th Apr. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 5th Apr. 8.00 pm Noel Walsh, Pallas Little. 10th Anniv.

And deceased members of Walsh family.

Sun. 6th Apr. 10.00 am. 5th Sunday of Lent

Mon. 7th Apr. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 29th March - Sun. 6th April

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

Sat. 29^h Mch. 7.00 pm Denis Hetherington, Woodbrook (15th Anniv)

. Donal Murphy, Ringstown. 30th Anniv.

Summer Time Begins tonight.

Sun. 30th Mch. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Ann Heffernan, Clonkeen.

. **11.30 am Niall Phelan, Cluainin 6th Anniv.**

Jack Sinnott, New Line Close 11th Anniv.

Paddy Sinnott, New Line Close, 13th Anniv.

Tues. 1st Apr. 10.00 am .

Wed. 2nd Apr. 10.00 am Today marks the 20th Anniv. of the death of Pope St. John Paul 2nd Pope St. John Paul 2nd was aged 84 years

Thur. 3rd Apr. 10.00 am

Fri. 4th Apr. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 5th Apr.. 7.00 pm Noel Russell, Patrick St.,

Sun. 6th Apr. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** 5th Sunday of Lent

11.30 am 5th Sun. of Lent John Holland, Trumera.

Parish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto,

Wed 26th March

Nos Drawn 6 23 24 25

No Jackpot Winner

11 Match 3 's Rec € 91 each

New Jackpot € 12,000

Thank you for your support

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 27th March

Numbers Drawn 2 7 11 22

No Jackpot Winner

27 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 38 each

3 Local Winners

Mary Costello Winner (and Promoter)

Ann Lanham Winner (and Promoter)

Jenny Duggan. Promoter Betty Tynan

Next Week's Jackpot € 16,000



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 € 16,000

Ballyfin € 12,000

News From Around The Diocese

K and L

An Evening with James Kilbane

St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea Presents, Songs of Hope with James Kilbane an evening in support of much needed church repairs!

St. Cronan's Church (C of I), Roscrea will host a special evening of Gospel music with

Christian singer James Kilbane on Friday 4th April at 8 pm. The evening is in support of vital repair work to the church roof, indoor walls, dampness prevention as well as the ongoing ministry work. Donation tickets are €20 and are available from church organisers, local outlets, Eventbrite, or call 087 3825336. All welcome and all support are appreciated.

Contact Person: Christina McManamon

Phone: 086 9686512 087 6184154

Email: info@foxydisks.net



'Sing for Joy!'

A Day of Music and Ministry



Saturday 26 April 2025
on Lough Derg. Boat 9:30am.



Open to Young People aged
18-35. Free to attend.
Register via QR Code.

Organised by the Knights of St Columbanus.
info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk

Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace

A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 P6D3.

Tel: 01-5053000 Email:mrjp@iecon.ie 6th March 2025

Dear Bishop Denis,

The Gospel commands us, as the Body of Christ, to uphold the dignity of every human person and to walk with all who have left their home in search of a new life. As a nation, we are only too aware of the causes and impacts of emigration and the need for so many of our people to leave home and find solace in other lands.

At this time of year, and always, we remember and pray for all Irish people overseas – those who have recently emigrated and those who left our shores many years ago. There are few families in the country who do not have a loved one living overseas or that have not experienced emigration at some point. Many continue to struggle abroad with the loneliness of missing family and friends at home. We also think of those who have travelled to this country from foreign lands to begin new lives in Ireland, whether to escape war or persecution or in search of a better life. We pray that they receive the same welcome that we would wish for our own emigrants far from home.

The Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace is inviting each diocese to consider taking up a collection in 2025 in support of migrant people, whether they are coming to Ireland or indeed those Irish who have left these shores and are still very much part of our church and communities around the world. Funds raised through this collection will be used to support the work of the Council and other projects that provide pastoral outreach to marginalised and vulnerable communities within Ireland and among Irish people abroad.

During the past year, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference provided grant funding to a number of worthy organisations involved in the practical and pastoral support of our emigrant and immigrant communities. You will find attached a brochure giving some of the examples of how this funding was utilised and a poster promoting this year's collection. The Council will also be sharing relevant content on the Bishops' Conference website and via social media in the run-up to St Patrick's Day, around which time many dioceses choose to hold this collection, although the resource can be used at any time.

Pope Francis constantly reminds us to rediscover the Church's itinerant nature, 'as the People of God journeying through history on pilgrimage, "migrating", we could say, toward the Kingdom of Heaven' I conclude with the words from his Message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (29th September 2024):

"[L]et us unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions. May we journey together with them, be "synodal" together, and entrust them...to the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey."

Yours sincerely, Bishop Alan McGuckian Bishop of Down and Connor



YOUNG ADULT CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

Saturday 26th April 2025 | 9 AM - 8 PM
St. Patrick's College Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 NX63

Main Talks



Fr Chris Hayden
What are you looking for?
Discipleship in the Gospel of St. John



Dr. Andrew Meszaros
Can Catholic Teaching
Change?



Fr Simon Nolan, O.Carm
Understanding the
Contemporary Mind

Workshops



Eoin McCormack
Speed Apologetics: Proclaim
the Faith with Confidence



Dr. Noreen O'Carroll
Assisted Dying
or Deliberate Killing?



James Bradshaw
Chesterton, Belloc and
Catholic Social Teaching

Ticket: €45 including lunch, refreshments and social events
Contact: evangeliumireland@gmail.com



To book tickets : scan QR code,
search 'Evangelium Ireland' on Eventbrite,
or go to [evangelium.eventbrite.com](https://www.evangelium.eventbrite.com)

Find us on:



www.evangelium.ie

Parish Finances

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

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

Mountrath Parish Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch) (Bank of Ireland)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

- Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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)*

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Ballyfin Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€16,305	Pastoral Programmes	€1,720
Envelope Collection	€25,986	Insurance	€5,775
Shrine Income	€876	Security	€273
Rental Income	€5,800	Light/Heat	€17,570
Fundraising	€3,141	Cleaning	€264
Donations	€1,050	Rates/Water/Waste	€422
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€22,807	Maintenance/Repairs	€21,532
Church Bookings	€460	Diocesan Levy	€6,576
Lotto Income	€13,898	Diocesan Retirement Fund	€1,000
Other Income	<u>€ 2,421</u>	Printing/Missalettes	€1,870
Total:	€ 92,744	Altar/Shrine	€3,657
		Telephone/Broadband	€1,379
		Computer/servicing	€2,750
		Accountancy Fees	€1,000
		Youth/Community	€640
		Bank Charges	€863
		Donations	€200
		Loan Interest	<u>€485</u>
		Total:	€67,976

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

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat	€ 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225 .00	Cleaning	€ 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste	€ 579.00
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€ 3,121 .00	Maintenance/Repairs	€ 79,602.00
Church Bookings	€ 500.00	Diocesan Levy	€ 11,006.00
Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest	€ 3.00
Office	€ 1,899 .00	Bank Charges	€ 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund	€ 1,000 .00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/Missalettes	€ 9,233.00
		Altar/Shrine	€ 10,616.00
Total:	€ 226,586.00	Telephone/Broadband	€ 600.00
		Computer/servicing	€ 5,051.00
		Accountancy Fees	€ 540.00
		Youth/Community	€ 260.00
		Hire of Equipment	€ 1,141.00
		Music/Choir	€ 250.00
		Legal/Professional	€ 828.00
		Donations	€ 1,700.00
		Total:	€ 186,173.00

A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous

Ballyfin Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 1,525.00

Peter's Pence € 852.00

World Mission € 1,123.00

Trocaire € 2,462.96

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 500.00

Total € 6462.96

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests Fund throughout the year .

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
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Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund	€ 1,000 .00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/Missalettes	€ 9,233.00
Total:	€ 226,586.00	Altar/Shrine	€ 10,616.00
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		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

Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 530.00

Peter's Pence € 550.00

World Mission € 615.00

Trocaire € 2,615.00

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 390.00

Total € 4,700.00

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests Fund throughout the year .

Events

at

Bloom HQ

CLASS OF 1990 PRESENTS

Bloom HQ
Mountrath

QUIZ

THURSDAY 1ST MAY
STARTS @8PM SHARP



SPECIAL QUIZ WITH TROPHIES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD WINNERS.

€10 per person - Table of 4
All proceeds go to the
Class of 1990 Restoration Project

Monster raffle on the night !!



Table Quiz

Presented by Class of 90 at Bloom HQ.

Thurs. 1st May

8.00 pm Sharp.

€ 10.00 per person.

Tables of 4

All proceeds to
Class of 90 Restoration Project.

Monster Raffle

Trophies for

1st 2nd 3rd

Winners

February 2025 TIMETABLE

Monday

10 am Mature Movers
11 am School Program
2 pm Golden years club
7 pm Mixed Circuit Training
7 pm Karate*

Tuesday

10 am TRX
10 am Mother & Baby class*
11 am Activator Poles Inc
1 pm Lunchtime HITT
6 pm Kids Zumba*
6.15 pm Beginner TRX*
7 pm Advanced TRX

Wednesday

11 am Mature Movers
7 pm Mixed Circuit Training

Thursday

9 am TRX
11 am Seated Exercise Inc.
1 pm Lunchtime HITT
6.15 pm Beginner TRX*
7 pm Advanced TRX
7 pm Karate*
8 pm Bowls*

Friday

5.30 pm Kickboxing (3-7)*
6.30 pm Kickboxing (8-12)*
7.30 pm Kickboxing (13+)*

Saturday

11.30 am Pilates*

PAYG
and
Members
Always
Welcome

*These Classes
are not included
in the
Membership fee

For more info contact
Ruth on 089 2647761

Classes will be held in BloomHQ

Spacious, modern rooms Wifi

Sound proofed areas Free parking

Music stands And much more...



MUSIC TEACHERS WANTED!

Teachers on ALL instruments accepted

Contact Lucy on 087 259 7895

MEETING ROOMS

HOT DESKS

SERVICED OFFICES

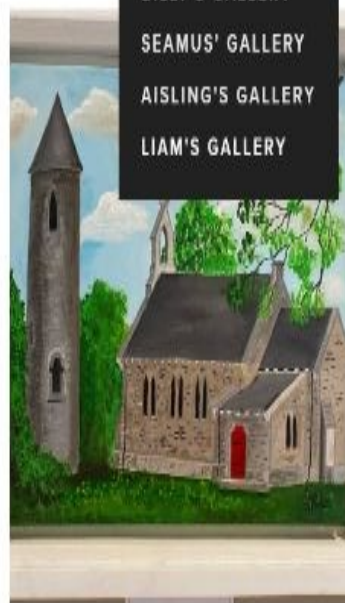
BOOK A DESK

BILLY'S GALLERY

SEAMUS' GALLERY

AISLING'S GALLERY

LIAM'S GALLERY



Canadian Rockies

Timahoe Church and Tower

ABOUT US

SPACES AND SHOP

CONTACT US

**Just a quick reminder,
you can explore the
paintings we have for
sale on our website!**

www.bloomhq.ie

MEETING ROOMS

HOT DESKS

SERVICED OFFICES

BOOK A DESK

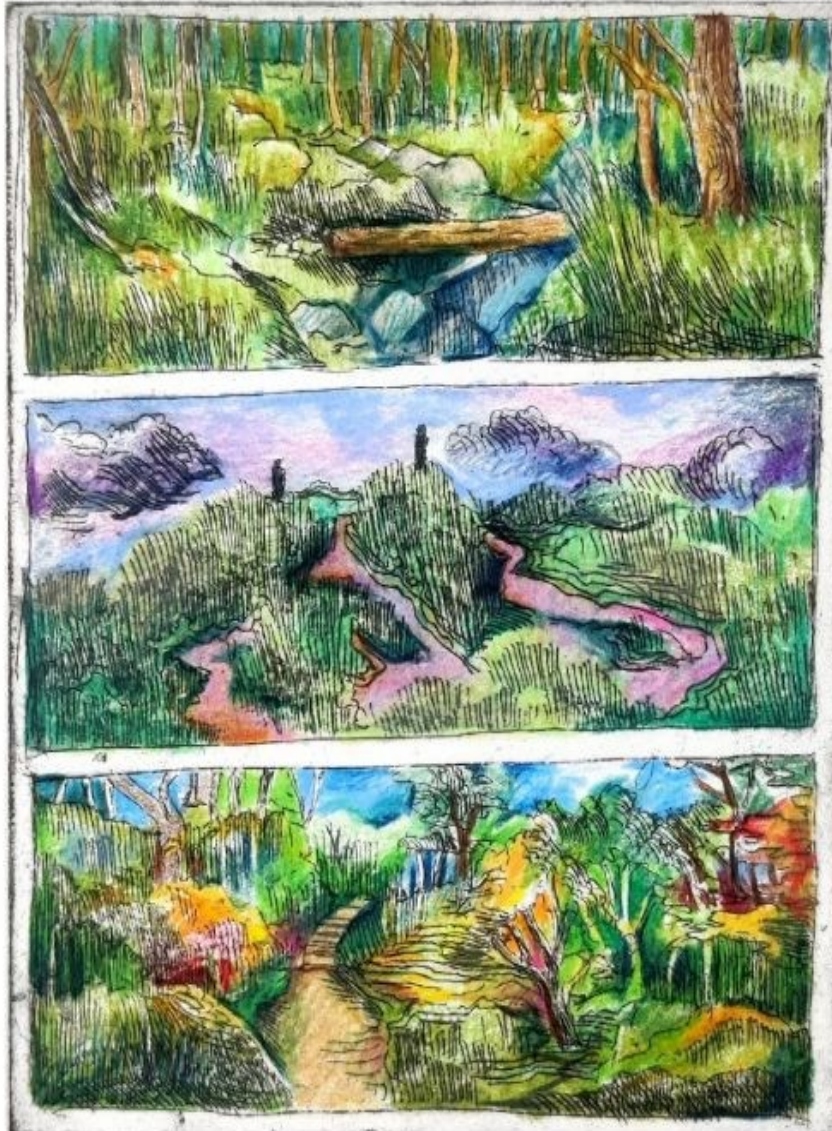
BILLY'S GALLERY

SEAMUS' GALLERY

AISLING'S GALLERY

LIAM'S GALLERY

NADIA RICE ARTIST Exhibition Opening



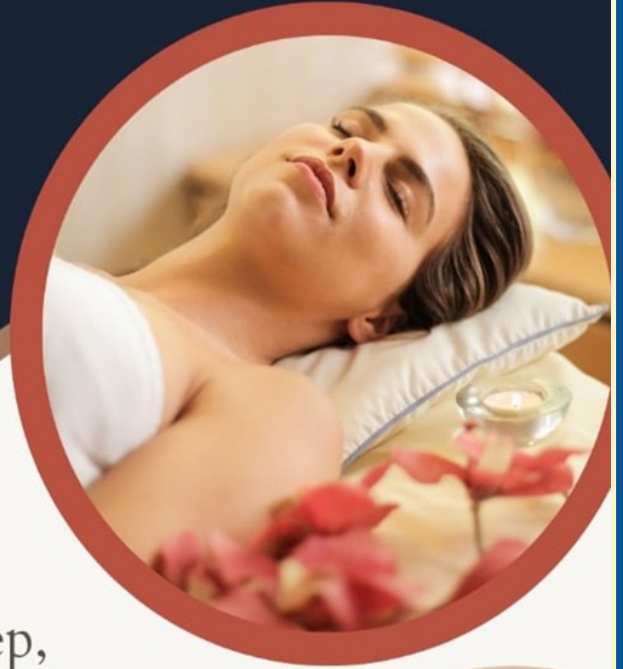
for the month of March, launching on
7pm, Friday 28th February

📍 Gallery of Divine Inspiration,
BloomHQ, Unit 1, Brigidine Convent,
Patrick Street, Mountrath, Laois,
Ireland, R32 DT9F

All are warmly invited to the opening of an
exhibition by Laois-born artist Nadia Rice.
The exhibition features a collection of
drawings and prints celebrating the beauty of
the Irish landscape and flora.

Revive Swedish Massage

— — — — —
REVIVE SWEDISH MASSAGE
RELAX AND REVIVE TODAY



Swedish Massage is gentle yet deep, it is used to aid relaxation, relieve tension energize the body and improve overall health.

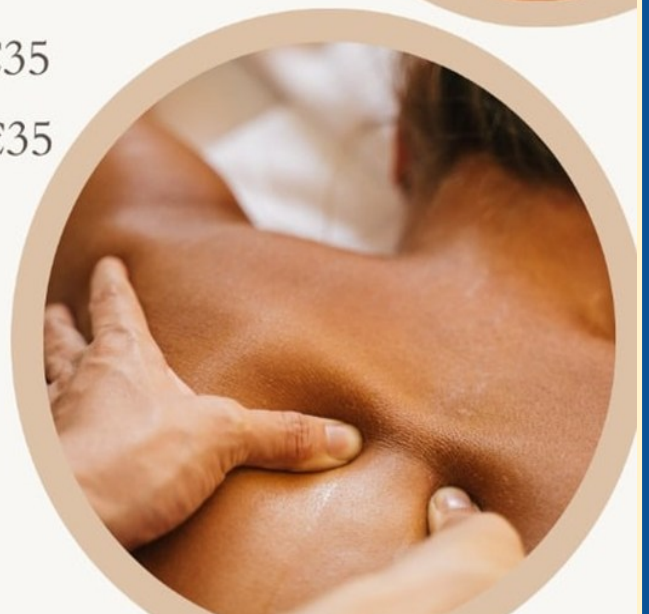
Our Services

- Full Body Massage 1 hour €50
- Upper Body Massage 45 minutes €35
- Lower Body Massage 45 minutes €35

 085 200 2497

 Bloomhq, Mountrath, R32 DC58

[Book Your Appointment](#)





White-Horse

Adults

INDOOR BOWLS

Every Thursday (8pm)
St Philomena's Hall -Bloom HQ

Beginners Very welcome
Come along and give it a try!
Runners or Flat sole shoes are all you need!



Feeling tired sitting at your desk all day?

LUNCHTIME HIIT WORKOUT



Tuesdays and Thursday @1.00pm

Contact Ruth 089 264 7761

Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32DT9F



LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

French Grinds with native speaker



Games, conversation practice, writing, reading and help with homework



Available times slots :

- 5pm to 6pm Monday to Thursday
- 1pm to 2pm Friday

Group classes in Bloom HQ (min. 3 students) or one on one in student's home (Mountrath town centre)



Fees:

Group classes: 20€/hour
Private classes: 25€/hour

✉ Email:

youandfrench@gmail.com



Phone:

+353 89 491 3931
Myriam Schultz

OFFICES TO RENT IN LAOIS



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SPACIOUS PARKING



CANTEEN ACCESS



089 2722885



www.bloomhq.ie



manager@bloomhq.ie



Mountrath Health and Fitness Academy



JOIN NOW

Ruth- 086 326 2570 

www.bloomhq.ie 

R32 DT9F, Patrick St.
Mountrath, Co.Laois 



Class of 90 Presents

At Bloom HQ

Table Quiz

Thurs. 1st May

Starts at 8.30 pm

€ 10.00 per person

Tables of 4

All proceeds to Class of 90

Restoration Project

Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?



CONTACT 089 2722885 or

manager@bloomhq.ie

Visit our website www.bloomhq.ie

UNISLIM

Join Today!

Bloom Hq

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Class Talk 8pm

New members
always welcome!

9 stone
weight
loss



Mairéad McCaul
Unislim Member

Join Unislim for €25
Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter
For more info visit unislim.com

    
unislim.com | 1800 603020

Music Teachers wanted



for Mountrath Music School

***soundproof rooms**

***free parking**

***waiting area for parents**



contact Lucy 087 259 7895

LOOKING FOR AN
OFFICE TO RENT
IN LAOIS?

**FULLY SERVICED
OFFICES
FREE PARKING
CANTEEN
POSTAL ADDRESS
PHOTOCOPYING**

**CONTACT 089 272 2885
OR
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**



Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58



Music Classes in Mountrath



Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772



LOOKING FOR AN
OFFICE TO RENT
IN LAOIS?

**FULLY SERVICED
OFFICES
FREE PARKING
CANTEEN
POSTAL ADDRESS
PHOTOCOPYING**

**CONTACT 089 272 2885
OR
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**



Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58



Music Classes in Mountrath



Violin

Thursdays 3-30 pm on from 3 years -adult

€ 20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene 089 981 8065



Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772





**Brigidine Convent,
Patrick st,
Mountrath,
R32 DC58**

State of the Art Conference Centre with 7M Screen, projector, Full AudioVisual, Gigabyte Broadband





Meeting Room

"Rachel's Room"

Brigidine Convent,
Patrick Street,
Mountrath

- Broadband Wifi
- Ample free parking
- Canteen

Contact
manager@bloomhq.ie
089 2722885

LOOKING FOR AN
OFFICE TO RENT
IN LAOIS?

RENT FOR AN HOUR/A
DAY/WEEKLY

CONTACT 089 272 2885 OR
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE



Music Classes in Mountrath



Violin

Thursdays 3-30 pm on from 3 years -adult

€ 20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene 089 981 8065



Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772





**Classes for Primary School aged Children in
Mountrath Health & Fitness Academy**



Karate

Mondays & Thursdays 7 pm
from 6 years up, €6 per class
Sensei Donal: 087 760 7063

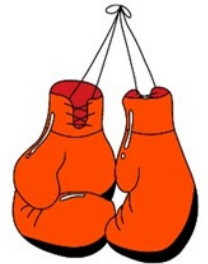
Fridays 5.30 pm 3-7 years, €7

Kickboxing

6.30 pm 8-12 years, €7

First trial class free

Shane: 086 339 9287



Brazilian

8-12 years,

Wednesdays 7-8 pm & Saturdays 10-11 am

Jiu-jitsu*

€ 35 per month or €5 per class

Jamie; 085 200 2497



Art & Craft

Wednesdays 5-6 pm, 7-12 years

€ 30 for block of 6 classes

Rhiannon: 089 211 5183

Violin



Thursdays 3.30 pm on. From 3 years - adult

€20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene: 089 981 8065



Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am, 6+ years

€8 for 30 mins group classes

Eabha 083 8566083



Piano

Sunday mornings €20 for 30 min individual

lesson Heather 083 054 7772

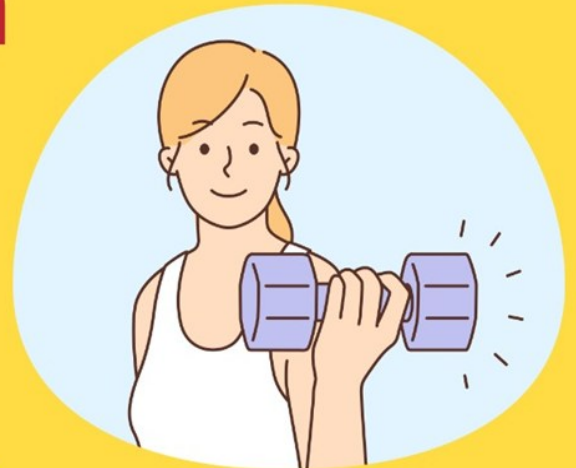
to book talk to the relevant teacher



Saturday Morning Circuit Training



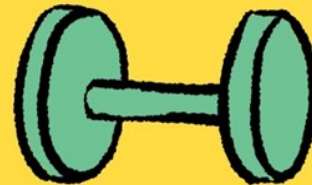
9-10 am



€ 7 PAYG

or

part of your monthly
membership



contact 086 3262 570

**The Old Convent,
Patrick St,
Mountrath, R32 DC58**



Mountrath Music Rooms

Lessons in BloomHQ



Violin Lessons

by Irene Ramos

089 9818065

iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com

Thursdays



Irish Traditional Music, Whistle,
Flute, Concertina, Accordion, Fiddle,
Banjo and Mandolin

Cliona & Eabha Dowling McDonald

083 8566083

Saturdays



Piano Lessons

by Heather Gavigan 083 054 7772

Sundays



Contact the relevant teacher
for times, prices etc

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu/BJJ in Mountrath



Thinking about learning self-defence and the Art of Jiu-Jitsu? A sport that suits all ages from 8 years.

- *mobility improvement
- *improve full body strength
- *better cardio
- *helps weight loss
- *improves flexibility

8 yrs- 18 €35 per month
Adults €45 per month

€5 per class for under 18's
€7 per class for Adults
or included in Monthly Membership

Wednesdays

Kids 7-8 pm

Teens /Adults 8-9 pm

Saturdays

Kids 10- 11 am

Teens /Adults 11 am -12 pm

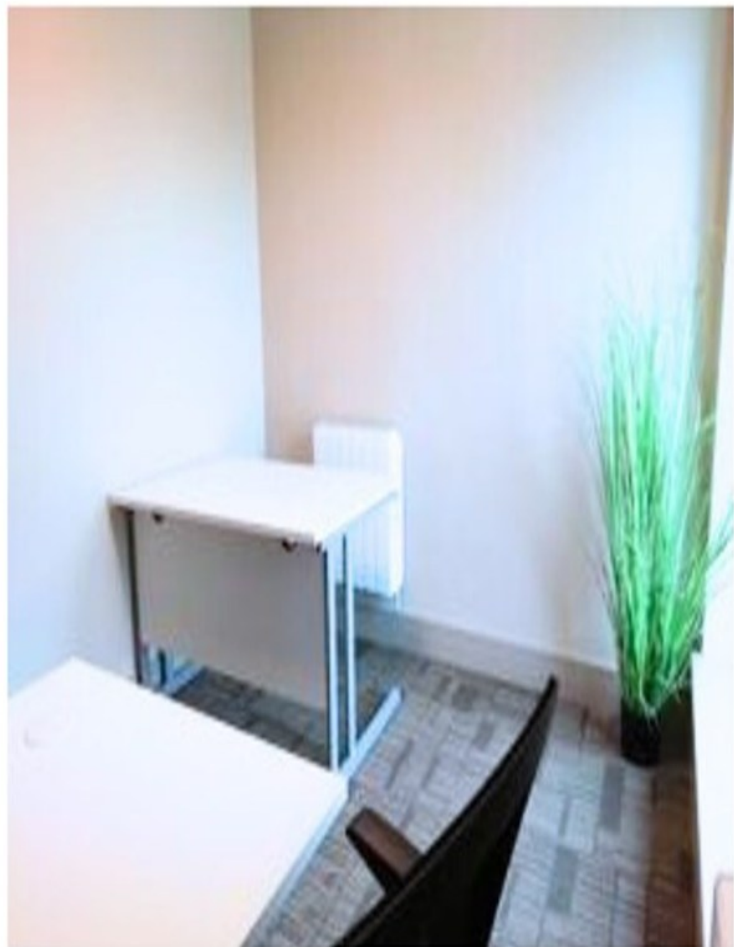
contact Jamie 085 200 2497



Brigidine Convent, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32 DC58



1 - 2 person offices for rent in our Social Enterprise centre in Mountrath



Contact 0892722885 manager@bloomhq.ie



Mountrath Music Rooms



**Contact 089 272 2885
or 057 930 0036**

***Soundproof rooms**

***From € 15 per hour**

***Perfect for music lessons, counselling or grinds**

***free easy car park**

***Waiting space**

Brigidine Convent,
Patrick St,
Mountrath R32 DT9F



Class of 90 Presents

At Bloom HQ

Table Quiz

Thurs. 1st May

Starts at 8.30 pm

€ 10.00 per person

Tables of 4

All proceeds to Class of 90

Restoration Project

Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

Mick Smith is teaching the new
RSA approved Motorcycle Initial Basic Training (IBT)
here in BloomHQ, the old Convent Mountrath.

For more details and to book see:

www.roadcraft.ie

www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie



Activities suitable for Senior Citizens in Mountrath

Mature Movers 50 +
Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am



Bowls inclusive 11 am Tuesdays
Bowls 8 pm Thursdays

Mountrath Men's Shed
Tuesdays 10 am- 1 pm
Thursdays 2 pm- 4 pm
contact 085 705 3855



Activator Poles Inclusive
Thursdays 11 am

contact Ruth 086 3262 570



VIOLIN LESSONS

by Irene Ramos

- Discover the joy of music and unlock your creativity
- Weekly individual and ensemble classes for all ages
- From 3-year-olds to adults
- Studio based Mountrath

FULLY QUALIFIED SUZUKI TEACHER & ABRSM DIPLOMA IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

FOR RATES AND/OR MORE
INFO PLEASE CONTACT ME

Phone: 0773222323

Email: iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com

 Irene Ramos
VIOLIN STUDIO



Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on
Patrick Street**



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

Contact 0857053855



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



Karate Classes



Mondays & Thursdays 7 - 8 pm



Juniors and Adults



Okinawan Karate



Black Belt Instructors

contact Sensei Donal, 5th dan
087 760 7063

Martial Arts Centre, Old
Convent, Mountrath,
R32 DC58



HIIT LUNCHTIME CLASS

High-Intensity Interval Training

Tuesdays & Thursdays

1.15 pm for 40 mins

5 euro a class

or

part of your monthly
gym package

Book with Ruth 086 3262 570





Irish Traditional
MUSIC
LESSONS

**Whistle, Flute, Concertina, Accordion,
Fiddle, Banjo and Mandolin**



Clióna and Éabha
Dowling McDonald

More Information :

Contact 083
8566083



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

Lovely LAOIS HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

“This is a call out to all our sports clubs in Laois to organize an event as part of the **Lovely Laois Homecoming Festival** on the weekend of September 5th, 6th and 7th”



Remember The Past

Organise a re-union event for past players, members and supporters from at home and abroad.

Return, Reconnect, Reunite. Regale past games and memories. Peruse old photographs and video clips. Enjoy each others company again.

Glimpse The Future

Perhaps combine the re-union event with juvenile games and activities. Let our past friends see our future stars in action.

Enjoy The Present

Put the icing on the cake by inviting local musicians, dancers and storytellers to join the festivities entertaining young and old.

You can use part or all of the above format or feel free to come up with other activities of your own. Should you organize an event please let us know so that we can include you in our Calendar of Events.

Laois Sports Partnership Office • Telephone: 0578671248

Lovely LAOIS



HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

FREE Afternoon

TEA *Dance*

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

FROM 2PM - 5PM

ST. PHILOMENA'S HALL

BLOOM HQ (FORMERLY THE BRIGIDINE CONVENT)

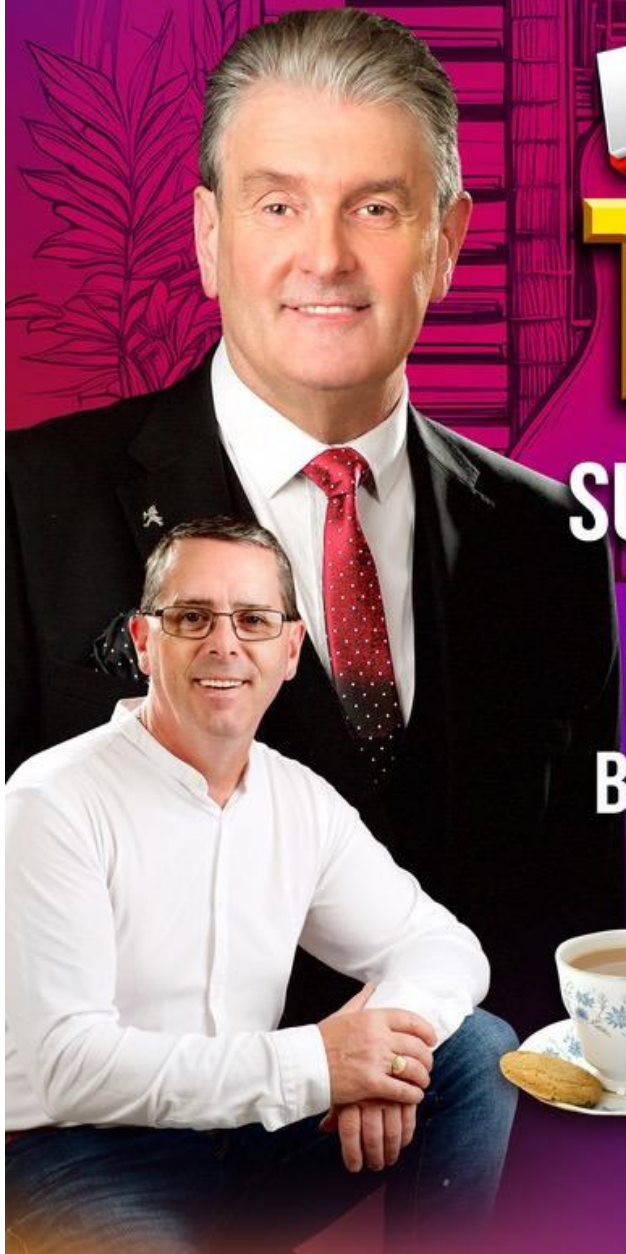
MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

DANCING TO

MICHAEL CAHILL
with Special Guest

SHAWN CUDDY

Complimentary Refreshments Served




BURDOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Lovely LAOIS



HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

LITERARY EVENT

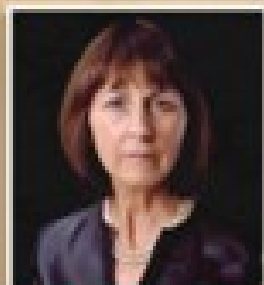
PRESTON HOUSE, ABBEYLEIX  *Preston House*
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025



11AM-1PM

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

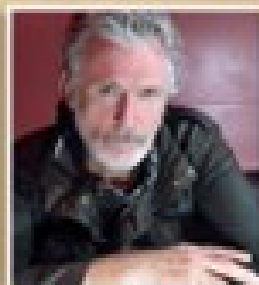
with Helen Moorhouse
Mountmellick native,
author of five
published novels and
Creative Writing Tutor,
Helen Moorhouse
hosts *First Steps
To Your Story* for
writers starting their
first novel.



2PM-4PM

PLAYWRIGHT WORKSHOP

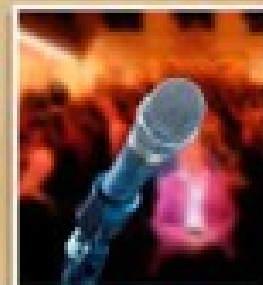
with Frances Harney
Prolific Ballyfin
playwright, author
and drama teacher,
Frances Harney, will
take aspiring writers
through techniques
for writing for the
stage.



4PM-5PM

AN AUDIENCE WITH PATRICK BERGIN

Distinguished Hollywood
actor whose screen
credits include 'Sleeping
With The Enemy' 'Robin
Hood' and 'Patriot Games';
and TV roles in 'Red Rock'
and 'Eastenders'; singer
and poet, Patrick Bergin
will read from his
extensive creative output
in an intimate audience.
An exclusive event not to
be missed!



5PM-6PM

OPEN MIC

Writers of all
persuasions, ages and
experience are invited
to share their stories
and poems in a five
minute slot before an
audience. Local poet
Arthur Broomfield and
storytellers Johnny
Thompson and Pat
Critchley will
participate - all
are welcome!

Please Note: Tickets for the Literary Event are FREE
However, you must book your place through [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie) (Places are limited)



BUIOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

Lovely LAOIS

HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

GALA DINNER

THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL, PORTLAOISE
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 Course Dinner
- Official Presentation to a well known Laois Celebrity
- Official Presentation to 4 unsung hero's from Lovely Laois
- Folk & Ballads by The Musketeers (Mick Foster, Billy Morrissey & TR Dallas)
- Dancing to Trudi Lalor, Shawn Cuddy & Damien Bowe

Doors Open 7pm
Dinner served
@ 8pm sharp

TICKETS
€59



Special Kildare/Carlow Pilgrimage
(Limited availability)
to Fatima EX Dublin Easter 2025

Flying with TAP Airlines

Also 13th June 2025 for Feast of Saint Anthony,

13th October 2025 for Miracle of Sun

Contact James Treacy 061921470

jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com

Payment can be made by instalments

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 - Holy Thursday (Apr 17th)

- Depart Dublin Airport at 05.35 a.m. and arrive into Lisbon Airport at 08.35a.m.
- On arrival transfer to Fatima where we will check into our hotel.
- Lunch will be provided at the hotel.
- Free time for optional activities.
- Dinner at Hotel.
- This evening we will attend Holy Thursday Mass.

Day 2 - Good Friday (Apr 18th)

- Following breakfast at our hotel we will walk the Way of the Cross.
- Lunch in Hotel.
- This afternoon, we will have a guided tour of the Sanctuary area visiting, the Capelhina, Rosary Basilica, the graves of the three children.

Day 3 - Holy Saturday (Apr 19th)

- This morning after breakfast we will visit the Parish Church, Valinhos and Aljustrel.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Following dinner we will attend the Vigil Mass in the Sanctuary.

Day 4 - Easter Sunday (Apr 20th)

- Following breakfast, we will attend the Rosary and international Mass in the Sanctuary on this Easter Sunday morning.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Afternoon is free for optional activities.
- Dinner in Hotel.

Day 5 - Easter Monday (Apr 21st)

- After breakfast, we will depart Fatima on our optional tour of Nazare & Bathala.
- A packed lunch will be provided.
- For those staying in Fatima, lunch will be provided in the hotel.
- Dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - Tuesday (Apr 22nd)

- We bid farewell to Fatima and make our way to Lisbon Airport.
- Enroute, we will have a short visit to Santarem and visit the Church of The Holy Miracle. We will have time for private prayer in this special place.
- We will then continue onto Lisbon Airport.
- Our flight departs Lisbon at 3.20pm and arrives into Dublin Airport at 6.10pm.





FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

**Barter's
Travelnet**

17th - 22nd APR '25

Group Leader: James Treacy

Escorted Tour

FATIMA where the Blessed Virgin appeared to the three children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in 1917 is now one of the greatest Marian Shrines in the world.

VISITING: Chapel of the Apparitions - The Church of the Holy Trinity - Guided tour of the Sanctuary - Hungarian Stations of the Cross - Aljustrel - Partake in the Easter Celebrations

INCLUDES:

- Return flights ex Dublin to Lisbon
- 23kg checked in luggage per person
- Coaching as per the itinerary
- 5 nights full board basis staying at 3* Santo Amaro Hotel
- Religious itinerary with a guided tour of the Sanctuary area and excursion to Aljustrel
- Taxes and Charges

EXTRAS:

- Single room supplement: €200.00 for duration (first come first served basis)
- Travel Insurance*: €50 per person up to 79 years of age and €75 per person between 80 & 94 years of age
- Items of personal nature.
- Additional meals not listed.
- Valid Passports are required.
- Optional Day Trip - prices will be given locally by our guide.

**Any person taking our travel insurance must get a form signed by their GP at time of booking and this form must be taken to Fatima with you.*

HOTEL SANTA AMARO:

Located a 5-minute walk from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Hotel Santo Amaro is the place where comfort and well-being are privileged. Hotel Santo Amaro offers you services of the highest quality so that you can enjoy your stay to the fullest. Our two excellent restaurants, where you can taste the typical cuisine of the region, are worthy of special mention. The hotel also has a chapel, two bars, and a souvenir shop. All guests have access to free wifi.

Cost Per Person

€859pp sharing

Non-refundable €300 deposit plus insurance premium required at time of booking to secure place



For further information please contact:

Group Leader James Treacy : Tel 061-921470 or Mob 086-0572216

Barter's Travelnet : 021 485 1700 or kcallaghan@travelnet.ie

BUIOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Lovely LAOIS



HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

LITERARY EVENT

PRESTON HOUSE, ABBEYLEIX  *Preston House*
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025



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with Helen Moorhouse
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Creative Writing Tutor,
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09:29



Lovely Laois Homecomi...



Trudi Lalor



Admin 21h ·

FREE Family Fun Day on Saturday 6th September at The Old Fort in Portlaoise. 4 Hours of entertainment featuring ABBA Gold - ABBA Tribute Band. There will also be a DISCO and side shows .

The Old Fort is a beautiful venue in Portlaoise town (behind the new Library) and is the ideal location for this family fun day event . We will also have FREE side shows and face painting . So save the date and ALL are welcome . Family tickets will be available through Eventbrite and are FREE of charge . The link to your free family tickets will be made available here in the coming weeks

ABBA

GOLD

THE SHOW



PERFORMING THE

GREATEST HITS