

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

Sat. 23rd Sun. 24th May 2026

May

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The Month  
of Mary

# Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

(Online from Early Saturday mornings)

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

Fr. Joe Brophy P.P. (087) 241 1594

**Website** [www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie)

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

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

**Name of Parish App.**

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*

## Luke O'Grady, Castletown. R.I.P.

We pray for Luke who died at Reg. Hosp., Portlaoise on Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Luke's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> May followed by burial in Churchtown Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his parents, Tom and Brenda, sister, Emma, son Cian, aunts, uncles, and their families, cousins, relatives, relatives, neighbours and friends.

*May Luke rest in the peace of Christ*

## Sadie (Sarah) Fitzpatrick (née Phelan) Brockera. R.I.P.

We pray for Sadie who died peacefully at her home on Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> May. Sadie's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> May followed by burial in Ballyfin Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her family, Mary, Sarah, Tricia, Tommy, Paddy, Tony and Jimmy and their families, her 13 grandchildren Chloe, Aisling, Marykate, Sarah, Maeve, James, Martin, Roisin, Rachel, Dinny, Cormac, Sinead and Caoimhe and their families and her 2 great grandchildren, Fiadh and Tadhg. Her 5 sisters-in-law and their families, nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbours and friends.

## Seán Quinn, Irej. R.I.P.

We pray for Seán who died peacefully at Tullamore Regional Hosp., on Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> May. Seán's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> May followed by burial in Cemetery adjoining Ballyfin Church, We extend sympathy to Ann and her family, Carmel, Séamus and Bernadette and their families, grandchildren Orlaith, Ciarán, Ciara, Eimear, Áine, Aodhán, Adam and Luke, daughter-in-law Niamh, sons-in-law Martin and Dave, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends.

*May Sadie and Seán rest in the peace of Christ.*

# Thank You

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

*And*

*Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lotto  
and Ballyfin Parish Collections.*

*Your kind and generous support is  
much appreciated*

*From Page 63*



A Note of thanks for your  
generous contributions to our  
recent Church Gate Collection  
(Ballyfin Church)  
for Lourdes Fund

€ 212.00 contributed

Your support much appreciated

# IGNITE

IRELAND

CONFERENCE

*Embers into flames*



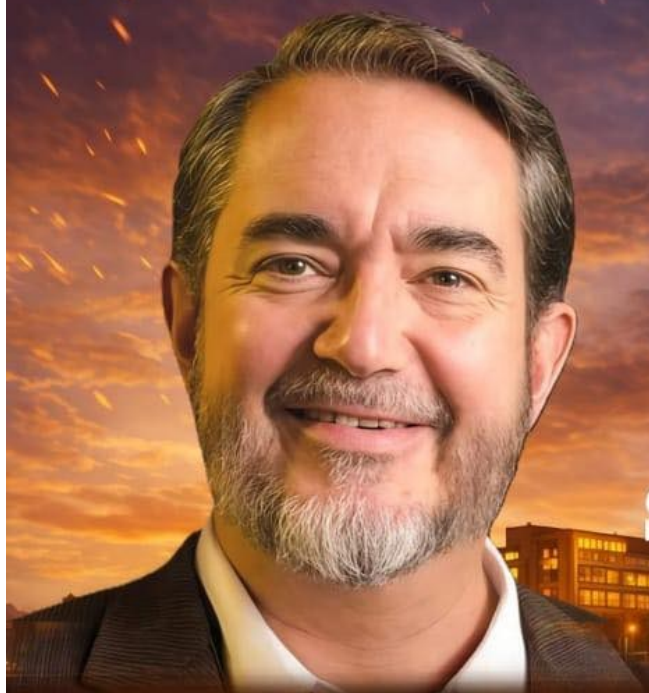
Saturday,  
May 23rd



Dublin Convention  
Centre



9:00 am to 7:00 pm



SCOTT  
HAHN



MICHELLE  
WARD



FR. CONOR  
McDONOUGH O.P.



MAURA  
MURPHY



FR. PATRICK  
CAHILL



For more information & to book tickets, please visit

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

For group bookings, please call 01-4048187 (10am – 2pm)



## Note From the Diocesan Office

### Retired Priests Collection

This collection takes place at all Masses

- throughout the Diocese -

on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The generosity of Parishes and parishioners

in supporting this Collection is

deeply appreciated.

23<sup>rd</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May

# Pray for Life

## NOVENA

Join the 9-day Novena online:  
Each day's intention is  
accompanied by a short reflection  
and suggested actions to help  
build a culture of life in Ireland.

See more at [www.prayforlife.ie](http://www.prayforlife.ie)



# Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

## Deputy Diocesan Liaison

Michelle Hughes c/o Bishop's House,

Dublin Rd., Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Ms. Ailish Higgins is now on Maternity Leave

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

## Safeguarding Message

Maternity Cover for Diocesan DLP., Ailish Higgins, is being provided on a part-time basis by Michelle Hughes, our current deputy DLP.

# Tots and Co

## Afterschool Service

Register for September



A safe, fun and supportive afterschool service for school-age children.



### What we offer

-  Homework support
-  Arts & crafts
-  Games and activities
-  Outdoor play
-  Healthy snacks
-  Caring, supervised environment

Places available **now**

Register early to secure your child's place.



Email [Colette@totsandcoplayschool.ie](mailto:Colette@totsandcoplayschool.ie)  
Or call Colette **0874162377**

LEARN  
PLAY  
GROW

## New Defibrillator at Ballyfin Old School

Official Name of Device - Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

(An AED is a portable device and can be used by anyone to help someone experiencing cardiac arrest)

A new state of the art defibrillator and cabinet have been installed at Ballyfin Old School. This Unit has been installed for the protection of patrons of Ballyfin Old School and Ballyfin Community Centre / Ballyfin Parish Hall.

### A note about the Defibrillator.

The Cabinet containing the defibrillator is not locked and is available to use, instantly, at any time. When the cabinet door is opened an alarm sounds.

I would like if a number of local people would engage in a training / familiarization programme in the safe use of the Defibrillator. If a number of people come forward, I will organize suitable training – To ensure that the defibrillator is always in working order and fit for purpose, it needs to be checked out on a regular basis. I would like if a kind local person would commit to looking after the unit on behalf of the Parish. I very much appreciate your help and co-operation. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming involved in this project.

To care for those  
who once cared for us  
is one of the highest  
honors in life.

– Tia Walker



Lessons  
LEARNED  
Life

# Cemetery Masses

7.00 pm

Ballyfin Cemetery      Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> June

Mountrath Cemetery   Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> June

Clonenagh                Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> July

Cemetery on Left   Mt.rath to Portlaoise

Clondarrig                Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Boughlone                Wed. 2<sup>rd</sup> Sept.

## Safeguarding Training

Refresher training will take place in Portlaoise Parish Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> May from 7 – 9.30pm.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance.

Please provide your name, Parish, role and email address to [bishopshouse@kandle.ie](mailto:bishopshouse@kandle.ie) to book training.

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**Name of Parish App.**

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*

## Solemn Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Solemn Novena will take place in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen, commencing Mon. 13th April and will run for nine consecutive Monday nights until 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Each night begins with praying the Rosary at 7pm

led by our beloved Poor Clare Sisters

followed by Mass at 7.30pm

celebrated by Parish Priest Fr. John Dunphy.

*Each night a guest speaker will share their own faith story.*

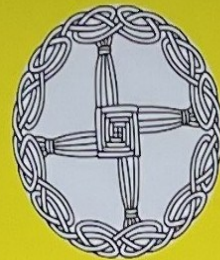
Monday 1st June

Katelyn Cummins: Rose of Tralee 2025

Monday 8th June

Bishop Denis Nulty: Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Diocese

Best Wishes to Scoil Bhríde  
As they embark on  
Their New Weekly Lotto



Scoil Bhríde  
Mountrath

## Fundraiser Weekly Draw

Your support makes a real difference

**Join Now**

Scan the QR code  
or go to our website  
below



[www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/sbmountrath](http://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/sbmountrath)



41st ALL IRELAND

# Rosary Rally



Join 10,000+ people

**SAT JUNE 6**

KNOCK SHRINE



[AllIrelandRosaryRally.com](http://AllIrelandRosaryRally.com)

*"A World at Prayer is a World at Peace."*

-Venerable Patrick Peyton



HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Sat. 6th June

Knock Shrine

## Letter from Bishop Denis to First Communicants, parents and families,

Dear First Communicants, parents and families,

Warm greetings and blessings to you on this very special day.

Children, today you receive the Body of Christ for the first time. This is the gift you have been preparing for. Now, I also know that you will receive lots of gifts today from many people who love you and are so happy for you on this day. But I ask you to remember just one thing for me. Please, remember that the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion is the most precious gift of them all. And the wonderful thing is that after today you can come to Mass and keep receiving this gift, again and again. I very much hope and pray that you do.

Parents and families - you and your family are important members of the family of God and of this parish. You are loved, you are wanted and you are needed. And when you are not here you are missed. As Christians we need the nourishment of God's Word and Eucharist to bring meaning and peace to our lives. That is why Sunday matters and why Sunday Mass is so important.

As you celebrate this wonderful day as a family my parting request to you is to seriously think about making Sunday Mass here in the parish, (whether on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning), a part of your family life, if it is not already so. The first step might be simply deciding to make it a habit in your week.

I pray that today may be a treasured day in the life of all your families. And, for our First Communicants, that it is the first of a life time of receiving Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Every blessing, X Denis Nulty

Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

29.04.2026

## Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Caroline Moore Pacelli Walsh

### Deputy Diocesan Liaison

Michelle Hughes c/o Bishop's House,

Dublin Rd., Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

### Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Ms. Ailish Higgins is now on Maternity Leave

Maternity Cover for Diocesan DLP., Ailish Higgins,  
is being provided on a part-time basis by Michelle Hughes,  
our current deputy DLP.



# TOTS AND CO PLAYSCHOOL

## REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE  
IN QUALITY CHILDCARE

**ECCE & NCS  
SCHEMES AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT COLETTE:  
0874162377**

**MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS**

See

Parish Finances

From

Page 93

# *Anniversary Masses*

*Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes*

Sat. 23rd May

To

Sun. 31st May

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Anniversary and Mass Times

### Mass Times – Anniversaries

### Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May

Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> May 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - Feast of Pentecost.

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am Feast of Pentecost

Celebration of 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Mon. 25<sup>h</sup> May 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> May 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> May 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - Trinity Sunday

Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May 10.00 am Feast of Most Holy Trinity

Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> June 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

*Lord, for your faithful people, Life is Changed, Not ended*

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

### Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May

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

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 7.00 pm Robert (Bobby) Mulhall, Portlaoise Rd.,

5th Anniv. (Robbie died on 25th May 2021)

Sarah (Sally) Osborne, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

4th Anniv. (Died on 27th May 2022)

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> May 9.00 am **The Hollow Church** **Feast of Pentecost**

John, Julia, Andy and Sheila O'Connor, Coolnareen

**11.30 am** Paddy Carroll, Cappagh

James and Ann Brennan, Tom and Ellen Berry.

Tues. 26<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Thur. 28<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am

Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 pm Liam McRedmond, Forest. 39<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

Michael (Mick) Holland, Trumera. 16<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

**11.30 am** Feast of Most Holy Trinity.

# Ministries Rota

Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May

Reader Ministers of Holy Comm

Sat. 8.00 pm Mary Finn Adrian Greene

Sun.10.00 am Larry Ryan Maria Dowling

# Collectors for May

Sat. Donal McCormack

Sun. John Coughlan Raymond Keating

# Ministries Rota

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May

Reader Sat. 7.00 pm Geraldine Moore

Sun. 11.30 am Michelle McCarthney

## Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat. 7.00 pm Sheila Cullen Mai Murphy Cait Tobin

Sun. 11.30 am Peter Middleton Bernie Phelan

## Collectors During May

Sat. Niamh O'Hara

Sun. Donal Doheny Pat McSpadden

## Parables - Fr. Mike Schmitz is coming to Ireland

We are delighted to share with you that the Evangelisation and Youth Ministry Sub-Council of the Irish Bishops' Conference has been working alongside the Ascension Presents team to bring a very special event to Ireland.

The *Parables* Tour, with Fr Mike Schmitz will take place at the National Arena, Dublin on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 from 7 pm – 9 pm.

The youth ministry sub-council has secured tickets especially for a youth audience to be present from every Diocese in Ireland.

To this end if any Parish in our Diocese would like to avail of these tickets please email Fr. David Vard at [youth@kandle.ie](mailto:youth@kandle.ie) ASAP (before Friday 8th May). Additionally if, as a Parish you have already secured tickets,

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion  
Ballyfin Parish

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

## Arranging Anniversary Mass or Month's Mind Mass

The traditional way of arranging an Anniversary Mass remembrance was by visiting the Sacristy before or after Mass and making the necessary arrangement with the priest, who wrote the intention into the Anniversaries Diary, there and then. However, since Covid this practice has changed.

Arrangements for Anniversary Mass remembrances and Month's Mind Masses are, more often than not, now arranged by email, text message, whatsapp, by phone, among many other ways. Which is great.

On the down-side, it can be quiet difficult to keep track of all these ways. - Sometimes emails can go to folders on the computer other than the main folder and are not seen straight away. The same can apply to text messages and Whatsapp. messages. This can cause a problem when I have no knowledge of these emails / messages coming in and are sometimes not detected at the time.

*Can I ask you -*

if you send me an email, text message or a message on Whatsapp, or any way, other than visiting the Sacristy, requesting an Anniversary Mass remembrance or arrangements for a Month's Mind Mass and don't hear from me or don't see the relevant name / names in the Newsletter,

please give me a call on 087 241 1594

**WHY SUNDAYS MATTER**  
**AN INVITATION TO ALL PARISHIONERS**  
**FOR THE COMING WEEKS**

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation invite parishioners across the diocese to reflect on the letter from the Irish Bishops, 'WHY SUNDAY MATTERS', for these remaining weeks of Eastertide up to the 'Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ' on June 7.

From next weekend we will post a short excerpt from the letter each week for you to think about, with a link to the full text.

See <https://www.kandle.ie/resources/liturgy-pastoral/> for more on the importance of Sunday and the Sunday Mass. Visit the Kandle Facebook page and/or X account to see this weekend's highlighted material,  
including a video message from Bishop Denis.

## WHY SUNDAY MATTERS

### – CHRIST'S PRESENCE AMONG US:

'Sunday has always been the day of the Lord: the day of resurrection, the day of rest, the day of Eucharist. From the very beginning of our Christian faith, Sunday has been central to the life of the Church and remains the heart of Christian practice. It is on this day that we gather as a Faith Community, united in our love for Christ, to encounter the risen Lord and be nourished in body and soul.

The Mass is not just a ritual; it is the source and summit of our faith. It is where we encounter Christ in His living presence, and it is through the Eucharist that we are strengthened to live as true disciples. Attending Mass on Sundays, or its vigil on Saturday evening, is not just an obligation; it is a profound privilege and a chance to experience God's love in a deeply personal way. As we come to this sacred celebration let us do so with hearts full of gratitude for the precious gift of Christ's presence among us.'

## WHY SUNDAY MATTERS – CHRIST'S PRESENCE AMONG US

### SUNDAY MASS CREATES AND CELEBRATES COMMUNION AN EXCERPT FROM THE LETTER OF THE IRISH BISHOPS

'Sunday Mass is a vital encounter with the risen Lord, the One who gives our lives ultimate meaning and purpose. Through our baptism we bear the name 'Christian'. This identity shapes who we are and calls us to follow Jesus, who is 'the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6). Through the celebration of Sunday Mass, we experience a life-giving encounter and communion with Christ. Just as the two disciples encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus and recognised Him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:35), so too we meet Him in the Eucharist.

Our identity as Christians is not solitary but shared. On Sundays, we gather not only as individuals but as the Church; the Body of Christ. In the celebration of the Eucharist, we affirm our communion with one another and with Christ.

Pope Saint John Paul II emphasised that 'none is as vital or as community-forming as the Sunday celebration of the Lord's day and His Eucharist.' This gathering creates a bond of unity, solidarity, and love, as we come together to worship as one body, with one voice, in praise of God.'

*What does it mean for you to have a real encounter with Jesus in Mass? What does it mean for you to encounter Jesus with others?*

*What does Sunday and Sunday Mass mean to you?*

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

*to Parish funds*

*Here are our Bank Account details*

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

**Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details**

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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

# Parish Newsletters.

There are three Parish Newsletters prepared  
and published each week -

2 - A4 Print editions for Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes -  
available at all our Masses and online (in PDF format)  
and 1 online Newsletter, uploaded to our Parish App.

[Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes](#)

and to our parish Website, [www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie)  
and available to view from early Saturday morning.

All items for Newsletters are always most welcome

Letter, email or WhatsApp

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

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

## Ways of Supporting Mountrath Parish:

Weekly Envelopes

Contributing to the Offertory Collection during Mass

Supporting Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Standing Order or Transfer directly to Parish Account

Direct payment - Cash / Cheque

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable

to "Ballyfin Parish"

Please indicate - Parish Fund

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

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

or deposited in the wall safe at back of Church

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

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or deposited in the wall safe in the Church porch

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

## Ballyfin Parish

### Times of Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are celebrated in Ballyfin Parish at the following times

Weekdays (Monday to Saturday) 11.00 am

Sundays 10.00 am

The Celebrant is the priest on duty in the Parish.

Funeral Masses are transmitted live on the Parish Webcam

And are recorded and available to playback or download

## Mountrath Parish

### Times of Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are celebrated in Mountrath Parish at the following times

Weekdays (Monday to Saturday) 10.00 am

Sundays 11.30 am

The Celebrant is the priest on duty in the Parish.

Funeral Masses are transmitted live on the Parish Webcam

And are recorded and available to playback or download

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

As

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

We would welcome your involvement.

Please contact either Fr. P.J or myself

with an expression of interest.

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

# Parish

# News



# Sacramental Dates

Ballyfin Parish

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Barnashrone School

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

Tots

and Co.

Mountrath

# Tots and Co

## Afterschool Service

Register for September



A safe, fun and supportive afterschool service for school-age children.



### What we offer

-  Homework support
-  Arts & crafts
-  Games and activities
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Places available **now**

Register early to secure your child's place.



Email [Colette@totsandcoplaysschool.ie](mailto:Colette@totsandcoplaysschool.ie)  
Or call Colette **0874162377**

LEARN  
PLAY  
GROW

# Ballyfin Vintage Rally.

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Something for All the Family.

Dog Show Tug o' War.

*And Loads more*

Venue Eircode R32 AD92

# BALLYFIN

## Vintage Rally

24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

R32Ad92



• Contact Majella 086 3101822 •

# Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. (Corpus Christi)

**2.30 pm** Ceremonies begin with Anointing of the Sick

**3.00 pm** Pilgrimage Mass Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis

Ceremonies are usually concluded by 5pm.

# Cemetery Masses

Ballyfin Cemetery Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> June

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> June

Clonenagh Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> July

## Cemetery on Left

## Mountrath to Portlaoise

Clondarrig Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Boughlone Wed. 2<sup>rd</sup> Sept.

Cemetery Masses commence at 7.00 pm

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

# Get Well Wishes

We keep and hold in our Thoughts and Prayers,

People, their families and carers,

who are ill or unwell, at home,

in Hospital or Nursing Home

or undergoing any surgical or medical

procedures at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery

# Bingo

every Monday night

In St. Fintan's Hall at 8pm.

Come along and bring a friend!!



# Bingo in St. Fintan's Hall

Every Monday night.

Commencing Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.,

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

Please support your local Bingo.

All are very welcome.



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

*Here are our Bank Account details*

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Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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# Parish Lottos



# Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Nos. Drawn 9 12 21 27

No Jackpot Winner

22 Match 3's Rec. € 46 each

2 Local Winners

Nikke Keane - Promoter Patrick O'Rourke

Bridie Allen - Promoter, Harry Allen

Next Week's Jackpot € 19,000

# Mountrath Parish Lotto

## Thurs. 21st May

Nos. Drawn 11 13 14 31

No Jackpot Winner

4 Match 3's Rec. € 250 each

1 Local Winner

Tina Feighery Promoter, Breda Conroy

**Next Week's Jackpot € 12,000**

Your generous support is always  
much appreciated

# 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 € 12,000

Ballyfin € 19,000



News From Around  
The Diocese

Diocesan Pilgrimage  
to Knock

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Sun. 7th June 2026

# 2026 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

## TO KNOCK SHRINE

To Parish / Group Leaders: from Fr. Ger Ahern

I wish to bring to your attention the following details concerning our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Buses travelling from various Parishes around the Diocese will arrive into Knock between 11 am and 12.30 pm depending on time of departure.

**Upon arrival:** Pilgrims may use this time for lunch, shopping, availing of Confession, visiting the Chapel of Adoration or making the Way of the Cross.

**2.30 pm** Ceremonies begin in the Basilica with the Anointing of the Sick

**3.00 pm** Pilgrimage Mass Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis

Followed by Rosary Procession and concluding with Benediction  
(outdoors – weather permitting).

Ceremonies are usually concluded by 5pm. Please advise pilgrims travelling with you about the time of departure.

You are invited to bring your Parish banner and assign someone to carry it in the Rosary Procession. The person with the banner should make their way to the Basilica sacristy by 2.15pm for instructions.

If I can be of any assistance to you please contact me on 087 6298881. Wishing you every blessing under the guidance of Our Lady of Knock. Yours sincerely,

*Gerard Ahern PP Tullow, Co. Carlow*

## Solemn Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Solemn Novena will take place in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen, commencing Mon. 13th April and will run for nine consecutive Monday nights until 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Each night begins with praying the Rosary at 7pm led by our beloved Poor Clare Sisters followed by Mass at 7.30pm celebrated by Parish Priest Fr. John Dunphy.

All are most welcome.

Each night a guest speaker will share their own faith story.

25th May

Edward Hayden: TV Chef and Broadcaster

1st June

Katelyn Cummins:

Rose of Tralee 2025

8th June

Bishop Denis Nulty: Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Diocese

Events  
at  
Bloom HQ





# Pilates

Mountrath Health &  
Fitness Academy,  
Patrick st, Mountrath  
R32 DC58

## With Derinn

Saturdays 11AM  
6 weeks starting  
16<sup>th</sup> of May - 20<sup>th</sup> of June



€60 for 6 weeks



**\*Spaces still available**

<https://www.mountrathgym.com/memberships/pilatesinmountrath>





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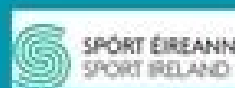


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# Yoga



Starting on Tuesday  
the 5<sup>th</sup> of May  
6.30 pm  
6 Week block

€60

**\*spaces are limited so book today**





Tours of new  
gym rooms

Patrick Street,  
Mountrath,  
Co. Laois  
R32DT9F

# PADEL OPEN DAY

18th April 2026  
14-00 to 18-00  
FREE

Music, Games,  
refreshments



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

# **LAOIS AFRICA DAY 2026**



**SATURDAY  
30TH MAY**



**COMING SOON!!!**

# Early Bird Classes



**NEW**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

6:00am - 6:50am → first class

7:00am - 7:50am → second class

\*10 Spaces available in each class

**6 am**



**7 am**



These Classes will be starting  
in 2-3 weeks once we have the numbers

**€80 per month**

→ That's 12 Classes for less than €7 per class!

- Treadmills
- Air Bike
- Rowing Machine
- Skiing Machine
- Med Balls
- Dumbbells
- Kettlebells
- Squat rack

The Gallery of Divine Inspiration  
Presents

**THE BOG GOTHC:**  
PRIMEVAL PLACE, THE CONTESTED GROUND



**MAY 1st – 31st 2026**

A SOLO EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY SHEILA HOUGH

Curated by Kevin McCann

Opening on the May 1st, 7-9pm by Kate Walsh, Art Historian of Damer  
House Gallery

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



Unit 1, Brigidine Convent, Patrick St, Dysartbeagh, Mountrath, Co. Laois, R32 DT9F



# Pilates With Derinn

Wednesdays 8pm  
6 weeks starting 29<sup>th</sup> April

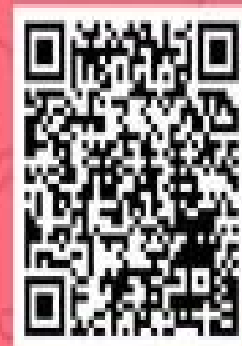


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**€ 60 for 6 weeks**

Mountrath Health &  
Fitness Academy,  
Patrick st, Mountrath  
R32 DC58

<https://www.mountrathgym.com/memberships/pilatesinmountrath>





# war means

3rd April - 1st May 2026

Bloom HQ, Brigidine Convent, Patrick Street, Mountrath  
R32 DT9F

Exhibition opens Friday 3rd April at 7pm, all welcome.  
Monday to Friday 9 - 5pm  
Closed Saturday to Sunday  
Admission free

# ACCELERATE YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

with European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and the Applied IoT Technology Gateway Cluster.



25th  
March

11:00 - 14:00

Midlands  
Park Hotel,  
Portlaoise,  
Laois

## Why attend?

Hear from real case studies using digital technologies from IoT to artificial intelligence.

Understand De Minimus funding for R&D.

Collaborative support between the EDIH's and Applied IoT Cluster.

## Supported by:



# UNISLIM

## JOIN TODAY!



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

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

**4 stone  
weight  
loss**



Caroline Davis  
Unislim Member



*Before*

Customize your space!

Begin your remote  
work journey today

*Contact US!*

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

089 2722885

*After*

# Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

RSA Approved IBT  
Centres in  
Waterford, Wexford &  
Laois.



**IBT (Initial Basic Training)**  
**Pre-Test Lessons**  
**Insurance Skills Assessments**  
**Advanced Motorcycle Training**  
**School Bike Hire**



Bloom HQ,

# MATHS GRINDS

HIGHER LEVEL  
LEAVING CERT  
MATHS GRINDS

FOR 5TH AND  
6TH YEAR STUDENTS

CONTACT:  
Orlaith  
0892336930





# OFFICE SPACE RENTALS

Designed for modern professionals, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, our dynamic workspace offers the perfect blend of flexibility, community, and productivity.

From hot desks to gym areas....

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

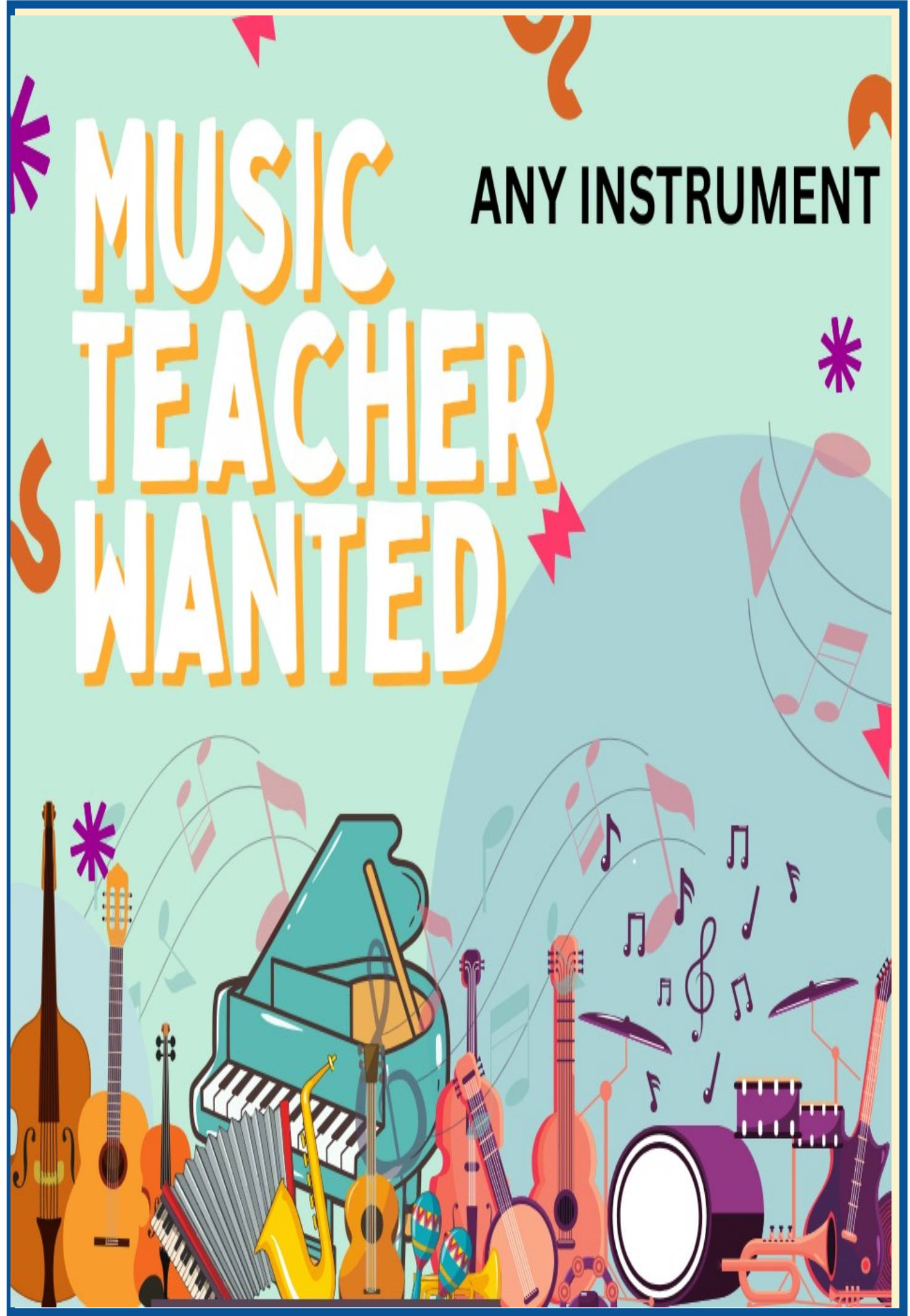
**Contact Us**



**089 2722885**

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





# MUSIC TEACHER WANTED

ANY INSTRUMENT



R32DT9F,  
Patrick St,  
Mountrath,  
Co.Laois

Contact us: **089 264 7761**

## Bowls

🎯 Enjoy competitive yet friendly games, perfect for all skill levels. Roll with us and make new friends! 🤝



## Seated exercise

**Thurs - 11am**

Move, stretch,  
and stay  
active! 🪑

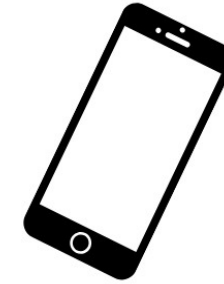


**COMING  
SOON**

**Talks on...**

**Help with using MiGov.ie**

**How to use phones better**



**Using local bus services**

## **NEW ACTIVITIES**

**Exciting games and activities —laughter, challenges, and good vibes guaranteed!**



## **BOOK CLUB**

**Dive into new worlds—our book club is starting soon!**

## **ART CLASSES**

**Embark on your creative journey  
—art classes starting soon!**



**BLOOMHO'S IS DELIGHTED TO  
ANNOUNCE.....**

**Child care facilities  
coming early 2026**

**RIGHT HERE IN BLOOMHQ!!**

Keep an eye on our socials for more details,  
updates and notices



# BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

Everything worth knowing  
— all in one place....



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











# Calling all teachers & tutors!

Are you offering grinds and looking for a base?

BloomhQ is the place for you...  
With dedicated rooms, whiteboards,  
free advertising and more!!

.....  
Email: [Marketing@bloomhq.ie](mailto:Marketing@bloomhq.ie)

# Piano Lessons now Available!

- All levels welcome – beginner to advanced!
-  Highly qualified teacher & choral conductor
  -  Over 30 years' experience in piano & music education
  -   Lessons for all ages – kids & adults
  -  Director of children's choirs in Ukraine & Ireland
  -  BloomHQ, Mountrath



for more details>>



 Free first meeting – come meet the teacher!

 **Book now – Call Lana: 087 3347112**

# Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?



**CONTACT 089 2722885 or**

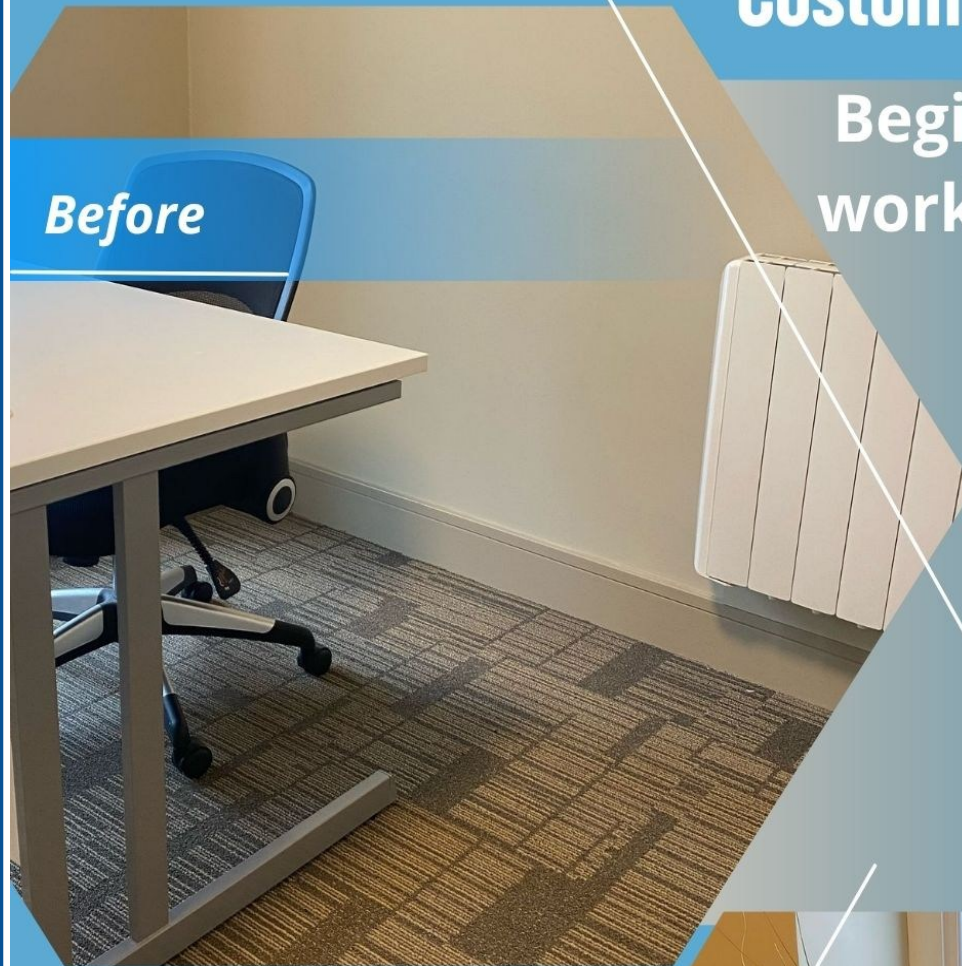
**[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**

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

**Customize your space!**

**Begin your remote  
work journey today**

*Before*



*Contact US!*

*After*



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



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

## **Hot desks at BloomHQ,**



**Contact:  
manager@bloomhq.ie**



**For just €20 a day**

# ***BOWLS***

**Thursdays @ 8pm**

**Philomenas Hall**

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



# GYM



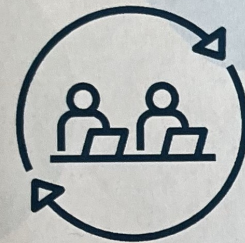
- Join our large, loving gym community! 💪❤️
- Build strength and friendships. 🤝
- Everyone's included –come as you are!
- Don't miss out, join today! ☀️


**New timetable each month**



BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

# SPACES TO RENT



 **HOT DESKS – JUST €20/DAY!**

**JUMP IN, PLUG IN, AND GET TO WORK** ⚡

**POWER SOCKETS & GREAT LIGHTING** 🔌💡

**CLEAN, MODERN, AND READY TO GO** 🧼🌟

**NO COMMITMENT – JUST SHOW UP AND WORK!** 🚀



# **CONFERENCE ROOMS**

**From just €55**

**Seating 2-20**

**Ideal for company meetings,  
general meetings, training  
courses etc**

**Contact BloomHQ to book  
today.....**

# Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

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

For more details and to book see:

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

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



# Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on  
Patrick Street**



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

**Contact 0857053855**



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

# ***Mountrath Scouts***



Looking for a way for your kids to learn new skills and spend time in the great outdoors why not try scouts!



**For all ages from beavers to ventures and into leaders !**

## **Scouts is a way to**

- Meet new people.
- Learn new skills.
- Spend time outside.
- Make friends for life.

## **Friday nights**

In the brigidine convent (Bloom HQ) Patrick street mountrath  
R32 DC58

7:00 till 8:30

€5 pp

or

€4 per sibling



Other

News



# TOTS AND CO PLAYSCHOOL

## REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE  
IN QUALITY CHILDCARE

**ECCE & NCS  
SCHEMES AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT COLETTE:  
0874162377**

**MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS**



C

# CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing  
in Mountrath.....



Coming  
Soon  
Now  
Open



Check out our socials

# Parish Finances

## Tax Back Scheme (Ballyfin Parish)

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

We are deeply grateful.

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

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

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

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

## Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

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

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

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

If you would like more information please contact me.

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

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

**Copy of Financial Statements  
(For Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)  
available on  
Notice Board at back of Church  
and on Online Newsletter**

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

Thank you for your continued and generous  
support of  
Mountrath / Ballyfin Parish Weekly Lottos  
and Mountrath / Ballyfin Parish Collections.

*Your kind and generous support is much appreciated*

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

*Here are our Bank Account details*

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

**Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details**

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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

# Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

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

## Income:

Basket Collection: € 15,971.70

Envelope Collection: € 36,274.99

Shrine income: € 569.24

Rental income: € 14,320

Tax Refunds / Rebate: € 12,000.07

Church Bookings: € 250

Lotto income: € 11,036.10

Other Income: € 1,389

**Total Income € 91,811.10**

# Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

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

## Expenditure:

Pastoral Programmes: € 1,895

Insurance: € 4,042.27

Security: € 579.16

Light and Heat: € 13,266.21

Rates, Water, LPT : € 736.78

Repairs and Maintenance: € 11,930.20

Diocesan Levy: € 6,576.

Diocesan Retirement Fund: € 1,000

Missalettes/Printing: € 7,692.22

Altar, Shrine Requisites: € 4,176.35

Telephone, Broadband: € 1,165.16

Computer servicing cost/hardware: € 690

Hire of Equipment: € 1,333

Music/choir expenses: € 200

Accountancy Fees: € 300.29

Bank Charges: € 828.11

Donations/Collections: € 880

**Total :Expenditure € 57,290.75**

# Ballyfin Parish Accounts 2024

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

*Thank you for your  
continued and generous support  
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and Ballyfin Parish Collections  
throughout the year.*

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# Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

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

## Income:

Basket Collection: € 40,269

Envelope Collection: € 41,068

Shrine income: € 9,059

Rental income: € 34,425

Donations: € 6,615

Tax Refunds / Rebate: € 17,018.07

Church Bookings: € 635

Deposit interest: € 127.44

Office: € 978

Lotto Income; € 30,157

Other Income: € 15,732.87

**Total Income € 196,084.38**

# Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

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

## Expenditure

Pastoral Programmes: € 1,412

Insurance: € 19,107.29

Security: € 484.54

Light and heat: € 19,823.12

Rates, Water, LPT : € 1,444.69

Repairs and Maintenance: € 103,631.35

Diocesan Levy: € 11,005.80

Diocesan Retirement Fund: € 1,000

Clergy Fund: € 2,342

Missalettes/Printing: € 13,534.29

Altar, Shrine Requisites: € 8,353.98

Telephone, Broadband: € 1,400

Computer servicing cost/hardware: € 2,880

# Mountrath Parish Accounts 2024

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

## Expenditure (Continued)

Hire of Equipment: € 2,903

Music/Choir Expenses: € 525

Accountancy Fees: € 300.29

Bank Charges: € 969.37

Donations/Collections: € 1,185

Other loan Interest: € 5.37

Interest: €-26.26

**Total Expenditure € 192,280.83**

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

## Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
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
	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
<b>Total: € 226,586.00</b>	<b>Total: € 186,173.00</b>

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

## Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

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