

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

8th 9th Nov. 2025

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Message from Bishop Denis

re.

Department of Education Survey
on School Patronage

The survey can be accessed
at [https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/
campaigns/primary-school-survey/](https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/)

See Page 9 of this edition for more details

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

or www.ballyfinparish.ie

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Name of Parish App.

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes

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Note from Niamh Bright,
Social Club Comm. Laois Co. Co.

Annual Prayer Service to remember
deceased staff and members of Laois Co. Co.

will be held on Tues. 18th Nov. in the
Council Chamber, County Hall, at 6.00 pm.

Light refreshments served afterwards.

People of all faiths are welcome to attend,
to remember colleagues and friends.

We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

“Do This In Memory”

Masses

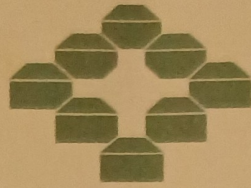
this Weekend

Mountrath Church

Saturday 7.00 pm

Ballyfin Church

Sunday 10.00 am



Muintir Na Tíre

Certificate of Recognition

proudly presented by
Muintir Na Tíre
to

Ballyfin Community Alert

in recognition of their outstanding contribution
to Community Alert in Laois
at

Áras an Chontae

30th October 2025

Jackie Meally
National President
Muintir Na Tíre

Pat Duggan
Community Alert
Development Officer
Muintir Na Tíre

Rosie Palmer
Chief Executive Officer
Muintir Na Tíre

Message from Bishop Denis re.

Department of Education Survey on School Patronage

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

It is important that people who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that people who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for parents who would wish for Sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For these reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a primary school student.

The survey can be accessed

at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>

Survey closes on 16th December 2025

Brendan Moloney (Sen.) Brophy Tce., Roscrea. R.I.P

We pray for Brendan who died peacefully at Tullamore Reg. Hosp., on Tues. 28th Oct. Brendan's Funeral Mass was celebrated in Cronan's Church, Roscrea on Sun. 2nd Nov. followed by burial in the adjoining new cemetery. We extend sympathy to Geraldine, Brendan, (Edel and family) Amanda, Jason, Melissa, Emma, Elaine, Evan, and their families, brothers Matt, Ger, Noel, Aidan, Kevin and David, sisters Maura, Tricia and Aileen and their families, his 19 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, good neighbours and wide circle of friends.

Brendan is father-in-law of Edel Moloney, Mountrath Community Employment Scheme Supervisor.

May Brendan rest in the peace of Christ.

Cemetery Prayer

May God remember forever our dear ones,

Who have gone to their eternal rest.

May they be at one with the One

Who is life eternal.

May the beauty of their lives

Shine forevermore,

And may our lives

always bring honour to their memory.

Amen.

In November We Remember

A Prayer at Bedtime

O my God, As the evening falls I come to you in prayer. I thank you for being with me in every moment of this day, guiding me and protecting me, keeping me from harm.

On this November night, I bring before you in prayer all those dear to me who have died.

(Pause a moment and name loved ones for whom you wish to pray)

Remember them God in your loving kindness. I trust your promise, that they now rest in your eternal peace, in that home you prepared for them. May all of us who miss them and grieve them find comfort in our belief that we will one day see them again in the kingdom of heaven. I remember in my prayer this night all who have died and who have no one to remember them in prayer.

For these and for all our loved ones I pray:

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. Amen

In November We Remember

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission
have issued

a beautiful Prayer Card for November.

I have downloaded this Prayer Card and have
printed off copies of same.

Copies of this Prayer Card are available at back
of

Church or in the Porch and you are
most welcome

to take a copy home with you.

In November We Remember

What we leave behind
Is
Not what is engraved
In Stone Monuments
But
What is woven
Into
The lives of others

(Pericles Born in Athens c. 495 BC)

Golden Year's Club

Annual Church Gate Collection

This Weekend

Sat. 8th Sun. 9th Nov

Mountrath Parish

Your usual generosity and
support much appreciated

Cash4Clothes Fundraiser

for Ballyfin N. S. Parents Council

Clothes Collection Drop off at the GAA Pavillion

Fri. 21st Nov. 1.30 pm to 3.30

Sat 22nd Nov. 10am till 12pm

Items we can collect:

Women's and Men's Clothing

Children's Clothing

Paired Footwear, handbags, Belts

Soft toys(teddies) Curtains, Towels, Bedlinen (duvet covers,

Sheets, Pillowcases, Blankets, Throws

NO PILLOWS - DUVETS OR CARPETS

All Support is greatly appreciated.

Portlaoise and District Ploughing Association

Table Quiz

Deadman's Inn

Sat 8th Nov. 8.00pm

Table of 4 €40

Great Prizes:

Fun for all the family

Please Support



RHYTHM AND BALANCE

ZUMBA & TAI CHI

FREE OUTDOOR EXERCISE CLASSES

FUN exercises to music!
Suitable for everyone!

**Scan me
to BOOK!**



CASTLETOWN

Castletown Community Centre Carpark

Every Monday 11.30am–12.30pm

October 13th, 20th, 27th November 3rd, 10th, 17th

Contact: sports@laoiscoco.ie
... for any queries!

**These outdoor activity sessions are provided by fully
qualified instructors and are weather dependent.
Wearing layers and a rain jacket is advisable.**



Healthy
Laois



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



BALLYFIN PLAYERS

PRESENT

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS



**THE BLACK AND TAN
RAID IN CLONTYGLASS**

THE HIRED HELP



THE YANK OUTSIDER

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
& SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
7.30PM NIGHTLY**

Tickets on willwego.com & limited
number in The Deadman's & O'Gorman's,
Mountmellick

MOUNTMELICK COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

Ballyfin Players Present

Three 1 Act Plays

"The Raid at Clontyglass 1921"

A true story being re-enacted at Mountmellick
Community Arts Centre

on Fri. 14th and Sat. 15th Nov.

(Main Auditorium)

(Curtain up at 7.30 pm nightly)

featuring (in the cast) children from
Ballyfin National School.

** "The Hired Help" ** "The Yank Outsider" **

Tickets on willwego.com The Deadman's
and O'Gorman's

Ticket Sales are going very well – which is very encouraging

"From Small steps on Stage come great life Journeys"

Events at Seanchistin

Irey, R32 X5D6

Maureen Culleton

Tuesday 11a.m. Line Dancing

Wed. 8p.m. Set Dancing

Thurs. 11 am. For persons living with Parkinsons and friends...music, movement singing, poetry, stories, cuppa,

Thursday 8 pm Line Dancing

commencing Thurs. Oct. 9th

Contact Maureen

087 648 2038

or seanchistin@gmail.com for details

Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Ballyfin

Parishes

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sat. 8th November

Mountrath Ch. 7.00 pm

1st Holy Communion Preparation

Next

"Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 9th November

Ballyfin Ch. 10.00 am

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis

Mountrath

Sat. 29th Nov. After 7.00 pm Mass

For Confirmation Candidates and their parents
in Mountrath Parish.

Parish Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Catechesis -

Ballyfin

Sun. 30th Nov after 10.00 am Mass

For Confirmation Candidates
and their parents /guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Sacramental Dates

Mountrath Parish

1st Holy Communion Sun. 26th April 11.30 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 11.00 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children,

Tues. 21st April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Mountrath Ch)

Enrolment for 1st Holy Communion

Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mass

"Do This In Memory" Masses

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the
2nd Sunday of the month.

Vigil Mass on Saturday evening 7.00 pm

(Unless otherwise indicated)

Sacramental Dates

'25 – '26 Ballyfin Parish

^{1st} Holy Communion

Ballyfin Sch. Sun. 17th May 10.00 am

Barnashrone School

Sun. 24th May 10.00 am

Enrolment - Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May 2.30 pm

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Penance with 1st Holy Communion children

Thurs. 23rd April 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28th April 7.30pm (Ballyfin Church)

All "Do This In Memory" Masses will be on the

2nd Sunday of the month.

(Unless otherwise indicated)

1st Eucharist Preparation Programme

All candidates preparing to receive 1st Holy Communion next year are required to attend all "Do This In Memory" Masses with their parents or guardian.

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

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

Or

To the Sunday morning Mass in Mountrath at 11.30 am

Arranging Anniversary Mass or Month's Mind Mass

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

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

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

Can I ask you -

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

please give me a call on 087 241 1594

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin 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

Congratulations and well done
to Pupils and Staff
of Ballyfin NS.

Panto is now in Full Swing

(Picture below was taken at Thurs. night's performance)



*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 1 online Newsletter, uploaded to our Parish App.

(Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes)

and to our parish Website,

www.mountrathparish.ie

and available to view from early Sat morning.

Deadline 2.00 pm Thursday

Jubilee year
Pilgrims of Hope



Jubilee Year 2025.

Pilgrims of Hope

During the 18th and 19th Century in the time of persecution and the penal laws, the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin resided in Allen Parish. People attended Mass at the Priests Corner Mass Rock in Ballyteague. As part of the Jubilee year - Pilgrims of Hope - Bishop Denis Nulty will celebrate Mass at the Priests Corner Mass Rock in Ballyteague on Sunday 15th June at 2pm.

For people who wish to walk the 2.5kms in pilgrimage, please assemble at 12.30 pm at the GAA clubhouse in Ballyteague W91 VEW8. For people who do not wish to walk, car parking will be available beside the Mass Rock which will be signposted on the day.

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.



DICASTERY FOR EVANGELIZATION
SECTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS
REGARDING EVANGELIZATION IN THE WORLD

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.

Parish News



Sacramental Dates

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Parish Confirmation Preparation

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For Confirmation Candidates and their
parents / guardians in Ballyfin Parish

Ballyfin Community Alert

Seniors Alert Scheme

Grant aided personal 24/7 personal monitored alarms help people aged 65 and over to live securely in their homes with peace of mind. If you know a family member, friend or neighbour in Ballyfin or Laois area who may qualify

Please contact Sheila on 086 157 0145
for information/application form.

Active Seniors Club, Mountmellick

You are most welcome to join us for our Annual Christmas Break to the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill for four nights from Monday, 24th November, coming home on Friday, 28th.

It's a 4 star hotel, the cost is €495 pps - this includes the coach there and back, breakfasts and evening meals, also day trips to surrounding towns and areas of history.

Good company assured.

For more information ring or text 087 9753790

An Tobar Núa.

Confidential Counselling nationwide via telephone and Zoom. Our Service is donation-based, because we do not want finances to prevent anyone from receiving support. If you are struggling with grief, anxiety, depression, or other life challenges, please know that we are here to help. Phone: 091 562 175
Email: counselling@antobarnua.com

--

Thomas O'Loughlin

An Tobar Nua Counselling

MIACP, BSc

Counselling/Psychotherapy

**Sometimes those trying to
bring you down, don't realise
you are part of the reason they
are still standing....**



Send a gift

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.

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)*

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.!!



*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. 8th Nov.

To

Sun. 16th Nov.

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat. 8th Nov. to Sun. 16th Nov.

Fri. 7th Nov. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 8th Nov. 8.00 pm John and Mai Murphy, Pallas

Helen and Mick O'Rourke, Upper Ballyfin.

Sun 9th Nov. 10.00 am Sheila Fitzpatrick, 11th Anniv.

Formerly, Ashgrove, Mountmellick

Mon. 10th Nov. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 14th Oct. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat 15th Nov. 8.00 pm Joseph, Ellen and Rory Culleton,

Clonagown.

Sun. 16th Nov. 10.00 am Peter Fitzpatrick, Cappinlaire

Mon. 17th Nov. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 8th Nov. - Sun. 16th Nov.

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

Sat. 8th Nov. 7.00 pm "Do This In Memory" Mass.

Sun. 9th Nov. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

Joseph, Michael and Teresa Conroy, Clonboyne.

Kieran and Ann Cullen, Redcastle

Agnes Gallagher, London

Patrick (Paddy) Hurley, St. Fintan's Tce., 10th Anniv.

11.30 am Bernard (Benny) Phelan, St. Fintan's Terrace.

Month's Mind.

Tues 11th Nov. 10.00 am Fintan McCarthy, Knockanina. 32nd Anniv.

Wed. 12th Nov. 10.00 am John and Mary O'Neill, Shannon St.,

Thur. 13th Nov. 10.00 am

Fri. 14th Nov 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 8th Nov. - Sun. 16th Nov. (Continued)

Sat. 15th Nov. 7.00 pm Paddy Cullen, Clonenagh.

William (Billy) Byrne, Ringstown. 12th Anniv.

Maura Phelan, Shannon Rd., 18th Anniv.

Sun. 16th Nov. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Enda Dunne. Trumera R.I.P

11.30 am Margaret Brophy (Nee Doorey) Trumera. 1st Anniv.

Pat McGrath. Shannon Rd., 9th Anniv.

Mrs. Annie Patterson

and her daughter, Margaret (Peg) Maguire, New Line Rd.,

Month's Mind Mass

Sun. 23rd Nov. 11.30 am Bernadette (Bernie) Tynan,

Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

Sat. 22nd Nov. 7.00 pm

Mass for deceased members of St. Fintan's G.A.A. Club, Mountrath.

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

Be Yourself
Everyone else
is
already taken

(Oscar Wilde)

Parish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto

Wed 5th Nov.

Nos. Drawn 19 20 21 29

No Jackpot Winner

8 Match 3 Winners

Received €125 each

Next Week's Jackpot €14,000

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

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 6th Nov.

Nos Drawn 13 19 20 24

1 Jackpot Winner € 10,000

Congrats. to Holohan Family,

Promoter Chris. Holohan

9 Match 3 Rec. € 112 each

2 Local Winners

Morrin Family Promoter, Teresa Morrin

Colm and Noel McGrath

Promoter, Margaret McGrath

Next Week's Jackpot € 10,000

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	€ 10,000
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Ballyfin	€ 14,000
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News From Around The Diocese

Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service

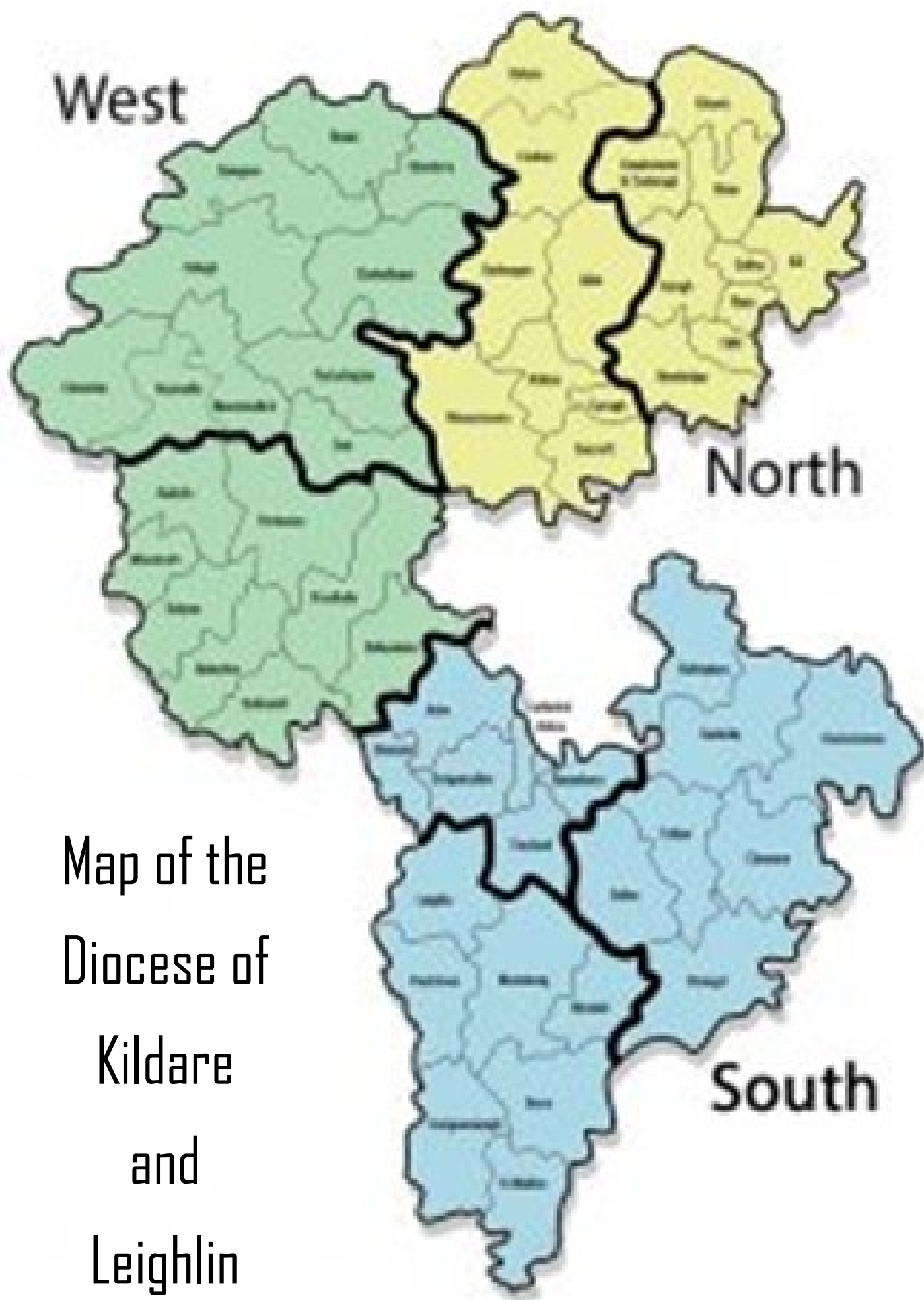
Volunteer Drivers Needed

The Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service is seeking compassionate volunteer drivers in your community. Your time can help to continue the vital service of providing transport for patients attending cancer treatment appointments.

If you have a minimum of 2 days per month to spare, a valid driving license, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you're the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. Your generosity can ease the journey for many during a challenging time, offering comfort and support when it's needed most.

Full training will be provided. There are a number of essential post-drive administration tasks that will require either existing knowledge of basic computer or IT skills, or the willingness to acquire such skills (such as scanning and uploading documents or attending virtual meetings).

For more information and to become a volunteer driver, contact Monica at volunteer@irishcancer.ie.



Synod News

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan synod team attended a national pre-synodal assembly in Kilkenny on 18th Oct. Building on the synodal conversations of the last couple of years, including last Spring, seven key priorities have been identified for the Church in Ireland, as well as the overarching theme of baptism. Delegates on Saturday explored their response to these priorities and overall theme. They also explored what can be undertaken locally and nationally to begin to actively respond to these priorities as we prepare for a national assembly in October 2026. For more information on these priorities and how they were arrived at, we can read 'Baptised and Sent', the preparatory document for last Saturday's gathering, on www.sysnod.ie. The year ahead will be an opportunity for each one of us to reflect on the essential question: **What does it mean for me to be Baptised?**

Mountrath Notes

Mountrath Tidy Towns

Mountrath Tidy Towns are very pleased with themselves with a 352 points scored in the recent competition. This proves that they are on the right track to improve year on year. The judges made the comment saying that the committee plays a vital role in shaping the town's future through active representation on the Mountrath Development Association and Mountrath Town Team. The judge concluded: "congratulations to all involved and wishing you success with future projects."



Snooker Club News

The Tommy Watkins Shield Final was played off recently. Derek Scully, Stradbally, was the winner over Philip McKay, Mountrath. Result 3Frames to 1. Referee on the night was John Fitzpatrick and Michael Osborne was the Scorekeeper. Highest Break of the competition was won by Brian Russell. The Sheild Trophy and a cash prize was presented to Derek by Club Treasurer, Pat McMahon, who also presented the runner-up, Philip, with a Medal and a cash prize.

The Snooker Club AGM takes place on Fri. Nov. 12 at 8.30pm.

All committee members are asked to attend and new members are very welcome.

C P R Training

The Irish Heart Foundation's Heart saver CPR/AED course run by Portlaoise First Responders take place on Saturday November 22 at 10am in Portlaoise Library. Booking is essential. <https://tinyurl.com/ykm9pchm>

Mountrath G A A Lotto

There was no winner of last week's lotto. The numbers drawn were - 3,4,5,12. €20 winners - Paul Sydes c/o Chris Russell: Paul Meade c/o Online: Ciara O'Brien c/o Martin Phelan: Thomas Russell c/o Chris Russell: Barry McEvoy c/o Michelle Purcell: Pascal Hipwell c/o Betty Phelan: Eoghan Clarke c/o Michelle Massey: Katie Moore c/o Ian Moore. House prize - Pamela Killeen c/o Self. Promoter's prize - Eddie Kirwan & Gerry Dooley.

Jackpot for next week - €13,600.

Festive Cookery Demo

Cookery Demonstration in St. Philomena's Hall, on November 18. Doors open at 7pm, demonstration commences at 8pm. Tickets on sale on Eventbrite, at Centra Mountrath and Telford's Mountrath. Profits from this years demonstration will go towards the ongoing project to rejuvenate and gardens between the Bloom HQ buildings and St. Fintan's Church and run by the Class of 1990 Restoration Group.

Your support will be much appreciated.

Library News

LOETB tutor, Therese Flanagan will deliver Christmas Craft Classes for adults at Mountrath Library, beginning Thursday November 13 at 2pm-4pm.

These will include string art, cards, decoupage and decorations and will run for six weeks.

To reserve a place
please contact 057 8756378
or email mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie.

Library News

Sensory Play Hour for ages 2-7 takes place on
Thurs. November 27 at 4.15pm.

Booking essential, contact the library at 057 8756378.

The Adult Sports Book club are reading "His Kingdom of Clay"
for the next meeting on Thursday November 27 at 6pm. New
members are welcome.

Parent, toddler and baby play group ,meets each
Wednesday morning from 10am-11.30am. Come along
and join in the fun!!

Events
at
Bloom HQ

December 14th



**Mark the date! BloomHQ's yearly Christmas
celebration will kick off at 1pm!
Refreshments, live music, stalls, refreshments and so
much more....**

....and maybe a visit from Santa!!



CLASS OF 1990
RESTORATION
PROJECT
FUNDRAISER

He's
Back!

Edward
Hayden

- Raffle
- Christmas Stalls
- Refreshments Available

from "Ireland AM"

TICKETS
€25

Cookery Demo

TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

**St Philomena's Hall, Bloom HQ,
Mountrath, Co. Laois**

Doors Open at 7pm • Demo at 8pm

Tickets available in Centra and Telfords,
Mountrath AND on Eventbrite and at
1990restproject@gmail.com



Pilates

Wednesdays 8pm

6 weeks starting 5th November



Wednesdays 5th, 19th & 26th Nov
3rd, 10th & 17th December

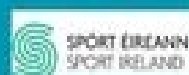
New Block

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

With Shauna Leamy

€ 60 for 6 weeks

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



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....

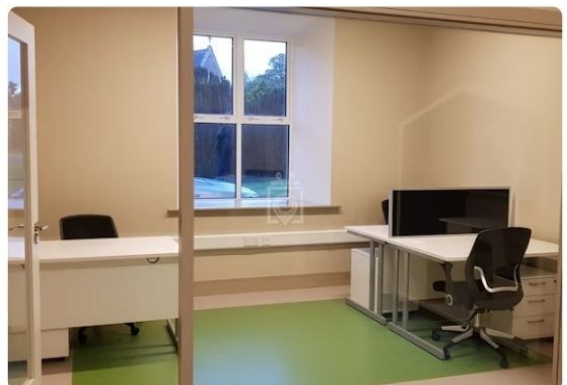
- ✓ Flexible Workspace Options
- ✓ High-Speed Internet
- ✓ Meeting and Conference Rooms

Contact Us



089 2722885

www.bloomhq.ie



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!

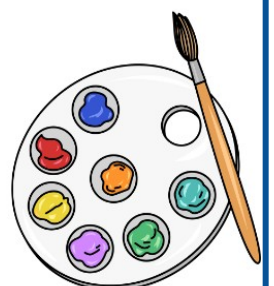


BOOK CLUB

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



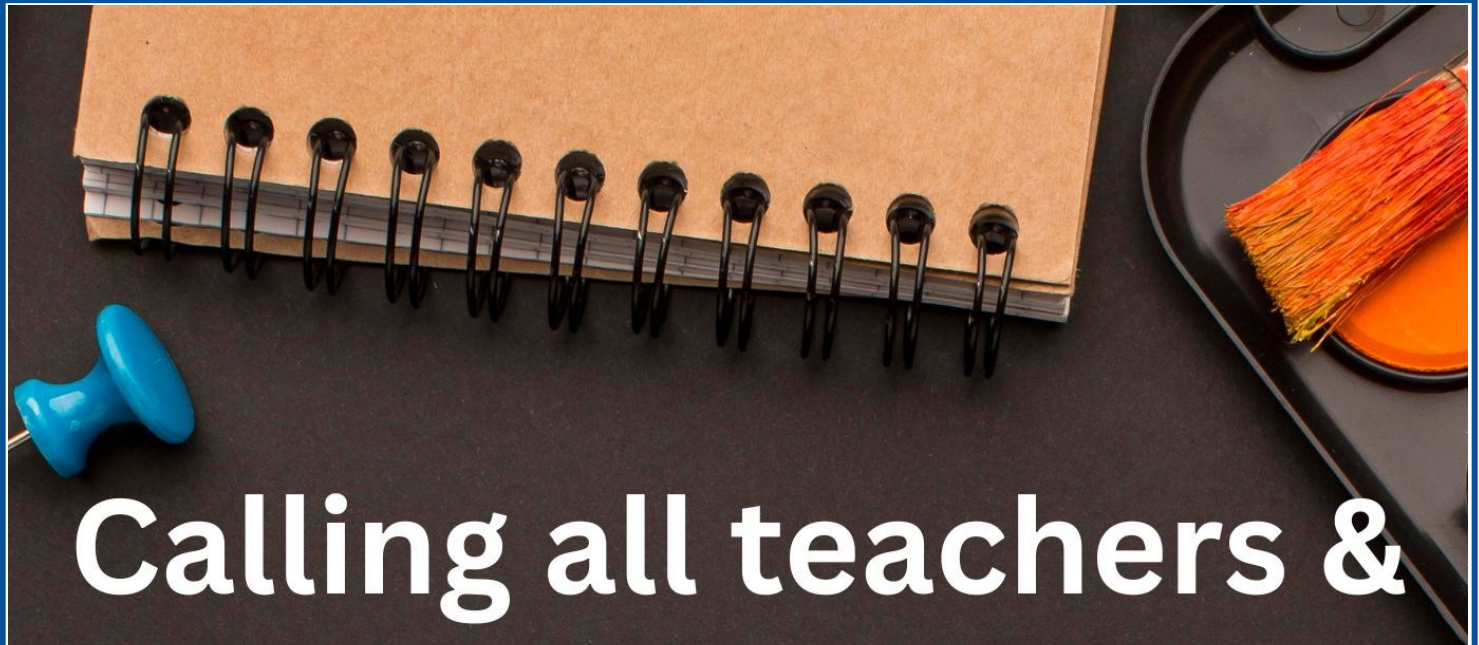
BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

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



www.bloomhq.ie





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



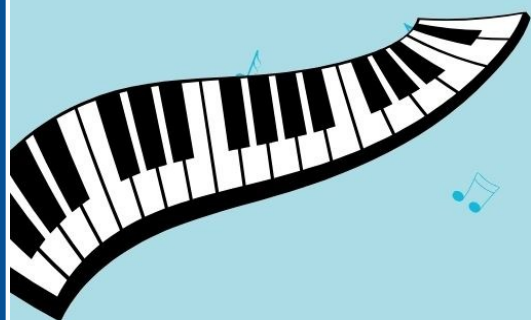


Piano Lessons now Available!



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

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



Mairead McCaul
Unislim Member

Join Unislim for €25

Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter

For more info visit [unislim.com](https://www.unislim.com)

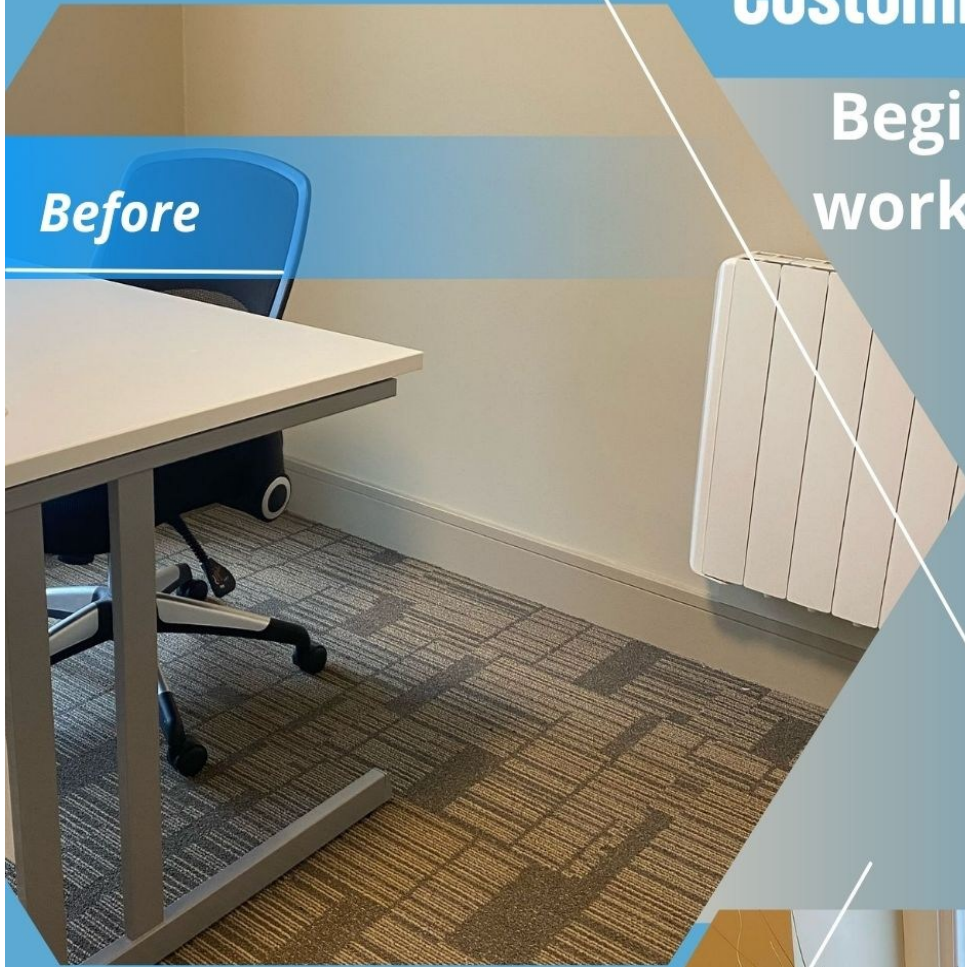


[unislim.com](https://www.unislim.com) | 1800 603020

Customize your space!

**Begin your remote
work journey today**

Before



Contact US!

089 2722885

manager@bloomhq.ie

www.bloomhq.ie

After





**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

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

Parish Finances

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

Here are our Bank Account details

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

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

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

Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tax Back Scheme

(Ballyfin Parish)

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

We are deeply grateful.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment to

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat	€ 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225 .00	Cleaning	€ 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste	€ 579.00
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€ 3,121 .00	Maintenance/Repairs	€ 79,602.00
Church Bookings	€ 500.00	Diocesan Levy	€ 11,006.00
Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest	€ 3.00
Office	€ 1,899 .00	Bank Charges	€ 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan 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

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		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 support of Mountrath Parish

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 .