

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

## 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 8th Oct. '23

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

Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on

FM 104.5

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

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

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Dates See Page 7



## P.A.T.H. Open Meeting

An Open Meeting for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with Portlaoise Action The Homeless will be held on Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 8pm in Hub 17, Portlaoise Plaza.

## Laois Hospice Coffee Morning

The organising committee of the recent Coffee Morning for Laois Hospice raised €1,105. The committee wishes to thank everybody who so generously donated and also thank you to the people who so generously gave of their time to help out.

## Golden Years Church Gate Collection

The Golden Years Club wishes to thank all who so generously supported their recent church gate collection. The Club meets every Thursday at 2.30pm in St. Fintan's Hall. There is always room for anybody who might wish to join us for a cuppa and a game of bingo. All are welcome.

## Synod Commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe, will represent the Irish Church at this global assembly.

The aim of the Synodal Process is to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term. It was initiated by Pope Francis who, in Oct. 2021 convened the whole Church in Synod. Since that time there have been gatherings of the faithful at parish, national and continental levels.

## Universal Synod on Synodality

### *Synod Update from Bishop Denis' Desk*

In a letter addressed to bishops and eparchs from all over the world, Cardinal Mario Grech, General Secretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod, invites the faithful from around the world to prayerfully participate in the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which opened in the Vatican on Wed. last, 4<sup>th</sup> Oct..

With this letter, the General Secretary reminds everyone that the Synodal Assembly is above all a spiritual event, of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit who is the true protagonist of the event. In order to facilitate participation and solicit the prayerful support of the members of the assembly from local communities, the General Secretariat of the Synod has prepared a "[Solemn Blessing](#)" to be prayed, in particular, at the end of Sunday Masses together with intercessory prayers.

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## We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers

People, their families and carers, who are ill or unwell – at home, in hospital or Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical or medical procedures. - We wish them a speedy recovery.

### Mountrath Community Employment Scheme

have the following upcoming vacancies :

Caretaker - MYT - Mountrath CES 2279374

Caretaker - GAA Mountrath - CES 2301698

Env Worker - Mountrath Town - CES 2254234

Env Worker - Castletown Village - CES 2268516

Hours 19.5 hours per week. Contract: Temporary

Start date: To be confirmed Salary: Community

Employment Rates

[mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com](mailto:mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com) for more information.

## Christmas Party

for Senior Citizens.

Deadman's Inn

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2023

at 2pm.

*Music by*

*Martin Delaney*

# Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry

*Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,*

c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

## We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers

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

We wish them a speedy recovery

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## Deadline for Parish Newsletters

Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 12 midday on Thursdays

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

(Our Parish Newsletters are online and on App. from early Saturday morning)

# Mountrath

## Mass Times – Anniversaries

Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

- Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am James Doocey, Formerly Woodbrook. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.  
Martin and Catherine Ryan, Patrick St.,
- Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.00 pm Paddy Carroll, St. Fintan's Tce. 15<sup>th</sup> Anniv.
- Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. 9.00 am [The Hollow Church](#).  
11.30 am Michael (Mick) O'Brien, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 16<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
Maggie Fitzpatrick, Portlaoise Rd., 49<sup>th</sup> Anniv.
- Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00 am People who are ill in the Parish.
- Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am
- Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am
- Thur. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00 am Martin and Mary Donohue, Clonad.
- Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.
- Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 7.00 pm John Wall. England. (Woodbrook)
- Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. 9.00 am [The Hollow Ch.](#)  
11.30 am 28<sup>th</sup> Sun. Ord. Time

## 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv. Remembrance

Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 7.00 pm Ivo Rice Melbourne

*Lord, for your faithful people,  
Life is changed, not ended*



# Mass Times Anniversaries

## Ballyfin

Fri, 6<sup>th</sup> Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament.

. 7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist.

Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for 27<sup>th</sup> Sun. In Ord. Time

Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am Michael Mooney, Old P.O. Ballylusk. 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

7..30 pm Denis, Catherine and Johnny Daly, Pallas.

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 8.00 pm John Fitzpatrick – Ros

Danny Costello, Ballyfin Rd., Portlaoise 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun .15<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.00 am Ann Hogan, 9<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Mon. 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification..

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*Lord, for your faithful people,*

*Life is changed, not ended.*

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# Universal Synod on Synodality

## Commenced in Rome on Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

### Blessing at the end of Mass During the Synod

Brothers and sisters, Jesus promised to be present in the midst of his disciples whenever they gather in his name. On Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. in Rome, Pope Francis opened the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Invoking the Lord's blessing, let us lift our minds to God, that in his Holy Spirit he may strengthen us in communion, guide us to the whole truth and continually enlighten the Participants in the Synodal Assembly.

The Lord be with you! – **All. And with your spirit.**

May God our Father, who many times and in various ways spoke to our fathers through the prophets, always guide you and the whole Church in fidelity to His Word and in the discernment of His will. **All. Amen.**

May the Son, sent in the fullness of time to manifest to men and women the riches of the Father's mercy, keep you in communion with Him and with your brothers and sisters. **All. Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit lead all of you, and in particular the Synod Assembly, to recognise the signs of the times so that, adhering in everything to the will of God, you bear abundant fruit of unity for the life of the Church for the proclamation of the Gospel. **All. Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
The Father, and the Son † and the Holy Spirit,  
descend upon you and remain with you forever. **All. Amen.**

## “Do This in Memory” Programme

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation Programme in Mountrath Ballyfin  
Enrolemnt Ceremonies

Mountrath Parish Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Mass 7.00 pm All Schools

Ballyfin. Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Mass 10.00 am Both Schools

## “Do This in Memory” Children’s Masses

1. Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov Mountrath Church, 7.00 pm

Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

2. Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

3. Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

4. Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

5. Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Mch.. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Mch. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

6. Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Apr. . Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

7. Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> May Mountrath Church 7.00 pm

Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

## (The) Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> Penance

will be celebrated in March. Arrangements for the celebration of this Sacrament will be put in place in due course in conjunction with the Schools.

## Dates for Celebration of 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> May The Hollow Church 9.00 am

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

With Children of all Mountrath Schools

Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With children of Ballyfin National School

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With Children of Barnashrone National School.

## Date for the Diary

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated  
in Mountrath / Ballyfin Parishes on **Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Ceremony in Mountrath Parish Ch. at 11.00 am

Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Ch. at 2.30 pm



# Parish Lottos



## Ballyfin Lotto Results

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Nos. Drawn 7 16 22 27

1 Jackpot Winner Newbridge Parish

17 Match 3's Rec. € 59 each

1 Local Winner Thomas and Noelle Goode

Promoter, Ann Heffernan New Jackpot €10,000

A note of thanks to everyone involved in Ballyfin Parish Lotto - Organising Committee, 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 support and generosity.

# Mountrath Parish Lotto 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Nos. Drawn 5 8 17 30

No Jackpot Winner

18 Match 3's Rec. € 56.00 ea.

## 3 Local Winners

Fiadh Dowd. Promoter Catherine Kearns

Michelle Duggan. Promoter David Tobin.

Holly, Emma and James O'Brien

Promoter B. O'Brien

Next Week's Jackpot. € 20,000



## Next Week's Jackpot. € 20,000

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*Next  
Week's* **JACKPOT!**

€ 20,000 - Mountrath

€ 10,000 Ballyfin

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

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Our New-Look Parish App. came online recently Check it out.

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



Local honey for sale –  
Contact Lily on 086 087 0969

**Still Available**

### **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects. One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction in Ireland. The good news is that you can help by making your garden pollinator friendly.

Every garden, no matter its size, can be a haven for hungry pollinators.

[www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/](http://www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/)



## Marriage Encounter Weekend

Catholic Marriage Encounter is a Weekend experience for any  
Sacramentally married couple.

Every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can cause  
you to lose touch with your spouse.

This is a space for you and your spouse to pause, reflect, and  
reconnect privately. Our next Marriage Enrichment Weekend is Friday  
3rd to Sunday 5th November 2023.

At "The Cork International Hotel" Cork. To book your place visit our

website: [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie) Tel. 087-2162436

# All-Ireland Pollinator Plan



Avoid using insecticides, fungicides and herbicides These potent chemical cocktails are designed to kill various organisms. One of the best things you can do for pollinators is avoid using them. Why: Insecticides have been found to kill, harm, and disorientate pollinators. Herbicides kill the 'weeds' that provide them with important food. [www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/](http://www.pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/)

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## Universal Synod on Synodality

This week, the Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops' Conference met at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, to discuss the forthcoming universal Synod on Synodality. This will take place in Rome from 4 – 29 October, on the theme: 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'.

Bishops reflected that, "The Synodal Process is about conversion, and we pray that all participants will be open in mind and heart to what the Holy Spirit wants of each individually, and collectively. In light of Pope Francis' comment that 'without prayer there will be no Synod', we encourage people of faith to unceasingly pray to God over the coming weeks at daily and weekend Masses, at home, and in religious communities, to intercede for Pope Francis and for all members of the Synodal Assembly."

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe, will represent the Irish Church at this global assembly.

The aim of the Synodal Process is to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term. It was initiated by Pope Francis who, in October 2021, convened the whole Church in Synod. Since that time there have been gatherings of the faithful at parish, national and continental levels.

## *Parish Finances. - A Word of Thank*

*Thanks for your generous contributions to Parish Funds.*

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

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

### **Different ways of supporting your Parish:**

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable

to “Mountrath Parish” - or “Ballyfin Parish”

Please indicate - Parish Fund or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

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



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

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ←

The following are our Bank Account Details

## Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

## Ballyfin Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Please include your own name as the reference.

⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ←

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

## Trial Balance – Formatted - Ballyfin Parish

Date Range 1st Jan 2022 To 31st Dec 2022

Code	Description	2022	2021
		Current €	Comparative €
Profit and Loss			
Sales			
001	Basket Collection	14,838.73	8,149.38
002	Envelope Collection	28,782.63	28,603.02
003	Shrine Income	743.19	725.72
004	Rental Income	12,680.00	1,215.00
005	Fundraising	-	-
006	Donations Bequests	526.00	-
007	Tax Refunds/Rebate	17,250.71	600.23
008	Weddings/Graves/Church Bookings	-	-
009	Income from Parish Investment Fund	-	-
010	Deposit Interest Received	-	-
011	Other Investment Income	-	-
012	Office Shop Margin	-	16.40
013	Lotto Income	7,302.00	12,206.65
014	Diocesan Levy Collection	-	-
015	Other Collections	120.15	-328.63
020	Other Income	701.37	-
		<b>€82,944.78</b>	<b>€51,187.77</b>
Cost of Sales			
		-	-
	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>€82,944.78</b>	<b>€51,187.77</b>

	<b>Gross Profit %</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Overhead Expenses			
301	Wages and salaries	-	-
303	Employers NIC (UK) PRSI (Ireland)	-	-
305	Pension costs	-	-
309	Pastoral Programme Expenses	1,517.00	1,250.80
322	Rent payable	-	-
326	Insurance	4,520.68	4,901.67
330	Security	273.24	273.24
331	Light and heat	14,484.25	9,643.12
332	Cleaning	245.01	1,885.45
333	Rates, Water, LPT Waste Collection	261.28	2,843.77
334	Repairs and maintenance	15,475.32	4,398.56
335	Diocesan Levy	6,576.00	4,110.00
336	Clergy Fund	-	-
337	Diocesan Retirement Fund	1,000.00	2,000.00
341	Missallettes, Printing Stationery	3,244.32	4,661.08
342	Altar Shrine Requisites	3,766.12	2,455.10
345	Telephone, Broadband and Internet related expenses	4,661.02	1,814.03
346	Computer software, hardware and servicing costs	1,440.00	2,202.09
347	Hire of Equipment	262.88	400.00
348	Music/Choir Expenses	-	-
365	Legal and Professional	-	904.76
368	Accountancy Fees	1,576.03	220.08
370	Youth and Community Expenses	-	-
371	Bank charges	1,632.13	776.32
375	Donations/Collections	-	-102.94
376	Interest on Parish Investment Fund Loans	-	-
378	Other Loan Interest	94.51	4.19
381	General expenses	-	-
391	Depreciation of intangible assets	-	-
392	Depreciation of tangible assets	-	-
394	Profits/losses on disposals of tangible assets	-	-
399	Capital gains/losses on disposal of property	-	-
		<b>€61,029.79</b>	<b>€44,641.32</b>
Other Income		-	-
	<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>€21,914.99</b>	<b>€6,546.45</b>
Bank Interest Income		-	-
Investment Income		-	-
Interest Payable		-	-
Profit and Loss Suspense		-	-
	<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>€21,914.99</b>	<b>€6,546.45</b>



*Stay connected with us!*

Parish Website

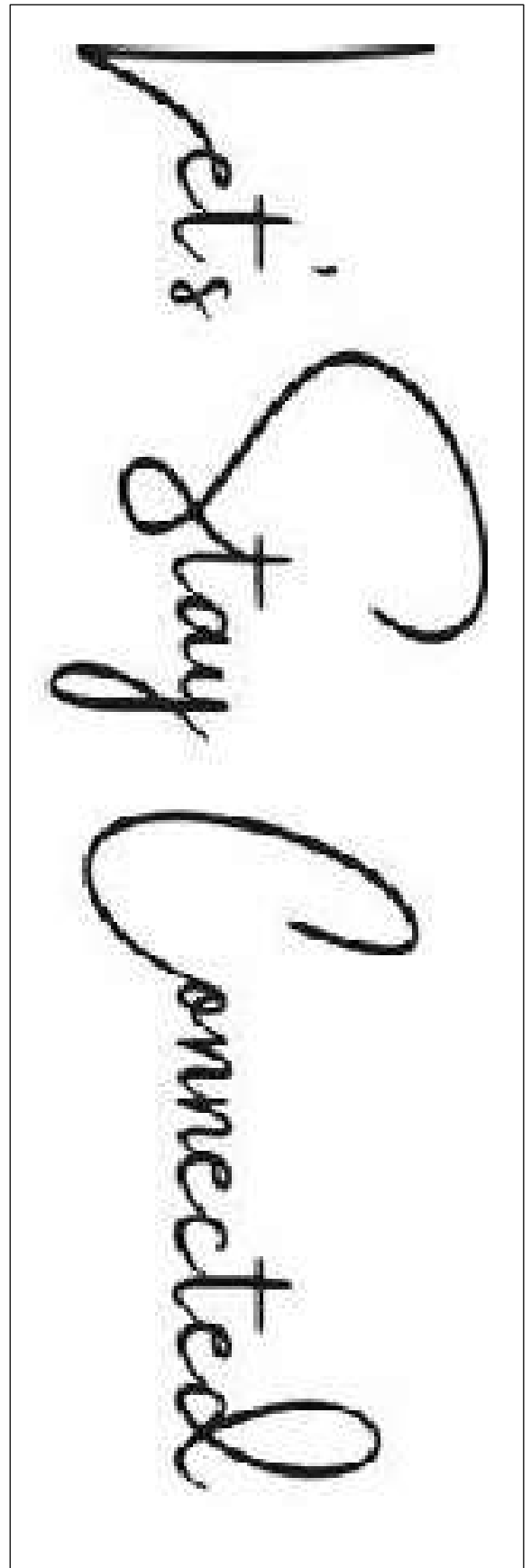
[www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie)

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Links to Webcams on Home Page

*Visit our Parish App.*

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish



# A Prayer of Thanks



### A Short Thanksgiving Prayer Before the Meal

God, we thank you for the blessing and joy of family.

Thank you for all of us who are gathered here today

and for our loved ones who are far away.

May we all see the many ways you provide for us,

comfort us and protect us.

Bless this food to keep us healthy and strong.

Amen.

# Prayer for Family Thankfulness and Gratitude

Lord, help us to be thankful for one another.  
Help my children to be thankful for each other,  
for our family to be grateful for each member  
and to pray one another continually.

Our gratitude for one another  
will bind us together as a family,  
and our prayers for each other will  
further unify us in gratitude and love. –

Marie Osborne

# Thanksgiving Prayer

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise  
for all that you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendour  
of the whole creation,  
for the beauty of this world,  
for the wonder of life,  
and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,  
and for the loving care  
which surrounds us on every side.





MAY YOUR LOVE BE  
UPON US, O LORD,  
AS WE PLACE ALL  
OUR HOPE IN YOU.

PSALM 124

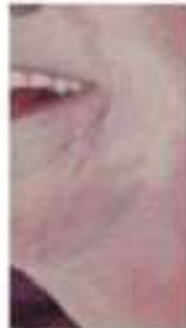
# Fadó Faces

at

"The Gallery of Divine Inspirations"  
BLOOM HQ • MOUNTRATH

*Fadó Faces is an art  
exhibition celebrating  
the lives and stories of older people in  
County Laois.  
Through traditional portrait painting  
and digital art by a selection  
of local artists.*

**22nd September-29th October 2023**



# Fadó Faces at Bloom HQ

*At the Gallery of Divine Inspirations*

To celebrate the diverse and amazing talented people around us, we are launching The Gallery of Divine Inspirations on Culture Night Friday 22nd September at 7pm. Fadó Faces will be the first of many artistic showcases, launched on Friday 22nd and then on show in BloomHQ until 29th October when another Artist will launch and exhibit their collection.

Everyone is welcome to come and immerse yourself in a truly creative life experience.

*The Diocesan Office in Carlow has asked me to include the following in our  
Parish Newsletters*

## **C E O Required**

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in  
Ireland wishes to appoint a Chief Executive Officer.

For full job description, and further information – please ask for an applicant  
pack through [admin@safeguarding.ie](mailto:admin@safeguarding.ie)

The successful candidate will be located in the offices of the National Board  
for Safeguarding Children, New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co  
Kildare.

To apply, please submit your CV and Cover Letter (maximum one page),  
outlining how your motivation, experience and skills fit the role for the  
attention of the Chairperson of the National Board for Safeguarding Children  
in the Catholic Church via e-mail to [admin@safeguarding.ie](mailto:admin@safeguarding.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications:

4.00 pm on 31st October, 2023





PSALM 91  
FAMILY  
PRAYER  
GROUP

WHEN: FIRST SATURDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH AT 10.30AM  
WHERE: PORTLAOISE PARISH  
CENTRE

HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS, MY GOD, IN WHOM I TRUST."

## Community Climate Action Programme (Note from Diocesan Office)

We have been contacted by the Community Climate Action Officer for Carlow Local Authority however there is a similar position in every Local Authority so this information applies to everyone. Funding has been ring fenced (Community Climate Action Programme) by each local authority for carbon reduction initiatives which is a big item on the agenda at the moment. I am attaching a copy of the Powerpoint Presentation for Carlow and the general information is the same for each county. Funding will be available for projects which:

- Reduce or support reduction of greenhouse gases,
  - Increase production of renewable energy,
    - Improve energy efficiency,
    - Improve climate resilience,
- Are nature based projects, enhance biodiversity and climate resilience,
  - Assist with transition to low carbon economy,
  - And provide innovative solutions to climate change.

