

Mountrath Ballyfin

Online Newsletter

4th - 5th October 2025

Best Wishes to

St. Fintan's G.A.A. Mountrath

as they compete in the

Intermediate County Hurling Final

against Clonad

On this Saturday

O'Moore Park,

Throw in 5.00 pm



Heartiest congratulations to Br. Nicholas on his special day as he celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of his profession as Patrician Brother – what a milestone. What a lifetime of service in the Lord's vineyard.

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

John (Jack) Hayden, R.I.P.

Streamstown, Roscrea,

We pray for Jack who died peacefully at his home on Wed. 24th Sept. Jack's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Shinrone on Sun. 28th Sept. followed by burial in the New Cemetery, Shinrone. We extend sympathy to Edel, Orla and Gerard and their families, brother Tom and family, grandchildren Eoin, Ciara, Luke and Jessica, great granddaughter Lucy, nephews, nieces, relatives, neighbours and friend.

Jack is father of Edel (Moloney) - Mountrath C E Scheme, Supervisor.

May Jack rest in the peace of Christ.

On Patrick Street

OPENING
SOON



*Mountrath,
Co.Laois*

CAFE DONATE

Tiktok: cafe.donate

Facebook: cafe.donate

Instagram: cafe_donate

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

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**

**MOUNTMELICK COMMUNITY
ARTS CENTRE**

Parish Sacramental Programme

Dates

2025 – 2026

Mountrath Parish Page 10

Ballyfin Parish Page 11

Mountrath Parish

1st Holy Communion

Sun. 26th April 11.30 am

Enrolment Mass Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm

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 Church)

Ballyfin Parish

First Holy Communion

Ballyfin N.S. 10.00 am Mass on Sun. 17th May

Barnashrone N.S. 10.00 am Mass on Sun. 24th May

Enrolment Mass Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am

Ceremony of Confirmation

Friday 1st May commencing at 2.30 pm (Ballyfin Church)

Main celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

First Penance fwith First Holy Communion children

Thurs. 23rd April, at 11.30am

The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions) with Confirmation Candidates

Tues. 28th April at 7.30pm (Ballyfin Church)

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 quite 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

Child Safeguarding Autumn Training Schedule

Introduction to Safeguarding and Refresher Session

Thurs. 13th Nov., 7 – 9 pm Portlaoise Parish Centre.

Please note - everyone involved with children or vulnerable adults at Parish level are required to attend a Safeguarding Training Course.

To book a place, just email your request to Aisling or Joan at Bishop's House - bishopshouse@kandle.ie or call 059 917 6725. Be sure to include - name of Parish. your name, your role in the Parish, (in terms of your involvement with children / vulnerable adults) - an email address and the date of training being booked.

*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.



C

CAFE DONATE

Something has been brewing
in Mountrath.....

*Coming
Soon*



Check out our socials



Kildare and Leighlin

Liturgy Conference

Sat. 20th Sept.

Report on Liturgy Conference held

in the Cathedral in Carlow on

Saturday last, 20th Sept.

Hosted by Bishop Denis Nulty.

Over 200 people gathered in Carlow on Sat. last for a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal at the Liturgy Conference with the theme

It is Good for Us to Be Here.

Hosted by Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation of Kildare and Leighlin, the gathering welcomed participants from the 56 parishes of the diocese, along with speakers and guests from neighbouring dioceses.

A highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Dr Jessie Rogers of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. In her talk *How Can We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land?* (*Psalms 137*), Dr Rogers offered a fresh and compelling approach to reading and praying with Scripture – particularly the *Old Testament*. She spoke of God's enduring presence alongside the poor, the marginalised, the widowed, and the orphaned. She drew a profound connection between the God of the *Old Testament* and the person of Jesus, who walks with sinners, absorbs violence, and transforms it into love.

Mr Martin Foster, another featured speaker, explored the Sunday liturgy as a space of encounter: with Christ and with community. He encouraged participants to reflect on how liturgical celebrations can be made more inclusive, engaging, and meaningful for all.

Throughout the day, participants attended a variety of workshops designed to deepen both spiritual understanding and practical liturgical skills. Bishop Denis told The Way, "This has been a wonderful gathering that has enabled us to reflect on different aspects of liturgy. I am especially grateful to Dr Jessie Rogers, Martin Foster, Julie Kavanagh, Gemma Mulligan, Mary Connolly, Father Peter O'Kane, Father Robert Petrisor and Ian Callinan for their leadership in this important aspect of Church life."

The conference, inspired by the story of the Transfiguration, echoed the disciples' words, "It is good for us to be here." And, like those disciples, participants left with renewed energy and a sense of mission.

Keynote talks from the day will soon be available at www.kandle.ie, to encourage continued reflection and engagement.

Why Sunday Matters

Letter from the
Irish Bishops
Conference



IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
SÉIMHÍOCHT AGAS BATHLEACHA EIREANN

Why Sunday Matters

As we journey through this Jubilee Year of Hope, we, the Irish Bishops, warmly invite all Catholics to reflect on the immense significance of Sunday Mass and, for those who have not yet done so, to return with renewed joy to the celebration of the Eucharist.

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



Sunday Mass, St Clare's Church, Graiguecullen, Carlow

gather as a 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.

How can you enrich
your experience of Mass
and make it a central
part of your life?

How can young
people best engage
in our Sunday
celebration?

Our invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass is presented through the lens of Synodality – Communion, Participation, and Mission – reminding us that the Eucharist is not just a personal encounter with Christ but also a communal experience that unites us all as the People of God. For deeper reflection, we have also provided thoughtful questions at the end of this message to guide your prayers and meditations.

Why Sunday Matters: Sunday Mass creates and celebrates **Communion**

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



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.

Why Sunday Matters: an invitation to **Participate**

The journey of faith often comes with its own set of challenges. Many, particularly the younger generation, feel disconnected from the Church due to past abuses and how these were addressed. Alongside this, the pressures of modern life, the increasing levels of anxiety and mental health difficulties – especially among young people – together with the lingering effects of the pandemic, have contributed to a sense of distance from the Church. However, Sunday Eucharist continues to be a source of hope, life, and profound meaning. It invites us to **participate** in the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the Paschal Mystery. In this sacred celebration, we have the opportunity to be transformed, to receive God's grace, and to become the best versions of ourselves. As we navigate life, with all its joys and struggles, the Eucharist offers us the community and support we need to flourish and grow in faith.

How can the scriptures proclaimed at Mass inspire us to love as Jesus loved?



Mass is not just a personal act of devotion; it is a communal act of worship. We go to God together. The Sunday Mass is where the Church is most visibly alive, and where every member of the community plays an essential role. Each person's participation is needed for the Church to truly live. It is important to gather physically for Mass, and although technology is helpful, it can never replace the tangible experience of being with the community as we listen to God's word and receive the Body of Christ. We invite you to consider how your presence at Mass can contribute to making the Church visible and alive.



Sunday Mass at Mount St. Alphonsus Church, Umark

We are deeply thankful to priests and all those who gather to celebrate Mass. Special gratitude goes to those involved in liturgical ministries, such as Ministers of the Word, of Holy Communion, Music Ministers, Sacristans, and Altar Servers. Encouraging the return of young people as Altar Servers is especially important and should be actively supported by their families and parish. The involvement of young people brings vitality to the liturgy and contributes hugely to their own faith formation.

Why Sunday Matters: Sunday Mass makes us Missionaries

The Sunday Mass is not only a time for worship but also for mission. Having listened to God's word and received the gift of Christ's Body and Blood, we are sent to live out our faith in the world as missionaries; sent to share the love of Christ with others. As we participate in the Sunday Mass, we receive not only spiritual nourishment but also the strength to live out our Christian mission in daily life.

How does your participation in Sunday Mass inspire you to live out your mission as a follower of Christ?

As the late Pope Francis reminded us, 'We do not go to Mass in order to give something to God, but to receive what we truly need from Him. In this spirit, we are called to approach the Eucharist not out of obligation, but with a deep desire for spiritual transformation.' This is why attending Mass on Sundays is so vital – it nurtures and nourishes our faith and prepares us for the mission to which we are called. We invite you to reflect on how your participation in Sunday Mass helps you to live as a missionary disciple, bringing the hope and joy of the Gospel to those around you, and to the world at large.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many Catholics have faced challenges attending Mass due to health concerns. For those still unable to attend, the Church offers Communion to the sick and housebound. For those who can, it's time to return and celebrate the Eucharist together. While virtual options have helped, they can't replace the in-person experience of communal worship. Returning to Mass strengthens us as the Body of Christ, sharing in the sacred celebration.

Reflecting on our Sunday Mass

The purpose of this message is to encourage you to reflect on what is special about Sunday and what it means to you, and, if you no longer attend, to consider returning to Mass. How can you enrich your experience of Mass and make it a central part of your life?

We invite individuals, families, and parish groups to reflect on the following questions and to consider how you can contribute to a more vibrant and welcoming celebration of Sunday Mass in your community.



Easter Sunday Mass in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin 2025

Questions for personal and/or family reflection

- How can I enrich my experience of Mass and make it a central part of my life?
- Is this message calling me to any change in how I spend my Sunday?
- How can I best engage more young people in our celebration?
- Who can I share this message and its contents with?

Questions for Parish Leadership, Liturgy Groups, Parish Pastoral Councils and other Ministry Groups

- What makes our Sunday celebration alive?
- Why do we think people in our parish go to Mass, or do not?
- Can we do more to explain and offer catechesis on the Sunday Mass?
- Do visitors feel welcome into our celebrations? Can we be more social?
- How can we be more welcoming to those who have found it difficult to return to Mass since the pandemic?
- What can we do in our local parish to help bring about a richer celebration of Sunday Mass for all ages?
- What has been the impact of online Masses on our parish celebration?
- Do we need to review Mass times or the number of weekend Masses?



For more information or to download a copy of this document please visit www.catholicbishops.ie or please email info@catholicbishops.ie

Why Sunday Matters

WHAT'S

ON IN

BLOOM

HQ

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

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....

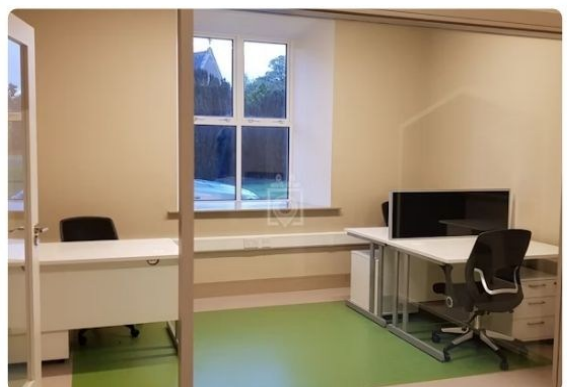
- ✓ Flexible Workspace Options
- ✓ High-Speed Internet
- ✓ Meeting and Conference Rooms

Contact Us



089 2722885

www.bloomhq.ie



**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





Workspaces for you

Offices and meeting rooms ideal
for professionals



more details

manager@bloomhq.ie

Call: 089 2722 885



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

💬 Free first meeting – come meet the teacher!

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

Jubilee year
Pilgrims of Hope



Parishes Alive Day

On Sat. 21st June 2025, Bishop Denis Nulty along with the Diocesan Pastoral Council, hosted a faith conference attended by over 100 parishioners and clergy from around the diocese. The title of the day was "Parishes Alive - Moving Forward in Hope!" The event took place in Carlow College, St. Patrick's, and marked the second annual Parishes Alive day in the Diocese. A report on the day was prepared and is now available on the diocesan website www.kandle.ie. or

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



Items for our
3 Parish Newsletters are
always most welcome

- please note -

Deadline for all
Parish Newsletters
is 2.00 pm Thursday

Season of Creation

1st Sept. – 4th Oct.

Peace with Creation

“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.” Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.

This year's Season of Creation has as its theme “Peace with Creation”, inspired by the passage from Isaiah 32:14-18; “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places.” In a world of challenges and division, marked by war and climate change, *how can we as people of faith create and work towards peace with creation?*

Every one of us has a part to play. For this year's resources see <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/season-of-creation-2025/>

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

takes place 1st-31st. Oct

If you would like further information,

you are invited to log onto

www.breastcancerireland.com.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Sincerely thank you for your
contributions to their
recent church gate collection.
Your generosity and support
is always much appreciated.

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

Prayers for the Pre-Synodal Assembly of the Catholic Church in Ireland

We are all encouraged to pray for the special gathering which will take place in Kilkenny on Sat. 18th Oct., called a Pre-Synodal Assembly of the Catholic Church in Ireland. This Assembly is an important juncture on the journey towards a National Synodal Assembly to be held in 2026. Around 240 people will be in attendance and these are drawn from each diocese on the island, Religious Congregations and Church movements. A preparatory Document, entitled Baptised and Sent - the fruits of listening sessions across Ireland last Spring - will be the basis for discussion at this gathering, and for the next stage of the journey of renewal. Central to the Document is a renewed focus on Baptism as the foundation of our Christian dignity, unity, and mission and how Baptism infuses the life and mission of the Church in Ireland today and into the future. You are invited to read this document by visiting www.synod.ie/baptised-and-sent-preparatory-document-available-now/

Ballyfin National School

Enrolling for Sept. 2026

Enrolling Open - 6th to 24th Oct.

Enrolment Forms from

www.ballyfinns.ie

Closing Date

Fri. 24th Oct.2025

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



Send a gift

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.

Child Safeguarding

Autumn Training Schedule

Introduction to Safeguarding
and Refresher Session

Thurs. 13th Nov., 7 - 9pm

Portlaoise Parish Centre

Please note - everyone involved with children or vulnerable adults at Parish level are required to attend a Safeguarding Training Course.

To book a place, just email your request to Aisling or Joan at Bishop's House - bishopshouse@kandle.ie

or call 059 917 6725.

Be sure to include - name of Parish. your name, your role in the Parish, (in terms of your involvement with children / vulnerable adults) - an email address and the date of training being booked.

Season of Creation 2025

1st Sept. to 4th Oct.

Peace with Creation

The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since the late Pope Francis established 1st September as an Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

This year's theme is "Peace with Creation", and it is inspired by the passage from Isaiah *32:14-18*,

"My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

In a world of challenges and division, marked by war and climate change, how can we as people of faith create and work towards peace with creation?

Be kind.

**For everyone you meet
is fighting a battle
you know nothing
about.**



Kildare and Leighlin Liturgy Conference

Liturgy Conference was held in the Cathedral

in Carlow on Saturday last, 20th Sept.

hosted by Bishop Denis Nulty.

See online Newsletter for full report.

200 people attend liturgy conference in Carlow

Bishop Nulty told TheWay, "This has been a wonderful gathering that has enabled us to reflect on different aspects of liturgy. I am especially grateful to all who have shown leadership in this important aspect of Church life."

See next frame

24th September 2025

Over 200 people gathered in Carlow on Saturday, 20 September, for a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal at the Liturgy Conference with the theme *It is Good for Us to Be Here*. Hosted by Bishop Denis Nulty and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation of Kildare and Leighlin, the gathering welcomed participants from the 56 parishes of the diocese, along with speakers and guests from neighbouring dioceses.

The day began with morning prayer in the Cathedral of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (pictured), and Bishop Nulty warmly welcomed all present, inviting them to enter into the spirit of the day with open hearts and minds.

A highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Dr Jessie Rogers of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. In her talk *How Can We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land?* (*Psalms 137*), Dr Rogers offered a fresh and compelling approach to reading and praying with Scripture – particularly the *Old Testament*.

She spoke of God's enduring presence alongside the poor, the marginalised, the widowed, and the orphaned.

She drew a profound connection between the God of the *Old Testament* and the person of Jesus, who walks with sinners, absorbs violence, and transforms it into love.

Throughout the day, participants attended a variety of workshops designed to deepen both spiritual understanding and practical liturgical skills.

Bishop Denis told TheWay, "This has been a wonderful gathering that has enabled us to reflect on different aspects of liturgy. I am especially grateful to Dr. Jessie Rogers, Martin Foster, Julie Kavanagh, Gemma Mulligan, Mary Connolly, Father Peter O'Kane, Father Robert Petrisor and Ian Callinan for their leadership in this important aspect of Church life."

Many of those in attendance described the experience as uplifting.

One comment on social media captured the atmosphere posting,

"Thank you Kildare and Leighlin Diocese for hosting a wonderful day.

Very well organised and wonderful speakers and workshops.

We all came away feeling brighter and inspired."

Breast Cancer Awareness

1st – 31st. Oct

If you would like further information,

you are invited to log onto

www.breastcancerireland.com

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)*



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

NO ONE SHOULD CARE ALONE.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS!

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

Apply online or call us on 057 9370 221.



Local
Centre
Support

Freephone
National
Careline

Rights &
Entitlements
Guidance

One-One
Advocacy

Learning/
Training

Crisis Support/
Counselling

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

www.familycarers.ie

Freephone Careline 1800 24 07 24

Search 'Carers Ireland'



A 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. 4th Oct.

To

Sun. 12th Oct.

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Anniversary and Mass Times

Sat. 4th to Sun. 12th Oct.

Sat. 4th Oct. 8.00 pm Damian Connolly, Springfield. 14th Anniv

Sun. 5th Oct. 10.00 am 27th Sunday in Ord. Time

Mon. 6th Oct. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 10th Oct. 5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 11th Oct. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass – 28th Sun. Ord. Time.

Sun. 12th Oct. 10.00 am Michael Mooney, Old Post Office. 14th Anniv

Denis and Catherine Daly, Pallas.

Johnny Daly.

Jeremiah, Kathleen and Barney Dunne, Pallas

John Fennelly, Cappinrush.

Ann Hogan, Clonagown. 12th Anniv.

Mon. 13th Oct. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 18th Oct. 8.00 pm Billy Kirwan, Dublin, Formerly Ringstown .

1st Anniv. Mass Remembrance

Sat. 18th Oct. 8.00 pm James (Jim) O'Rourke, Lower Sconce

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 4th - Sun. 5th Oct.

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

Sat. 4th Oct. 7.00 pm John Doheny, Portlaoise Road, 1st Anniv.

Paddy Carroll.

Mary Hetherington, 1 Woodbrook, 17th Anniv.

Sun. 5th Oct. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.**

. 11.30 am Sr. Catherine Geoghegan. 1st Anniv.

John Finlay, Clondouglas. 22nd Anniv.

Tues. 7th Oct. 10.00 am Martin and Catherine Ryan, Patrick St.,

Wed. 8th Oct. 10.00 am

Thur. 9th Oct. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Fri. 10th Oct. 10.00 am Gertrude and Martin Phelan. Bham - Saggart 40th A.

Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 pm Mary Phelan (nee Hickey) Shannon Rd., M.M.

Michael (Mick) O'Brien, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 18th Anniv.

Sun. 12th Oct. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

11.30 am Martin and Mary Donohue, Clonad.

Continued on the next page

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 4th - Sun. 12th Oct.

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

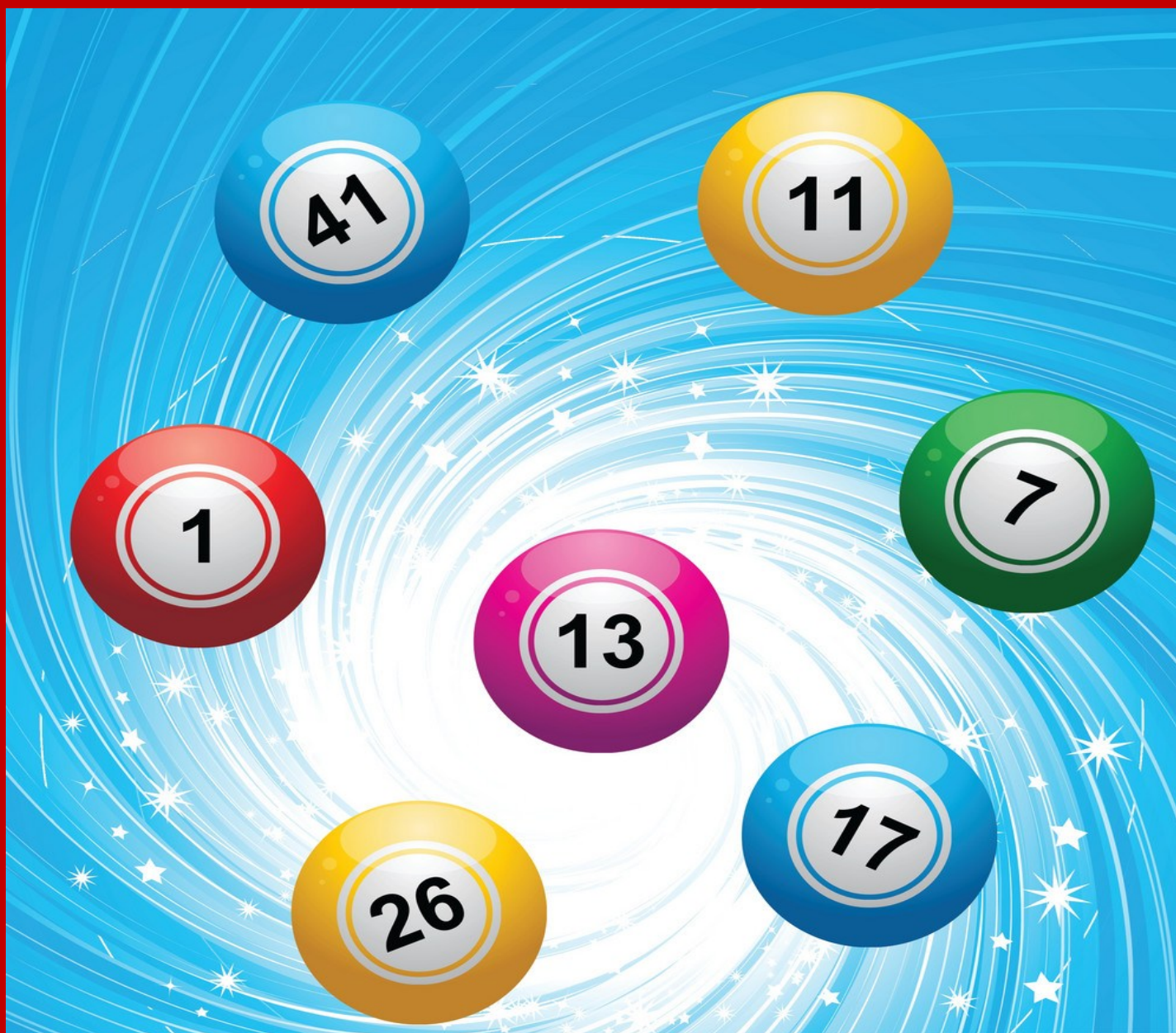
Continued from previous page

Month's Mind Mass

Sun. 19th Oct. 11.30 am Thomas (Tom) Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

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

Parish Lottos



Ballyfin Parish Lotto,

Wed 1st Oct

Nos. Drawn 14 20 28 29

No Jackpot Winner

9 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 112 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 20,000

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

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 2nd Oct.

Nos. Drawn 6 20 21 28

No € 20,000 Jackpot Winner

5 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 200 each

Next Week's Jackpot € 20,000

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

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	€ 20,000
-----------	----------

Ballyfin	€ 20,000
----------	----------



News From Around The Diocese

Parishes Alive Day

On Sat. 21st June 2025, Bishop Denis Nulty along with the Diocesan Pastoral Council, hosted a faith conference attended by over 100 parishioners and clergy from around the diocese. The title of the day was "Parishes Alive - Moving Forward in Hope!" The event took place in Carlow College, St. Patrick's, and marked the second annual Parishes Alive day in the Diocese. A report on the day was prepared and is now available on the diocesan website www.kandle.ie.

Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service

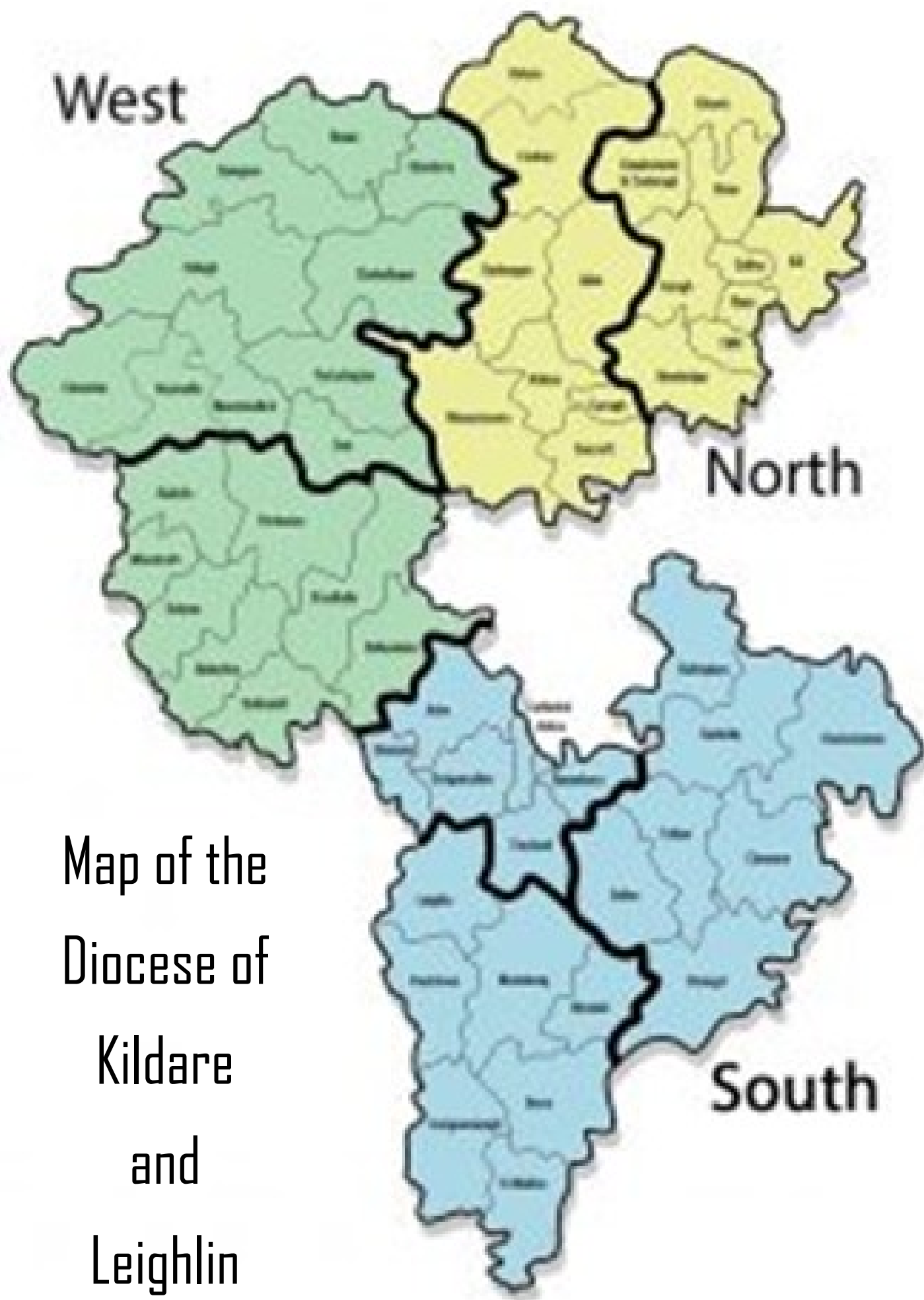
Volunteer Drivers Needed

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.



Graiguercullen Killeeshin Parish

OFFICE MANAGER



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED AND
SELF-MOTIVATED INDIVIDUAL**

- ✓ 30 hours per week
- ✓ Previous experience in an office environment essential
- ✓ Accounting experience/background necessary
- ✓ Role profile and duties available from
GKparishrecruitment@gmail.com



Email a letter of application, CV & two recent referees to
Gkparishrecruitment@gmail.com
by 5pm Friday 6th June

Events
at
Bloom HQ

May / June 2025 TIMETABLE

Monday

10am mature movers
7pm circuit training
7pm karate*
8pm TRX

Tuesday

10am TRX
10am mother and baby group
11am active poles
1pm HIIT
6:15pm beginner TRX
7pm strength and conditioning

Wednesday

11am mature movers
7pm circuit training

Thursday

9am TRX
11am seated exercise
6:15pm beginner TRX
7pm TRX
7pm karate*

Friday

5:30pm kickboxing*
6:30pm kickboxing*
7:30pm kickboxing*

Saturday

11:30am pilates*

***These Classes
are not included
in the
Membership fee**

**PAYG
and
Members
Always
Welcome**

For more info contact Ruth on 089 2647761

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!

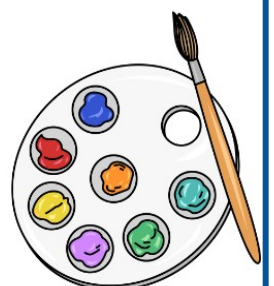


BOOK CLUB

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

ART CLASSES

Embark on your creative journey
—art classes starting soon!



BLOOMHQ MONTHLY

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



www.bloomhq.ie



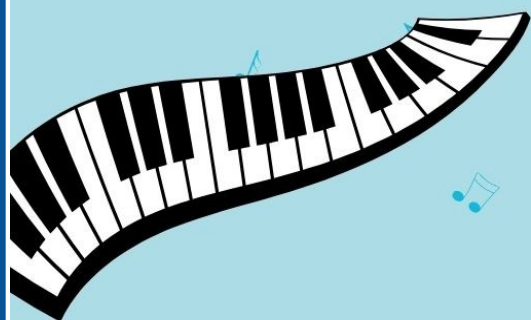


Piano Lessons now Available!



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

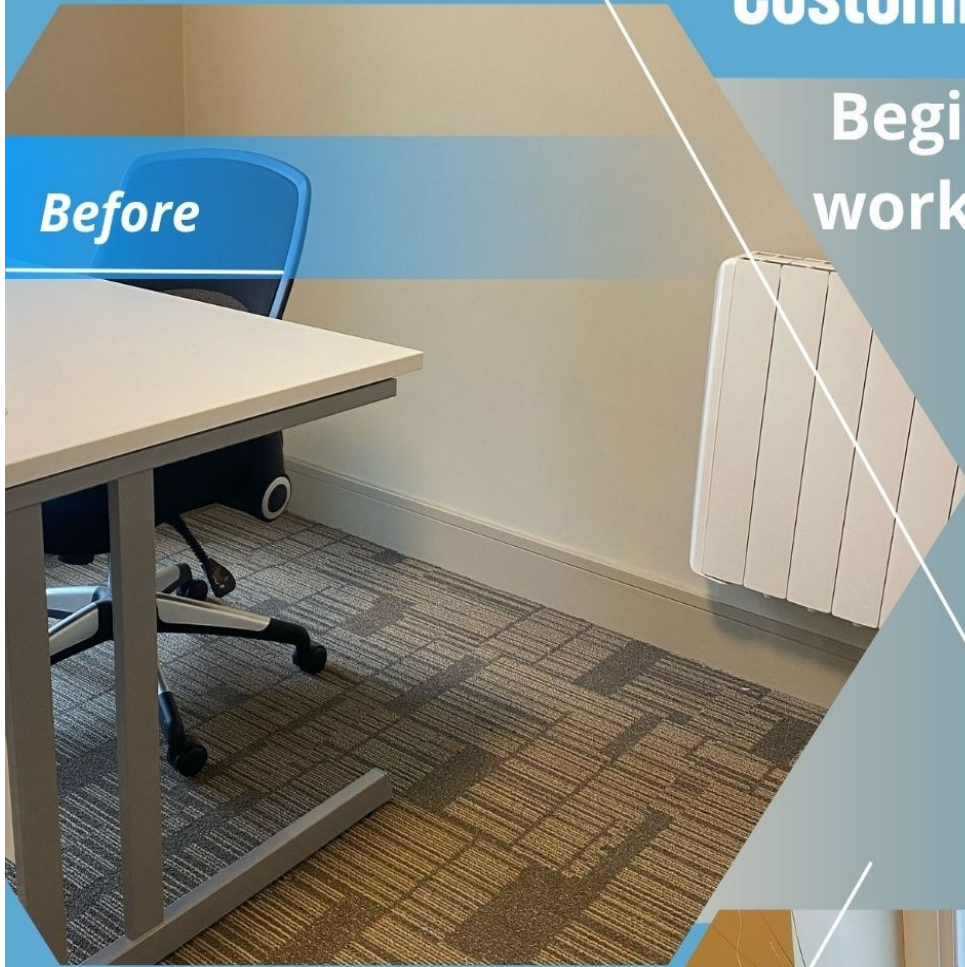


unislim.com | 1800 603020

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



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

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

**OPENING
SOON**



**Mountrath,
Co.Laois**

CAFE DONATE

Tiktok: cafe.donate

Facebook: cafe.donate

Instagram: cafe_donate

Ballyfin Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 1,525.00

Peter's Pence € 852.00

World Mission € 1,123.00

Trocaire € 2,462.96

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 500.00

Total € 6462.96

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

Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
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 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 .