

Mountrath  
Ballyfin  
Online  
Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2023

Advent 2023      See Page 14

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### V D P Annual Collection

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will take place this weekend,

9th – 10th Dec.

at our Masses in Mountrath, Ballyfin and the Hollow Church.

Your generous support is always very much appreciated.

### Christmas Bingo

Continues in St. Fintan's Hall, Mountrath this Mon. night, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Extra prize money - Blue Flyer Sheet - Full house €200.; Jackpot Sheet- Full house €200: Lucky Line Sheet - €150. Please support your local Bingo. All are very welcome.

## Joseph (Joe) Cooke, Crannagh. R.I.P.

We pray for Joe who died peacefully in Mount Carmel Nursing Home, Roscrea on Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. Joe's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown on Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. followed by burial in Aghaboe Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his brother, Fr. Walter (Fr. Watt) his good friend Paddy, The Murphy Family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

## Marie Geoghegan, Borris in Ossory R.I.P.

We pray for Marie who died peacefully at Villa Maria Nursing Home, Roscrea on Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. Maria's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Canice's Church, Borris in Ossory on Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. followed by burial in Knockaroo Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her sisters, Sr. Catherine and Brigidine Community, Castletown Rd. and Rena and her family, nieces and nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends.

## John (Jack) Delaney Ballacolla R.I.P.

We pray for Jack who died suddenly on Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. (Jack is son of Tim and Eileen and nephew of Martin Delaney, Borris in Ossory) Jack's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Canice's Church, Clough on Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. followed by burial in Knockaroo Cemetery. We extend sympathy to all his family. We remember in a very special way at his time, Martin Delaney (and family) Jack's uncle, who is an integral part of our Parish Faith Community here in Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes through his very special Music Ministry.

*May Joe, Marie and Jack rest in the peace of Christ.*

*Prayer attributed to St. John Henry Newman*

Lord, ay you support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, Lord, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

**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

*Let's*



# Christmas Ceremonies



Penitential Services Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Eve.

Vigil Masses in Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches at 8.00 pm

Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Day.

Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am

## Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms. Ailish Higgins.

*Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,*

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

## Apostolate of Sanctification

This Advent, we invite you to consider spending time in adoration and prayer, praying for our bishops and priests through the intercession of Our Lady of Knock. As we offer our Rosary and Divine Mercy for them,, His love flows to us, our families and our parishes.     □

COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Whether it's half an hour or two hours you have to offer, you are most welcome!

Monday Night 6.45pm to 9pm St.Fintan's Ballyfin (R32TD61)

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

**Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec**

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Mass at 11.30 am With children of Ballyfin School

*Everyone welcome to attend this Mass*

5.00 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Mary Gorman, Cappagh.

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Carmel Croke, Pallas . 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00 am *"Do This In Memory Mass"*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent**

Charles and Elizabeth O'Neill, Clontyglass.

Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8.00 pm Martin Gilligan, Ballyfin Rd. Mt.Rath **1<sup>st</sup> Anniv**

Mary Madden and Deceased Family Members, The Knocks

Tim Heffernan, Brockera.

**Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent.**

Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

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

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# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

- Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm John Doheny, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Denis Carroll, Shannon Road. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Eilish and James McKeon and Noel Hogan, Stillbrook.  
 Billy Tynan, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.
- Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** Daniel Rafter, Coolnacart.  
 11.30 am **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B.**
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am No 10.00 am Mass today
- Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Frank and Mary Brophy, Clonard.
- Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Eugene and Seán McCarthy, Thomas Court.
- Thur. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am People who are ill in the Parish.
- Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.
- Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent - Year B  
 Ann Grincell, Spring Gardens, Shannon St., 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Gerry and Elizabeth McMahon, Fr. O'Connor Cresc.  
 Maura Kelly (Nee Lalor) Main St. 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv.
- Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Michael and Anne Heffernan,  
 Joseph and Maryanne Culleton, Gurteen  
 11.30 am Tom Meade, Ringstown.  
 Patty and John O'Connell, Thomas Court. Patty's 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.  
 Joseph and Margaret Connolly and Eilish Tann (Nee Connolly)
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# CHRISTMAS IN THE CONVENT



**Sunday 10th December 2-6 pm**

Christmas Market  
Carol Singing  
Lots of activities for kids  
Santa visit



**BRIGIDINE CONVENT, MOUNTRATH**

## "Do This in Memory" Programme

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

### Enrolement 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. 26<sup>th</sup> May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

With Children of all Mountrath Schools -- Note Change of Date

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

## Mary's Meals Christmas Gifts Campaign

With the cost of living crisis, times are that bit harder for us all. The Global School Feeding Movement Mary's Meals have launched our Christmas Gifts Campaign - giving gifts that have a real and tangible impact on those in need. From as little as €5.50, which will provide 50 meals for children in their place of education, we can play our part in changing the lives of those most in need. Visit [marysmeals.ie](http://marysmeals.ie) to download a gift today or call 01-853 5163 / 089-433 9592.

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Mass in the Hollow Church at 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath Church at 11.30 am

Mountrath Parish Lotto 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. New Jackpot, € 18,000

*Numbers Drawn 10 24 29 31*

7 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 143 Each. 2 Local Winners

Rita Herwelling Promoter, Pachelli Walsh

- Sinead Murphy, Promoter, Mai Murphy

Lotto Gift Cards now available from Promoters

Ballyfin Parish Lotto Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Nos. Drawn 4 12 28 31

No Jackpot Winner

20 Match 3's Rec. €50

New Jackpot € 11,000

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Last Draw of '23 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

1<sup>st</sup> Draw of 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

## 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.

# Advent Prayer

Kandle.ie

Loving God,  
as your light grows in the dark of winter,  
bring its strength and its hope  
to the people of the Holy Land and to all  
people who suffer through war and conflict.  
Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem  
to lead the way to your Son,  
guide all people – leaders and citizens –  
to follow your ways of peace and justice.  
As we remember the difficult journey  
of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family  
be a source of courage for each of us,  
helping us to reach out in friendship  
to the oppressed and displaced of this world.  
Help us to see in the Christ-child  
we welcome this Christmas,  
the one who came to bring an end  
to all divisions.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
And may the Lord bless us  
and keep us safe  
this Advent day and always.  
Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

**Advent 2023**





# Waiting in Hope Longing for Peace

An Advent bulletin for home and parish  
Week One 2023

## • An Advent Household Prayer

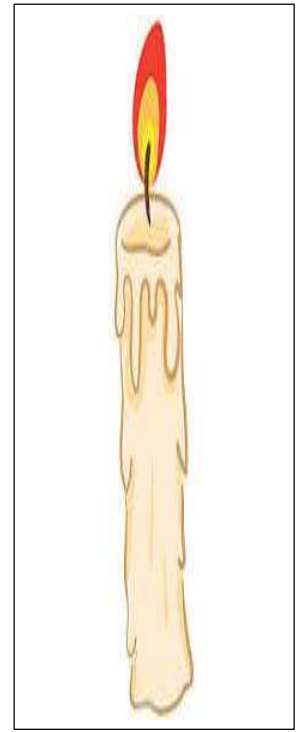
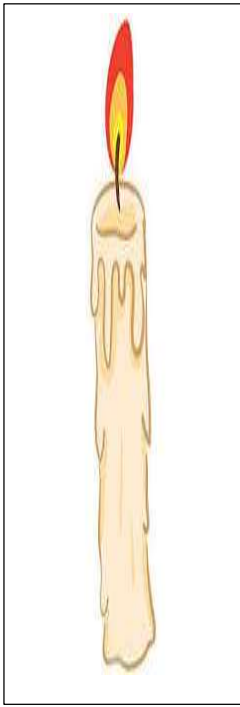
- *We invite you take a moment each day in Advent to light your Advent wreath/ candle,*
- *to thank God for your Advent Day and to pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family,*
- *praying for peace in our world and in our lives.*
- - Loving God,
  - as your light grows in the dark of winter,
  - bring its strength and its hope
  - to the people of the Holy Land and to all people
    - who suffer through war and conflict.
    - Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem
      - to lead the way to your Son,
    - guide all people - leaders and citizens -
    - to follow your ways of peace and justice.

- As we remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family be a source of courage for each of us, helping us to reach out in friendship
  - to the oppressed and displaced of this world.
- Help us to see in the Christ-child we welcome this Christmas,
  - the one who came to bring an end to all divisions.
    - Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
  - And may the Lord bless us and keep us safe
    - this Advent day and always. Amen.
    - Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.



*Advent*





## An Advent Hymn to think about

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

In many parishes the first sound of Advent is the singing of this traditional hymn. The text for the verses comes from what are known as the 'O antiphons'

that are sung at Evening Prayer on the last days of Advent.

Sometime around the year 1100 an unknown author took these antiphons and turned them into a metrical Latin poem.

Eventually, an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English.

It was published in an 1853 hymnal by Thomas Helmore, using a 15<sup>th</sup> century French melody.

From these origins we now have one of the most popular and well known Advent hymns.



# WHITE-HORSE INDOOR BOWLS

Every Thursday (8pm )  
St Philomena's Hall

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

## The Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin are seeking to recruit a secretarial assistant to work in our Diocesan Offices based in Bishop's House in Carlow Town.

### Background Information:

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin has a total of 56 parishes spread throughout all of County Carlow as well as parts of counties Kilkenny, Kildare, Offaly, Laois, Wexford and Wicklow. The Diocesan Offices at Bishop's House are the administrative arm of the diocese and receive correspondence and queries from all parishes as well as members of the wider public. Our aim is to provide the smooth and efficient operation of our diocese through exceptional administration.

As a secretarial assistant you will support the Bishop and other staff in Bishop's House through a variety of tasks related to administration, organisation and communication.

### Essential criteria:

- Fluent spoken and written English
- Proven administration background in an office environment
- Strong organisational and multi-tasking skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Support and advisory service abilities
- Attention to detail and accuracy
- An ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Proficiency in MS Office
- Familiarity with church structures and activities
- A high degree of confidentiality will be required at all times



### Contract Type

- Part-time, 20 hours per week over 5 days
- 1 year initially, subject to renewal

## How to Apply

Applications must take the form of a letter of application along with a Curriculum Vitae.

These should be emailed to [aisling@kandle.ie](mailto:aisling@kandle.ie) or posted to Aisling Brennan, Bishop's House, Old Dublin Road, Carlow, R93 F6D5.

Shortlisting will apply. Further details on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

**Closing Date** 5pm, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

# BloomHQ

## Social Enterprise Space



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PATRICK STREET,  
MOUNTRATH,  
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**6 weeks starting Wed 8th Nov**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am**  
**45 min classes**

**only 3 places left**

**€60 for 6 Weeks**

**Contact Ruth 086 3262570**



# Music Classes in Mountrath

- **Lessons in BloomHQ**
- **Violin Lessons by  
Irene Ramos  
0773222323  
iramos.violinstudio@  
gmail.com**

*Contact the relevant  
teacher to arrange  
days/times/prices*

- **Irish Traditional  
Music, Whistle, Flute,  
Concertina,  
Accordion, Fiddle,  
Banjo and Mandolin  
Cliona & Eabha  
Dowling McDonald  
083 8566083**





Please use your recyclable blue token to  
vote for us in the Tesco Community Fund.

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# Social Enterprise Space



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Work - Life Balance

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