

Mountrath
Ballyfin
Online
Newsletter

Celebrating Brigid 1500
From Page 15

21st Jan. 2024

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 21st Jan. 2024

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Note from Diocesan Office in Carlow

Safeguarding Evening, Thurs. Jan. 25th, Mt St. Annes

An evening for priests and local safeguarding representatives will be held in Mt St Annes on Thursday 25th January. The evening will be led by Dr Jesse Rogers who will give an address on "The Theology of Safeguarding" Representatives from

Parish Youth Groups will also give information on how their youth groups are working and the engagement they are receiving from young people and the wider parish community. Tea and coffee will be available from 7pm and all parish clergy and safeguarding representatives are encouraged to attend.

School Enrolment

Ballyfin National School will be accepting applications for admissions to Junior Infants for the school year 2024/25 from Monday January 8th to Monday January 29th. Application forms and more information can be found at www.ballyfinns.weebly.com or by contacting the school at office@ballyfinns.ie or 057 8755225'.

School Enrolment

Gaelscoil Thromaire invite applications for admissions to the school year 2024/25 from Mon. Jan. 15th to Mon. Jan. 29th. Application forms and more information can be found at www.gaelscoilthromaire.ie or by contacting the school at - gaelscoilthromaire00@gmail.com

Invitation from Fr. Brian Griffith, P. P. Castletown

Ecumenical Service in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, on Sun. 28th Jan. at 3pm. We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. You are most welcome as we gather to pray and reflect with our Christian brothers and sisters. Refreshments will be served afterwards in De La Salle Centre. (Christian Unity Week)

BALLYFIN GAA & LGFA

PROUDLY PRESENT



JUNGLE CHALLENGE

FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, 27TH JAN 2024
THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL, PORTLAOISE

TICKETS €25 Doors 7.00pm Start Time: 8.00pm



*Tickets available from Deadman's Inn Ballyfin
and Bosco's Gala, Portlaoise,
Committee Members and Contestants*



ORGANISED BY:

FUNDRAISING EVENTS GROUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH EMPOWER EVENTS
WWW.FUNDRAISINGEVENTS.IE | WWW.JUNGLEFUNDRAISER.IE

FUNDRAISING
EVENTS GROUP



Ballyfin GAA and LGFA

Present

Jungle Challenge Fundraiser

Sat. 27th Jan. 2024

Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise.

Tickets € 25 Doors 7.00 pm

Start Time 8.00 pm

Tickets on sale in the Deadman's

Bosco's Gala, Portlaoise

Committee Members / Contestants

Check out "Ballyfin GAA 6K Run/Walk

- Ballyfin Demesne"

on Eventbrite!

Date: Sun, Jan 21 ▪ 11:30 am

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ballyfin-gaa-6k-runwalk-thru-ballyfin-demesne-tickets-796391046057?aff=eand>

Some Parish Events during 2024 (Mountrath)

Ash Wednesday 14th Feb. Mass in Mountrath Ch. 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Blessing and Distribution of Ashes during both Masses

Easter Season

Palm (Passion Sunday) 24th March

Blessing and Distribution of "Palm" at both Masses.

Holy Thurs. 28th Mch Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm

Renewal of Commitment of Ministers of Holy Communion during Mass

Good Friday 29th Mch Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross - 7.30 pm

Holy Saturday 30th March Easter Vigil 8.00 pm

Easter Sunday 31st Mch

The Hollow Church Mass of the Resurrection 9.00 am

Mountrath Church Mass of the Resurrection 11.30 am

Renewal of Baptismal Promises at both Masses

Ceremony of Confirmation Fri. 26h April

Ceremony in Mountrath Church 11.00 am

Ceremony in Ballyfin Church 2.30 pm

1st Holy Communion Days

The Hollow Ch. Sun. 19th May 9.00 am

Mountrath Church Sun. 26th May 11.30 am

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Bishop Denis will lead us in both Ceremonies

1st Holy Communion Days

Sun. 19th May 2.00 pm Sun. 26th May 2.00 pm

Prayer attributed to St. John Henry Newman

Lord, may 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.

From SPS Website (Kiltegan)

Fr. Eddie Lalor, S.P.S. 1939 - 2024

Fr Edward (Eddie) Lalor

With sadness we announce the death of Fr Edward (Eddie) Lalor (1964 Class), peacefully today, Tuesday, January 9th, in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin. Our sincere sympathy to Eddie's family and friends. May Eddie rest in peace.



Funeral Mass in St Fintan's Church, Raheen, on Friday, 12th January, at 12 noon followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal. "A Blessed Life Well Lived"

Edward Lalor (1939-2024)

Edward Lalor, popularly known as Eddie, was born on the 17th of September 1939 at Cappanaclough in the parish of Raheen, Co Laois, to Thomas Lalor and his wife Agnes (née Brennan). Eddie had two sisters and one brother. Eddie attended Raheen Primary School from 1944 to 1951 and Abbeyleix Primary School from 1951 to 1952. Eddie had his secondary education in the Patrician College Ballyfin as a boarder from 1952 to 1956.

In September 1956 Eddie joined the Spiritual Year in Kiltegan. From 1957 to 1960 he studied for his B.Sc. Degree in University College, Cork, and then proceeded to Kiltegan for theology from 1960 until 1964. Eddie was among twenty priests ordained for St Patrick's Missionary Society by Bishop Cleary on March 29th, 1964.

After ordination, Eddie was appointed to Kenya where he was to spend the rest of his missionary life. He worked first in Eldoret Diocese from 1964 to 1968, before transferring to Nakuru Diocese where he remained until 1984. He began his missionary work teaching in the Minor Seminary. He also taught in an army secondary school and different parishes, including the cathedral in Nakuru, Njoro and Baraka. He was Vocations Director in the diocese for a number of years.

In 1984, Eddie was elected as the Society's Regional Superior for East Africa, a post he held for the next twelve years. During these years he looked after all our missionaries in Kenya and Sudan and guided and supported their ministries in parishes and schools. He helped to co-ordinate many development programmes to enhance the lives of the people.

In 1997 Eddie returned to parish work and opened up a new parish in Embakasi, Nairobi, where St Patrick's priests still minister. After two years he moved into hospital chaplaincy in Kenyatta Hospital, Nairobi. He made a great contribution to the life of the hospital and provided spiritual comfort to the patients and assisted many of them by helping to pay their hospital bills. He also developed a great working relationship with all the staff who relied on him for advice and spiritual support.

Eddie returned to Ireland in 2013 and worked in the parish of Portlaoise. He spent seven very happy years there, where he had the opportunity to minister to the people of his native county. The people of Portlaoise appreciated his kindness and humility and were blessed with the rich wisdom he shared with them from his experience in Africa.

In 2020 Eddie developed serious health issues, and he moved back to Kiltegan where he underwent a lot of medical treatment. He was lovingly cared for by the staff of the Care Unit whom he was constantly thanking for their attentiveness and care. On January 2nd, 2024, he was admitted to St Vincent's hospital in Dublin. He died there peacefully just before midday on January 9th, with his sister Eleanor, niece Emma and Fr David Larkin SPS by his bedside.

Eddie was a very committed missionary who spent 49 years in Kenya where he loved the country and its people. He always had great heart for the poor and the weak whom he supported with the help of his family and many friends in Ireland. During his years as Regional Leader in East Africa Eddie devoted great care and attention to the Society's mission in Sudan which had begun the year before he took up office. His encouragement to all who worked in Sudan was exceptional.

Eddie is predeceased by his parents Thomas and Agnes, his brother P.J. and sister Annette. He is survived by his sister Eleanor Robinson, his nephews Patrick and Eddie and nieces Emma and Una and their families, and his Society family.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam uasal.

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

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: 085 802 163

Ballyfin Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 19th - Sun. 28th Jan.

Fri. 19th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat. 20th Jan. 8.00 pm Fr. Terry Moore, Month's Mind

Salt Lake City, Utah, Formerly, O'Moore Forest.

Julia Gorman, Ireys 6th Anniv.

Sun. 21st Jan. 10.00 am 3rd Sun. in Ord. Time.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Cappinaclare. 3rd Anniv.

Tommy O'Rourke, Ballycormick 4th Anniv.

Mon. 22nd Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

Fri. 26th Jan. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sat. 27th Jan. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass - 4th Sun. Ord. Time

Maura and Patsy Feighery, O'Moore Forest

And Claudia Buckley (their grand-daughter)

Sun. 28th Jan. 10.00 am Jim Delaney, Clonagown.. 3rd Anniv

Jim's parents, Edward and Brigid Delaney, Clonagown

Seán Keegan. Formerly Birmingham and Mountmellick

Johanna Whitaker. London and Mountmellick.

Michael and Mary McCormack. Fintan and Frances Lawlor.

Mon. 22nd Jan. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

1st Anniv. Remembrance

Sat. 3rd Feb. 8.00 pm Pat Hooban

Cherrygarth, Portlaoise, .Formerly Upper Sconce.

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

Mountrath Anniversaries

Mass Times Anniversaries Sat. 20th - Sun. 21st Jan.

- Sat. 20th Jan. 7.00 pm Billy Brophy, Woodbrook. 2nd Anniv.
Eileen Fahy, Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 30th Anniv.
- Sun. 21th Jan. 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Patricia Fleming (Nee Graham)
11.30 am 3rd Sun. Ord. Time.
- Tues. 23rd Jan. 10.00 am Peter, Brigid and Kieran Farrell, Dysartbeigh.
- Wed. 24th Jan 10.00 am Matt Teresa and Edward O'Donovan, Roscrea.
- Thur. 25th Jan. 10.00 am Johanna, Mary and Annie Farrell, Woodbrook.
- Fri. 26th Jan. 10.00 am Dan Heffernan, New Line Rd., 13th Anniv.
- Sat. 27th Jan. .7.00 pm Eilis O'Hara (Nee Culleton) Patrick St. 1st Anniv
Philip Murphy, Spa Hill. 2nd Anniv.
George and Alice Tobin, Woodbrook.
Joe Kiely, Shannon Rd., 11th Anniv
Andrew and Amy Moore, Woodbrook.
- Sun. 28th Jan . 9.00 am **The Hollow Ch.** Elizabeth Seale and
deceased members of Seale Family, Clonadacasey
11.30 am Peg Lalor (Nee Fitzpatrick) Portlaoise Rd., 1st Anniv.
Christopher (Christy) Phelan, Loon, Castlecomer 3rd Anniv.

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- Month's Mind Mass** Sat. 3rd Feb. 7.00 pm Martin Mulhall, Shannon Rd.,
1st Anniv. Remembrance Sun. 4th Feb. 11.30 am Anthony Heffernan, Ringstown.

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

“Do This in Memory” Programme

1st Holy Communion Preparation Programme in Mountrath Ballyfin

Enrolement Ceremonies

Mountrath Parish Sat. 30th Sept. Mass 7.00 pm All Schools

Ballyfin. Sun. 1st Oct. Mass 10.00 am Both Schools

“Do This in Memory” Children’s Masses

1. Sat. 11th Nov Mountrath Church, 7.00 pm
Sun. 12th Nov. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
2. Sat. 9th Dec. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 10th Dec. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
3. Sat. 13th Jan. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 14th Jan. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
4. Sat. 10th Feb. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 11th Feb. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
5. Sat. 9th Mch.. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 10th Mch. Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
6. Sat. 13th Apr. Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 14th Apr. . Ballyfin Church 10.00 am
7. Sat. 4th May Mountrath Church 7.00 pm
Sun. 5th May Ballyfin Church 10.00 am

(The) Sacrament of 1st 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 1st Holy Communion

Sun. 5th May The Hollow Church 9.00 am

With Children of Gaelscoil Thromaire

Sun. 26th May Mountrath Church - 11.30 am

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

Sun. 19th May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm

With children of Ballyfin National School

Sun. 26th May Ballyfin Church 2.00 pm With Children of Barnashrone National School

World Day of Prayer

Fri. 1st March - 7.30 pm

Bloon HQ - Convent Chapel

You are most welcome to join us

Mountrath Parish Lotto

18th Jan.

Numbers Drawn 10 25 28 31

5 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 200 Each.

2 Local Winners

Mary Carroll, Promoter, M. Farrell

Kevin and Brigid O'Keeffe, Promoter, Anne O'Keeffe

New Jackpot, € 15,000

A very sincere thank you - for your very generous support of and continued commitment to Mountrath Parish Lotto throughout the year.



Ballyfin Parish Lotto 17th Jan.

Nos. Drawn 9 17 18 27

18 Match 3's won €91 ea.

3 Local Winners

Anna Rowney - Vale and Stephen McEvoy. Promoter, Mary McEvoy

Kathleen O'Connor. Promoter, Paul Dunne.

New Jackpot €16,000

A very sincere thank you - for your very generous support of
and continued commitment to Ballyfin Parish Lotto throughout
the year.

Next Week's



Ballyfin € 16,000

Mountrath € 15,000

Brigid 1500

On Thurs. 1st Feb. 2024, Churches across Kildare and Leighlin, and beyond, will come together to participate in a special ecumenical service at 11.00am in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare entitled, 'Celebrating St Brigid. Brigid 1500: A Service of Thanksgiving' dedicated to commemorating the Feast Day of St Brigid and the 1500th anniversary of her death.

The co-leaders of this thanksgiving service are the Most Rev Denis Nulty, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and the Most Rev Patricia Storey, Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare. The Reverend Canon Dr. Alison Joyce, Rector of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street in the heart of London, will deliver the sermon.

At the end of the Service, a Pause for Peace will be observed in the Cathedral at 12 noon. Aligning with a broader initiative whereby the people of Kildare are extending a global invitation, urging individuals worldwide to pause for a minute's silence at midday (local time) on St Brigid's Day, the 1st of February 2024. Livestreaming of the service will also be available worldwide. (Full press release attached and on www.kandle.ie)

Brigid 1500

Cathedral Evening Prayer for St Brigid

February 1st marks the opening of a national year commemorating St Brigid, patron of our diocese and secondary patron of Ireland, 1500 years since her death. Bishop Denis invites people from across the diocese to join him for a special evening prayer in the Cathedral of the Assumption on February 1st at 7:30 pm. Music will be led by Fr Liam Lawton and the diocesan choir.

Welcoming the relic of St Brigid

As we prepare to celebrate the life of St Brigid on February 1st and on this, the 1500th anniversary of her death, the Brigidine Sisters from their convent in Tullow are very generously loaning their relic of St Brigid to Kildare Parish for the year.

The relic will be housed in a specially designed shrine in St Brigid's Church, Kildare. The shrine will be unveiled and Mass will be celebrated in honour of St Brigid and the generosity of the Brigidine Sisters on Sunday 28th January at 11am. This is seen very much as a home-coming for St Brigid and all are most welcome to attend.

St Brigid's Camino Walk, Monasterevin Parish

Takes place on Monday 5th February starting at St Brigid's Shrine, Mountrice at 11am, led by Bishop Denis. The walk will journey to Umeras, reputed birthplace of St Brigid, continue along the new canal Blueway and finish in Sts Peter & Paul Church, Monasterevin with a service of light at 12.30pm. For more details please contact Monasterevin Parish Office 045-525346

Annual Féile Bríde, Solas Bríde Centre, Kildare

Féile Bríde (Brigid's Festival) is a week- long series of events commencing on the eve of St.Brigid's Day, the first day of February.

This year, over the course of 10 days, the festival will mark the 1500th anniversary of St Brigid's death and details of the events planned are available locally and on <https://solasbhríde.ie/feile-bríde-2024/>

All are welcome to celebrate St Brigid with us.

Celebrating Brigid 1500 at Mt St Anne's

Enjoy the St Brigid's Bank Holiday weekend at Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre. Arrive for Supper on Friday 2nd February and depart on Tuesday 6th February after Breakfast. Optional morning and evening sessions of prayer, crafts, reflection and music at Mount St Anne's.

Cost: €450 includes morning and evening sessions, evening meal and B&B or €350 includes evening meal and B&B only. Booking/Enquiries to secretary@mountstannes.com or by phone 057-8626153.

Ballyfin Community Alert Seniors Alert Scheme

As darker evenings are upon us please be aware that grant aided personal 24/7 monitored alarms are available to people aged 65 and over. 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 or for application form

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**



School of Music - Mountrath



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

TESCO
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Synod News

Work is beginning towards the next phase of the Synod and the Second General Assembly in Rome next October.

There is a dedicated page on the diocesan website: www.kandle/synod where we can keep up to date. Much more information can be found at www.synod.ie and on the Vatican website, www.synod.va.

Date for the Diary

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

The Ceremony in Ballyfin Parish Church will Commence at 2.30 pm
Bishop Denis will lead us in both our celebrations

Christian Unity Week

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17:21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held each year at the end of January.

To prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region of the world are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. The materials for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, in West Africa. The theme chosen is "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" (Lk 10:27). Representatives from the Catholic Archdiocese, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections.

These prayers and reflections will be part of an Ecumenical Service which will take place in **St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, on Sun. 28th Janu. at 3pm.** We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. All parishioners are welcome as we gather to pray and reflect with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in De La Salle Centre.