

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish News – 18th Dec. '22

*Thank you for your
Most Generous Support of
all our Parish Collections*

4th Sunday of Advent

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath - Ballyfin

Sat. 17th - Sun. 18th Dec. 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

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 www.mountrathparish.ie -

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com



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

Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

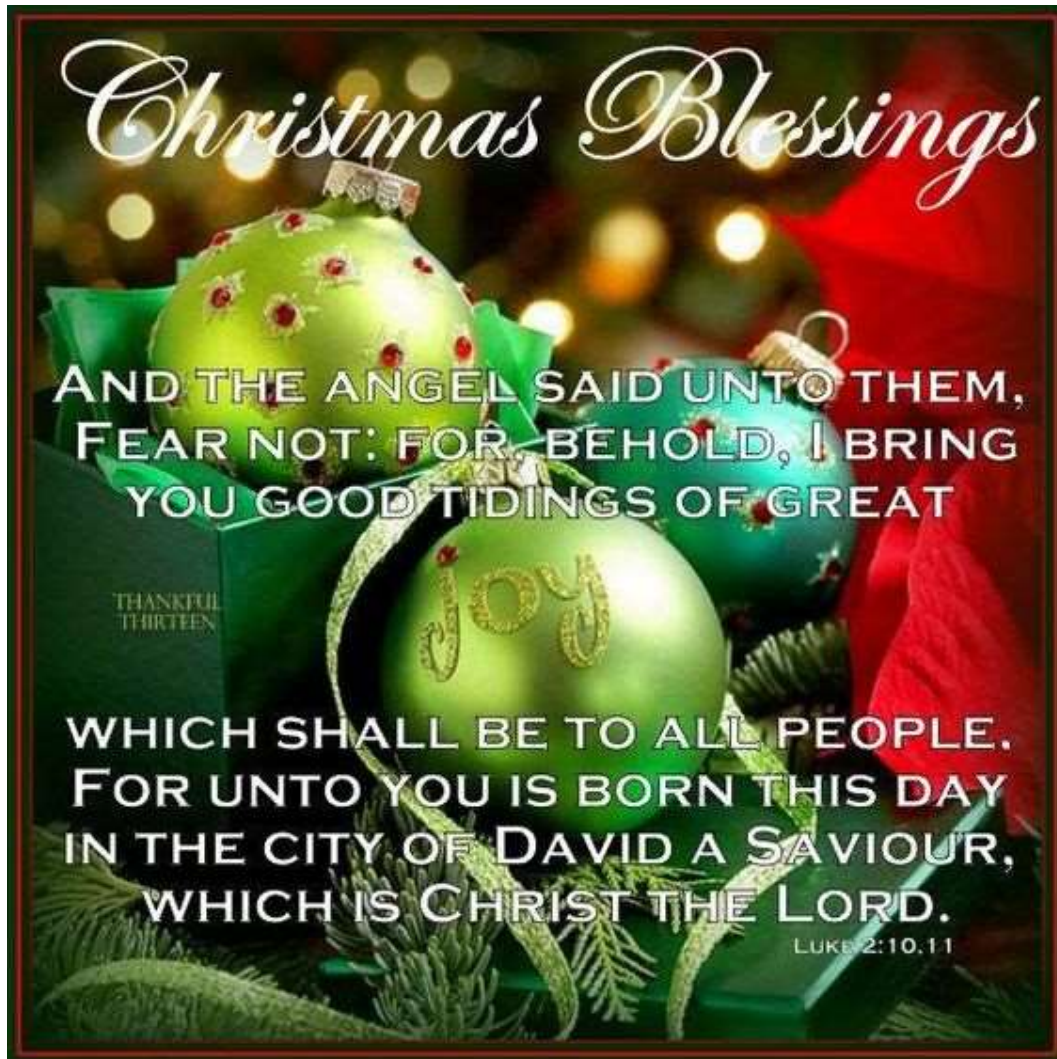
Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

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

Christmas 2022



A Christmas Blessing

"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the Angels, the eagerness of the Shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you, your family, your loved ones and the ones you hold dear, this Christmas time.

Arrangements for our Christmas Ceremonies

Christmas Penitential Services Tues. 20th Dec.

Mountrath Church 7.00 pm Ballyfin Church 8.00 pm

Portlaoise Parish Church Thurs. 22nd Dec. 7.30 pm

Individual Confessions

Christmas Eve - Sat. 24th Dec. 11.00 am Both Parishes

Christmas Vigil Masses

Mountrath 8.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Masses on Christmas Day

Ballyfin - 8.00 am and 10.00 am

The Hollow Church 9.00 am

Mountrath Church 11.30 am



Mountrath Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 17th - Sun. 25th Dec.

- Sat. 17th Dec. 7.00 pm Simon Walsh, Clonard. 4th Anniv.
 Ann Grincell, Spring Gardens, Shannon St., 4th Anniv.
 Maura Kelly, Main St. 11th Anniv.
 Thomas Taylor, Moanbaun
- Sun. 18th Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Ch. Michael and Ann Heffernan, Clonkeen.
 Michael and Mary Ann Culleton, Gurteen
 11.30 am Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Clonbarrow, 6th Anniv.
- Mon. 19th Dec. 10.00 am
- Tues 20th Dec. 10.00 am Thomas and Margaret Byrne, Derrough.
- Wed. 21st Dec. 10.00 am
- Thur. 22nd Dec. 10.00 am
- Fri. 23rd Dec. 10.00 am Tom Meade, Ringstown.
- Sat. 24th Dec 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas
- Sun. 25th Dec. 9.00 am The Hollow Ch. Mass at Dawn on Christmas Day
 11.30 am Mass of Christmas Day.

Lord, For your faithful people, Life is changed, not ended

We keep and hold in our thoughts and Prayers

People, their families and carers, who are ill – at home,
 in Hospital or in a Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical procedures,
 at this time

Ballyfin - Mass Times Anniversaries Fri. 16th - Sun. 25th Dec.

Fri. 16th Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

7.30 pm Mary Thompson (Nee Kenna) Ireys. Month's Mind

Mary Madden, The Knocks. 3rd Anniv.

Deceased members of Madden Family.

Mary Brady (Nee Cox) Clontowra, 6th Anniv.

Pauline McManus and family, Briscula

Sat. 17th Dec. 8.00 pm Joseph, Ellen and Rory Culleton, Clonagown.

Tim Heffernam, Brockera. 14th Anniv.

Sun. 18th Dec. 10.00 am Elizabeth and Brian O'Donnell, Clonkeen.

Mon. 19th Dec. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

Tues. 20th Dec 8.00 pm Ballyfin Penitential Service.

Fri. 23rd Dec. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

7.30 pm

Sat 24th Dec. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

Sun. 25th Dec. 8.00 am Dawn Mass on Christmas Day.

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

For people who mourn the loss of a loved one

Lord of all gentleness, You are close to the broken-hearted. We entrust into your care those who mourn the loss of a loved one this day. Surround them with your love and comfort them in their sorrow. Grant that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss. May they know the consolation and support of the Christian community. Give them confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Very Special *"Thank You"*
from Sean Byrne,

"Irish Guide Dogs for The Blind would like to thank most sincerely all those who supported our recent fundraiser. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Many thanks also to the volunteers for all the help and support."

Child Safeguarding Review

A letter from Bishop Denis regarding the Review by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland was issued on 21st November. This review will commence in our Diocese on Mon. 12th Dec. See our Online Newsletter for copy of this letter, below

Bingo at St. Fintan's Hall

Bingo as usual in St. Fintan's Hall on Monday night – (St. Stephen's Day) - at 8pm. Your support throughout the year has been greatly appreciated and it is hoped that it will continue for 2023. The committee wishes all our patrons the Season's Greetings. *(R.McM)*



A Word of Thanks

Parish Finances.

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 ←

⇒ 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)

Stay connected with us!

Parish Website www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie - Links to Webcams on Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish

National Board for the Safeguarding of Children

The National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (the National Board) will be commencing their review of safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin on Dec 12th . This review is to assess the safeguarding practice in the Diocese against the Catholic Church in Ireland's current standards as detailed in Safeguarding Children - Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.

If you would like to know more about safeguarding in your parish, please speak with your Local Safeguarding Representative(s) (INSERT NAME(S) HERE) or look at the Safeguarding section on www.kandle.ie.

If you ever wish to report a child or vulnerable adult safeguarding concern, please contact the Diocesan DLP on 085 8021633 or the statutory authorities of the Gardai, TUSLA, HSE.

Review by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Letter from Bishop Denis - 21 November 2022

Review by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

I am pleased to announce that the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (the National Board) will be commencing their review of safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin on December 12th.

The National Board was established in 2006 to provide advice, services and assistance in furtherance of the development of the safeguarding of children within the Roman Catholic Church on the island of Ireland; and to monitor compliance with legislation, policy and best practice and to report on these activities.

The Diocese entered into an agreement with the National Board through signing a Memorandum of Understanding and committed to the *Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016* issued by the National Board.

To assess our compliance, I invited the National Board to undertake a review of practice this year. The Diocese was previously reviewed in 2012 under the *Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008*.

The purpose of this second review is to assess the safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin against the Catholic Church in Ireland's current standards as detailed in *Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*.

In advance of this, I encourage anyone who has a child safeguarding concern or who wishes to report an allegation of child abuse to contact a Diocesan Designated Liaison Person or An Garda Síochána or TUSLA or contact the National Board (details below).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who encourage and facilitate children's involvement in parish activities and all those who contribute to safeguarding in their local parishes.

With every best wish, +Denis Nulty - Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin

Contact Details

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Ms. Kathleen Sherry Tel 085 802 1633

Email: dlp@kandle.ie

Deputy DLP's Ms. Michele Hughes Tel 086 1710643 and

Fr. Mícheál Murphy Tel: 086 8244629

Garda National Protective Services Bureau

01 6663430/35

1800 555 222

Tusla Child & Family Agency

Kilkenny & Carlow area – 052 617 7302

Laois & Offaly – 044 935 3997

Kildare & West Wicklow – 045 839 300

HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Carlow, Kilkenny: Tel: 056 778 4325

Email: safeguarding.cho5@hse.ie

Wicklow: Tel: 01 216 4511

Email: safeguarding.cho6@hse.ie

Kildare, Wicklow: Tel: 045 920410

Email: safeguarding.cho7@hse.ie

Laois, Offaly: Tel: 01 6914632

Email: safeguarding.cho8@hse.ie

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland,

New House, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Phone: 01 5053124
/ 01 5053026 Email: admin@safeguarding.ie

Bishop Denis' Prayer for the People of Ukraine

Bishop Denis invites this prayer for peace in Ukraine to be prayed at all our
Masses

Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need. Amen.

Apostolate of Sanctification

St. Fintan's Church, Church, Ballyfin Every Monday Starts at 7.00 pm

Intercession for Bishops and Priests, through Our Lady of Knock takes place each Monday night at 6.45pm in our parish church, St. Fintan's Ballyfin. All are invited to join in the two hour session which consists of community prayer, reciting -The Divine Mercy Chaplet, meditations on The Holy Rosary and a chaplet offered for our Bishops and priests in the presence of The Blessed Sacrament. When we pray for our priests, Our Lady of Knock blesses us and our families abundantly. All most welcome!

Transmitting Faith in Contemporary Culture

In processing the diocesan synodal reports the AGI steering group concluded that no issue seemed of greater concern than the growing absence of young people, including younger parents, from regular weekly liturgies - even before the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic in the spring of 2020.

A zoom gathering has been organised by the Association of Catholics in Ireland takes place on Thursday October 6th, 2022 at 8.00 pm. Professor Michael Conway (Professor of Faith and Culture, Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth) will present his own view of the issue of faith transmission today, and will be followed by open discussion. All are welcome to join in.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85073799955?pwd=VlpicXViUGlmT2FIQXlmOHVlWjFpZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 7379 9955 Passcode: 690623



MIND AND BODY CLASSES. FEEL LIKE

NOBODY LISTENS ,

NO BODY UNDERSTANDS?

***Meet with like minded people in a safe , non judgemental
environment .***

Pick up some tools to improve Mental Health.

BLOOM HQ, MOUNTRATH.

WEDNESDAYS, 7.30 PM. Call/Text /Whatsapp

087 6100908.

To care for those
who once cared for us
is one of the highest
honors in life.

– Tia Walker



LESSONS
LEARNED
Life

Mountrath Community School

Christmas Carol Service 2022

Held in the School because of the poor weather conditions on Wed. last.

Introduction: *Headboy & Headgirl* Carol: *Christmas Hallelujah*

Christmas Traditions:

Each country has its own customs associated with Christmas. In Ireland there's a tradition of placing a lighted candle in the window on Christmas Eve night, as a sign of welcome to the Holy Family.

In Italy, in 1223, Francis of Assisi was staying at a small friary in Greccio in the north of the country. A rich man living nearby offered the friars any gift they wanted at Christmas. Francis had a simple request. He said:

"I want to spend Christmas with you. Up in the hillside you have a cave. There prepare a crib full of hay; bring an ox and a donkey. I want to feel and see with my own eyes how much the Son of God wanted to be poor, when He was born out of love of us."

From this request we now have the tradition of placing a crib in our homes and churches at Christmas time.

The singing of carols is also very much part of the Christmas season. The most popular of these carols, Silent Night, was sung for the first time at the church of Oberdorf in Austria at Midnight Mass, Christmas 1818. Now, over 200 years later, our choir will sing it again, in both Irish and English.

Carol: Silent Night/Night of Silence

Student: More than two thousand years have gone by since the Son of God was born in Bethlehem, and laid lovingly in a manger by Mary, his mother. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, we pray that this season may be one of peace, love and happiness in all our families.

Just as St. Joseph, even though not the father of Jesus, welcomed Him into his heart and into his home we pray now that our hearts and homes, as well as our world, may be flooded with the grace of the Lord's coming.

Your response to the following intercessions is *Lord Jesus we pray*.

1. Come into our hearts. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
2. Come into our homes. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
3. Come to those who are lonely. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
4. Come to those who are fearful. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
5. Come to all who are sick, worried or stressed. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
6. Come to those who are grieving. *Lord Jesus we pray.*

7. Come to those who have no faith. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
8. Come to those who have no hope. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
9. Come to all victims of violence. *Lord Jesus we pray.*
10. Come to those in the grip of addiction. *Lord Jesus we pray.*

Carol: *The First Noel (adapted)*

Prayer of the Faithful

1. As we approach Christmas, we pray for everyone gathered here. May God bless us and keep us safe during this special time.
Lord hear us. *Lord graciously hear us.*
2. For our families and those we love, that this Christmas may be a happy and peaceful one for them. Lord hear us. *Lord graciously hear us.*
3. For those who find Christmas to be a difficult time of the year. May they experience whatever assistance they need to help them through their troubles and may they be comforted in their time of need.
Lord hear us. *Lord graciously hear us.*

4. We give thanks for all who assist others in any way. In particular this week, we thank God for everyone who has contributed both food and money to our fundraising efforts for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society. We thank God too for the members of Mountrath SVP and for all the good work that they do.

Lord hear us. *Lord graciously hear us.*

5. We remember at this time those who are ill, either at home or in hospital, especially members of our school community, as well as family members and friends. May God bless them with healing, friendship and comfort.

Lord hear us. *Lord graciously hear us.*

6. We pray for all our loved ones who have passed from this life, especially those who have died recently. May they reap the eternal rewards of their earthly labours and may those who mourn their passing be comforted in their time of grief.

Lord hear us. *Lord graciously hear us.*

Carol: Merry Christmas (Canon in D)

A Reading from St. Luke's Gospel

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem for the census, the time came for Mary to have her baby and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified, but the angel said:

“Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”. So they hurried away – and found everything just as the angels had said.

The word of the Lord.

Carol: Rose in December

A Reading from St. Matthew's Gospel

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. “Where is the infant king of the Jews?” they asked. “We saw his star as it rose and have come to do

him homage". When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. "At Bethlehem in Judea", they told him.

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. "Go and find out all about the child," he said "and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage."

Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The word of the Lord.

Carol: Thorns in the Straw

A Christmas Prayer

Concluding Prayer

Let us put ourselves into the hands of the Lord and pray that God will bless us and our families during the coming holy days. May all of us help to make our homes places of joy, love and peace. May we be generous and considerate, not only thinking about ourselves but helping others to enjoy the blessings of Christmas. May our loving God bless us all, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Carol: O Holy Night

Principal's Address

Conclusion: Christmas Medley