

# Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 19<sup>th</sup> March '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

*A Very Sincere "Thank you" for your  
Most Generous Support of all our Parish Collections*

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> March - Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> March. 2023

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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

Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on FM 104.5

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

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

Ballyfin – Mountrath – Mountmellick

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

2<sup>nd</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Full Details on Page 30

**Blood Donor Clinic at St.**

**Fintan's Parish Hall, Mountrath**

Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> March 3.45 pm

- 8.00 pm

**Give Blood - Save a Life.**

1 in 4 of us will need a Blood

Transfusion in our life time.

and 1 blood donation can save up to

3 lives.

## Deadline for Parish Newsletters

Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 11.00 am on Thursdays

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

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

## ACCORD - Marriage Preparation Facilitators

Accord is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators. Marriage facilitators are part of a team that prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. Couples find our courses fun, engaging and very relevant, while facilitators gain valuable life skills. If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie) for more information.

## Silver Screenings

The IMC Cinema, Fairgreen, Carlow are running a weekly over 60's club on Thursdays at 1.30pm. Latest releases, reduced volume, raised lighting and special rate of €7.

Best wishes to all our Mothers on this Day

- Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> March

## Mother's Day

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### Free Bereavement Workshop for Frontline Workers

Hosted by the Kildare Bereavement Network for frontline workers, to raise awareness of the impact of bereavement and the supports available in Kildare. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, Solas Bhríde, Tully Road, Kildare Town at 7pm

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### Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

Ballyfin Parish    Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish    Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry

*Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,*

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

## We keep in our 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.

# Mass Times – Anniversaries

Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> to Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> Mch.

## Mountrath

- Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> Mch. 9.00 am The Hollow Ch. Paddy and Mary Hosey, Trumera.  
 11.30 am John, Lucy and Noel Lally, Shannon Rd.,  
 Kathleen Walsh, R.I.P. (Kathleen died on 16<sup>th</sup> March)
- Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Maurice Healy, Ballyfin Road. 8<sup>th</sup> Anniv  
 Nuala Healy , Ballyfin Road. 17<sup>th</sup> Anniv.
- Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> Mch. 9.00 am The Hollow Church  
 Fr. James Hurley (Fr. James died on Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> March)  
 11.30 am James and Kathleen Fitzpatrick and deceased  
 members of Fitzpatrick Family.

Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Transferred from yesterday)

Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> Mch. 10.00 am

Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> Mch. 10.00 am

Thur. 23<sup>rd</sup> Mch. 10.00 am

Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Michael and Christina Tobin, St. Fintan's Terrace.

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> Mch. 9.00 am The Hollow Church. Anne Heffernan, Clonkeen.

11.30 am Breda, Joan and Ita Mac Carthy, Portlaoise Road.

### Month's Mind Mass

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> April 7.00 pm Adam Kirwan, R.I.P. Derrough

## Ballyfin - Mass Times Anniversaries

### Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March '23

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Mch. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent.

Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent.

Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> Mch. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament

7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist

Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Mch. 8.00 pm William (Bill) Fitzpatrick, Ross

Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am Alan Price, Templeogue, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Mon. 27<sup>th</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification.

### Annette Gardner (Nee Fitzgerald) Barnashrone R.I.P.

We pray for Annette who died peacefully on Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> March at Regional Hosp., Tullamore. Annette's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> March Committal Ceremony at Newlands Cross Crematorium on Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Mch. 12.o'c. (midday) . We extend sympathy to her husband Michael, children Barbara, Michael and Debbie and families. extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Annette rest in the peace of Christ.

### David Gerard (Gerry) Seale, Clonenagh R.I.P.

We pray for Gerry who died peacefully at Regional Hosp., Tullamore on Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> March. Gerry's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> March followed by burial in Mountrath

Cemetery. We extend sympathy to sons, Adrian, Colm and David, daughter Kathy and brother Tony. Sisters-in-law Eilish and Mairead, brothers-in-law John Joe and Harry, nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and neighbours. (Gerry's beloved wife, Kathleen died just over a year ago following a tragic farm accident) We keep and hold in our prayers, Adrian, Colm, David, Kathy and Tony (and their loved ones) at this very difficult time for the Seale family.

### Thomas (Tom) Dooley, Clonaslee - Mountrath R.I.P.

We pray for Tom who died peacefully in Midlands Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> March. Tom's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mamman's Church, Clonaslee on Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup> March followed by burial in St. Manman's Cemetery, Clonaslee. We extend sympathy to daughter Teresa, son-in-law Seamus, grandchildren Hazel, Gavin and Dylan, brother Joe, sister-in-law Sal, (Sarah) (Portlaoise Road) brother-in-law, Jim (St. Fintan's Terrace) and their families. nieces Colette and Patricia, nephew Alan, grand niece and nephews, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

*May David Gerard and Thomas rest in the peace of Christ*

## Guidelines for Confirmation start on Page 16

### P.T.A.A. Short Term Pledge

Consider taking the Pioneer Short-Term Pledge for lent? For the duration of Lent, many people choose to abstain from alcohol. If you would like to make this pledge for six weeks, you can join online

at [www.pioneerassociation.ie](http://www.pioneerassociation.ie)

### Prayer For Temperance

Dear Lord, let temperance grow in me and lead me to discover other virtues that bring deeper union with you. In your sacred name, I pray. Temper my desires, O Lord, and turn my focus towards you. Deliver me from the tendency to go to extremes that strain both body and soul. Free me from all that harms or enslaves me and turn my heart towards eternal joys. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



# Diary Dates for 2023

## Confirmation Date - Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Time 11.00 am - Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Date – Mountrath Parish Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 -

With children of Scoil Bhride and St. Fintan's

The Hollow Church

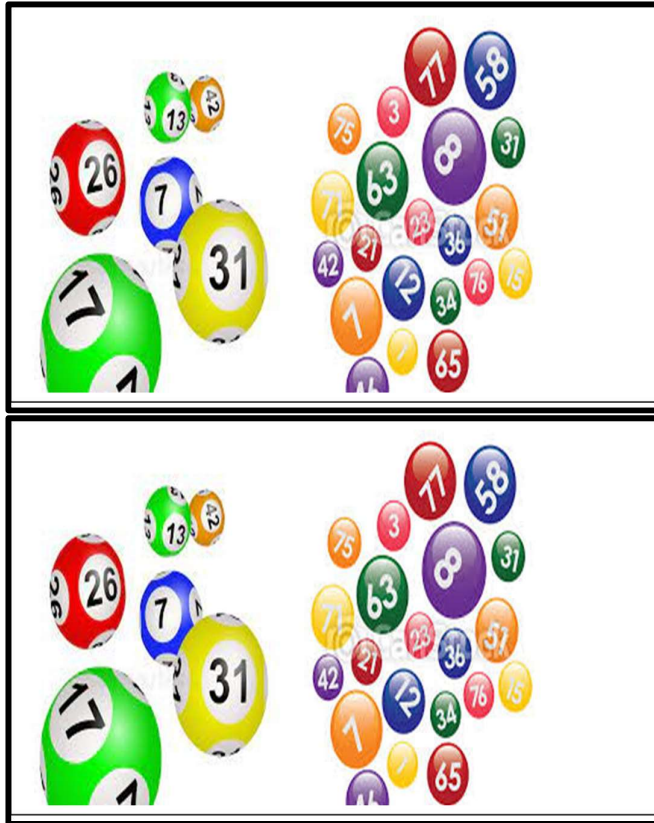
Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> May Time 9.00 am - With children of Gaelscoil Thromaire.

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Date – Ballyfin Parish

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 Time 2.00 pm

Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> May (With children of Barnashrone NS) Time 2.00 pm

## Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish Lottos



### *Deadline for Parish Newsletters*

*Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 11.00 am on Thursdays Text Message, Email Whatsapp, Letter or Pop into Parochial House.*

# Living Well for Longer



## Expo Event



### Healthy Laois & Age Friendly Laois

Thursday, 13th April, 4-8pm  
 Portlaoise College, Mountrath Road,  
 Portlaoise,  
 R32 N795

...showcasing the supports, services, groups and activities available to all ages in Laois- 50 + stands in attendance

**HSE HEALTH  
 SCREENING**

**SUPPORT  
 GROUPS**

**HEALTHY AGE  
 FRIENDLY  
 HOMES**

**HEALTHY  
 COOKING  
 DEMOS**

**ASSISTIVE  
 TECHNOLOGY  
 TALK, STANDS  
 + DEMOS**

**GRANT  
 INFORMATION**

**ACTIVITY HUB  
 STANDS**

**COMMUNITY  
 GROUPS**

**FOR MORE INFO & TO PRE -REGISTER:**

**Contact:**

**tcurran@laoiscoco.ie 086 0363426**

**AND MANY MORE**

# AGE FRIENDLY & HEALTHY LAOIS



## INFORMATION STANDS INCLUDE

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE  
COMMUNITY GROUPS  
SUPPORT SERVICES & GROUPS  
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES  
AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND  
LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP  
CITIZENS ADVICE  
LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
NETWORK.  
LAOIS MONEY ADVICE &  
BUDGETING SERVICE  
TUNSTALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MUSIC GENERATION LAOIS  
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY LAOIS  
DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE  
ALONE  
NCBI  
LAOIS FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE  
MARIE KEATING FOUNDATION  
HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES  
LAOIS SERVICES TO OLDER PEOPLE  
JIGSAW LAOIS OFFALY  
LAOIS CHAMBER ALLIANCE  
THE HOMESHARE  
LAOIS CIVIL DEFENCE

ISAAC CARE  
UCELLO DESIGNS  
LAOIS SPORTS & LEISURE  
LAOIS SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY  
LAOIS I.C.A.  
EILA CONNECT  
TASK COMMUNITY CARE  
LOCAL LINK LAOIS OFFALY  
LAOIS VOLUNTEER CENTRE  
MUSIC GENERATION LAOIS  
LAOIS OFFALY EDUCATION & TRAINING  
BOARD  
NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS  
NETWORK  
ALONE

## TALKS & DEMOS BY

AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND  
LOETB COOKING DEMO  
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS  
MEALS ON WHEELS NETWORK  
LAOIS DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE  
LAOIS CHAMBER ALLIANCE

HEALTH SCREENING ON THE DAY by the  
HSE. & BREAST CHECK IRELAND

.....AND MANY MORE

## Bus to Portlaoise from Ballyfin

Bus Service to Portlaoise from Ballyfin every Tuesday and Friday and Tullamore on Thursdays. - Pick up at home. between 10.00 and 11 o'clock. Travel Pass accepted.

€3 return for adults and children over 5 years. Must book passage evening before – before 5.00 pm Contact number 057 869 2168

*Parish Finances. - A Word of Thanks*

*Thanks for your generous contributions to Parish Funds.*

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

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

## Different ways of supporting your Parish:

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable  
to "Mountrath Parish" - or "Ballyfin Parish"

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

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

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

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ⇐

## The following are our Bank Account Details

### Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

## Ballyfin Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Please include your own name as the reference.

⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ⇐

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

Stay connected with us!

Parish Website [www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie](http://www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie) - Links to Webcams on Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish

# Cemetery Masses In Mountrath ~ Ballyfin

## During 2023

Ballyfin New Cemetery Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> June

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> June

Clonenagh Cemetery. Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> July

C;ondarrig Cemetery Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

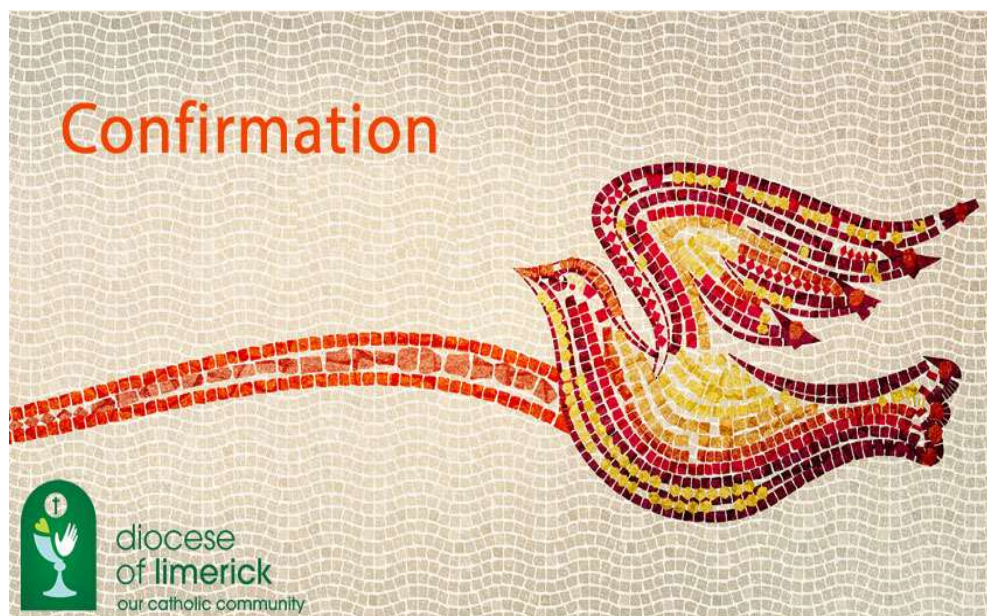
Boghlone Cemetery. Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept.

All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

# GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

## 2023

From the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin





Confirmation marks a unique moment in a person's life when one is invited to grow in faith and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace a new maturity where all that has gone before takes on richer and deeper meaning further forming one as a faithful disciple, grateful steward, and active evangelist of the Risen Christ.

*(Rev. Ronald Rolheiser - Secularity and the Gospel)*

## Theme for Confirmation 2023

'Making a choice to take my place in the tent'

'Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs' (Is 54:2).

'Listened to today, these words of Isaiah invite us to imagine the Church similarly as a tent, indeed as the tent of meeting, which accompanied the people on their journey through the desert: called to stretch out, therefore, but also to move. At its centre, stands the tabernacle, that is, the presence of the Lord. The tent's hold is ensured by the sturdiness of its pegs, that is, the fundamentals of faith that do not change but can be moved and planted in ever new ground, so that the tent can accompany the people as they walk through history. Finally, in order not to sag, the structure of the tent must keep in balance the different forces

and tensions to which it is subjected: a metaphor that expresses the need for discernment. This is how many reports envision the Church: an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out (cf. Jn. 10:9), and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity.'

Working Document for the Continental Stage 27

## CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION IN 2023

These Guidelines are designed to help parishes, particularly those where Bishop Denis will preside, in their preparation and planning of the celebration of Confirmation. They will also help Bishop Denis in his preparation for the celebration in each parish.

It would be very helpful if parishes where Bishop Denis is not presiding at Confirmation this year would let Aisling know, by emailing [aisling@kandle.ie](mailto:aisling@kandle.ie), when their celebration is and how many candidates are being confirmed. It is hoped that these guidelines will also be of use in those parishes.

## CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION OUTSIDE OF MASS

COVID 19 continues to impact on the way we gather and it is important to acknowledge that Confirmation celebrations may take place outside of Mass as allowed by Canon 882. The experience of focusing on the Rite of Confirmation over the past three years was a very positive one for a significant number of people and it is hoped that parishes will choose to continue to celebrate Confirmation this way in the coming year.

There is a template for the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation on pages 7-11.

If you choose to celebrate Confirmation within the Eucharist, then further Guidelines are available from [aisling@kandle.ie](mailto:aisling@kandle.ie).

## COVID19 & CONFIRMATION 2023

COVID 19 and a number of other infectious viruses continues to pose challenges for all communities. There continue to be significant numbers of children and staff absent daily in our school communities. It would be helpful for parishes to offer guidance in advance to parents based on the most up to date HSE advice available at the time. It would also be helpful for parishes to have contingency plans in place in the event that one or more candidates cannot present for Confirmation on the day.

**BEFORE THE CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE:** Bishop Denis asks that the Planning Form be completed and returned to him three weeks before the date of Confirmation in your parish.

Schools, please note that this form is sent to the parish to complete and return.

**CONFIRMATION BOOKLETS:** Parishes and schools are asked to consider carefully the environmental impact of printing booklets. If your parish is preparing a booklet for use on the day, please send a copy to Bishop Denis in advance.

The following notes are designed to help ensure the best possible experience of the celebration of Confirmation for all.

### 1: PARISH PREPARATION:

Bishop Denis would like a brief description of the type of preparation undertaken by the candidates and their families in the parish. This can be as simple as naming the preparation programme such as *You Shall Be My Witnesses*,

*We Belong to Christ* or providing an outline of any initiatives used by the parish team to engage the candidates and their families in a programme of preparation in the months

prior to Confirmation. This will enable him to encourage and affirm the work of preparation in the parish during the ceremony.

**2: LETTER TO THE BISHOP:** Bishop Denis would like all candidates who will be confirmed by him to submit a letter prior to Confirmation. This letter is to be written at home by the candidates in consultation with their parents/guardians and then signed by the candidates and their parents/guardians. The letters should then be sent by the parish to the bishop together with the enclosed form three weeks before the celebration of Confirmation in your parish. If your parish has multiple confirmatiOns please ensure that the letters are bundled together and labelled with the names of schools and the corresponding Confirmation Ceremony. The following information should be included in the letters:

**BIOGRAPHY:** The candidate should introduce themselves to Bishop Denis using some of the following information

- Their name and age
- The name of their school and the class that they are in
- The name of their parish
- Something about their family
- Their interests/hobbies / favourite things to do

**DESCRIPTION OF PREPARATION AT HOME, IN THE PARISH AND IN SCHOOL:**

The candidate needs to say something to the bishop about how he or she has prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**PERSONAL MEANING:** The candidate should reflect on what the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation means to them.

**CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR:** The candidate should tell the bishop what name they are choosing and why. They might also say something about their sponsor and the reason for choosing this person.

**FOR 2023:** The candidate should say something to the bishop about each of the following:

- what would help them to be more involved in their parish community once they have been confirmed. This could be based on the discussion that they will have in class about their choice of word for the Poster that they will present to Bishop Denis on the day of Confirmation. This word will describe their hope for the church of the future. It might also be helpful for them to reference the following in their letters:

1) Do I know of any opportunities for me to be involved in my local parish community after Confirmation?

2) What could my local parish do to help me be more involved?

3) What would you say to Bishop Denis about how the church in Kildare & Leighlin could help you and other young people stay involved?

### 3: **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

The sacrament of reconciliation should be celebrated by all candidates prior to the celebration of Confirmation. A suggested outline for a Reconciliation Service and for a combined Reconciliation and Ceremony of Light Service is available for download on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie).

4: **RETREAT:** Many parishes provide candidates with the opportunity of a retreat before or after Confirmation.

5: **SPONSOR:** Each candidate has a sponsor for confirmation. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, is to be at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic and living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. A parent may not act as a sponsor for his or her child (Canon 874). A Baptismal sponsor is desired as the Confirmation sponsor, in order to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893.2).

6: **PLEDGE:** The Pledge Commitment is an important part of the candidate's preparation. All parishes are expected to include a Pledge Commitment Ceremony as part of the preparation or post celebration process. You can find a copy of a Confirmation Pledge Certificate <https://app.growinlove.ie/en/user/professional-development>. There are also useful resources for exploring the Pledge on

[https://www.irishbishopsdrugsinitiative.ie/what\\_we\\_do\\_category/confirmation-commitment/](https://www.irishbishopsdrugsinitiative.ie/what_we_do_category/confirmation-commitment/)

## **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY:**

Under the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines best practice would suggest that no photography or videography should take place in the Church. Therefore, the taking of photographs and of videos is not permitted during the ceremony and this must be communicated to candidates, parents/guardians, sponsors and family members prior to the celebration of Confirmation. This can be done at the rehearsal and on the day itself in

the time before the liturgy begins. The turning off of mobile phones should also be requested at this time.

Stewards can help to ensure that the taking of photographs or videos is discouraged. Bishop Denis suggests that a group picture of him with the candidates be taken after the ceremony and that the organisation of this should be done at the rehearsal for Confirmation.

If a videographer is being used in an official capacity, he/she should be instructed not to distract from the solemn nature of the celebration and at no time should he/she enter the sanctuary area. Parental consent for the taking of the video must also be obtained from all parents in advance of the ceremony.

**PRELUDE** Five minutes before the Confirmation ceremony begins it is useful for the priest or other nominated person to begin preparing the congregation for the celebration which is to follow. This is an opportunity to quieten the gathering, remind them of the need to switch off mobile phones, not to take pictures and to invite them to spend a moment in quiet prayer for the candidates who are to be confirmed. This may be accompanied by some quiet instrumental music that can continue until the liturgy is ready to begin.

## **TEMPLATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION 2023**

**CAN. 881** It is desirable to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in a church and during Mass; for a just and reasonable cause, however, it can be celebrated outside Mass and in any worthy place.

**GATHERING SONG:** Suggestions for all music on pages 15

**WORD OF WELCOME:**

**SIGN OF THE CROSS:** As we begin our celebration let us mark ourselves with the sign of that faith as we did on the day of baptism:

You might consider inviting the parents to make the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead as they did on the day of their baptism.....

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

If there is a space dedicated to symbols of the candidate's work in preparation for Confirmation now would be an appropriate time to refer to it.

**COLLECT:**

Fulfill for us your gracious promise, O Lord, we pray,  
so that by his coming the Holy Spirit may make us witnesses before the world  
to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

### PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The names of the candidates are called, and they stand as they are presented to the Presider and the community alternatively see the suggestion for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises where the candidate's names might also be called.

### *Homily*

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

If baptismal candles are to be lit the priest could introduce the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

in these or similar words while standing near the Paschal Candle

Our Paschal Candle is a sign of hope for all who believe that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that can never be quenched, a light that will always brighten our way. On the day of your baptism your parents took light from the Paschal Candle to light your baptismal candle as a sign of the faith that they wanted to pass on to you. They were asked to keep the light burning brightly until you were ready to say yes to your faith for yourselves. They obviously have done a good job because you are here, ready to confirm what they did for you at baptism, ready to say yes to continuing to live as Jesus wants you to. Now as they light your baptismal candle again, we pray that you will continue to walk as a child of the light and keep this light of faith burning brightly for all to see.

Each candidate and their parent/s are called forward individually, they light their baptismal candle and then return to their seats and remain standing

CELEBRANT: Do you renounce Satan,  
And all his works and all his empty show?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son ,our Lord,  
Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried,  
rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, Who came upon  
the apostles at Pentecost And today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CANDIDATES: Amen.

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

CELEBRANT: My dear friends, In baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life

to his chosen sons and daughters.

Let us pray to our Father That he will pour out the Holy Spirit To strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts And anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

The celebrant(s) stretch out their hands over the candidates and pray:

All powerful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, By water and the Holy Spirit

You freed your sons and daughters from sin And gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, To be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The spirit of right judgement and courage,

the spirit of knowledge and reverence.

Fill them with the spirit of wonder, and awe in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## ANointing with Chrism

CELEBRANT: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. CANDIDATE: Amen.

CELEBRANT: Peace be with you. CANDIDATE: And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (see suggestions on pages 13 & 14 )

We pray to the Lord: Lord hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER ALL: Our Father.....

## PRESENTATION OF POSTER TO BISHOP DENIS/CELEBRANT

The poster (no larger than an A2 size page) contains one word that, following discussion in their classroom, describes the church that the Confirmation candidates want to belong to, the church that they would like to help make a reality in the future. The poster can be decorated however the candidates decide.

CELEBRANT: Let us pray

Lord, help those you have anointed by your Spirit.

Support them through every trial

and by their works of love

build up the Church in holiness and joy

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## CONCLUDING RITE      FINAL BLESSING & DISMISSAL

### ACCORD Marriage Preparation Facilitators

Accord is  
currently

recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators. Marriage facilitators are part of a team that prepare couples for the sacrament of marriage. Couples find our courses fun, engaging and very relevant, while facilitators gain valuable life skills. If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie) for more information.

# LOURDES



## MOUNTMELICK, MOUNTRATH, BALLYFIN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

Spiritual Director: Fr Noel Dunphy

**2 August 2023**

**7 Nights from Dublin Airport**

**€995 per person sharing**

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
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- » 7 nights in the Hotel La Solitude
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- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Optional single supplement €39 per night

For information please contact: **Eleanor Duff 087 7670915**

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**Contact Person - Eleanor Duff - 087 7670915**



# HAVE YOUR SAY!



to shape the next LEADER Programme, Laois Partnership wants to hear from you

Public community workshops will be taking place below



Date:	Time	Location
10th March	7:30pm	Killeshin Community Centre
11th March	11am	Portlaoise Laois Partnership Office
14th March	7:30pm	Borris in Ossory - Old Mercy Convent
22nd March	7:30pm	Mountmellick - Beale Centre
23rd March	7:30pm	Ballinakill Parochial Hall
25th March	11am	Portarlington Community Centre

for more info: please phone 057 86 61900






## Press Release:

Laois Partnership is hosting public consultations on the creation of the new Local Development Strategy for LEADER 2023-2027.

Laois Partnership Company have been responsible for the implementation and delivery of the LEADER rural development programme since the 1990's. This EU funding has allowed for the investment of €100million into Laois with business, tourism, heritage,

communities, community councils, youth groups and the local environment benefiting from this unique grant aid programme.

The LEADER programme works on the theory of Bottom-up and community led local development. With the inception of the new LEADER programme Laois Partnership Company must create a new Local Development Strategy in order to tender for the delivery of the programme locally.

The local development strategy will not be innovative or meet the needs of communities throughout Laois if it does not have direct input from the people living and working in Laois.

Laois Partnership Company are holding public consultation workshops where your ideas and input will directly feed into this strategy – Laois Partnership have organised 6 of these workshops that they are inviting you to and hope you can attend one of them.

- 10<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm in Killeslin Community Centre, Killeslin co Laois.
- 11<sup>th</sup> March 11am in Laois Partnership Offices, New Rd, Portlaoise.

- 14<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm in Borris Innovation Centre, Old Mercy Convent, Borris in Ossory.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7:30pm in the Beale Centre, Webmill, Mountmellick, Co Laois
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 7:30pm in Ballinakill Parochial Hall, Ballinakill, co Laois
- 25<sup>th</sup> March 11am in Portarlinton Community Centre, Portarlinton Co Laois.

Please phone our office if you require more information on 057 8661900 or alternatively visit our website [www.laoispartnership.ie](http://www.laoispartnership.ie)

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