

St. Fintan's Parishes Mountrath Ballyfin

Sat. 6th - Sun. 7th March 2021 - 3rd Sun. of Lent

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783 Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Parish Website www.mountrathparish.ie - Link to Webcam on Home Page

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Mass Times - Anniversaries Fri. 5th - Wed. 17th March

During the current level 5 Lockdown, all our Masses are celebrated behind closed doors in Mountrath and Ballyfin Churches. Anniversary Masses arranged for the Hollow Church will be celebrated in Mountrath Church on Saturday and Sundays

Mountrath Parish

Fri. 5 th Mch. 10.00 am	Altar List of the Dead.	Lord, for your faithful people
Sat. 6 th Mch. 7.00 pm	Tom Kelly, Main. St.	
Sun. 7 th Mch. 9.00 am	No Mass in the Hollow Church today.	We continue to keep in our prayers people who are ill (their families and carers) at home or in Hospital at this time
11.30 am	Philomena (Phyl) Keyes, St. Fintan's Terrace. 4 th Anniv. Mary Tobin, (Nee Gilman) Fr. O'Connor Cresc. 7 th Anniv.	
Mon. 8 th Mch. 10.00 am	Letitia Carroll, Nancy and Minnie Berry Ellen and Tom Berry.	
Tues. 9 th Mch. 10.00 am	John and Eileen Brosnan.	
Wed. 10 th Mch. 10.00 am	Matthew Keenan, Derylusk. 8 th Anniv.	
Thurs. 11 th Mch. 10.00 am		See homepage of Parish Website for links to Webcams
Fri. 12 th Mch. 10.00 am	Altar List of the Dead.	
Sat. 13 th Mch. 7.00 pm	David Fitzgerald, Cappinacclare. 7 th Anniv.	
Sun. 14 th Mch. 9.00 am	No Mass in the Hollow Church today	
11.30 am	Patrick (Paddy) Murphy, Spa Hill. M.M.	
Mon. 15 th Mch. 10.00 am	Jane Power, 3 rd Anniv.	
Tues. 16 th Mch. 10.00 am		
Wed. 17 th Mch. 10.00 am	St. Patrick's Day	

Teresa Cleere (née Lalor) Garryduff, Clough, Ballacolla, R.I.P.

We pray for Teresa who died peacefully at Fennor Hill Care Facility, Urlington on Wed. 24th Feb. R.I.P. We extend sympathy to her brother, Tom - and Peg, Portlaoise Road, her sister, Brigid Dunne and family, Woodbrook and to all her family, relatives, neighbours and friends. May Teresa rest in the peace of Christ.

Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 5 th Mch. 5.00 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Personal Prayer
Sun. 7 th Mch. 10.00 am	Sadie Breen (Nee Thompson) Craydon Court, 7 th Anniv. James Horan, Old Deerpark.
Fri. 12 th Mch. 5.00 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Personal Prayer
Sun. 14 th Mch. 10.00 am	Martin Gilligan, Brockera. Patrick Dunphy, Clonagown, Ballyfin
Wed. 17 th Mch. 10.00 am	St. Patrick's Day Alan Price, Templeogue, 3 rd Anniv. (Alan died on 17 th Mch. 2018) William Bennett, Campclone.

The Year of St. Joseph Prayer

The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph. On 8th December 2020, Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church.

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. (Mention your request here...) Oh, St. Joseph, I am never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for us. Amen

A Thought During Lent - Preachers of the Word *Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald, S.P.S.*

Would you consider praying for priests as one of your prayer intentions during Lent? It is no secret that not many young men are attracted to the priesthood these days. In this Diocese, most or all parishes have a priest, but for how long more? It is probably the first time in the history of the past several centuries that there have been so few coming forward to priesthood in Ireland. Priesthood is no longer one of the options that young people consider when deciding their future. That is a pity.

During the most difficult times, when priests were outlawed during the Penal days, there were still many young men willing to put themselves in danger by opting for priesthood. They knew that there would be a price on their head and that they would be hunted and have to live a life on the run. But they were not deterred. They were motivated by their faith and generosity to put their lives at the service of God and his people. Theirs was a life of sacrifice.

We need young people with the same generous spirit today. The priesthood no longer has the social standing that it used to have. Maybe that is a good thing because it means that young people opting for priesthood today will have pure motives. So, I remind you of what Jesus said in St. Matthew's Gospel - Mt. 9: 37 - "The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he may send labourers into his harvest"

Mountrath Parish Lotto Thurs. 4th March

Nos. Drawn 1 7 8 19

Jackpot € 20,000

No Jackpot Winner

16 Match 3 - Each Rec. €63

4 Local Winners

Winner Promoter

Matt Farrell Pachelli Walsh

Breda Conroy Breda Conroy

Geraldine Fitzpatrick MTB

Morrin Family Teresa Morrin

Next Week's Jackpot €20,000

Ballyfin Parish Lotto 3rd Mch

Nos. Drawn 1 3 24 25

Jackpot € 15,000 Not Won

7 Match 3 - Each Rec. € 143

Next Week's Jackpot €17,000

A Note from K & L Co-Op Lotto People.

17th March Draw will be on Tues. 16th.

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in our 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. We extend a very sincere "thank you" for your loyal support and your generosity.

Dear Parishioner, - A Word of Thanks

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 since the first Lockdown. 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. We have traditionally depended on the passing of collection baskets, that is a practice which is unlikely to return in the short term. Therefore, I want to acknowledge your support given via the weekly envelopes (2021 boxes are being distributed at present), If you didn't get a box of envelopes so far this year (and would like to) you are welcome to collect a box of envelopes from the Back of the church. Just write your name and address on the first few envelopes. This will allow 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. The Diocesan Accountant is currently finalising the accounts for 2020 and when completed they will be displayed on the notice board at the back of the church.

Possible ways of supporting the 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 of Ireland Mountrath Branch

Ac. Number (90 18 29) 72 74 7250

Ballyfin Parish. AIB Portlaoise Branch Ac. Number (93 32 79) 00 20 30 30

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 2411594

Stay connected with us!

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