

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish News - 27th Jan. 2022

8th Sunday - 8th Week in Ordinary Time

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath - Ballyfin

Sat. 26th - Sun. 27th Feb. 2022 - 8th Sunday – Week in ordinary Time.

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

Safeguarding Children Parish Representatives

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

A sum of money was
found in the Lower
Sconce area on Mon.
21st Feb.
Contact Mary on
086 027 8565.

Parish Visitation in March
Tues. 1st March . Mountrath Country
Wed. 2nd March. Mountrath Town
Thurs. 3rd March. Ballyfin Parish

Pope Francis
declares Ash
Wednesday
a Day of Prayer and
Fasting for peace in
Ukraine

Next Wednesday – 2nd March is Ash Wednesday

Mass Times

Mountrath Church 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Ballyfin 7.30 pm

Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at all Masses

As we did last year, we have prepared small sachets of Bless Ashes for you to collect at our Churches on Ash Wednesday.

For All Anniversary Mass Remembrances see Parish Newsletters

William (Willie) Seale Clonagown, Ballyfin R.I.P.

We pray for William who died peacefully at Ballard Lodge Nursing Home on Wed. 23rd Feb. - William's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Sat. 26th Feb. followed by burial in Ballyfin Cemetery. We extend sympathy to his sister Catherine, (Gately) brother Peter, his aunt Chris and their families, nephew, nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces, extended family and friends.

Breda Thompson (Nee Mooney) Ballylusk, Ballyfin R.I.P.

We pray for Breda who died peacefully at Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Wed. 16th Feb. Breda's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on Sun. 20th Feb. followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her sister, Maura O'Rourke, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath and family - Miriam Mooney, Ballylusk and family and their families, relatives, neighbours and her many friends.

May William and Breda rest in the peace of Christ.

We pray for Maura Moran (Nee Phelan) Cork.

Late of Forest, who died on Fri. 25th Feb. R.I.P.

Maura is sister of the late Fintan Phelan and Margo Delaney (Patrick St)

We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers Maura's family at this sad time.

We pray for Martina Ramkhalawon (Nee Gosling)

Daughter of Eileen and John Gosling, St. Fintan's Terrace, Mountrath.

who died on 19th Feb. in Louth in Lincolnshire

We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers Matriona's family at this sad time.

Month's Mind Masses

Sat. 5th Mch. 7.00 pm Bernard (Bernie) O'Keeffe, Moanbaun.

Sun. 6th March. 10.00 am Rita Fitzpatrick (Nee Keegan) Esker. (Ballyfin Church)

Sun. 13th Mch. 11.30 am Kathleen Seale (Nee Campion) Clonenagh.

1st Anniv. Mass Remembrance

Martin Lowry, Lower Sconce. Sun. 13th March 11.30 am

We remember in our Prayers

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

Synod News: Practical Information on our Listening Lent

The K&L Synod Committee is preparing templates for parishes to use in listening sessions during Lent. Parishes are very welcome to join with other parishes in hosting these sessions. We will also be offering an online survey that we ask parishes to promote during Lent. Parishioners might be invited to take out their phones at an appropriate point at Mass, perhaps during the homily, and find the link to the survey for use later. While the diocesan committee will host focus groups during Lent, Parishes are also very welcome to identify particular groups they wish to hear from using the template as a tool. The intentional listening that might take place between two people over a cup of coffee will be equally welcome. A youth listening template will be offered also.

Digital submissions from parishes will be able to be submitted to a dedicated email address Guidelines for how the submissions can be assembled will also be offered in due course.

“Healing Whispers” Dedicated to Áine Purcell R.I.P.

Áine Purcell (nee O’Connell) Lower Sconce, died on 4th May of last year after battling with Motor Neurone Disease with great dignity and courage. At the onset of her illness Áine was member of Ballyfin National School Board of Management Committee. A handsome book, featuring some of Áine’s lovely photography, dedicated to Áine, has recently been published.

- Available at Phelan’s Restaurant, Mountrath - Laois Pharmacy and All Books and News in Portlaoise.

All proceeds going to IMNDA (Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association)

St. Fintan's Community Hall AGM

The AGM of the St. Fintan's Community Hall will take place on Thursday March 3 at 8pm. It is hoped that all clubs who use the Hall will send a representative as we need new faces and new ideas going forward with the running of the Hall and the Bingo. All are very welcome.

Apostolate of Santification began on Mon 17th Jan

St. Fintan’s Church, Church. 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!



Ballyfin Parish Lotto - 23rd Feb - Jackpot €14,000

Nos. Drawn 3 25 28 31

No Jackpot Winner

5 Match 3 Rec. €200 ea.

New Jackpot € 15,000

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in Ballyfin Parish Lotto – your loyal support is much appreciated

Mountrath Lotto 24th

Nos. Drawn 5 23 24 32

No Winner of €11,000 Jackpot

3 Match 3 Rec. € 334 each

1 Mountrath Match 3 Winner

Pat Norton / Mick Farrell

Promoter, M. Farrell.

New Jackpot €12,000

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in Ballyfin and Mountrath 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 unending generosity

Senior Alert Alarms – Mountrath

Senior Alert Alarm participants who were fitted with a Personal Alarm by HelpLink South in the last 3 years are asked to test their unit by pressing the red button on the monitor. If you don't get through to the call centre and a message saying "1850 numbers no longer accepted" could you ring the following phone number 053-937 6400 (then press option 4).

Your monitor just needs to be re-programmed. You will be guided over the phone what to do. This only refers to alarms connected to a Landline.

If you are interested in finding out more about Senior Personal Alarms phone Rita Watkins on 086 301 5793. Applications accepted from people aged 65 years up, you don't have to live alone. Your monitor and pendant are free, as is the first years rental. From year two you pay a small annual fee.

Mountmellick Drama Festival - 4th to 11th March 2022

Mountmellick Drama Festival makes its much-anticipated return to the Community Arts Centre with an exciting programme of plays to suit all tastes from Friday to Friday, 4-11 March. Friday 4 March, The Ray Leonard Players, *The Beauty Queen Of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh; Saturday 5 March, Skibbreen Theatre Society, *Brighton* by Jim Nolan; Sunday 6 March, Palace Players, *Chapatti* by Christian O'Reilly; Monday 7 March, Mullingar Theatre Society, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* by David Wasserman; Tuesday 8 March, Ballyduff Drama Group, *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay Abaire.

Wednesday 9 March, Kilrush Drama Group, *Little Gem* (adult only) by Elaine Murphy; Thursday 10 March, Dalkey Players, *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl; and Friday 11 March, Prosperous Dramatic Society, *God of Carnage* by Yasmina Reza. - Nightly ticket €12 (€7), season ticket €60 curtain up at 8pm. Booking and enquiries on 087 7942994 or 087 4121205. Visit www.mountmellickdramafestival.ie.

Dates for Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion Celebrations in 2022.

We have made the following arrangements for the celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion during 2022.

While putting these arrangements in place we are mindful that we are still very much in "Covid 19 Pandemic mode" – Once again the safety of our children and their families and indeed, the safety of everyone involved in the preparation and celebration of these sacraments has been (and must be) our priority and first consideration.

Ballyfin Parish

Confirmation - St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin. 2 Celebrations of Confirmation

Time of each Ceremony 11.00 am.

Sat. 26th March 2022 (Last Sat. in March) - Sat. 2nd April 2022 (First Sat. in April)

Celebration of 1st Holy Communion. 2 Ceremonies. Time of each Ceremony 2.00 pm

Sunday 22nd May 2022 Sunday 29th May 2022

Mountrath Parish

Confirmation - St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath. 2 Ceremonies.

Scoil Naomh Bríd. Wed. 16th March. Time 11.00 am

St. Fintan's Boys Nat. Sch. Wed. 16th March 2.00 am

Celebration of 1st Holy Communion - 2 Ceremonies. Time of each Ceremony 2.00 pm

Sunday 8th May 2022 Sunday 15th May 2022

Where there are more than one in a family intending to receive the Sacraments next year (For example – one family member receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and another member of family, receiving 1st Holy Communion) families are most welcome to combine these ceremonies and have these 2 Celebrations during one Ceremony of their choice. If a family prefers to bring their son or daughter to any of our Parish weekend Masses to receive either of the Sacraments, they are most welcome to do so. *Just contact Fr. Joe.*

Once again, this year, despite all the odds, we managed to celebrate all our Sacraments with respect, dignity and meaning and in a timely way - all in a safe and secure environment for everyone. This in no small way was due to the cooperation and goodwill of everyone involved, Candidates for the Sacraments, parents and families of Candidates, Our teachers and schools staff, Sacramental coordinators and people who prepared our churches and kept them safe for us.

Once again, I wish to express sincere thanks to everyone involved in the celebration of Sacraments of 1st Penance, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation this year - With your help, goodwill and cooperation, we can *(and Please God, we will)* do the same again next year. *Fr. Joe*

School Enrolment

Gaelscoil Thromaire now accepting enrolments for school year '22/'23 at
gaelscoilthromaire00@gmail.com

You can contact the school to speak to the Principal and Class Teacher. A visit to the school can be organised in line with Covid 19 Regulations.

ALONE - The Organisation that supports Older People to Live Independently.

“ALONE supports older people to age at home, combatting loneliness and isolation. Would you like to volunteer from the comfort of your own home? ? We are seeking volunteers to make Support and Befriending calls to older people. Please visit our website at www.alone.ie or call our National Support and Referral line on 0818 222 024 to find out more about volunteering.

DPC News: (Diocesan Pastoral Council)

There is now a dedicated page on the diocesan website for the DPC – you can view it at <https://www.kandle.ie/pastoral/diocesan-pastoral-council/> where you will find information on membership, the mission statement and identified themes. It also announces Gerry Martin as the new Chair of the DPC and Jean Roche as its secretary.

Ballyfin Community Alert Seniors Alert Scheme

Personal monitored alarms offer security & peace of mind particularly during Winter season. If you are aged 65 or over and would like more information on applying for a government grant aided alarm, Please contact Sheila on 086 1570145
