

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish News – 18th Sept. 2022

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath - Ballyfin

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

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

Irish Guide Dogs for The Blind

Church Gate Collection

Sat. 24th and Sun. 25th Sept. '22.

This is our first Collection in 3 years
and your support is, as always, very
much appreciated.

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

We keep in our Prayers

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

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

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Boylan, Late of Woodbrook, R.I.P.

We pray for Lizzie, late of Woodbrook, who died peacefully at Kilminchy Lodge N.H. Portlaoise on Fri. 2nd Sept. Lizzie's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Raheen on Tues. 6th Sept. followed by burial in adjoining Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her cousins, her friends and residents of Kilminchy Lodge N.H.

Frances Sheeran, Mougins, France. Late of Coolrain R.I.P.

We pray for Frances who died suddenly on Tues. 6th Sept. Frances Funeral took place on Wed., 14th Sept. at l'Eglise Saint Jacques le Majeur, de Mougins Village (Place de l'Eglise 06250) with burial at Mougins Village Cemetery, Avenue Paul Robert 06250. We extend sympathy to her family in Cannes, France, Coolrain and Mountrath.

May Lizzie and Frances rest in the peace of Christ.

Anniversary Masses - Mountrath

Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 17th - Sun. 25th Sept.

Sat 17th Sept. 7.00 pm

Sun. 18th Sept. 9.00 am The Hollow Church.

11.30 am Gerry Cashin, Sentry Hill.

Michael and Frances Keegan, Main St.,

Son Pearse, Daughter Regina and Grandson, Cathal

Paddy Carthy, Shannon St., 8th Aniv.

Mon. 19th Sept. 10.00 am John and Kathleen Ryan,

Fr. O'Connor Cresc.

12.15 pm Mountrath Community School

Beginning of New School Year Mass

Tues. 20th Sept. 10.00 am

Wed. 21st Sept. 10.00 am

Thurs. 22nd Sept. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Fri. 23rd Sept. 10.00 am Margaret and John Brennan.

Sat. 24th Sept. 7.00 pm John Phelan, Knockanina - Month's Mind

Sun. 25th Sept. 9.00 am The Hollow Church - 26th Sun. in Ord. Time.

11.30 am

1st Anniversary Remembrance

Fri. 7th Oct. 10.00 am Jim Doocey, London – Formerly Woodbrook

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

Bishop Denis' Pastoral Letter.

We received Bishop Denis' Pastoral Letter last week.

A Copy of this Letter is available from this week in our Churches

Also available on our Online Newsletter

– See below

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

- Fri. 16th Sept. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
 . 7.30 pm Sheila Egan (Nee Costello) Red Gate. Month's Mind.
- Sat. 17th Sept. 8.00 pm Patrick and Nora O'Connor, Irej.
- Sun. 18th Sept. 10.00 am Mass of 25th Sunday in Ord. Time.
- Mon. 19th Sept. 12.15 pm Mountrath Community School
 Beginning of New School Year Mass
- Mon. 19th Sept. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Santification
- Fri. 23rd Sept. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
 7.30 pm Ann Dunne, Cappanrush.
- Sat. 24th Sept. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass for 26th Sun.
- Sun. 25th Sept. 10.00 am
- Mon. 26th Sept. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Santification

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

Confirmation Date

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be Celebrated in

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin -

On Fri. 28th April 2023 - Time 11.00 am

Main Celebrant - Bishop Denis Nulty

Mountrath Lotto 15th Sept.

Nos. Drawn 4 11 28 30

No Jackpot Winner

10 Match 3 - Rec. € 100 each

1 Local Winner
Winner

Paul and Vincent Fitzpatrick
Promoter
Heather Mortimer

Next Week's Jackpot - €13,000

Sincere thanks to everyone
involved in Ballyfin and Mountrath
Parish Lottos for your loyal support
and your continued generosity

Ballyfin Lotto 14th Sept.

Nos. Drawn 2 4 21 30

No Jackpot Winner

13 Match 3

Rec. € 77.00 Each

Next Week's Jackpot € 13,000

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Parish Lottos for your loyal support
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Kildare & Leighlin at the Ploughing Championship 2022,

Block 2: Row 18, Stand 291

'Ploughing a Prayerful Path' & Ireland's Favourite Hymn

The theme, *'Ploughing a Prayerful Path'*, echoes the recent synodal discussions throughout the world to advise Pope Francis on a way forward for the Catholic Church. *'Ireland's Favourite Hymn'* is one of several initiatives

being taken by the diocese during the Ploughing Championship. Visitors to the stand will also be invited to help create a woollen mural depicting the logo of the synod.

Stand 291 will highlight some ancient ritual customs such as the making of **St. Brigid's Crosses** and the distribution of **Blessed Salt**.

There will be a *Prayer Wall* for petitions, as well as a quiet space for private prayer in the midst of the hectic Ploughing Championships.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Season of Creation

The season of creation runs from September 1- October 4 (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). Parish Resources are available on the diocesan website. This year marks 7 years of the publication of *Laudato Si* and this October sees the launch of a powerful *Laudato Si* Movie - *The Invitation*

"Put out into the Deep Water"

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Denis Nulty

Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful,

The scripture verse "put out into the deep water" comes from Luke's Gospel. It is the verse which has steered our Kildare & Leighlin conversation on the structures and supports we need to put in place as we plan for the future. These conversations have

been further enriched by those who engaged and continue to engage with the Synodal Pathway. I thank the Council of Priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and all who have facilitated these conversations.

A few months ago, I announced that the seven former deaneries of the diocese were now reconstituted as seven Pastoral Areas. I heard many questions as I visited the seven Pastoral Areas reflecting on these structures and supports. Maybe the most critical question is how can we be Church with one another in 2022 and onwards thereafter?

How can we develop new ways of evangelizing that speak to our people? How can we feel less afraid to work more closely together, while still honouring the autonomy and identity of the individual parish? What worked in the past doesn't of necessity address the needs of the future. We must build a different type of Church, where all of us are in the boat together, not just the priest, the deacon and the small group around them, but all of us with our hands to the oar.

Maybe we are frightened of the deep water? With this Pastoral Letter I'm inviting you, the priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful to come on the journey. Perhaps we're unsure of where the journey might end? I remind you of the last words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel: "I am with you always till the end of time" . Possibly we are tired and haven't the energy for something new? With this Pastoral I'm reassuring you, you will not be on your own, there will be supports wrapped around you.

Working Together in our Pastoral Areas/Parish Clusters:

When Fr. Paddy Sweeney spoke at the Diocesan Clergy Gathering in Athlone in January

2020 he said “this is a moment requiring a different way of thinking, a different way of talking and a different way of acting”. I am now offering 19 more localized parish clusters, some of them crossing different Pastoral Areas. The 19 parish clusters are offered as an ad experimentum arrangement. These are the clusters that have emerged out of those initial Pastoral Area meetings.

It is important to give these clusters every support. I don't see huge changes coming to the attached map; there may be slight tweaking, but this is the clustering within the wider Pastoral Area(s) that your parish will operate in from now on. I am asking that discussions be held at first at parish level with lay people, within the parish cluster and then in the Pastoral Area to make sure that the clustered parishes are operable and correctly assigned. I am asking that responses come back to me regarding the parish clustering proposal by October 15th

The Importance of the Sunday Eucharist:

We all accept that we celebrate too many Masses, and our priests are stretched to cover every scheduled celebration. Often it is difficult for a priest to get away from the parish for his day off, or indeed arrange some annual leave, because it is becoming more challenging to get cover. I am very conscious of the health and well-being of our priests, and I ask parishioners to be reasonable in the demands they make of them. If a priest gets sick or over-stretched, where does that leave us? I have asked the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation to organize training in the autumn of lay people to prepare and lead liturgy in parishes. I would envisage that the lay leader, as part of a local team, would stand in on the priest's day-off or during the weekdays of his holidays to lead the liturgy.

The proposed 19 parish clusters must reflect together on a sustainable local Mass schedule. In simple terms every parish, every religious house will be looking at their current celebration schedule and asking how they might have a richer celebration. Simple changes everywhere can allow for more time between Masses, improved celebrations, and better participation of all who gather. An agreed approach to what happens in a local church when a priest is unavailable for Sunday Mass will also need to be arrived at in time.

I know changing schedules disrupts routine and traditions, but I am appealing to all to look on this with an open mind and a generous heart. I realise that there will be a certain loss in these necessary changes, but also there is a gain of more enriching and lifegiving celebrations. This request was evident in our recent diocesan synodal submission. It is my intention that on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27th a sustainable local Mass schedule within each cluster will be agreed upon and announced and then become operable on the First Sunday of Lent, February 26th , 2023. These schedules may have to amended by the parish cluster as time goes on, but we need the first of them agreed and announced without delay.

A Greater Sharing and Co-Responsibility:

But it's more than about Masses, much more. I am asking that deep reflection happens as to how these parish clusters or the wider Pastoral Area might share resources such as secretarial services or the employment of administrative support. Can we support one another in our chaplaincy outreach to schools (Primary and Secondary), hospitals, nursing homes, prisons? Our experience of the pandemic taught us the importance of the parish taking the lead in the Programmes for Sacramental

preparation working alongside our schools and homes. Might we work towards a common approach within each cluster?

The Synodal discussions that are ongoing have been a great example of people journeying with one another – walking and talking. We continue on the synodal journey. The life of the parish clusters will be the breadth and strength of what is shared and how deep the engagement becomes.

3 Keeping the Momentum Going:

This is a wonderful opportunity for our Diocese. I understand that having a definite timetable is very important. I want to remind you of what must be done locally, neighbourly and within the Pastoral Area in the coming weeks:

□ Reflect on this Pastoral within your parish and in the parish cluster, leading to a meeting in each of the seven Pastoral Areas and a response to me by October 15th

□ Further reflect and explore practical ideas around a sustainable schedule of local Masses and greater sharing of services and resources within the agreed parish clusters, by November 27th

□ New schedule of Masses becomes operable throughout the diocese on February 26th 2023.

□ There are other challenges that will be addressed at September meetings of the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, particularly around how this

process can be supported and sustained into the future.

We are indeed in the boat together, we are launching into the deep. I pray that St. Brigid, St. Laserian and St. Conleth will guide our sails as we continue to journey together,

Denis Nulty

+ Denis Nulty Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin - 5 September 2022



New Children's Playground in Ballyfin – It's on the Way

This Summer Ballyfin CDA will break ground on the new playground and we need your support. We are currently running a fundraiser to raise €15,000 towards the cost of the playground equipment.

The playground will be situated in the car park at the top of the GAA grounds.

In the true spirit of community, both Ballyfin Parish and Ballyfin GAA have very generously donated a space for the new playground.

Phase I of the project will see a playground for up to 12 year olds on Ballyfin Parish lands, it is anticipated that with your support we can then move to Phase II in 2023 which will include lands generously provided by Ballyfin GAA to allow a further extension of the playground.

While €15,000 might seem like an ambitious target with your help and generosity we believe we can achieve this and deliver a top class playground for the children of Ballyfin and beyond.

I hope you can help us by donating whatever you can. We do suggest that families, in particular with preschool and primary school age children, consider the benefit of this amenity on their doorstep 365 days a years and the value to be had.

Donations can be made online at

www.idonate.ie/ballyfinplayground

or directly to Committee members

or via envelope at Masses - clearly marked Ballyfin Playground

What is Ireland's Favourite Hymn?

Bishop Denis has launched the search to find Ireland's Favourite Hymn and the result will be revealed at the Diocesan Stand at the Ploughing Championship this year. There are thousands of hymns to choose from; ones that we learned at school, from parents and grandparents, or some of the more contemporary compositions that we have come to know and love in recent years.

Have your say by sending the name of your favourite hymn

to: favouritehymn@kandle.ie

Some of the most popular hymns will be sung by leading performers at the K&L Stand 291 each day at lunchtime before the result is announced on the final day, September 22. We hope to see many people from K&L parishes over the three days and there will be a welcome cup of tea/coffee waiting.

*You are most welcome to visit our Diocesan Stand at "The Ploughing"
You'll find us at Stand 291. Bishop Denis will have the kettle on for a
cuppa.*

Learn To Play Bridge.

Ballyfin Bridge Club are hosting Bridge Classes for Beginners in the Old School, Ballyfin commencing Wed. 28th Sept. at 7.00 pm for a period of 8 weeks.

Classes will be given by a qualified Bridge teacher.

For further information contact: Pdraig 0863114889 or

Catherine 0863946335 by Fri. 23rd September.

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

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 Santification

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!

Prayer of St. Augustine

“Watch, O Lord,
with those who wake,
or watch or weep tonight,
and give your holy angels charge
over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones,
O Lord Jesus Christ;
Rest your weary ones;
Bless your dying ones;
Soothe your suffering ones;
Pity your afflicted ones;
Shield Your joyous ones, and all for Your love's sake. Amen.

Praying for those who mourn during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19