

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish News – 25th Sept. 2022

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath - Ballyfin

Sat. 24th - Sun. 25th 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

This Weekend

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

Bishop Denis' Pastoral Letter.

"Launch Out Into The Deep"

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 and App. – See below

Anniversary Masses - Mountrath

Mass Times – Anniversaries Sat. 24th Sept. – Sun. 2nd Oct.

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

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

11.30 am Helen, Declan and Joe Cunningham. Redcastle.

Mon. 26th Sept. 10.00 am People who are ill in the Parish.

Tues. 27th Sept. 10.00 am

Wed. 28th Sept. 10.00 am

Thurs. 29th Sept. 10.00 am Daniel Doheny, Patrick St.,

Fri. 30th Sept. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

Sat 1st Oct.. 7.00 pm Maria O'Rourke, Kiln Lane. 5th Anniv.

Paddy Carroll. St. Fintan's Terrace.

Sun. 2nd Oct. 9.00 am The Hollow Church. 27th Sun. Ord. Time.

11.30 am Anton Heffernan, Ringstown. 4th Anniv.

Elizabeth and Joseph Fitzpatrick, Clonin (Anton's grandparents)

Kevin O'Rourke, Stillbrook. 15th Anniv.

1st Anniversary Remembrance

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

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

Mountrath Lotto 22nd Sept.

Nos. Drawn 5 9 16 26

No Jackpot Winner

16 Match 3 - Rec. € 63.00 each

Next Week's Jackpot - €14,000

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

Ballyfin Lotto

21st Sept.

Nos. Drawn 2 8 15 18

No Jackpot Winner

24 Match 3 Rec. € 42.00 Each

3 Local Winners

Pat Dowling - Sheila Dowling

Joanne Fitzgerald - Sheila

Dowling

P.J. Croke - Denis Daly

Next Week's Jackpot € 14,000

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

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: Padraig 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.

Communion Reflection:

I Celebrated Eucharist

This Communion Reflection is taken from Beginning of New School Year Mass celebrated with the Students and Staff of Mountrath Community School in Mountrath Church on Monday last.

Today I helped a blind man cross the road. And Celebrated
Eucharist

Today I wiped a young child's tears. And Celebrated Eucharist.

Today I spent time in the company of an older, lonely person.
And Celebrated Eucharist.

Today I listened to a young person who was sad and troubled.
And Celebrated Eucharist.

Today I visited a grave with a friend who was bereaved.
And Celebrated Eucharist.

Today I spent time with a friend – We laughed,
And Celebrated Eucharist.

Today I loved and was loved. And Celebrated Eucharist.

Today I visited a sick person, And Celebrated Eucharist.

Each time we care, we smile, we love,

We Celebrate Eucharist and we do this in memory of Jesus.

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!

"My Life in your Hands"

A book has been published containing a selection of writings by the late Fr. John Cummins PP of Abbeyleix and Ballyroan and native of Newbridge.

A deep thinker, an accomplished preacher and a Doctor of Divinity, God's word and message were central to his vocation. This book reveals Fr. John's gentle sharing of his love of God through his reflections each Sunday and other occasions with the Christian communities of Abbeyleix and Ballyroan, Carlow and Naas.

"My Life In Your Hands" will be a useful companion as we journey through the coming liturgical year. For the casual reader, it is an opportunity to engage with the Christian faith.

Pilgrimage to Rome March 23

The Ossory Adult Faith development Group are holding a pilgrimage to Rome this coming March (9th - 14th) 2023. Rome has a remarkable array of religious art - frescos, paintings, sculptures, mosaics and stuccos. Over the centuries these treasures have inspired, educated and uplifted countless people. This pilgrimage will explore the religious and catechetical meaning of some of these masterpieces. The all inclusive cost for this pilgrimage is €710 p.p. sharing and places can be booked by contacting Kieran and Laura Troy at info@myriam.ie or by calling 057 9355050.

ALPHA ONLINE

Is there more to life than this? For questions like this, try Alpha.

Alpha is a series of 10 interactive sessions, exploring Christianity and Faith.

Each sessions consists of a 30 mini video followed by a 30min open discussion and sharing of experiences.

For more details click on the link <https://alphaireland.org/try>

Starting Thursday 29th September for one hour 8pm to 9pm.

Where:- Online in the comfort of your own home.

All are welcome, we promise you will not be disappointed.

Please register by supplying your name, email and phone number to the presenters:-

Des O'Doherty, odohertydes@gmail.com or 087-122-1345

Kevin Kiernan, kevinkiernan9@gmail.com or 086-244-6436

We will then send you the link to the zoom meeting.

Transmitting Faith in Contemporary Culture

In processing the diocesan synodal reports the ACI 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=VlpicXViUGlmT2FIQXlmOHVlWiFpZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 7379 9955

Passcode: 690623

Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter Ireland are hosting a Marriage Enrichment Weekend from Friday 4th – Sunday 6th November 2022 at the International Hotel, Cork Airport. For more information and to book please

visit www.marriageencounter.ie

Mary Immaculate College's Alumni Reunion takes place on Saturday 8 October 2022!

This year we're celebrating the graduating classes of 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017.

If you graduated from one of those years, come along on 8 October to meet old friends, explore archive materials and see what's changed at MIC!

You can register your interest by emailing Alumni@mic.ul.ie or at www.mic.ie/Alumni-Reunion