

R.I.P: Pray for Seamus Byrne, Killanora who died recently

Sat 1st Ballon 6.00pm:

Sun 2nd Rathoe: 10.30am: Bill & Kitty Eustace, Castlemore  
John & Emily Kirwan, Bendenstown

Sun 2nd Ballon 11.30am: Elizabeth Maher, Ballylean

Mon 3rd Ballon 7.30pm:

Wed 5th Rathoe 10.00am.

Thurs 6th Ballon 10.00am

### Immaculate Conception of Our Lady—Holy Day

Fri 7th Rathoe 7.30pm Vigil: Paddy, Mary & Shane Curry, Castlemore

Sat 8th Ballon 11.30 am:

### First Sunday of Advent

Sat 8th Ballon 6.00pm:

Sun 9th Rathoe: 10.30am: Paddy Joyce, Graiguealug, 1st Anniversary  
Mary Nolan, Kilcoole

Sun 9th Ballon 11.30am:

Collections 2511/ 2018: Weekly Envelopes €467.00  
Offertory €878.10. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Ballon Rathoe Parish Goose Club This Sunday 2nd December 2018 at 7pm Ballon Community Hall

Donations of, vouchers, sweets, biscuits, Christmas cakes, wine, brandy, whiskey, cash, sweets, fuel vouchers, household items etc. Meat vouchers can be purchased in Michael McAssey's. Donations can be left into Ballon Hall Any day or on Sunday 2nd Dec from 2-4pm or in Rathoe Hall after 10.30am Mass.

**Over 20 Draws on the night for all of the above Your support for this Parish fundraiser is much appreciated.**

**Annual St. Vincent de Paul** church gate collection will be held on Sat 8th & Sun 9th in Ballon & Rathoe. Please support this worthy cause.

**Collection for Flowers for Ballon Church** will be held at all Masses in Ballon this Sat 1st & Sun 2nd Dec. Please support.

**Parish Magazine** will be launched in Rathoe Hall on Sunday 16th December after 10.30am Mass. All welcome. Refreshments.

**Graiguecullen Monster Bingo.** Tuesday 4th December @ 8.30pm and Monster Christmas Bingo Sunday 16th December @ 3pm Great prizes. Bring a friend

**Burrin Celtic Lotto:** No's 05---12---17---22. no winner. Lucky Dip: €100: Eimear Nolan, Milltown: €20 -Harry Nolan, Connaberry: €20- James Dooley, c/o Bingo .€20: Martina O'Reilly, c/o Joe Doyle. Next Wk's Jackpot: €6,050.

**Carlow Choral Society presents 'A Glorious Christmas'** in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, on Sat Dec 8th 2018, at 8.00pm. Tickets are €20.00 and the concert is free for accompanied children.

**The AGM of the Parents Association of Tullow Community School** will take place on Mon 3rd Dec in Tullow Community School. at 8pm. Guest speaker on the night - Angela Kehoe, who will speak on substance abuse. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

**Ballon Rathoe AC** are holding their annual Welly Walk for SVP on Dec 2nd at 12.30pm in the field opposite Forge Meadows. Refreshments will be served and treats for the children on the day. Donations on the day.

## Ballon-Rathoe Parish Office

The Old School, Ballon. Phone No: 087 421 3030

Email: ballonrathoeparish@gmail.com

Open Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am -1pm

Items for the newsletter must be in by 5 pm each Wed, they can be phoned in, emailed or put through the letter box.

Fr. Jim O'Connell 086 810 2675 / 059-9180641

Fr. E. Whelan 059-9159329

**Ballon Improvement Group** Turning on of Christmas Lights on Friday 7th December at 6pm. Torch Light procession & singing from Ballon Church to Millennium Monument for turning on of lights.

**Siopa Glas.** Our ECO Christmas Fair last Sunday was a huge success, especially the Eco Fashion Show. Our volunteers, Eco Fashion Models and all who helped to make the event the huge success it was, thank you all. Our community spirit has been ignited.

**Affordable Live-in Homecare** provide live in carers for the elderly in your area. If you are looking for a live-in carer for your relative, please call Eileen or Tom today on 087 9916791. Our website is [www.alhomecare.ie](http://www.alhomecare.ie)

**Eist Celebration of Christmas Variety Concert** in the Arboretum Garden Centre, Leighlinbridge, on Wednesday 5th December at 8.00 pm. The special guest will be country singer Derek Ryan. The Vocal Academy Choir Newbridge and Pat Byrne of the Voice of Ireland will also take part. The compere is Edward Hayden. There will be a mulled wine reception at 7.30. There will also be door prizes. Tickets are available from the Eist Centre 059 9139684 and the Arboretum Garden Centre @ €20 each.

**Ballon GFC Lotto.** No Winner. No's 17- 20 -29 - 30. **Lotto Winner;** **Match Three Winner: Peter Jordan, Milltown** Next week's Jackpot €1,050. Next Draw. Mon 3rd Dec 2018. in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tks €2.

### ADVENT

**Life messages:** We need to prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives. Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting for our sins, by renewing our lives through prayer and penance and by sharing our blessings with others. Advent also provides an opportunity for us to check for what needs to be put right in our lives, to see how we have failed, and to assess the ways in which we can do better. Let us remember the words of Alexander Pope: 'What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?' Jesus must be reborn in our hearts and lives, during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, in our love, kindness, mercy and forgiveness. Then only will we be able to give people his hope by caring for those in need, give them God's peace by turning the other cheek when we are provoked, give them His love by encouraging those who are feeling sad or tired, and give them His joy by encouraging and helping those who feel at the end of their strength, showing them that we care and that God cares as well. When, with His grace, we do these kinds of things we will receive hope, peace, love, and joy in return. Then we will know that when the King, our Lord Jesus, returns on the clouds of glory, we will be ready for Him.

**A Rathoe Lady was in TESCO doing her Christmas shopping.** She was tired of walking through every aisle of every store to find just the right present. She was stressed out by the mounting debt on her credit card. She was tired of fighting the crowds and standing in lines for the registers. Her hands were full and when the elevator door opened, it was full. "Great!" she muttered and the occupants of the elevator, feeling her pain, graciously tightened ranks to allow a small space for her and her load. As the doors closed she blurted out, "I think whoever came up with this Christmas junk ought to be found, strung up and shot!" A few others shook their heads or grunted in agreement. Then, from somewhere in the back of the elevator came a single voice that said, "Don't worry. They already crucified him."