

Sat 12th 6.00pm Ballon Marina Kelly, Rathrush, First Anniversary & Patrick Kelly
Sun 13th 10.30am Rathoe Mary Farrell, Jack Hutton, & Dick Murphy.
Sun 13th 11.30am Ballon

Mon 14th Dec 7.30pm Ballon
 Wed 16th Jan 10.00am Rathoe Dawson Family & Sweeney Family, Grangeford
 Thurs 17th 10.00am Ballon
 Fri 18th Rathoe 7.30pm

Sat 19th 6.00pm Ballon Willie Peters, Ballykealy Kathleen Donohoe, Ballykealy Thomas & Kathleen Kealy, Castlegrace & their grandsons Davis & Thomas & John Sheehy of Limerick.

Sun 20th 10.30am Rathoe
Sun 20th 11.30am Ballon

Collections 6th January: Offertory €677.90
 Weekly Envelopes : €571.00. *Thank you for your generosity to the collections*

Walk Towards Unity 2019

In conjunction with the Church of Ireland & Methodist Churches to mark Church Unity Week, I am organising a "Walk Towards Unity" in Carlow. The walk will begin at 2.30pm on Sunday 20th January 2019 at the Methodist Church Athy Road, proceed to St. Mary's Church in Haymarket & from there to the Cathedral of the Assumption. There will be a reading from the scriptures/prayers/hymns at each church. Fr. Tom Lalor coordinator. All are welcome. Hope no rows break out!!!

**Burren Rangers Juvenile Club
 New Year Recycling Drive Fun Raiser.**

Collection day is Friday 25th January 2019
 The following items can be included: Clothing, Towels, Soft Toys, Paired shoes, Handbags, Belts.
 NO dirty or wet clothing. Mats. Carpets. Pillows. Books. Laptops or Mobiles.
 Bags will be collected at training sessions or collection can be arranged.
 Contact; Martina Donald—087-0872803116
 Caroline O'Toole—086-8584282
 Niamh Nolan—086-8723088

Tullow Community School will hold a Parent/Teacher meeting for parents of 5th year pupils on Tuesday 15th January from 4.15 - 6.30 p.m.

Tullow Community School is inviting Parents of **First, Second and Third Year Students** to a Presentation outlining the **main changes** which are being introduced across the **New Junior Cycle**. This presentation will take place on **Thurs the 17th Jan 2019 at 7:30pm. in the Community School**

BALLON AGM Ballon GFC Annual General Meeting on Fri next at 8pm sharp. All players, club members and supporters welcome to attend. New members will be especially welcome. All asked to attend on time please.

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 05---16---19---20. no winner. Lucky Dip: €100: Joe Doyle, Doyle's Pub: €20 -Sarah Nolan, Cunnaberry: €20- Angel Jackman, c/o Joe Doyle: €20: Eddie, Carly & Chloe Brennan c/o Lilly Brennan: Next Wk's Jackpot: €6,250. Draw every Tues @ 8.30pm

Community Games Chess for girls & boys under 13 & under 16 will commence on Sat 19th Jan from 7pm—8pm in Rathoe Hall. All who wish to participate are asked to attend.

Ballon-Rathoe Parish Office

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

Email: ballonrathoe-parish@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

**2019 National Ploughing Championships,
 17th - 19th Sept.**

You are invited to attend a Public Meeting on Thursday 17th January at 8pm in the former Leinster Hills Golf Club to discuss matters relating to the 2019 event.'

Aspiro – Ireland's leading choir for children & young people finally recruiting new members in 2019. Classes resume Tuesday 15th January. Limited number of places available in all groups. info@aspirochoir.ie or phone: 085-7451111.

The Eist Cancer Support Centre provides emotional support and practical help to people with a cancer diagnosis, their families and carers. The opening hours are Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm and Friday 10 am to 1 pm. For further details please contact us on 059 9139684.

Chair Yoga in Ballon Business & Training starting on Fri 18th Jan from 10.30am—11.45. cost per week €10. also gentle yoga starting next Thurs from 9.30am –10.30am. to book phone: 087-642 1820.

Called by Name - Baptism

One of the most dramatic moments in Alex Haley's novel, *Roots*, is the "eight day" ceremony when Omorro gives his new-born son, Kunta Kinte, his name, and the child becomes a member of his tribe. In the culture of western Africa, the name given a child is both a gift and a challenge. Haley describes the naming rite: "Omorro lifted up the infant and as all watched, whispered three times into his son's ear the name he had chosen for him. It was the first time the name had ever been spoken as the child's name; for Omorro's people felt that each human being should be the first to know who he was." That night the father completed the ceremony: "Out under the moon and stars, alone with his son that eighth night, Omorro completed the naming ritual. Carrying little Kunta in his strong arms, he walked to the edge of the village, lifted his baby up to the heavens and said, softly, 'Behold the only thing greater than yourself.'" - Jesus received his calling from His Father. Jesus is greater than all creation, and Baptism makes us one with Jesus. (Gerard Fuller in *Stories for all Seasons*; quoted by Fr. Botelho).

"Have you found Jesus?" A drunk stumbles across a Pentecostal Baptismal service on Sunday afternoon down by the river. He proceeds to walk down into the water and stand next to the Preacher. The minister turns and notices the old drunk and says, "Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk looks back and says, "Yes, Preacher. I sure am." The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asked. "No, I didn't!" said the drunk. The preacher then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?" "No, I did not, Reverend." The preacher in disgust holds the man under for at least 30 seconds this time, brings him out of the water and says in a harsh tone, "My God, have you found Jesus yet?" The old drunk wipes his eyes and says to the preacher. "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

I've got an absolutely brilliant accountant. They've just named a loophole after him