

Sat 30th 6.00pm Ballon	Benjamin, Eileen & Margaret George
Sun 31st 10.30am Rathoe	Tracy Campbell Fitzpatrick
Sun 31st 11.30am Ballon	
Mon 1st 7.30pm Ballon	
Wed 3rd 10.00am Rathoe	
Thurs 4th 10.00am Ballon	
Fri. 5th 7.30pm Rathoe	
Sat 6th 6.00pm Ballon	
Sun 7th 10.30am Rathoe	Austin Donohue, Kilcoole M.M Patrick Donohue, Rathoe
Sun 7th 11.30am Ballon	

Collections 24th March: Offertory €659.95 Weekly Envelopes: €367.00 *Thank you for your generosity to the collections.*

Your kind donation to Trócaire this Lent helps all the children and families we work with work while. Thank you so much for holding them in your heart.

Lent is a time that we often associate with giving up something.

Day 26: Do somebody else's household chore without telling them

Day 27: Tell somebody a funny joke that you heard

Day 28: Thank God for a friend

Day 29: Write a letter or card and post it to somebody

Day 30: Donate books that you have outgrown to a charity shop

Day 31: Thank your parents for something

Day 32: Speak to somebody you haven't spoken to before

Congratulations to all pupils who were confirmed on Saturday and many thanks to their teachers, and parents and those who helped in Preparing them.

Kyle Abbey	Emma Flynn	Robbie Maher
Daniel Bolger	Danny Gibson	James McDermott
Ellen Broderick	Tristan Heaton	Walshe
Mikey Butler	Eddie Hourihane	Sam McCormack
Martin Carroll	Ryan Howard	David McHugh
Dara Connolly	Julia Karys	Leah Moloney
Helena Cranny	Aisling Kearns	Aoife Nash
Dylan Cunningham	Adam Kelly	Keelan Reynolds
Mia Delahunty	Katie Kinsella	Kate Somers
Eva Doogue	Wayne Madden	Adam Tobin
Aoibhe Doyle	Brian Maher	Óisín Ward
Eoin Doyle	Jamie Maher	Robbie Ward
Shóna Doyle	Johnny Maher	Evie Williamson
Stephen Doyle	Lillie Maher	

Cuchulainn Rounders: Winner of this weeks Split the Pot was Jane Dillon winning €89. Next weeks draw will take place on Tuesday 2nd April in Joe Doyles Pub. Envelopes on sale, €2 in McAsseys Shop, Siopa Glas, Joe Doyle's & Kavanagh's Pub. Extra Prize Winner of Mothers Day Hamper was Brian O'Regan. Best of luck to Gillian Nolan who will represent Leinster this weekend in the interprovincial games in Athlone. U13 Boys & Girls Rounders training Tuesday 7.00-8.00pm in Ballon GAA Field. All kids must be registered in order to train. Anyone who wishes to register for 2019 season can contact Vanessa Dowling on 087 6973498.

'PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ARCHIVES' A new book 'Photographs from the Archives' compiled by Michael Dawson will be launched in Kavanagh's pub on Monday night 15 April at 8pm. The book runs to 130 pages and contains some 160 old photographs from Ballon and Rathoe many of which were never previously published. All are welcome to attend.

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 05---06---27---29. no winner. Lucky Dip: €100: Eileen Brennan, c/o Bingo: €20 -Betty Farrell, Leighlinbridge: €20- James Brennan, Kilnock: €20: Fergus Hutton, c/o Bingo: Next Wk's Jackpot: €6,800. Draw every Tues @ 8.30pm

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

Burren Rangers/St. Martin's Juvenile Club have an ongoing collection of clothing, towels, soft toys, shoes paired, handbags, and belts in an effort to raise funds for the club. 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 on 087-2803116, Caroline O'Toole, 086-8584282 or Niamh Nolan 086-8723088.

Ballon GFC Lotto. No Winner. No's: 01-03-26-28. Match Three Winner:€100 : Breda O'Brien, Laragh. Next week's Jackpot €1,8000 Next Draw Mon 1st April 2019 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tks €2

The AGM of Ballon Community & Sports Centre will take place 5th April 2019 at 8pm sharp in the Community Centre. All are welcome to attend

Applying for CAO 2019? Visit Carlow College, St Patrick's Open Evening on April 9th from 5-8pm. Free Public Lecture by Leading US Scholar, Irish Americans in the first Parliament of Religions. Leo D. Lefebure of Georgetown University will speak at Carlow College, St Patrick's Mon 8th April at 1.45pm. Info and registration please visit www.CarlowCollege.ie

"Tullow Day Care Centre will hold a Novelty Bingo in their centre on Thursday 11th April at an earlier time of 2.30pm. Single book €4.00 & double book €6.00. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome."

A meeting of the **South East & Central Leinster Brain Tumour Support Group** will be held at the Eist Cancer Support Centre, The Waterfront, Mill Lane, Co. Carlow on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 from 7.00pm - 9.00pm. This meeting offers support for those diagnosed with a brain tumour and their families. For further information please contact Eist on 059 9139684.

A Father's Forgiveness:

In his book, *What's So Amazing About Grace*, Phillip Yancey tells the story of Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway grew up in a very devout evangelical family, yet there he never experienced the grace of Christ. He lived a libertine life that most of us would call "dissolute"... but there was no father, no parent waiting for him, and he sank into the mire of a graceless depression. In Ernest Hemingway's short story "*Capital of the World*", a Spanish Newspaper *El Liberal*, carried a poignant story about a father and his son. It went like this. A teen-aged boy, Paco, and his very wealthy father had a falling out, and the young man ran away from home. The father was crushed. After a few days, he realized that the boy was serious, so the father set out to find him. He searched high and low for five months to no avail. Finally, in a last, desperate attempt to find his son, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read, "*Dear Paco, Meet me at the Hotel Montana noon Tuesday. All is forgiven. I love you. Signed, Your Father.*" On Tuesday, in the office of Hotel Montana, over 800 Pacos showed up, looking for love and forgiveness from their fathers. What a magnet that ad was! Over 800 Pacos!! We all hunger for pardon. We are all "Pacos" yearning to run and find a father who will declare, "All is forgiven."

Sad at prodigal's return: The Sunday School teacher was explaining the story of the Prodigal Son to his class, clearly emphasizing the resentment the older brother expressed at the return of his brother. When he finished telling the story, he asked the class, "Now who was really sad that the prodigal son had come home?" After a few minutes of silence, one little boy raised his hand and confidently stated, "The fatted calf."