

**Easter Collection for the Priests of the Parish  
will be taken up over the next few weeks.  
Envelopes in your box or available in the back of  
the church.**

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**Collections 7/04/2019** : Offertory €555.00.

Weekly Envelopes €529.00 .

Thank you for your continued support

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Don't forget to bring your Trocaire box to Church or Parish office  
**Lent is a time that we often associate with giving up something or  
doing something good.**

**Day 38:** Visit an elderly relative/ neighbour

**Day 39:** Do your chores without being asked/ reminded

**Day 40:** Phone a friend

**Ballon GFC Lotto. No Winner. No's 01- 20 -24 - 28**

Lucky Dip Winners €25 each: Stephen O'Gorman, Dublin Pdraig Holden, Ballon, Eddie Kelly, Ballyhackett, James Nolan, c/o Burren Celtic. Next week's Jackpot €1,900. Next Draw. Mon 15th April 2019 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tickets €2.

**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.

**Burren Celtic Lotto:** No's 06---17---18---20 no winner .  
€100-- Bridget, c/o Ann Connors. €20--Over 35's team  
€20---Jim Kennedy, c/o Spike. €20: Jason Maher.  
Next week's Jackpot: €6,900. Draw every Tues night.

**TULLOW DAY CARE CENTRE PHONE: 059 9151833 IMPORTANT  
NOTICE - GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER MONDAY CLOSURE DAYS**

*Tullow Day Care Centre CLG will be closed Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April and Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The centre will re-open Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. We hope you all have a wonderful Easter. We thank you for your continued support. "Tullow Day Care Centre will hold their Annual General Meeting on Tues 16th April at 8pm in the centre, all welcome to attend".*

**Rathoe Community Childcare** Outdoor preschool now enrolling for Sept 2019. Afterschool places also available for free and reduced rates

**Daffodil Day 2019:** A sincere thank you to all who donated so much, helped on the day, gave daffodils, cakes and raffle prizes. We have donated €3,300.00 in total. Carlow Kilkenny Homecare: €1400 Irish Cancer Society: €1100. Éist €500. Lollipop Day €300 Hope to see you all next year. "Bring a friend" Valerie.

**Rathoe Community Car Park.** Blessing and Official Opening on Sunday 5th May 2019 after 10.30am Mass. Refreshments in the Hall.

**Recreation Mixed Basketball** every Monday night at 9pm in Ballon Community Centre for aged sixteen and over. Please contact Paul 086-316 4563 or Josie 086 404 0509

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

**Rathoe Retirement Group** will resume their meeting after the winter break on **Wed 17th April at 2.30pm** in Rathoe Hall. New members welcome.

**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

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**Rathoe Annual Tea Party** on Sunday 19th May 2019 in Rathoe Hall at 5pm. Tickets €10 each. Proceeds in aid of Car Park.

**Cuchulainn Rounders:** Winner of this weeks Split the Pot was Cathal Cummins winning €85. Next weeks draw on Tues 16th in Joe Doyles Pub. Envelopes on sale, €2 in McAsseys Shop, Siopa Glas, Joe Doyle's & Kavanagh's Pub. Extra Prize next week: Easter Hamper. U13 Boys & Girls Rounders training Tues 7.00-8.30pm in Ballon GAA Field. Training for ages 14-18 every Wednesday 7.00-8.30pm in Ballon GAA Field. Anyone who wishes to register for 2019 season can contact Vanessa Dowling on 087 6973498. All children must be registered in order to train.

**Cuchulainn Rounders** brings you Last Chance Debs in Joe Doyles Ballon on Saturday 4th May. DJ Pat Fleming playing all 70/80 & 90s music to bring us right back supported by our surprise MC on the night. Finger Food & Door Prize. Prom King & Queen of the night. Tickets €10, available from all committee members. Time to get those frocks & suits to rock the night away to DJ Fleming in the House. Pick your style and be in Joe Doyles on 4th May - a great night of entertainment is guaranteed

**THE VHI Mini Marathon** will take place on Sunday 2nd June. If you are interested in taking part (running or walking) and getting sponsored to raise funds for Éist, can you please contact the Centre on 059 91399684 for further information?

**Sally O'Neill, R.I.P**

**Sally O'Neill**, who worked for about 37 years in developing countries for Trociare, the Irish Catholic international development agency, died following an April 8, 2019 car accident in Guatemala. The organisation expressed its "profound shock and devastation" at the news of her death. "She was a truly remarkable person. Trócaire was only five years old when Sally joined. Sally built the foundations of the organisation. She embodied our values and through her courage and commitment to human rights touched the lives of so many people President Michael D Higgins said he was "greatly saddened" by the news that Sally and three of her colleagues had died. "She distinguished herself for four decades through her commitment and unstinting belief in the dignity and inherent equality of all human beings. Her work placed her at the front line during some of the most significant global humanitarian crises," said the President. "To have known Sally O'Neill Sanchez was a privilege. "Sally understood the importance of combining tangible assistance and practical compassion with the pursuit of long-term solutions to the root causes of poverty, marginalisation and oppression. "Through her work she empowered countless people and she was relentless in calling on those with power to bring their influence to bear on the policies and politics that affected those most vulnerable," said President Higgins. "I was privileged to have her as a friend and will never forget the brilliant guidance and assistance she provided on so many occasions and in so many places. "She will be missed by so many, but most acutely by her family, her wide circle of friends and her former colleagues in Trócaire."

## **PALM SUNDAY**

Palm blessed at all Masses

**Vigil — 13th April 6.00pm** Danny Dowling, Templepeter, also remembering baby Emily Caulfield  
Martin Cummins, Ballon Hill, P.J. Cummins, Ballinrane.  
**Sunday: 14th April 10.30am** Jim O'Reilly, Rathoe, Ciarán O'Byrne, Rathoe  
**Sunday: 14th April 11.30am**

Mon 15th Carlow Cathedral 7.30pm **Chrism Mass** in the Cathedral followed by a cuppa in Carlow College.  
Tues 16th Ballon 7.00pm **Confessions**  
Wed 17th Ballon 5.00pm **Mass and Anointing of the Sick or anybody who wishes to be blessed**  
Wed 17th Tullow 7.30pm **Tullow Penitential Service**

## **HOLY THURSDAY**

Holy Thursday 18th Rathoe 7.00pm **Please bring your Trocaire contribution, it helps to convert to notes and place in envelope provided.**  
Holy Thursday 18th Ballon 7.30pm

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

Good Friday 19th Ballon 12 noon **Stations of the Cross**  
Good Friday 19th Rathoe 12 noon **Stations of the Cross**  
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Good Friday 19th Rathoe 4.00pm **Passion of Our Lord**  
Good Friday 19th Ballon 7.00pm **Passion of Our Lord**

## **HOLY SATURDAY**

**Easter Vigil Holy Sat 20th Rathoe 7.00pm**  
**Easter Vigil Holy Sat 20th Ballon 8.30pm**

Candles will be provided to renew your Baptismal vows. Blessing of eggs and salt. Easter Water available

## **Easter Sunday**

**Easter Sunday Sun 21st Rathoe 10.30am : Mary & Walter Roche, Rathoe**  
**Easter Sunday Sun 21st Ballon 11.30am**

Easter this year falls on the latest date for nineteen years: 21st April. This places Passiontide and Holy Week firmly at the heart of the month. You sometimes hear people complain about the fact that Easter moves every year. It is always celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon (the "Paschal Full Moon") following the spring equinox. I think there is something providential about this. It is not a set "holiday" such as Christmas, that can be taken for granted by a secular culture. Like the rhythms of nature, Easter hatches unexpectedly, and as such requires some attention and explanation. A good opportunity to evangelise, perhaps. *Léonie Caldecott*

Everybody knew the church roof was leaking, but the parish kept putting off replacement because repairs would cost tens of thousands of Euro. Finally when the ceiling began to sag, the parish council called an emergency meeting of the entire congregation. A wealthy parishioner stood up and pledged €300 toward fixing the roof. Just then a small piece of the ceiling fell and hit him on the head. Somebody in the back of the church said, "Hit him again Lord"

*Fr. Howard, Fr. Whelan & myself, wish all a very Happy & Holy Easter*