

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 15th Jan Ballon 6.00pm	
Sun 16th Rathoe 10.00am	
Sun 16th Ballon 11.30am	Gerard & Ellen Nolan, Connaberry
Tues 18th 7.00 pm Ballon	
Wed 19th 10.00am Rathoe	
Thurs 20th 10.00am Ballon	
Fri 21st Rathoe 7.00pm	
Sat 22nd Jan Ballon 6.00pm	Frankie Kennedy, Cappagh . M.M. Mary Maher, Killane
Sun 23rd Rathoe 10.00am	Clare Kelly, Rathrush
Sun 23rd Ballon 11.30am	Remembrance Mass for Tess Blanche. First Anniversary Mass deferred due to COVID travel issues.

09/01/2022 Offertory 341.65. Envelopes €772.20 (incl online donations). Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity to the Parish.

Don't miss Irish Catholic paper, it is on sale in both churches for just €2.50 good articles this week on the Pope and pets and on CS Lewis the reluctant convert and baroness Hoey on too many nationalists getting the jobs.

Ballon Community ONLINE Bingo: Every Sunday Night via Zoom and Facebook @8pm! Books are available online to purchase (link via our Facebook page and on the Bingo section ballonvillage.com). Printed books are now available to purchase in Michael McAsseys from Tuesday - Saturday only. These books are only valid for the week of purchase. Thank you to all our customers, volunteers, Burrin Celtic and to all who supported us in 2021 and we look forward to welcoming you to our bingos in 2022!

Ballon GFC Lotto. No Winner. No's 06- 10 -25 - 29. Lucky Dip Winners €25 Lucy O'Neill, Ballon, J & Mary Maher, Killane, John Mullins, Ballon Hill, E,J,S & D Wilson, Maple Lawn, **Next weeks Jackpot €6,550.** Next Draw. Mon 17th Jan 2022 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

BALLON GFC AGM POSTPONED. The Ballon GFC annual general meeting has been postponed until Saturday 29th January. All players, club members and supporters are asked to please note.

Applications for Admissions to Scoil Phádraig, Rathoe for Junior Infants and other classes both mainstream and for our ASD classes in Sona will open on Thursday 13th January 2022. Please visit our website, www.rathoens.com, for further information and to download the application.

Have you set a goal to make healthy lifestyle changes in 2022 or do you have a New Year's Resolution to slim down Kick-start the new year by tucking into generous-sized portions of delicious food, all whilst losing weight beautifully Join Slimming World and make that start today. **Contact Tracey on 089 218 5639.** Groups are in Tullow on Tuesdays and Bunclody on Wednesdays.

Director of Safeguarding in Diocese is Kathleen Sherry Ph:085 8021633. Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie. By mail: Bishops House, Old Dublin Road, Carlow. If you have any queries regarding safeguarding of children or of vulnerable adults please do not hesitate to contact me.

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/ 059-910 7096

Ballon Business & Training Service—Tel: 059-915-9447
ballonbts@gmail.com .

Manual and Computerised Payroll Monday 17th January 7-10pm x 10 weeks €300, funding available if you are on certain social welfare payments

Art with Breda Tues 18th Jan 11.30am - 1.30pm x 6 weeks €50

Relax and Paint Wed 19th January 2pm - 4pm x 6 weeks €50

Manual and computerised Book-keeping Thursday 20th January 7-10pm x 10 weeks €300, funding available if you are on certain social welfare payments

Get your garden Spring Ready Mon 24th Jan 2pm - 4pm x 6 weeks €50

Cooking with Majella Wed 2nd Feb 10am - 12pm x 6 weeks €75

Sewing classes Beginners & Advanced Monday 7th Feb 9.30am - 12.30pm x 6 weeks €50

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 14---22---25---27. No winner. Lucky Dip: €100: Teresa Nolan, Lragh. €20—Nicole Dempsey, c/o Olivia Mannion €20—Deirdre Hickey, Kilnock. €20: Johnny Nolan, Ballon. Next Wk's Jackpot: €10,000. Draw every Tues @ 8.30pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

One of the greatest obstacles to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the division between Christians. History has left us with various Christian communities, very often burdened with issues that belong to another time. For over a hundred years the historical Christian denominations and churches have set aside a week every year, called a *"Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"* to resolve the embarrassing discord.

This year the material for prayer has been prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches, based in Beirut. Their proposed theme is ***We saw the star in the east and we have come to worship Him.***

This is a well known line from the Christmas story, Chapter 2, Verse 2, of Matthew's Gospel.

It goes without saying that no one is better qualified to look at today's world through the prism of the birth of Jesus than the middle Eastern Christians. The parallels with that time are stark. Today we have refugees, displacement, cruelty to children, autocratic rulers, political divisions—all echoing the world of the baby Jesus two thousand years ago. It is still a world where peace is lacking.

And yet within that confusion people (the Magi) from afar, from different cultures saw a light to guide their lives shine over the manger in Bethlehem. Their hunger is everybody's hunger. They brought their individual gifts They travelled looking for Jesus and went away as followers—on a new path.

The star still shines over that manger—this week of prayer will hopefully lessen one obstacle that prevents it from being clearly seen by 'all people of good will.

The word 'aerobics' came about when the gym instructors all got together and said, 'If we are going to charge ten euro an hour, we can't call it 'jumping up and down'

Never try to keep up with the Joneses. It's much cheaper to drag them down to your level.

You'd eat a worm if I gave it a French name