

R.I.P: **Josephine O'Brien**, River Cottage, Ballynoe, Ardattin, Carlow who died during the week

Baptism of the Lord

Sat 8th Jan Ballon 6pm Willie Peters & Thomas Townsend

Sun 9th Rathoe 10.30am

Sun 9th Ballon 11.30am

Tues 11th 7.00 pm Ballon

Wed 12th 10.00am Rathoe Prayer Service

Thurs 13th 10.00am Ballon

Fri 14th Rathoe 7.00pm

Sat 15th Jan Ballon 6.00pm

Sun 16th Rathoe 10.30am

Sun 16th Ballon 11.30am Gerard & Ellen Nolan, Connaberry

02/01/2022 Offertory € 306. Envelopes €1258.70 (incl online donations). Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity to the Parish.

Ballon Climate Change Calendar sponsored by Ballon Improvement Group & Siopa Glas and designed and printed by Ballon in aid of School KHA for sale at local shops.

2021 Community Magazine "CONNECTED" is now available in Michael McAssey's, Centra, Nolan's, Shop & Deli, Joe O'Toole's, & Conor Wards, Tullow, outside Rathoe Church on Sunday, Anne Connors, Rathoe, and from Breeda McDonald, Graiguenaspodogue. for €5. Ideal Christmas present. Congratulations to Breeda McDonald & Fidelma Joyce on another wonderful magazine. It has articles covering many aspects of the community bound into a booklet of high standard.

St. Vincent De Paul Collection. Ballon ICA wish to thank people for the very generous collection to VDP, Ballon €1833 Rathoe € 940. Tullow Branch have gratefully acknowledge the donation. VDP contact no is 083 3478914

BALLON GFC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Saturday next 15th January in Ballon Community Centre at 6. 30pm. All players, club members and supporters invited to attend. New members extremely welcome.

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.

We spend our lives on the run. We get up by the clock, eat and sleep by the clock, get up again, go to work, and then retire. And what do the give us? A bloody clock.

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 you 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

Christmas Crib

The Christmas cribs in our homes and churches today present these wise men as kings and as three, because of the three gifts presented, gold, incense and myrrh. Yet the gospel text does not tell us how many there were. Neither does it tell us that they were royal. So where does this story take us?

Epiphany is about the glory of God made visible in Jesus of Nazareth, revealed to visiting 'outsiders', and to us too. This is truly awesome.

New year.

As we come to the beginning of each new calendar year, I am always particularly conscious that we never know what the next twelve months are going to bring. At the beginning of 2020, we were unknowingly facing a worldwide pandemic, which continued on into the following year. The consequences of this are still with us. I am reminded of our Lord's recommendations to "stay awake" at all times: for we not know the hour nor the day.....

There is a reason why wise Christians try to live in the "sacrament of the present moment" (as Jean-Pierre de Caussade put it). The present is the place where eternity touches time. If we can manage to live without worrying about the future or obsessing about the past, we are living with God. And then, of course, it's always a new year.
Léonie Caldecott



"For goodness sake, dear, it's only an electric bicycle"