

R.I.P: Margaret (Maggie) Reilly, Rathrush
 R.I.P: Séamus Maher, Bray formally Ballylean
 R.I.P: Pope Emeritus Benedict

The Baptism of Our Lord

Sat 7th Ballon 6.00pm	
Sun 8th Rathoe 10.00am	
Sun 8th Ballon 11.30am	Elizabeth & Philip Martin, Ballykealy
Tues 10th Ballon 7.30pm	
Wed 11th Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 12th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 13th Rathoe 7.30pm	Matthew Kelly, Blackwater, Wexford
Sat 14th Ballon 6.00pm	Paddy Grant, Ballymogue M.M. Ellen & Gerard Nolan, Connaberry
Sun 15th Rathoe 10.00am	Sabina Reddy, Kyleballyhue. M.M. Mary Carroll, & Family, Rathoe
Sun 15th Ballon 11.30am	

25/12/2022: Offertory €2211.90 Envelopes €648.85.
 1/1/2023: Offertory € 1937.00. Envelopes €2292.05. (incl online donations). Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity.

HOUSEBOUND will be attended during the week

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 08---11---14---19. No Winner. Lucky Dip: €100.: Jim Brennan, c/o Lily Brennan: €20 Erin Hickey, c/o Paul Hickey €20 Allie Armstrong, Naas: €20: Mabel Brennan, Ballon Hill Next wk's Jackpot: €3,750. Draw every Tues night at 8.30pm.

Graiguencullen Bingo on Tuesday 10th January. St.Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €5250 Double number €1440 Lotto €700 Great prizes, bring a friend.

St. Vincent de Paul Collection: Ballon ICA would like to thank people for their generous donations to Tullow Branch of St. Vincent De Paul. €2,820 in total was raised from church gate collections in Ballon & Rathoe. Thank you all for your support every year.

A message from an Garda Siochana An Garda Siochana wish to warn people of a doorstep fraud and theft offence which has become prevalent over the last number of weeks. Elderly People are being targeted at their homes by Criminals who are impersonating Gardaí. The offenders are fraudulently pretending to be plain clothes Gardaí who are checking for dud money. They have duped people all around the country and stolen their cash on the pretence of checking to see if it is genuine money. They are producing false identification to assist the process. **Advice:** An Garda Siochana will never ask people about their finances on the doorstep of their homes and will never ask to check money. Always ask for Identification and do not be afraid to question it. If in doubt politely tell the caller that you want to verify their true identity. If necessary contact your local Garda Station who will be able to establish quickly if the caller is a member of An Garda Siochana. Report any such activity to your local Garda Station even if you have not been the victim of a theft. That report could save a neighbour or someone else close by. Please check on elderly neighbours, family and friends and advise and reassure them.

2022 Community Magazine "CONNECTED" is now available in Michael McAssey's, Centra, Nolan's, and all shops in Ballon, Joe O'Toole's, & Conor Wards, Tullow, outside Rathoe Church on Sunday, Anne Connors, Rathoe, and from Breeda McDonald, Graiguenaspidogue. 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.

Ballon-Rathoe Parish Office

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

Email: ballonrathoeeparish@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, The Old School, Ballon
 Tel: 059-915-9447 Mob: 085-876-4743. ballonbts@gmail.com

www.ballonbts.com

CRAFT/HOBBY COURSE: Smartphone class

Tues 10th Jan, 10am - 12pm x 6 weeks

Photography - Any device . Fri 13th Jan, 2pm - 4pm x 6 weeks

Sewing Workshop. Mon 16th Jan, 9.30am - 12.30pm x 4 weeks

Art. Mon 16th Jan, 2pm - 4pm x 6 weeks

Pilates. Mon 16th Jan, 6.15pm - 7.15pm x 6 weeks

History. Wed 18th Jan, 10am - 12.30pm x 5 weeks

Creative Writing. Fri 20th Jan, 2pm - 4pm x 6 weeks

CERTIFIED COURSES

QQI Level 5 Book-keeping. Mon 16th Jan, 7pm - 10pm x 10 weeks

QQI Level 5 Payroll. Thurs 19th Jan, 7pm - 10pm x 10 weeks

Manual Handling Training. Wed 1st Feb, 2pm & 6pm x 2.5hours

Wellbeing Workshops. New Year New You. Tues 10 Jan, 8pm - 9pm

KIDS WORKSHOPS. Mindfulness and Yoga for Kids. Jan 28th, Feb 4th, 11th & 25th 10.30am - 12pm Call/text to book 087 9647251

Bricks4Kidz .Feb 11th, 18th, 25th, Mar 4th & 11th, 2pm - 4pm

Call/text to book 085 1442783

For Us a Child is Born.

Christmas is: the birth of Jesus the newness that enables us to be reborn each year and to find in him the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us— for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone. *For* is a word that appears again and again on this holy night: *For us* a child is born, Isaiah prophesied. *For us* is born this day a Saviour, we repeated in the Psalm. Jesus gave himself for *us*, Saint Paul tells us. And in the gospel the angel proclaims: *For to you* is born this day a Saviour. For me, for you. Are you tempted to feel you were a mistake? God tells you, "No, you are *my* child! Do you have a feeling of failure or inadequacy, the fear that you will never emerge from the dark tunnel of trial? God says to you, "Have courage, I am with you."

Over eighty is when you regret that you resisted all those temptations.

My wife is furious with me because I came home from my New Years eve party—in August.



**Jonathon Grober
 Died dead sober.
 Lord thy wonders never cease.**

I married my wife for her money—and believe me, I've earned it.

Director of Safeguarding in Diocese is Kathleen Sherry, P: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