

Second Sunday of Lent

Sat 4th Ballon 6.00pm	Sean McCourt, Mullaunmore & deceased members of the McCourt Family. Patrick & Josephine Kealy, Carrigslaney Kathleen Curry, Kilbride.
Sun 5th Rathoe 10.00am	Austin Donohue, Kilcoole Breda Esmonde, Ballintranee.
Sun 5th Ballon 11.30am	
Tues 28th Ballon 7.30pm	
Wed 1st Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 2nd Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 3rd Rathoe 7.30pm	Edward Cole, Rathrush. P.J. Cole, Ardristan Jacinta Kirwan, Bendenstown
Sat 4th Ballon 6.00pm	Bridget & Peter Bolger, Bendenstown
Sun 5th Rathoe 10.00am	
Sun 5th Ballon 11.30am	

26/02/2023: Offertory € 698.60. Envelopes €678.00 (incl online donations). Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity.

Housebound will be attended during the coming week.

Easter Stations are due this weekend, please use the envelope in your box or spare envelopes are available in both churches.

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 02---05---17---21. No Winner. Lucky Dip: €100.: Mary Nolan, c/o Spikey: €20 Diane & Julie Dowling, c/o Seamus Dowling. €20 Bridget McGee, c/o Café de Mode: €20: Nicholas Brennan, c/o Lilly Brennan. Next wk's Jackpot: €4,150. Draw every Tues night at 8.30pm.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Fully escorted trip from 4th -11th April 2023. Cost €755 per person sharing. only €100 deposit to secure place. For more information contact Josie Duffy 087-254 3235.

Ballon GFC Lotto. No Winner. No's 12- 23 -26 - 29. Lucky Dip Winners €25 each : Tara Murphy, Laragh, Bridie Maher, Killane, Conor Kearney, m Killane, Frank Feeney, Laragh. **Next weeks Jackpot €3,400.** Next Draw. Monday 6th March 2023 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

Carlow County Development invite you to celebrate International Women's Day from 10am to 1pm on Wednesday 8th March in Newly opened Women's Centre, Green Lane, Carlow town. Music, Food, Entertainment, Face Painting, Star Weaving, Henna, Wishing Tree. Come along and tell us what you would like to see here! All welcome. This is a new initiative and programme run by CCDP. Hope you can join us and support our endeavour. For details: 0863843361

Graigucullen Bingo on Tues 7th March in St.Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. **Over €13,000 in prizemoney!!** Jackpot on 50 numbers €6290. Double number €2000. Lotto €1100. Great prizes, bring a friend.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, Sunday 23rd April 2023. €499.00 per person sharing. Price includes return train, 3 nights in Knock House Hotel with Full Board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre. Single supplement €100.00. Contact Patricia on 087 1890 236 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Tips for Making the Lenten Season More Meaningful

Pray – Especially for people you don't like and for people who don't like you

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, The Old School, Ballon

Tel: 059-915-9447 Mob: 085-876-4743. ballonbts@gmail.com

www.ballonbts.com. **CRAFT/HOBBY COURSE.** Silversmith Jewellery

Beginners Workshop. Tues 7th Mar, 10am to 12.30pm x 4weeks

Spring/Mother's Day Floral Workshop Tues 22nd & 29th March, 1 - 4pm

Pottery & Prosecco evening, 25th March, 7pm tp 10pm

ZERO WASTE COOKING NEW Starting 28th Mar, 2pm to 4.30pm x 5 wks

First Aid Responder & 1st Aid Training - 3 Day course 24th, 30th & 31st

March. **Paint & Sip** evening 31st March, 7pm to 9pm

Smart Device - Tues 4th April, 10am to 12.30pm x 5 weeks

Digital Skills - Tues 16th May, 10am to 12.30pm x 5 weeks

CERTIFIED COURSES QQI Level 5

Book-keeping 17th April 7pm - 10pm x 10 weeks **Payroll** Thurs 4th may,

7pm - 10pm x 10 weeks **Manual Handling Training** Wed 5th April, 2pm &

6pm Or 6pm to 8pm x 2.5hours.

Children's Workshops & Courses. Children's DIY Art & Craft Course

5yrs +, Thurs 16th April, 5.30pm to 7pm x 4 weeks. Polly's Mini Moments &

Kids Yoga 11th March, 3rd & 4th April, 10.30am to 12pm, suitable for 4 to

10 yrs Children's Pottery Workshop Saturday 25th March, 3 to 5pm

Steam Og Kids Easter Workshop 12th & 13th April

A Rare Moment

I had a rare quiet moment in an unfamiliar church recently. Well, I say quiet. I was with a group of other young mothers, and the echoing dome was full of soft shuffles of aching bodies and muted cooing of infants. I found this backdrop soothing—there was a kind of fullness to the peace. My eyes came to rest on the statues of Saint Joseph and Our Lady, on either side of the altar. Though reverent and poised, the two figures were strikingly strong and muscular, reminiscent of a genuine working class couple. I found myself drawn to their large hands: our Lady's clasped in prayer, Saint Joseph's gripping a woodworking tool and indicating his heart.

As we continue through Lent we are accompanied by these two quiet figures, with the Solemnities of Saint Joseph and the Annunciation like spring flowers bursting through the snow. Let us give our weary hearts into their strong, capable, and tender hands as we endeavour to orient ourselves towards their Son. *Teresa Caldecott (Magnificat)*

It's Not Easy: It is so easy to fall into the habit of complaining. Try to give up complaining for Lent. To really not complain at all is more difficult than it sounds. So don't complain about anything. At all. Really. Fast from complaints entirely. If doing it for all of Lent seems to big a job to start with, try it for a week or even just one day.

Pessimism and complaining are not Christian. We were not made to be downcast, but to look up to heaven. **Pope Francis.**

I'm so miserable without her, it's almost like having her here.

I spent the first half of my life looking for a husband. And the second half wondering where he was.

How did you break your arm? Well, do you see that broken step? Yes, Well, I didn't

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