

<b>R.I.P: Seán Fitzgerald, Rathoe, &amp; Finglas, Dublin</b>	
<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	
<b>Sat 20th Ballon 6.00pm</b>	Willie Peters, Ballykealy Tom & Catherine Townsend
<b>Sun 21st Rathoe 10.00am</b>	Maurice Dowling, Kellistown
<b>Sun 21st Ballon 11.30am</b>	
Tues 23rd Ballon 7.30pm	
Wed 24th Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 25th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 26th Ballon 7.30pm	
<b>Sat 27th Ballon 6.00pm</b>	Mary Maher, Killane & deceased members of the Maher Family.
<b>Sun 28th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	James & Elizabeth Doyle, Bendenstown
<b>Sun 28th Ballon 11.30am</b>	

**14/01/2024 Offertory €623.85. Envelopes €774.90**

**To donate online: Account Ballon Rathoe Parish:  
IBAN: IE24 BOFI 906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIE2D**

**Ballon Business & Training Service, The Old School, Ballon.**  
Tel: 059-915-9447. Mob: 085-876-4743. [ballonbts@gmail.com](mailto:ballonbts@gmail.com).  
[www.ballonbts.com](http://www.ballonbts.com): **2024 Courses: Spring Flowers** - Wed 17th Jan, 2pm to 4pm, 6 weeks. **Tai Chi** - Thurs 18th Jan 7.30m - 9pm x 6 weeks  
**Mindfulness** - Tues 13th Feb, 7.30pm to 8.30pm X 5 weeks  
**Watercolour Painting Workshop** Sat 24th Feb, 10am to 4.30pm 1 day.  
**Pottery & Prosecco Evening** - Sat 2nd Mar, 7pm to 10pm X 1 evening  
**CERTIFIED COURSES: QQI Level 5** Book-keeping Jan 2024, 7pm - 10pm x 10 weeks. **QQI Level 5** Payroll Jan 2024, 7pm - 10pm x 10 weeks  
**QQI Level 3** Word Processing Jan 24, Mon 9.30am - 12.30pm 14 wks  
**Spanish Lessons** 9-13 years Sat 20th Jan are 11.30am-12.30pm  
**Easter pottery camp** - Sat 2nd Mar, 2pm to 5 pm X 1 afternoon  
*Course timetable for 2024 available now! Drop in to the office to get yours.*

**Ballon players present 'Here Comes the Bride'.** A three-act comedy by Jimmy Keary. Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st, Friday 26th & Saturday 27th January in Joe Doyle's Pub Ballon. Doors open at 7:00pm with show starting at **8:00pm sharp**. Tickets available from Michael McAssey's Butcher Ballon or Catherine on 087-6506459 or Eva on 087-7955058.

**2023 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 Breeda McDonald, for €5.

**Study Theology Online, is this for you?** The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tal-laght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before Feb 14. Find out more on our website, [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com) Click here to see a 2 minute introductory film [Prioryinstitute.com](http://Prioryinstitute.com)

**Cathedral Evening Prayer for St Brigid:** February 1st marks the opening of a national year commemorating St Brigid, patron of our diocese and secondary patron of Ireland, 1500 years since her death. Bishop Denis invites people from across the diocese to join him for a special evening prayer in the Cathedral of the Assumption on February 1st at 7:30 pm. Music will be led by Fr Liam Lawton and the diocesan choir.

**All Saints, Aghade, Peace Concert** Fri 23rd February at 8pm with Carlow Cathedral Choir, Director Marion Gaynor. Adm €5 in aid of UNICEF Ireland. Enquiries; Rev. Lester Scott 087-2504322

**Director of Safeguarding in Diocese** is Ailish Higgins, P:085 8021633. Email: [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto: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 contact Ailish

## Ballon-Rathoe Parish Office

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

Email: [ballonrathoeparish@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Graigucullen Bingo** Tuesday 23rd January. St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 46 numbers €1610. Double number €740. Lotto €3450.

**Burrin Celtic Lotto:** No's 07---11---15---30. **Lucky Dip:** €100 Ann Donoghue, Rathoe: €50: Sean & Jason Whelan, Ballon  
Next wk's Jackpot: €6,350 Draw Tues night at 8.30pm.

**Ballon GFC Lotto.** No Winner. No's 10- 11 -44 - 26. Match Three Winner. €100: Nick Kearney, Kilnock. **Next weeks Jackpot €5,600** Next Draw Mon 22nd January 2024 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

**Scoil Phadraig Rathoe National School** is now open for enrolments for September, 2024. Enrolment Forms can be obtained online at [www.rathoens.com](http://www.rathoens.com) or in person from the school office between 9am-3.30pm, Mon-Fri. For info please contact the office on 059-9148786.

**A Day at the Theatre—Life of Pi. Wed 28th Feb 2024 at 2.30pm.**

Bus departing Rathoe at 10.45am and Ballon at 11.00am, Askea Car Park at 11.20am. Tickets €45 includes entry into show and bus fare.  
Bookings Sheila 0876549427 (Revolut accepted) or Ann 087-9159695. Tickets non refundable.

**St Leo's College NEW BUS FUNDRAISER:** "Make a dent with your copper cents". St. Leo's College is appealing to the community of Carlow for assistance in their fundraising for a New School Bus. We call on all households to donate any copper coins to our appeal. Donations can be delivered directly to St. Leo's College administration office and all will be greatly appreciated.

## Power to Forgive?

J. Edwin Orr, a professor of Church history has described the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the Protestant Welsh Revivals of the nineteenth century, which resulted for many in real metanoia. As people sought to be filled with the Spirit, they did all they could to confess their wrongdoings and to make restitution. But this created serious problems for the shipyards along the coast of Wales. Over the years, workers had "appropriated," or "borrowed," all kinds of things, from wheelbarrows to hammers. However, as people sought to be right with God, they understood that they had actually stolen all these things from their shipyards, so they started to return all they had taken, with the result that soon the shipyards of Wales were overwhelmed with returned property. There were such huge piles of returned tools that several of the yards put up signs that read, "If you have been led by God to return what you have stolen, please know that the management forgives you and wishes you to keep what you have taken." -- In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges each one of us to revive our life with a true spirit of repentance.

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**Breaking the Ice:** A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically. "Relatives of yours?" "Yep", replied the wife, "in-laws"

**Spare Keys:** A senior couple were arguing about the wife's practice of leaving her car keys in the ignition. 'But if I take them out of the ignition, I can never find them again, she explained. "That's all very well," the husband said, 'but what happens if someone steals the car?' 'No problem,' the wife insisted. 'I keep a spare set of keys in the glove compartment'.