

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
<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>	
Tues 30th Ballon 7.30pm Wed 31st Rathoe 10.00am	Grandparents Mass, Rathoe
<b>Thurs 1st Ballon 10.00am</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Brigid</b>
<b>Carlow Cathedral 7.30pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer for St Brigid</b>
Fri 2nd Ballon 7.30pm	<b>Blessing of candles</b> Áine Murphy, Ballycurragh Eddie & Dilly O'Byrne, Rathoe
<b>Sat 3rd Ballon 6.00pm</b>	Fr. Brendan J. Howard, M.M.  <b>Blessing of throats after Mass</b>
<b>Sun 4th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	Ted & Patsy Sweeney, Grangeford Tommy Aughney, Roscatt Timothy & Mary O'Neill, Kellistown Michael & Kathleen Doyle, Rathoe, relatives and friends.
<b>Sun 4th Ballon 11.30am</b>	Séan McCourt, Mullaunmore & deceased members of the McCourt Family. Patrick & Josephine Kealy, Carrigslaney

**21/01/2024 Offertory €986.50. Envelopes €639.40**

**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: Pottery - Intermediate - Thurs 8th Feb 1.30pm - 4.30pm X 4 weeks. Mindfulness - Tues 13th Feb, 7.30pm to 8.30pm X 5 weeks. Watercolour Painting Workshop - Sat 24th Feb, 10am to 4.30pm X 1 day. Beginners Patchwork Course - Tues 27th Feb, 2pm to 5pm X 6 weeks. Pottery & Prosecco Evening - Sat 2nd Mar, 7pm to 10pm X 1 evening. Easter Floral Workshop - Tues 26th Mar, 9.30am - 12.30pm x 1 morning. Crochet Improvers - Tues 16th April 10am - 12pm x 6 weeks. Cooking - Tues 16th April, 7pm - 9pm x 6 weeks. Beginners Sewing - Wed 17th April 7pm - 10pm x 6 weeks**  
**CERTIFIED COURSES: QQI Level 5 Book-keeping - Mon 19th Feb 2024, 7pm to 10pm X 10 weeks. QQI Level 5 Payroll - Thurs 22nd Feb 2024, 7pm to 10pm X 10 weeks**

**MANUAL HANDLING TRAINING: Wed 7th Feb, 2pm to 4.30pm or 6pm to 8.30pm. Children's Camps Easter Pottery Camp - Sat 2nd Mar, 2pm to 5 pm X 1 afternoon. Course timetable for 2024 available now! Drop in to us in the office to get yours.**

**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

**Coffee Morning** in the Cabin Café Barrack Street Carlow (Behind SIPTU Offices and in Elderflower Garden) from [10.am](#) to 12pm on Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> for people with Dementia and their Carers. All Welcome Admission Free,.

**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.

## 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

**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.

**Graigucullen Bingo** Tuesday 30th January. St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 46 numbers €1740. Double number €810. Lotto €3500.

**Ballon GFC and the Parents Association of Ballon NS** are running their 24hr Walkathon for the second year running. The walk will take place between 6pm on Friday 2nd and 6pm on Saturday 3rd February. The leaders have been picked and the times have been decided so now it's your turn to take part and support this worthy cause. If you wish to participate or to donate please contact Peter Zerafa on (083) 011 0396

**Burrin Celtic Lotto:** No's **03---15---17---25. Lucky Dip:** €100 Anita Dowling, Ballon Hill: €50: Melanie Butler, Fenagh  
 Next wk's Jackpot: €6,400 Draw Tues night at 8.30pm.

**Cuchulainn Rounders:** Well done to Craig, Aoife & Evie Doyle who are this weeks winners of split the pot winning €65. Next draw is Wednesday 31st January and envelopes €2 can be bought in Mcasseys or Joe Doyle's

**Ballon GFC Lotto.** No Winner. No's **08– 10 –13 – 22. Lucky Dip**

Winners. €25 each: Helen Fitzgerald, Craanpursheen, Martin Doyle, Ballonvalley, Michael Brophy, Tullow, Danny Lewis, Laraghbeg. **Next weeks Jackpot €5,650** Next Draw Mon 29th 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.

### Thought for the Day

There is a winter in all of lives,  
 a chill and darkness that makes us yearn  
 for days that have gone  
 or put our hope in the days yet to be

We need a winter in our lives,  
 like nature around us,  
 a time of rest, a time to stand still,  
 a time to reacquaint ourselves  
 with the faith in which we live.

It is only that we can draw strength  
 from the one in whom we are rooted  
 take time to grow and rise through the darkness  
 into the warm glow of your springtime. **Amen**

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Did I ever tell you about my grandchildren.  
 No, you didn't—I really appreciate it.

There may be some doubt as to who are the best people to have charge of children, but there is no doubt that parents are the worst.  
**G.B. Shaw**

*Parenthood remains the greatest single preserve of the amateur*

The real menace in dealing with a five-year-old is that in no time at all you begin to sound like a five-year-old.