

R.I.P: Christopher Quinn, Boggan, Kilbride, Carlow

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Sat 1st Ballon 6.00 pm	
Sun 2nd Rathoe 10.00am	Lily Mulhall, Castlemore. Margaret, John, Kathleen & Michael Shanaghan, Ballymogue, Rathoe
Sun 2nd Ballon 11.30am	
Tues 4th Ballon 7.30pm	Eileen O'Toole, Lisgarvan
Wed 5th Rathoe 10am	
Thurs 6th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 7th Rathoe 7.30pm	Joe & Frances Nolan, Bendenstown Eddie & Dilly O'Byrne, Rathoe Nancy & Ned Halligan, Ballinrane Aine Murphy, Ballycurragh
Sat 8th Ballon 6.00 pm	Tess, Wish & Breda Blanche, Ballinadrum
Sun 9th Rathoe 10.00am	Mary & Timothy O'Neill, Kellistown Kathleen & Michael Doyle, Rathoe Tom & Madge Aughney, Roscatt Colette Hutton, Ballonvalley
Sun 9th Ballon 11.30am	

26/01/2025: Offertory €839.15. Envelopes €640.50

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

Graiguecullen Bingo. In St. Fiacc's Hall, Graiguecullen. Tues 4th Feb @ 8.30pm. Jackpot 45 numbers €1350. Double number €320. Lotto €550

Ballon GFC Lotto. No Winner. No's 11- 20 -23 - 27. Match Three

Winner: €100: Brigid Sheehan, Lisgarvan. **Next weeks Jackpot €8,250**
Next Draw Mon 3rd February 2025 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Tickets €2.
Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

Ballon Business & Training Service, The Old School, Ballon.

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

www.ballonbts.com: ****We wish to extend an open invitation to our local community. If you are without broadband and need to check your emails etc our doors are open. If you are a remote worker unable to work from home we have hot desks available from €12.**

Certified Courses: Manual Handling Certificate: Every Monday and Thursday 5.30pm to 7pm. **Craft/Hobby Courses: Valentine's Willow Heart Workshop*** - Mon 10th Feb, 2pm to 4pm. **Mindfulness** - Tues 11th Feb, 10am to 12pm X 4 Weeks. **Valentine's Crafty Workshop*** - Thurs 13th Feb, 10am to 12pm **Valentine's Floral Workshop*** - Fri 14th Feb, 10.30am to 12.30pm **Minding Your Wellbeing Workshop** - Sat 15th Feb, 10am to 12pm **Pottery Course** - Mon 17th Feb, 2pm to 4pm X 4 Weeks **Spring Crafts Workshop*** - Tues 18th Feb, 2pm to 4pm **Cooking** - Wed 26th Feb, 10.30am to 12.30pm X 6 Weeks **Watercolour Art Course*** - Thurs 27th Feb, 2pm to 4pm X 6 Weeks **Decoupage Workshop*** - Fri 7th Mar, 6.30pm to 9pm **Seasonal Floral Workshop** - Mon 10th Mar, 7pm to 9pm **Needle Felting Workshop*** - Fri 21st Mar, 7pm to 9pm **Mixed Media Art 2 Day Workshop*** - Mon 24th & 31st Mar, 2pm to 4pm **Beginners Sewing Workshop*** - Thurs 27th Feb, 7pm to 9pm (sewing machine required) **Mother's Day Coffee & Canvas Event*** - Sat 29th Mar, 10.30m to 12.30pm. **Kids Workshops: Children's Valentine's Cupcake Decorating*** - Thurs 20th feb, 10am to 12pm **Children's Felting Workshop*** - Fri 21st Feb 2pm - 4.30pm **Children's St. Patrick's Cupcake Decorating*** - Sat 15th mar, 10am to 12pm ***materials supplied**

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 04 - 07 - 22 - 24. €100 Michael McAssey, Ballon €50: Elizabeth Farrell, c/o Lilly Brennan. . Next wk's Jackpot: €2750. Draw Tues at .30pm.

Parish Office, Fenagh Road, Ballon. R93 FX93

Phone No: 059-9159959.

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

Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Coinciding with the Jubilee for Teenagers, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocese is travelling for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis 25th - 29th April. This pilgrimage includes a day trip to Assisi, trips to the pilgrims' sites of Rome and of course the Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square when Blessed Carlo will be declared the first 'Millennial Saint.' Bishop Denis will join us for the pilgrimage as well as Fr. David Vard. Places are limited and can be booked through Marian Pilgrimages or forms and itinerary can be collected in Portlaoise Parish Centre.

St. Brigid's Camino Walk - Monasterevin Parish Starting at St. Brigid's Shrine at Mountrice (W34 X529) at 11am on Mond 3rd Febr 2025 (walk is approximately 6km/car parking provided at Mountrice Cross). The walk will be led by the Bishop. For more info, contact - 045 525346.

Pause for Peace: The people of Kildare, Ireland, call on people worldwide to Pause for Peace for 1 minute's silence/reflection at 12 noon, local time, on St. Brigid's day, February 1st each year. By pausing for Peace we send out a message that we actively oppose warfare and the proliferation of arms in our world.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage: 12th to 19th April 2025, 7 night group pilgrimage with Josie Duffy. Cost €835, for full details contact Josie 087-2543235

Jiving & Social Dance Classes: Adult Beginner Jiving & Social Dance 4-week course commencing Thursday 6th February 8-9pm at 'The Academy of Dance Carlow', Carlow Youth Centre, Green Lane R93 V327. No partner required. Contact Fiona on 0872727315 for more information.

Sermon for the President.

By Anglican Bishop of Washington Mariann Budde

The Episcopalian (Anglican) Bishop of Washington Mariann Budde was, as per tradition, hosting an inter-faith prayer service on the day after the inauguration of the new president.

She proposed there are at least four foundations that need to be in a place for unity to become a reality. The bishop was talking about unity in the context of a country or society, but I think what she says could also apply to a family, a community, a church or indeed a group of churches seeking to come closer together.

"Let me make one final plea. Mr President.

Millions have put their trust in you. And as you told the nation yesterday you have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared. And we're scared now.....

..... Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger for we were all once grant us the strength and courage to honour the dignity of every human being: to speak the truth to one another in love and walk humbly with each other and our God.

For the good of all people in this nation and the world."

How to get a refund. After Mass one member of the congregation had lingered after the other members had shaken hands with the priest on their way out. The priest recognised the young man as one whom he had married a couple of months.

As the young man shook hand with the priest, he asked, "Father, do you believe someone should profit from the mistakes of others?"

"Certainly not," replied the priest. "Well... in that case... could I have the €200 back that I gave you for marrying me?"

Did I ever tell you about my grandchildren? No and I appreciate it.

My children really brighten up the house, they never turn off the lights