

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<b>Sat 18th Ballon 6.00 pm</b>	Willie Peters, Ballykealy Thomas & Catherine Townsend,
<b>Sun 19th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	
<b>Sun 19th Ballon 11.30am</b>	Mary Maher, Killane & deceased members of the Maher Family.
Tues 21st Ballon 7.30pm	
Wed 22nd Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 23rd Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 24th Rathoe 7.30pm	
<b>Sat 25th Ballon 6.00 pm</b>	<b>Jimmy Nolan, Mullaunmore M.M</b> Benjamin, Eileen & Margaret George, Ballymogue
<b>Sun 26th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	James and Elizabeth Doyle , Bendenstown
<b>Sun 26th Ballon 11.30am</b>	

**05/01/2025: Offertory €694.75. Envelopes €848.60**

**12/01/2025: Offertory €486.60. Envelopes €749.20**

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

**Catholic Schools Week 2025** will be celebrated from Sunday, 19th Jan, to Sat, 25th Jan, with the theme of Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ.

**Graiguecullen Monster Christmas Bingo.** In St. Fiacc's Hall, Graiguecullen. Tuesday 21st January @ 8.30pm. Jackpot 43 numbers €1090. Double number €320Lotto €1550

**Ballon GFC Lotto.** No Winner. No's **03- 13 -27 - 28.** Match Three Winners: €50 each. Vanessa Dowling, Rathoe, Vanessa Dowling, Rathoe  
**Next weeks Jackpot €8,150** Next Draw Mon 20th January 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](mailto:ballonbts@gmail.com)  
[www.ballonbts.com](http://www.ballonbts.com): **Certified Courses: Manual Handling Certificate - Starting 20th Jan.** Every Monday and Thursday 5.30pm to 7pm  
**Manual and Computerised Book-keeping** - Mon 20/01/25 x 10 weeks 7pm - 10pm **Manual and Computerised Payroll** - Thurs 23rd Jan x 10 weeks 7pm - 10pm. **Craft/Hobby Courses: Cooking** - Wed 15th Jan x 6 weeks 10.30am - 12.30pm X 6 Weeks. **Watercolour Art** - Thurs 16th Jan x 6 weeks 2pm - 4pm X 6 Weeks. **Manage your Tax online Workshop** - Thurs 16th Jan 7pm to 8pm. **Eat Better Feel Better** - Sat 18th Jan x 3 weeks 10 to 1pm. **Basic Computers\*** - Wed 29th Jan x 6 weeks 10am - 12pm X 6 Weeks. **Knit Happens\*** - Wed 29th Jan x 6 weeks 1pm - 3pm X 6 Weeks. **Valentine's Paint a Pot & Prosecco\*** - Sat 1st Feb 7pm - 10pm **Interior Design Workshop** - Fri 7th Feb 7pm - 9pm. **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. **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 Valentines Pottery Workshop\*** - Sat 1st Feb 2pm - 5pm. **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. **\*\*\*Please note alternative parking is now available across the road in the new community car park. Eircode R93FX93.**

**Burrin Celtic Lotto:** No's **05 - 06 - 07 - 16 Lucky Dip: €100** Ann Murphy, Fenagh, c/o Bingo **€50:** Kitty Lawler, c/o Bingo. Next wk's Jackpot: €2650. Draw Tues night at 8.30pm.

**Parish Office, Fenagh Road, Ballon. R93 FX93**

**Phone No: 059-9159959.**

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**

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**Wanted childminder** for summer and mid terms in Rathoe area (twin girls) if interested please contact 0868815887

**Free Pre-Registration Training Course for Childminders:** Are you a Childminder caring for children in your own home? Are you considering becoming a Childminder and wondering what steps to take next? If so, would you like to attend a FREE Pre-Registration Training Course for Childminders, taking place on Wed 12th & 19th Feb from 6.30pm-10pm at Enterprise House, Carlow. This training has been organised by Carlow County Childcare Committee. Spaces are limited. Booking is essential. Please contact Eilish/Jean on 059 9140244 or email [info@carlowccc.ie](mailto:info@carlowccc.ie)

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

**St Brigid's Cross Workshop** in the Old School, Ballon on Tues 28th Jan at 2pm. Sr. Nora, Brigidine Convent will attend. All welcome. If anybody has rushes, bring them along, they will be welcome.

## SAINT WHO?

Richard Gwyn was born in Wales just when King Henry VIII was asserting control of the Church of England. Richard's family was not wealthy, but he was a good enough student to study at Oxford & Cambridge.

There he began to question his Protestant faith, so he quietly returned to Wales and became a school teacher.

He met and married his wife in the village of Overton-on-Dee, and they had six children. In his small town, it soon became obvious that Richard was not attending Anglican services each Sunday, as was required by law. As his private qualms about the Church of England became more public, he decided to become Catholic. Richard was fined, imprisoned, and even put in the public stocks. Passerby ridiculed him. But Richard had a great sense of humour and laughingly poked fun at those who came to poke fun at him. One Sunday morning six sheriffs brought him into an Anglican church, even though they had to physically drag him there, as most of the congregation chuckled. After being arrested eight times, he was no longer able to pay his fines, and the authorities bribed a witness so they could condemn him to death. When Richard was taken to the scaffold, he blessed his wife, forgave the executioner, and asked the pardon of anyone he had offended, particularly by his jokes.

*Heavenly Father, give us a sense of humour  
about our difficulties.*

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A young man is trying out his new sports car on a quiet country lane. There's no traffic so he risks taking it up to 70mph, and then 80mph, then 90mph. He turns a corner and sees two farmers standing in the middle of the road chatting. The man wrenches the wheel sideways, the car shoots up an embankment, flies into the air, and crashes in the middle of the adjacent field. One of the farmers turns to the other and says, 'That was luck. I reckon we got out of that field in the nick o' time'

A Tullow girl is involved in a bad traffic accident. A paramedic rushes to her aid. 'Whereabouts are you bleeding from?' he asks. 'Well' says the girl, 'since you ask, bleeding Tullow.'