

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat 15th Ballon 6.00 pm	Gabriel Poland, Boggan 1st Anniversary Thomas & David Kealy, Castlegrace & their grandparents Thomas & Kathleen Kealy also their Uncle John Sheehy, Limerick.
Sun 16th Rathoe 10.00am	Breda Esmonde, Ballinrane
Sun 16th Ballon 11.30am	Pat O'Toole, Boggan, Kilbride Thomas & Bridget Kelly, Ballon

St. Patrick's Day

Rathoe 10.00am	Blessing of stone in memory of Paddy Egan after Mass
Ballon 11.30am	
<p>Tues 18th Ballon 7.30pm</p> <p>Wed 19th Rathoe 10.00am</p> <p><i>Study of the readings for the following Sunday and preparing prayers of the faithful in Parish House at 8.00pm every Wednesday during Lent. All welcome, especially the readers.</i></p>	
Thurs 20th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 21st Rathoe 7.30pm	William O'Reilly & his parents James & Mary, Rathoe
Sat 22nd Ballon 6.00 pm	
Sun 23rd Rathoe 10.00am	Mary Cummins, Fighting Cocks John & Kitty Reddy, Templepeter Tracey Campbell Fitzpatrick,
Sun 23rd Ballon 11.30am	

09/03/2025: Offertory €887.65. Envelopes €1163.05
 To donate online: Account Ballon Rathoe Parish: IBAN: IE24 BOFI 906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIE2D.

Trócaire Boxes available in both churches, please take one.

Graveyard Masses 2025

Rathoe Friday 11th July at 7.30pm

Ballon Friday 18th July at 7.30pm

Ballon GFC Lotto. No Winner. No's 13- 16 -18 - 23. Match Three
 Winner: €100: Emma Byrne, Connaberry **Next weeks Jackpot €8,550**
 Next Draw Tue 18th March 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 **If you are a remote worker we have hot desks available from €12. a day** **Certified Courses: Manual Handling Cert**
 Every Mon & Thurs 5.30pm to 7pm. **Manual & Computerised Book-keeping QQI Level 5** Thursday 24th April, 7pm - 10pm
Refresher course in Book-keeping. Tuesday 22nd April 7pm - 9pm
Manual & Computerised Payroll QQI Level 5. Mon 28th April, 7pm - 10pm
Refresher course in Payroll. Tuesday 15th April 7pm - 9pm
Craft/Hobby Needle Felting Workshop* - Fri 21st Mar, 7pm to 9pm
Drum Meditation Workshop - Mon 24th Mar, 7pm to 8pm
Mother's Day Coffee & Canvas Event* - Sat 29th Mar, 10.30am to 12.30pm. **Pottery** - Mon 31st Mar, 1.30pm - 4.30pm. **Easter Craft Workshop** - Tues 8th Apr, 10am - 12pm. **Easter Cake Decorating** - Thurs 10th Apr, 7pm-9pm. **Manage Your Self-Employed Tax** Thurs 10th Apr, 7pm-9pm. **Manage Your Tax** - Mon 14th Apr, 7pm-9pm. **Pottery & Prosecco** - 25th Apr, 7pm - 10pm. **Minding Me Wellbeing** - Tues 29th Apr, 2pm - 4pm
Cooking - 30th Apr, 10.30am - 12.30pm. **Art** - 30th Apr, 2pm - 4pm
Film Making - 30th Apr, 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Kids Workshops Easter Cupcake Decorating* - Mon 14th Apr 2pm - 4pm. **Easter Pottery Class*** - Fri 25th Apr, 2pm - 5pm
 *materials supplied. The new Community
Car park is now fully open and can hold 47 cars, please park there.

Parish Office, Fenagh Road, Ballon. R93 FX93

Phone No: 059-9159959.

Email: ballonrathoeeparish@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

Ballon St. Patrick's Day Parade

More members of our wonderful community have come together and we are now able to confirm that the parade will in fact take place this year at 3pm from the Land League Gates in Ballon village on St. Patrick's Day. We encourage the whole community to support the parade in any way possible. Please consider joining in the parade in costume or as a float/organisation, messaging the FB page to help volunteer or lining our village to watch the parade on the day. There are prizes to be won, jobs to be filled and above all memories to be made! spread the word. Prizes for the following. : **Best Comical: Most Topical: Best Community Group: Best Walking Group: Best Business Float: Best Turned out Vintage Car: Best Green/Environmental: Best Overall. Thanks to all the organisers.**

Blessing of shamrock by Fr. O'Connell at 2.55pm.

Ballon Rathoe Parish Shop in Parish Office, Fenagh Rd .R93FX93.

Call in to see our range of cards and products for all Occasions. If we do not have something we are happy to order it in for you.

A wide selection of Communion & Confirmation gifts.

OPENING HOURS Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am -1pm

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

Graigucullen MONSTER Bingo Tuesday 19th March St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €2130 . Double number €740 Lotto €550

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 06 - 10 - 21 - 27. €100 Mary Whitmore, c/o Bingo €50: Breda McDonald, c/o Bingo. Jackpot: €3050. Draw Tues at 7.30pm.

Who is St. Patrick?

St. Patrick was born around the year 389 in what was then the Roman Britian, possibly somewhere along the Bristol Channel. His father was a Roman official and his mother, a Christian, is said to have been closely related to the French saint, **Martin of Tours**. When he was around the age of 14, Patrick was captured by pirates and sold into slavery in the northern part of Ireland. He remained there for around six years before making a daring escape back to Britain. But, the call of the Irish became so strong for Patrick that he set out on the journey to priesthood. He was then consecrated bishop by **St. Germanus at Auxerre** before returning to Ireland to take up missionary work that had been started by St. Paladius. He made sure to confront the political powers of his day, including the High King of Ireland at Tara. He left us two writings his *Confessio* is a spiritual autobiography while the second is an angry letter to soldiers of the pirate Coroticus who had kidnapped and murdered some of Patrick's Christians.

St Patrick in his *Confessio* gives us a great insight into his life: his youth, his vocation, his faults and struggles, the graces that he received, his love of the Irish people who have come to follow Christ and the visions he has and the voices he hears in his soul. It is truly a revelation, a ray of hope for us all.

A woman congratulates her ageing father, I'm so proud of you. I noticed when you sneeze you've finally learned to put your hand in front of your mouth' 'Of course I have.' says the old man. 'How the hell else can I catch my teeth?'

Nice to be here? At my age its nice to be anywhere. *George Burns*

An ageing playboy visits his doctor after a lifetime of wine, women and song. 'Well,@ says the doctor. 'The good news is you don't have to give up singing.'