

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

<b>Sat 11th Ballon 6.00pm</b>	Martin Cummins, Ballon
<b>Sun 12th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	Walter & May Roche, Rathoe Kyran O'Byrne, Rathoe. Jim & Maggie O'Reilly, Rathrush
<b>Sun 12th Ballon 11.30am</b>	Michael Byrne, Connaberry & his parents Joe & Mary.
Tues 14th Ballon 7.00pm	
Wed 15th Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 16th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 17th Rathoe 7.00pm,	
<b>Sat 18th Ballon 6.00pm</b>	Benjamin & Eileen George, Drisogue
<b>Sun 19th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	
<b>Sun 19th Ballon 11.30am</b>	

**Holy Thurs, & Good Friday Offertory €518.85. Envelopes €1048.00  
Trócaire to date €3860.00**

**To donate online: Ballon Rathoe Parish: IBAN: IE24 BOFI  
906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIE2D. Ballon Rathoe Priests Fund:  
IBAN: IE07BOFI90668984337742. BIC: BOFIE2D**

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

**Tel: 059-915-9447. Mob: 085-876-4743.** ballonbts@gmail.com  
www.ballonbts.com. **Courses.** Take a pause and prioritize you. Join "The Art of Selfcare" at Ballon BTS — a gentle, creative session that helps reduce stress and boost mood with no art experience required. Rediscover calm through simple, guided activities designed to refresh your mind and spirit. Ballon BTS R93 C9H6 18th April 10am - 1pm  
Learn to pipe beautiful floral designs in our Cupcake Decorating Masterclass at Ballon BTS! Perfect for beginners and hobby bakers — hands-on instruction, practical tips, and a fun creative atmosphere. Cost €125.00pp 10.30AM - 3PM Tuesday 26th May Reserve your spot now: What you'll get: step-by-step demos, practice time, and expert guidance. Bring a friend and make it a sweet day out! All materials supplied. **Pottery classes** Get your hands dirty and create something beautiful at Ballon BTS! Our **Pottery classes** are perfect for beginners and experienced artists — guided by an expert instructor in a relaxed, supportive setting. Bring a friend or come solo for a fun, therapeutic experience.  
18th May 1.30pm - 4.30pm Ready to level up your sewing? Join our **Machine Sewing** class at Ballon BTS — an intermediate, hands-on course designed to refine technique and help you finish your creative projects with professional guidance. Not for beginners. Ballon BTS R93 C9H6. 28th May 2026 1pm - 4pm Book your spot now: <https://wix.to/je5mefq> or call us on 059-9159447

**Ballon GFC Lotto.** . No's **05– 07 –08 – 10. No Winner.** Lucky Dip Winners €25 each: John Murphy, Laragh, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Craanpursheen, Catherine Tracey, Ballinrane, Michael Minchin, Myshall. . Next Draw Mon 13th April 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €1,350 Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

**Graigucullen MONSTER Bingo; Tuesday 14th April 2026.**  
St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €4,860  
Double number €1,300. Lotto €2,000. Bonus Ball €1,300

**Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 02 - 08 - 21 - 29. No Lucky Winner:**  
**Lucky Dip Winners: €100** Cathal Cummins. **€50.** Jeffrey Synoradzki. Next weeks Lotto €1,100 Draw Tues 7.30pm.

**Zumba dancing in Rathoe hall** at 7 every Thurs night. Class is only €5. Contact: 085 1233841.

## **Parish Office & Shop, Fenagh Road, Ballon. R93 FX93 Phone No: 059-9159959.**

Email: ballonrathoe parish@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**  
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### **Daffodil Day 2026**

Once again a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated.

**The total this year was €5850**

**Éist received €1550.00**

**Irish Cancer Society €2150.00**

**Carlow Kilkenny Homecare €2150.00**

Also a special thanks to those who donated cakes, daffodils and items for the raffle.

### **Ballon Rathoe Parish Shop.** Fenagh Road, Ballon

R93FX93 **Open Tues, Wed, & Thurs 10am-1pm.**

Large selection of First Holy Communion & Confirmation, cards, prayer books, rosary beads, gift sets and gift wallets in stock. Also Easter Mass Bouquets and cards. St Patrick's Blessing gifts.

### **SOLEMN NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

The 21st Annual Solemn Novena will take place in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen commencing on Monday 13th April and will run for nine consecutive Monday nights until 8th June. Each night we begin by praying the Rosary at 7pm led by our beloved Poor Clare sisters followed by Mass at 7.30pm celebrated by our Parish Priest Fr. John Dunphy. All are welcome. Each night a guest speaker will share their own faith story.

**13th April Mary Hulgraine:** Two time All-Ireland Football Champion & Woman of Deep Faith

**20th April Br. Tom Walsh:** De La Salle Brother and Teacher

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### **School Survey**

#### **High level of confidence in Catholic schools as just 16% of parents want change.**

Catholic education bodies have welcomed the results of the recent Primary School Surveys on divestment and related matters conducted by the Department of Education which found that the majority of parents have a high level of confidence in their Catholic school while 16% of parents are in favour of change. The results were released on Tuesday ahead of the Irish National Teachers' Conference (INTO) in Kerry where industrial action is being threatened by teachers. That is a marked difference from how the media treated the results !

#### **80 adults baptised in Ireland at Easter. 2 in Carlow Cathedral.**

Speaking ahead of the easter Vigil in Carlow Rhian Gibson said she was feeling "excited", and she felt the RCIA programming had prepared her well for her baptism. Outlining her journey, she said she grew up in a Christian family in England, but was never baptised and "stepped away from the church" where she left home at 16. "I would have called myself agnostic for quite a while...but gradually going to church, going to Mass a little bit more over here, it's something that I wanted to become part of fully," Ms Gibson said. "it just felt like the right thing to do at this time of my life."

*Do you know what it is like to go home every night to a slap up three course dinner? It means you have gone home to the wrong house.*

*'Tis better to have loved and lost than to have loved and married.*

*Something terrible has happened. My best friend has run away without my wife.*

*Five years ago I asked for her hand and it's been in my pocket ever since.*