

R.I.P: Michael Thompson, Carlow.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

<b>Sat 18th Ballon 6.00pm</b>	Benjamin, Eileen & Margaret George, Drisogue
<b>Sun 19th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	Phyllis Tobin, Grangeford James Fox, Castlemore Elizabeth Fox, Castlemore
<b>Sun 19th Ballon 11.30am</b>	
Tues 21st Ballon 7.00pm	
Wed 22nd Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 23rd Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 24th Rathoe 7.00pm,	
<b>Sat 25th Ballon 6.00pm</b>	
<b>Sun 26th Rathoe 10.00am</b>	
<b>Sun 26th Ballon 11.30am</b>	

12/04/2026 Offertory €874.65. Envelopes €1973.00  
Trócaire to date €4239

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](mailto:ballonbts@gmail.com)

[www.ballonbts.com](http://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 11– 22 –26 – 27. **No Winner.** Lucky Dip Winners €25 each: Willie Byrne, Ballymogue, Tracy Murphy, Laragh, Miriam Fitzgerald, Rathoe, Holly Bermingham, Nurney. Next Draw Mon 20th April 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €1,400 Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

**Graiguecullen Bingo;** Tuesday 21st April 2026.

St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €4,990  
Double number €1,370. Lotto €2,050. Bonus Ball €1,350

**Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 07 - 13 - 21 - 28. No Lucky Winner:**

**Lucky Dip Winners: €100** Lexy Byrne, c/o Bingo. **€50.** Jeffrey Synoradzki. Next weeks Lotto €1,150 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: [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

**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.

### 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.

**20th April Br. Tom Walsh:** De La Salle Brother and Teacher  
**27th April Bernard Dunne:** Former World Boxing Champion

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### It is the Lord

I longed to be a Catholic, but I did not think I had enough faith to take the step. The moment of total conviction was a strange one. I had been praying that I might have the grace to believe in such a way that I could fully commit myself to Christ. I was told that I must leap into the arms of Christ and that this would require a moment of courage. I feared desperately that I would not be able to make this leap and everything would be lost. Then it seemed that Christ himself took my hand and led me across the gulf between doubt and total faith. After a session with a priest for formal instructions in the Catholic faith, I was walking down the street and suddenly I believed totally and simply and happy.....

I had imagined that with entrance into the Church would come immediate sanctity. I thought that all time would stop. Then came the slow-moving drama of daily Catholic life which is shared by born Catholics as well as converts. It is a question of holding fast to all the moments of grace in the midst of humdrum times. Daily, one must remember again that life is to be lived toward God, that Christ is present at every moment waiting for us in the needs of people. One must turn toward him in every mood to accept his love and be refreshed and created anew. There is always the memory of the central miracle of conversion: that Christ found me forlorn and helpless in the confusion of the ways of the world and drew me by his love into his fellowship and the friendship of Christians.

*Ronda Chervin is a convert from Judaism, professor of philosophy and theology, and author of over fifty books.*

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*Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a dog. 'Sit on the couch and we'll talk about it.' 'I can't, I'm not allowed on the couch!'*

*Doctor, doctor, I think I need glasses. 'You certainly do. This is a garage'*

*Doctor, doctor, I snore so loudly I keep myself awake' 'Have you tried sleeping in another room?'*

*Doctor, doctor, I've just swallowed a pen' 'Well, sit down and write your name!'*