

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Sat 25th Ballon 6.00pm**  
**Sun 26th Rathoe 10.00am**  
**Sun 26th Ballon 11.30am**

Tues 28th Ballon 7.00pm  
 Wed 29th Rathoe 10.00am  
 Thurs 30th Ballon 10.00am  
 Fri 1st Rathoe 7.00pm,

**Sat 2nd Ballon 6.00pm**  
**Sun 2nd Rathoe 10.00am**  
**Sun 3rd Ballon 11.30am**

Brigid Brennan, Ratheen  
 John Barry, Ballykealy  
 Maureen Owens, Sherwood Park  
 Tom & Kathleen O'Toole, Ballykeenan  
 John Gaffney, Ballykeenan

**19/04/2026 Offertory €801.60. Envelopes €564.00**  
**Trócaire to date €4439.25**

To donate online: **Ballon Rathoe Parish:** IBAN: IE24 BOFI 906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIE2D. **Ballon Rathoe Priests Fund:** IBAN: IE-07BOFI90668984337742. 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. Intermediate machine sewing -**  
 30/04/2026 1pm-4pm 4 weeks. **Beginners machine sewing -** 28/04/2026  
 1pm-4pm 4 weeks **Epoxy resin** 14/05/2026 1 day  
**Chair yoga with Maria Bermejo** 7/5/2026 10am-11.30am 4 weeks  
**pottery** 18/05/2026 1.30pm-4.30pm 4 weeks **Sewing** 28/05/2026 1pm-  
 4pm 4 weeks. **3D needle felting** 5/05/2026 10am-1pm 3 weeks  
**Flower arranging** 01/05/2026 10.30am-12.30pm 6 weeks  
**Cupcake decorating master class** 26/05/2026 10am- 3pm 1 day

**Ballon GFC Lotto.** . No's **09 – 21 –23 – 29. No Winner.** Lucky Dip Win-  
 ners €25 each: Richard Fitzgerald, Craanpursheen, Conor  
 Lewis, Laragh Beg, Shane Byrne, Connaberry, Tom Nolan, Milltown. Next  
 Draw Mon 27th April 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €1,450  
 Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

**Graiguecullen Bingo;** Tuesday 28th April 2026.  
 St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €5,120  
 Double number €1,440. Lotto €2,050. Bonus Ball €1,400

**Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 07 - 14 - 22 - 29. No Lucky Winner: Lucky**  
**Dip Winners: €100** Grace Nolan, Tullow. **€50.** Josie Nolan, c/o Bingo.  
 Next weeks Lotto €1,200 Draw Tues 7.30pm.

**DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2026 BUNCLOUDY** (official walk) Just over two  
 weeks to go!!! We will be having a registration night on April 30th upstairs  
 in Redmond's from 7-9pm or <https://www.darknessintolight.ie/> Registra-  
 tion Fees: • €22 – Adult. • €5 – Teen (13–17 years). • FREE – Child  
 (Under 13) Limited Edition Event T-Shirts (optional) are available for  
 €8.50 – once they're gone, they're gone! (and we only a small few  
 left). By signing up, you're helping to fund vital supports and services for  
 people who are struggling. Your participation truly makes a difference.  
 Share this post, tag your friends, and get out there and walk on the 9th of  
 May @ 4.15am, starting in Bunclody GAA pitch and then through the town,  
 up Hospital Hill and back down to the pitch. Tea/coffee served after the  
 walk. Any queries please ring 087 2982684

**Launch – Leighlin Dementia Friendly Community.** Minister Jennifer  
 Murnane O'Connor will launch the Leighlin Dementia Friendly Community  
 Action Plan Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm – 9pm in Leighlin Parish Centre. All  
 are welcome to come and learn how we can work together to make our  
 community a place where people living with dementia feel understood,  
 respected and supported. Light refreshments will be served.

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

Email: [ballonrathoe parish@gmail.com](mailto: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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**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**  
**27th April Bernard Dunne: Former World Boxing Champion**  
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**Ballon Rambling House,** GAA Centre, Fenagh Rd., R93F793  
 Sunday 26th April at 7.30pm. 2nd Anniversary. All welcome. Contact  
 Máire. 087-2273516.  
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## Great Conversion

Five medical students—Hans Scholl, Sophie Scholl, Willi Graf,  
 Alexander Schmorell and Christoph Probst— was executed in  
 1943 for producing and circulating leaflets condemning Hitler and  
 the Nazis. All had experienced profound Christian conversions  
 through their common reading and discussion, the guidance of  
 older mentors, their companionship, and above all the grace of  
 the Holy Spirit who worked to free their hearts from suffocating  
 restraints, distortions, and emptiness of Nazi totalitarianism.

Growing up under the inhuman malformation of the Hitler Youth,  
 they had worked on Nazi building projects and were finally draft-  
 ed into the armed forces to fight in Western Europe and Russia.  
 They alternated between active service as medics on the front  
 lines and students in Munich. On the Eastern front they saw the  
 horrors of Nazi atrocities against the Jews. Meanwhile they read  
 profound Christian writers from Augustine to Paul Claudel, who  
 opened for them a path beyond the darkness of Nazi ideology  
 into supernatural faith in Christ who alone can satisfy the human  
 heart. These young people were flawed, sinful, and psychologi-  
 cally wounded, but they gradually discovered that the love of  
 Christ was greater than all their sins and fears. Christopher  
 Probst's is unique in that he was baptised and received the  
 Eucharist in the Gestapo jail less than an hour before the  
 guillotine took his earthly life on February 22, 1943. Born in 1919,  
 he grew up in the difficult circumstances of broken family, but he  
 had a remarkable openness and religious awareness since his  
 childhood. His father was a scholar of Hindu, Buddhist, and  
 Chinese religious traditions, and gave him a sense of compas-  
 sion that led Christoph to choose medicine as a profession. He  
 resisted Nazi propoganda from the beginning, convinced that the  
 ultimate enduring reality in the universe must be love.

As the three prisoners were being led to execution, Christoph  
 reportedly said to Scholls, "In a few minutes, we will see each  
 other again in eternity."

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*One night I was so confused that I got into the bath without taking off my  
 clothes. But it didn't matter, because I'd also forgotten to turn on the tap.*

*He's so absent minded that he left home without his watch, then looked at  
 it to see if he had time to go back and get it.*

*I spent the first half of my life looking for a husband. And the second half  
 wondering where he was.*

*I'm so miserable without her, it's almost like having her here.*