

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Tues 5th Ballon 7.00pm

Wed 6th Rathoe 10.00am

Thurs 7th Ballon 10.00am

Fri 8th Rathoe 7.00pm,

Sat 9th Ballon 11.00am

First Holy Communion

Sat 9th Ballon 6.00pm

Sun 10th Rathoe 10.00am

Mick Brophy, Kilcoole

Sun 10th Ballon 11.30am

26/04/2026 Offertory €689.25. Envelopes €809.25

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**

Graveyard Masses 2026.

Ballon Friday 26th June at 7.30pm

Rathoe Friday 3rd July at 7.30pm.

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

Tel: 059-915-9447. Mob: 085-876-4743. ballonbts@gmail.com

www.ballonbts.com. **Courses. 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

Cupcake decorating master class 26/05/2026 10am- 3pm 1 day

Ballon GFC Lotto. . No's 05– 09 –26 – 30. **No Winner.** Match Three
Winners €100 each: James Doyle, Athy. Next Draw Tuesday 5th May
2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €1,450 Tickets €2. Play on line
<https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

Graiguercullen Monster Bingo; Tuesday 5th May 2026.

St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €5,250

Double number €1,510. Lotto €2,150. Bonus Ball €1, 450

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 03 - 11 - 18 - 26. No Winner: Lucky Dip
Winners: €100 Lorcan Moore, Forge Meadows. **€50.** Colm Barrett, c/o
Bingo. Next weeks Lotto €1,250 Draw Tues 7.30pm.

Charity Concert in St Patrick's Church Newtown on 9th May
2026 Concert starts 7.30 pm. Doors open 6.45pm. Featuring Euro-
vision's winners Charlie McGettigan and Paul Harrington and special
guests. RTE's Mary Kennedy is Compere and Ollie Hennessy is musi-
cal director. All proceeds will go towards Breakthrough Cancer Re-
search and Church development fund. Breakthrough Cancer Research
is a charity which Oisín Kelly and his family supported through many
fundraising initiatives and we are endeavouring to continue his great
work through this fundraising concert. Tickets (€25) are available from
Kearneys Fenagh. Online at eventbrite.ie or call 086 024 5272

**Volunteers Needed to help maintain the old Graveyard in
Ballon. Contact Gerry 087-6732329**

Open Air Rosary: You are invited to the 109th Anniversary of the
Open Air Rosary on 16th May 2026 at 4.00pm outside Rathoe Hall.
Please try and attend, it is only for one hour.

Parish Office & Shop, Fenagh Road, Ballon. R93 FX93

Phone No: 059-9159959.

Email: 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

Monday 4th May Jim Breen: Founder of Pulse Learning and
Cycle Against Suicide: Jim is the founder of Pulse Learning and the
driving force behind Cycle Against Suicide, a powerful movement
that has brought hope, conversation, and support to communities
across Ireland and beyond. Through his own personal journey, Jim
speaks openly about mental health, resilience, and the importance
of reaching out. His message is simple but deeply important: "It's
OK not to feel OK, and it's absolutely OK to ask for help."

As part of our Novena, Jim will share a moving reflection on hope,
connection, and caring for one another, reminding us of
the strength we find in community and faith.

Noel O'Connor Memorial Run Noel's family would like to sincerely
thank Keith Bolger and all of Noel's friends for organising this wonderful
event in his memory. A heartfelt thank you as well to all the sponsors,
runners, and everyone who generously donated on the day. We're de-
lighted to share that a total of €13,122 was raised. These funds will go
towards supporting the National Neuroscience Centre at Beaumont
Hospital. Thank you all for your kindness, support, and generosity—it
truly means so much.

Free Electrical Recycling Day in Tullow to take place on Wednes-
day 6th May from 10am to 4pm in Tullow Mart, Bunclody Road,
Tullow. R93E431

Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Bishop Denis Nulty invites you to join with him and parishioners from
across the diocese at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock on Sunday
7th June 2026, ceremonies begin at 2.30pm in the Basilica. Contact
aherngerard22@gmail.com for details of buses.

Pope Leo XIV to prisoners: 'No one is excluded from God's love'

Pope XIV visited Bata prison in Equatorial Guinea April 21, telling
inmates that "no one is excluded from God's love" and urging them
to see that even behind bars, there remains the possibility of
change, reconciliation, and hope.

At the prison, Leo XVI was welcomed by Justice Minister Reginaldo
Biyogo Mba Ndong Anguesomo, the prison director, and the chap-
lain, Fr. Pergentino Esono Mba. One of the more than 600 inmates
thanked the Pope for his visit and support.

"We wish to thank you for your visit and your support," the prisoner
said. "Your presence reminds us of the importance of faith and re-
demption. We ask for your blessing to keep moving forward and to
come out of this as better people. We are grateful for your compas-
sion and for your message of hope" The chaplain, meanwhile,
thanked the Pope "for his message of mercy and forgiveness"

Politics is just like show business, you have a hell of an opening, coast for
a while, and then have a hell of a close. Ronald Reagan.

The reason there are so few female politicians is that it is too much trouble
to put make up on two face.