

R.I.P: Veryhese Cherian, India. (father of Libby)

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 25th Ballon 6.00pm	
Sun 26th Rathoe 10.00am	Tony Byrne, Rathoe. Jim & Una Byrne, John & Robert Deane & baby Jack. Lilly Esmonde, Graiguenaspidogue
Sun 26th Ballon 11.30am	Peter, Dan & Hannah Jordan, Killane John McHugh, Kilnock
Tues 28th Ballon 7.00pm	Kerry Murphy, Fenagh. 1st Ann
Wed 29th Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 30th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 31st Rathoe 7.00pm	
	Maureen Brophy, Kilcoole
Sat 1st Ballon 6.00pm	Pat Byrne, Castlegrace & his parents William & Margaret P.J.O'Reilly, Sherwood
Sun 2nd Rathoe 10.00am	Roger Murray, Grangeford
Sun 2nd Ballon 11.30am	Rita Barry Maple Lawn. M.M Roger Barry, Cappagh

19/07/2026 Offertory €635.40. Envelopes €530.20

To donate online: **Ballon Rathoe Parish**: IBAN: IE24 BOFI 906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIE2D. **Ballon Rathoe Priests Fund**: IBAN: IE-07BOFI90668984337742. BIC: BOFIE2D

Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles. Appreciation Letter.

It was a grace-filled opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with you all. I sincerely wish to express my appreciation for the warm welcome I received. On behalf of the Sisters I would like to thank you for your generous donations in support of our missions. I would also like to acknowledge receipt of your contribution of €1,200. Mat God bless your generosity. **Sr. Mary Usifoh.**

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

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

Nutty Scientist camp 27/07/26 - 31/07/26 10am - 1pm

kids pottery 1/08/25 & 8/08/26

Kids crafty camp 10/08/16 - 14/08/26 10.30am - 12.30pm

Deco dream studio workshop 16/08/26 1pm - 3.30pm

Glass Art workshop 26/08/26 10am-1pm

Want to learn Office Administration skills & work towards a QQI level

5 certificate? Starting September 2026 in Ballon Business & Training Centre, Co. Carlow. BTEI Carlow are offering modules in: Payroll, Information & Administration, Word Processing, Text Production, Spreadsheets, "Only cost to you is your time and Commitment" Eligibility criteria apply. For more information or how to apply, contact: BTEI Carlow 1b Meadow Court Burrin Street Carlow. R93W227. Tel No: 059 9139532. Email: bteicarlow@kilkennycarlowlaweb.ie Web: www.fetchcourses.ie

Furniture Upcycling workshop starts 15th Aug, cost €50, bring along a small item of furniture, (no upholstery) and learn to transform it

Memorial Walk for Andrea All proceeds going to Waterford Hospice and Éist, Carlow. Saturday 1st August 10am—Start and Finish at Centre, Ballon. Family Friendly—all ages welcome. 5KM walk or run. Contributions can be made at Centra, Ballon. Raffle Tickets available Refreshments served afterwards.

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 04 - 13 - 22 - 27. No Winner: Lucky Dip Winners: €100: William, Tommy & Patrick, Ballon Hardware. **€50.** Alice Armstrong, Naas. Next weeks Lotto €1,850. Draw Tues 7.30pm.

Graiguecullen Bingo; Tuesday 28th July 2026. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €6,810. Double number €390 Lotto €2750. Bonus Ball €2050.

Biodiversity Walk and Talk with Éanna Ní Lamnha. Fri 31st July 2026

Venue: Ballon Tree Trail, Ballon, Co. Carlow. Time: 6 p.m. Admission: €10

Parish Office & Shop, 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 Rathoe Parish Shop. Fenagh Road, Ballon R93FX93

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

Large selection of Cards for all occasions. prayer books, rosary beads, gift sets and gift wallets in stock.

The annual Charity Carriage Drive in aid of the Éist Cancer Support Centre takes place on **Sat, Aug 29, 2026**. The event commences at 2:00 PM from Holy Trinity, Ardoyne (Eircode: R93 D658) and proceeds to Ardattin, continuing to All Saint's, Aghade for a picnic, and finishing in Tullow. All donations are welcome. Contact: **Rev. Dr. Lester Scott at 059 9197028** contribute to the Éist Cancer Support Centre, donations can be made directly via the [iDonate Éist Cancer Support Centre Profile](#)

Ballon GFC Lotto. No's 04– 07 –08 – 09. **Lucky Dip Winners €25 each:** Eddie Wilson, Maple Lawn, Triona Finnegan, Rathrush, Eilish Minchin, Lisgarvan, Mary Maher, Killane. Next Draw Mon 27th July 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €2,100. Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

All Saints, Aghade, R93XD79. A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for Andrea Zerafa and for all our loved ones called Home. Saturday, 1st August 2026 at 6pm.

Grandparents Day

"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Ps 92:15). These words of the Psalmist are glad tidings, a true "gospel" that we can proclaim to all on this second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. They run counter to what the world thinks about this stage of life, but also to the attitude of grim resignation shown by some of us elderly people, who harbour few expectations for the future.

Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the "throw-away culture", which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from "them" and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly!

Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise. The more developed societies expend large sums on this stage of life without really helping people to understand and appreciate it; they offer healthcare plans to the elderly but not plans for living this age to the full. This makes it hard to look to the future and discern what direction to take. On the one hand, we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot "still bring forth fruit".

Young People Catholicmaxxing?

"If there are maxxers who dominate in our culture today, it is those who max their aversion to religion and make great public noise about it. We see this clearly in the hysteria that surrounds any mention of religious involvement in our hospitals and schools, even though it was religious orders that founded and ran so successfully a great many of them?"

A husband and a wife enter a dentist surgery. The husband says, "I want a tooth pulled. I don't want gas or Novocaine because I'm in a terrible rush. Just pull the tooth as quickly as possible" 'You're a brave man', says the dentist. 'Now, which tooth is it?' The husband turns to the wife and says, 'Show him your tooth, dear'.