

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 15th Ballon 6.00pm	
Sun 16th Rathoe 10.00am	Jim Esmonde, Ballintranee Paddy Tobin, Grangeford
Sun 16th Ballon 11.30am	
Tues 18th Ballon 7.00	
Wed 19th Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 20th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 21st Rathoe 7.00pm	
Sat 22nd Ballon 6.00pm	Kathleen & Ivan Percy, Ballykealy
Sun 23rd Rathoe 10.00am	Eilish Hogan, Rathrush
Sun 23rd Ballon 11.30am	

09/08/2026 Offertory €707.25. Envelopes €778.20

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

Deco dream studio workshop 16/08/26 1pm -3.30pm. **Glass Art workshop** 26/08/26 10am-1pm. **Safe Pass** 2/9/26 from 7.30am - 4.30 pm

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@kilkennycarlowetb.ie Web: www.fetchcourses.ie

A Big Thank You to everyone who supported Andrea's Memorial Walk. A huge €22,300 was raised for EIST AND Waterford Hospice. Thanks to all.

Delany Archive Heritage Week Lecture: The Delany Archive welcomes Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman for a Heritage Week lecture on "Catholic Churches and Chapels Before and After Emancipation", including examples from churches in the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin. The lecture will be held at Carlow College, St Patrick's (R93 A003) on **18 August at 7.00 pm**. All are welcome. Admission is free of charge and no booking is required. Further event details are available at www.heritageweek.ie Dr NicGhabhann Coleman is an Associate Professor in the School of History and Geography at the University of Limerick and is currently researching a book on the development of Catholic architecture in Ireland between the 1820s and 1930s.

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 03 - 04 - 10 - 18. No Winner: Lucky Dip Winners: €100: Mary Lisa Brennan, Bingo. **€50.** Mary B. Farrell, c/o Bingo. Next weeks Lotto €2,000. Draw Tues 7.30pm.

Fundraiser Dance in aid of Annette Foley on Friday 21st August in The Dolmen Hotel, Carlow from 9.00pm. Tickets €10 each. All welcome. Music by Alistair Fingleton & Adrian Ryan. Annette has stage 4 incurable cancer. All proceeds go directly to Annette & her family. Raffle on the night with huge selection of prizes. Your support will be greatly appreciated. For more information contact Sandra: 087-2485372.

Ballon Rambling House in GAA Centre, Fenagh Rd., R93 F793 on Sun 30th August at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served. Contact Mire George 087-2424934

Marriage Encounter Ireland invites married couples to a residential weekend from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October 2026 at the Foculare Centre, Curryhills, Propserous, Co Kildare. Step away from daily distractions and deepen your communication, renew your love, and rediscover the joy of your marriage. www.marriageencounter.ie

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. New stock in.

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 07- 19 -26 - 30. **Match Three Winner €50each** E. Minchin, Lisgarvan, E. Nolan, Fenagh. Next Draw Mon 17th August 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €2,150. Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

The Garreenleen Community Benefit Fund is now open for applications. Approximately €200,000 in funding is available to community groups in the Rathoe area. Apply here: <https://perigusenergy.submit.com/show/4> For more information, visit: Community Benefit Fund - Perigus Energy

Graigucullen Bingo; Tuesday 18th August 2026. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 42 numbers €960. Double number €600 Lotto €2,900. Bonus Ball €2,200.

Away from it All

Even the most EXTROVERTED PERSON, the kind who loves meeting new people, enjoys a full social calendar, and would willingly go to Times Square on New Year's Eve—even that kind of person will, at times, feel the need to be alone and to be still. Perhaps you have no problem claiming time to be alone and at rest with God. But the more common problem by far seems to be the opposite. A fellow Dominican priest once noticed, "People always saying, 'I have to run....' Why do we fill our hours such that we rush here and there, rarely prioritizing the repose we claim to desire? More particularly, why do we struggle with keeping Sundays as a day of rest, even as we complain of our need for a break? In some cases, we may have genuine obligations that keep us perpetually on the go. But more often the business is self-imposed. Why? It turns out that it's very difficult for us to be still. Rest, in a sense, is arduous. When we set aside time for quiet, our minds begin to fill up with thoughts of various tasks, intractable problems, strained relationships, unanswerable questions, global threats, and so on until we decide we can't take it anymore. So, we get up to clean our room or make more plans or indulge in our favourite distraction. We know from the inside the Psalmist's complaint: With my cares, I cannot rest (55:3). Usually, the problem is not that I don't have time to rest. More often, it's that I simply can't, no matter how much time I have.

A freeing obligation

But quiet rest "away from it all" is not merely a human need—it's a Christian obligation. God literally commands us to take a weekly break: *Remember the sabbath day-keep.* *Fr. Philip Nolan O.P*

Flying—Economy, this plane was so old it had an outside toilet. Before we took off the stewardess reminded us to fasten our cellotape.

Control tower, please report your height and position?

Pilot: Im five feet eleven and I'm in the cockpit.