

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 26th Ballon 6.00pm	Tim Kelly, Milltown, Kilbride, 1st Ann
Sun 27th Rathoe 10.00am	Michael Carroll, Snr. and Michael Carroll, Jnr, Bendenstown. & members of Carroll & Bermingham Families. Pat Hogan & his parents Kathleen & James Hogan Rathnashannagh & Matty Kelly. Jack Hutton his wife Ann & son-in-law Dick Murphy & deceased members of the Hutton Family.
Sun 27th Ballon 11.30am	
Wed 30th Rathoe 10.00am	Prayer Service
Thurs 1st Ballon 10.00am	Prayer Service
Fri 2nd Rathoe 7.00pm	Enrolment for First Communion
Sat 3rd Ballon 6.00pm	John & Kitty Dawson, Maple Lawn Teresa Canavan, Church Street
Sun 4th Rathoe 10.00am	Barbara Gahan, Rathoe M.M. Billy & Kitty Eustace, Castlemore.
Sun 4th Ballon 11.30am	

20/09/2026 Offertory €772.85. Envelopes €839.70

PARISH ENVELOPES: A box of envelopes for 2027-27 is available for each household in the Parish. We have re-allocated the numbers so if you have a different number from last year, don't be surprised. The envelopes will be available in both Churches. If you are collecting your own box, you might be so good as to drop off your neighbours box. Thank you for your continued contributions over the past year. Spare envelopes are also available if you didn't get one.

To donate online: Ballon Rathoe Parish: IBAN: IE24 BOFI 906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIE2D.

B/R 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

QQI Level 5 payroll 28/09/2026 10am -1pm

QQI Level 5 Bookkeeping 28/09/2026 2pm-5pm

Flower arranging 16/10/2026 10.30am -12.30pm

Pilates 12/10/2026 6pm - 7pm

Beginners Machine Sewing 06/10/2026 10am - 1pm

Intermediate sewing 22/10/2026 1pm - 4pm

Watercolour art 28/10/2026 2pm-4pm

Burrin Celtic Lotto: No's 05 - 16 - 21 - 28. No Winner: Lucky Dip

Winners: €100: Tommy Maher, Ballon. **€50.** Cian Byrne, Kilnock
Next weeks Lotto €2,300. Draw Tues 7.30pm.

Graiguencullen Bingo; Tues 29th Sept St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm.
Jackpot on 48 numbers €1,740. Double number €530. Lotto €3,200.
Bonus Ball €2,500.

Ballon GFC Lotto. . No's 06- 08 -24 - 30. **Lucky Dip Winners €25**
Bridget McGrath, 45 Laragh Beg, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Craanpursheen,
Keith Hanley, 5 Laragh Beg, Donnacha Murphy, Connaberry. Next
Draw Mon 28th Sept 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €2,550.
Tickets €2. Play on line <https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ>

FCJ Buncloidy open day Sunday 27/09/2026 from 2pm - 4.30pm All are welcome.

Rathoe Retirement Group: Exercise classes starting in Rathoe Hall on Wednesday 30th September at 2.30pm for members of Active Retirement.

Wanted: 2 Bedroom furnished apartment in Ballon Village for 2 adults and 2 children., no pets. Phone Filza on 083-3209244 or 083-1658955

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. Beautiful new selection of stock.

800th Jubilee of St Francis – Parish Celebrations Graiguecullen/

Killeshin Parish warmly invites everyone to join us as we celebrate the 800th Jubilee of St Francis (1226–2026) with four days of prayer, music and celebration. **Thursday 1st October** – St Clare's Church, 7.30pm

Mass with Benediction, with music by the Men's Choir. Celebrant: Fr Bryan Shortall OFM Cap., National Director of Padre Pio Ministry.

Friday 2nd October – St Clare's Church, 7.30pm Mass with Benediction, with music by our Youth & Children's Choirs. Celebrant: Fr Bernardino Soukup CFM, The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

Saturday 3rd October – St Clare's Church, 6.30pm. Mass celebrated by Fr. John Dunphy. We will be joined by the Secular Franciscan Order, Carlow, with music by the Ladies Choir. The celebrations conclude on the Feast of St Francis, Sunday 4th October, with Mass in St Clare's Church at 11.30am, celebrated by Fr John Dunphy, with music from our Combined Parish Choirs. We extend a special invitation to all who bear the name Francis to come along and receive a special blessing during this Mass. At 3pm on Sunday, everyone is invited to bring their pets along for our Blessing of Pets, taking place outside the Parish Centre. All are very welcome to join us as we mark this special Franciscan Jubilee together

Outrun Hunger 2026: Runners and walkers wanted for Outrun Hunger 5k & 10k. Sat Oct 17th 10am Carlow Rugby Club Reg open at 8.30am. Medals, t-shirts and prizes. Whether you run, jog, or walk- you can help St Clare's food Kitchen Carlow "Outrun Hunger For full details or to book your place today by logging on to www.popupraces.ie/race/outrun-hunger-2026

Connect Magazine: It is that time of the year again for articles for the 2026 edition. Anyone who promised Breeda an article, now is the time to fulfil your promise. Anyone who has anything to contribute- articles or photographs, please email them to breedamcdonald46@gmail.com before the middle of October.

The Withered Hand

Everyone notices the withered hand, but only Jesus prepares to do something about it.....[It is] as if we were the only thing Jesus himself has noticed on entering. How could it be otherwise? The man's physical distress, together with his coming before God in worship, constitutes, even in his muteness, a most graphic embodiment of the Psalmist's plea: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a land without water. (Ps 143:6).....

The man's hand is *ἔρηπα* (*literally, "dry"*), like the branch of a tree that has been severed from its native supply of water. The water he needs is the powerful transforming mercy of God, which will now flow with abundance into his being from Jesus-precisely that influx of divine mercy with the Pharisees' legalism has all but stopped up. The contact with Jesus, however, will instantly restore the tree to greenness. Contrasting the attitude of the Pharisees around him, turns imploringly to Jesus. *Happy the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked... He is like a tree planted near running water* (Ps 1:1,3)

Erasmio Leiva-Merikakis, now known as Father Simeon, is a Cistercian monk serving in Rome. He is the author of Fire of Mercy, Heart of the Word, a four volume commentary on Matthew's Gospel.

Mother to little boy: 'Stop pulling the cats tail' Boy: 'I'm not. I'm just holding it. It's the cat that's doing the pulling.

I've never understood why women love cats. Cats are independent, they don't listen, they don't come in when you call, they like to stay out all night, and when they're home they like to be left alone and sleep. In other words, every quality that women hate in a man, they love in a cat.