ALL SAINTS	
Sat 31st Ballon 6.00pm	Kathleen & Terry Duncan and deceased members of the Walsh Family, Kilnock Mary Ann O'Toole, Boggan Margaret McCarthy, Boggan
Sun 1st Rathoe 10.00am	Stan & Joan Brophy, Castlemore.
Sun 1st Ballon 11.30am	
ALL SOULS DAY	
Mon 2nd Mass Ballon 11.00am	**For the Faithful departed**
Mon 2nd Rathoe 7.00pm	**For the Faithful departed**
Tues 3rd Ballon 7.00pm	Kitty Swayne, Craanpursheen, 1st Ann, son Martin Swayne. 30th Ann & Kitty's husband Peadar.
Wed 4th Rathoe 10.00am	
Thurs 5th Ballon 10.00am	
Fri 6th Rathoe 7.00pm	
Sat 7th Ballon 6.00pm	Holy Souls
Sun 8th Rathoe 10.00am	Edwin Cole, Rathrush, 1st Ann Seamus Connolly, Tobinstown Aine & James Connolly, Kellistown
Sun 8th Ballon 11.30am	

25/10/2026 Offertory €657.80. Envelopes €546.70

To donate online: ***Ballon Rathoe Parish****: IBAN: IE24 BOFI 906689 79838964. BIC: BOFIIE2D.* ***B/R Priests Fund:*** IBAN: IE-07BOFI90668984337742. BIC: BOFIIE2D

October and World Mission Sunday is a time for the faithful of the world to show their appreciation towards the work of overseas missionaries. Envelopes for Mission Sunday in both Churches.

In November We Remember: As we remember in a particular way in November those who have died, **A prayer leaflet is also available in both churches**

The Church of Our Lady and St Joseph in Caragh, Co. Kildare, will host a special celebration at 6.30pm on Thur, 19 November 2026, for the enshrinement of the first-class relics of St Carlo Acutis. The chief celebrant will be Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

Ballon Business & Training Service, The Old School, Ballon. Tel: 059-915-9447. Mob: 085-876-4743. ballonbts@gmail.com **Courses: Kiln fired pottery** - Thurs 5th Nov 10am -1pm. **Needle Felting** - Mon 2nd Nov 10am -12.30pm **5 steps to stress management**- Sat 11th Nov 10am -1pm. **Festive table centrepieces'** - Mon 14th Dec 2pm - 5pm .**Christmas Wreath workshop** Fri 11th Dec 2pm - 5pm .**Watercolour Art** - Wed 28th Oct - 2pm -4pm

Burrin Celtic Lotto: **No's 02 - 13 - 18 - 25. No Winner: Lucky Dip Winners: €100:** Peadar & Eileen Radford, Ballon. **€50.** Kathleen Fitzgerald c/o Bingo. Next weeks Lotto €2,550. Draw Tues 7.30pm.

Graiguecullen Bingo; Tues 3rd November St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 41 no. €830. . Double number €390. Lotto €3,450. Bonus Ball €2,750.

PUBLIC MEETING for the communities of RATHOE, BALLON and TULLOW against the proposed HYDROGEN PLANT will take place on MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER @7PM in RATHOE HALL. Everyone in the community is welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards.

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 Cards for all occasions. prayer books, rosary beads, gift sets and gift wallets in stock. Beautiful new selection of stock.
Caint agus Caife an Forge Restaurant Déardaoin 5th Nov ag 10.30am R93PC64. Filte Roimh Gach Éinne. Bain sult as deoch te agus comhra!

The proposed Multifunctional Outdoor Recreational Hub in Rathoe survey is now live and will remain open until Friday 6th November. https://consult.carlow.ie/en/content/proposed-multifunctional-outdoor-recreational-hub-rathtoe

Ballon GFC Lotto. . No's **19– 24 –28 – 30. Match Three Winner €100** James Connolly, Ballymogue. Next Draw Mon 2nd November 2026 in Fr. Flood House at 9pm. Jackpot €2,750. Tickets €2. Play on line https://bit.ly/3FuNdhZ

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 photo-graphs, please email them to **breedamcdonald46@gmail.com** before the middle of October.

INFORMATION EVENING For older persons and people living with de-mentia or conditions affecting memory. Please come along to Leighlin Par-ish Centre on Thursday, November 5th. Brief presentations will be given by the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, Carlow Older People's Network, ASI Bethany House and ALONE. Commencing at 7.30p.m ALL WELCOME.

Fighting Cocks CLG AGM will take place on November 20th at 8pm in Rathoe Community Hall. Members are invited to submit nominations for election to the Executive Committee and motions for consideration at the AGM. Nominations and motions must be received no later than Nov 6th.

Pickleball continues every Monday evening in Ballon hall. New players always welcome, first session is free of charge. All equipment provided just come along and have some fun. Contact Anto on 085 7639533.

Loop Resistance Class 45 minutes of full-body strength training. Thurs 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Nov. 8-8.45am. Cost €45. Ph: 0851406359 to book

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A Missionary Life

In 1985, after a year in Africa, the novelty of a new life started to fade, and I began to wonder why I had left the comfort of home in Ireland. Then tragedy struck.

A man from a nearby fishing village called Nchacha, came running with shocking news: during the night, while out fishing on the Elephant Marsh, a crocodile had taken one of our Christians, Sam-son. Only part of his body was recovered. I was asked to conduct the funeral-but when I arrived, Samson had already been buried. The villagers' silence and fear revealed a deeper terror: a dread witchcraft.

I suggest we at least go to Samson's grave to pray. One by one, Christians quietly joined, carrying hymn books. As we walked, we sang hymns of resurrection. Gradually, bowed heads lifted, and at the grave, prayers and songs brought hope. In our faith, death is not an end-it is a doorway to new life. We believed Samson would rise.

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How is business going?
Well I started off with nothing and I still have half of it.

I don't understand why they call it the rush hour when everything is at a standstill.

In the city zoo the animals are kept behind bars for their own safety

I have a suit for every day of the year. And this is it

Ballon Web Cam: YouTube · St Peter & Pauls Church Ballon. You tube St. Patrick's Church, Rathoe