

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

21st September 2025

**Twenty Fifth Week
in Ordinary Time**



The Sunflower Prayer

Plant me like a sunflower, Lord,
deep in the fold of your will.
Forge my faith in soil's darkness,
sprout hope up as I wait still.

Grow me like a sunflower, Lord,
leaning close toward your light.
Extend bright rays of direction,
keep me warm in your sight.

Adorn me like a sunflower, Lord,
humbly wearing a righteous crown.
Stack petals of mercy and grace,
golden forgiveness in Christ I've found.
Use me like a sunflower, Lord
to offer nourishment and cheer.
Harvest the Spirit's fruits within me,
encourage others you are drawing near.

Surround me like a sunflower, Lord,
in a field of believers ripe with faith.
Bring us together for a troubled world,
display your love through our bouquet.

Thank you, Lord, for creating
endearing reminders of your Word.
Looking up,
away from the earth's concerns,
my gaze meets yours,
and joy like a mighty sunflower stirs.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie

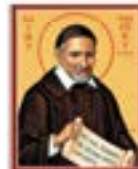


Rat Race

Why is that so many people who are selfish and even dishonest do so much better in life than those with integrity? Could it be to do with the way we are wired? As human beings we have a primeval instinct for self-preservation. It would appear that self-preservation is a far more powerful a motivation than the motivation to be altruistic.

In today's gospel story we find a dishonest manager intent on securing his future. Faced with dismissal, the dishonest manager quickly negotiates some shady deals with his master's customers. The manager makes sure that there will always be a place he can go and people who will welcome him in the eventuality of him becoming destitute. Oddly Jesus seems to applaud the manager for his quick thinking. We are asked to consider what 'children of the light' can learn from the 'children of the world'. Like the manager in today's story, the 'children of the world' are the men and women who leave the house at 6am and work from morning to night securing business deals and amassing wealth for their future. The determination and single mindedness of these workers is to be applauded, but how sad that our fragile and brief existence on this earth should be determined by a rat race with cash bonuses as its prize.

As Jesus' disciples, how do we, 'children of the light' look after our future? When the day of reckoning comes, will there be a place that welcomes us? Can we use the same energy, determination and single mindedness of the business entrepreneur but for a more worthwhile end than a healthy bank balance? As Christians we do not need an incentive to do good works. We are already motivated to do good works.... all we need is a sense of urgency. We might be able to transcend the rat race, but we can never transcend our brief existence.



Awareness Month of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society ("SVP") is an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing direct practical assistance to anyone in need. September is the month the society traditionally uses to promote support and services, since September sees the saint's feast day. (27th September)

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday—Friday: 7.30am & 10am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption, The Heath, Sunday: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska, Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 6.30pm Mass.



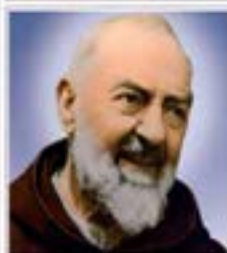
Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Hallie Shea Holland

Killone, The Heath

Who was baptised last weekend.



Healing prayer of

St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Feast day 23 September

Heavenly Father, I thank you for loving me. I thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the world to save and to set me free. I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me. Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands, for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul and spirit. Cover me with the most precious blood of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Cast anything that should not be in me. Root out any unhealthy and abnormal cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild and replenish any damaged areas. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection by the power of Jesus' precious blood. Let the fire of your healing love pass through my entire body to heal and make new any diseased areas so that my body will function the way you created it to function. Touch also my mind and my emotion, even the deepest recesses of my heart. Saturate my entire being with your presence, love, joy and peace and draw me ever closer to you every moment of my life. And Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to do your works so that my life will bring glory and honour to your holy name. I ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Parish office 0578621142

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Parish Website: www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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**BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES
WILL RESUME WITH LAURA ON MONDAY
EVENING THE 22ND OF SEPT.
BEGINNERS 7-8PM AND INTERMEDIATE
6-7PM. THERE IS SOME LIMITED
AVAILABILITY ON BOTH CLASSES.**

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR RECEPTION
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SECURE YOUR PLACE!**

*If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to
receive information regarding the classes resuming please
call or email our clinic and we can email you when we
roll out our new class email, this helps to secure your place!*

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The coordinator will be responsible for liaising with the Steering Committee to establish a Meals on Wheels service in Portlaoise.

Forward a cover letter and CV to info@laoispartnership.ie
Scan QR code for job description or visit Careers section of www.laoispartnership.ie

Closing date
September 24th



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Autumn Programme

FREE Water Safety Classes for all Emergency Service Workers

With Water Safety Ireland Laois

Water Safety Ireland
Certified Exams

Come
and Try
It Out
on Wed 24th
September at
9pm



Bronze
Gaisce Award
Approved

Emergency Services Classes

Beginning: Wednesday 24th Sept 2025 (10 weeks)
9pm - 10pm

Open to members of the Civil Defence, Fire Services,
Gardai and Defence Forces

Must be able to Swim 25m Continuously

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise

These Classes are completely FREE!

Improve your swimming technique,
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Autumn Programme

Water Safety Classes

With Water Safety Ireland Laois

Water Safety Ireland Certified Exams



Bronze
Gaisce Award
Approved

Free
"Come and Try
Session"
on Wed 24th
September at
9pm

Senior Classes Adult and 16+

Beginning: Wednesday 24th Sept 2025 (10 weeks)
9pm - 10pm

Optional Progression to National Pool Lifeguard for
Rescue 2 - 4 participants & Revalidation*
*Requires Additional cost & attendance at extra
weekend course in Nov/Dec 2025

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise
Cost: Adults €75 Students €60

*Subject to achieving minimum standard and previous
participation in Water Safety Ireland classes

Places are limited and booking is essential.
Please email sports@laoiscoco.ie or call 057-8664058

Autumn Programme

Water Safety Classes

With Water Safety Ireland Laois

Water Safety Ireland Certified Exams



Bronze
Gaisce Award
Approved

Junior Classes (10 Weeks)

**Starting Saturday
September 20th**
12-15yrs
11.45am - 12.45pm

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise
Cost: €60

Free
"Come and Try
Session"
on Sat 20th
September at
11.45am

Places are limited and booking is essential.
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Cuisle Centre Timetable

T: 057 868 1492

E: info@cuislecancersupport.com
cuislecancersupport.com

MON

Mindfulness Programme

10:30am - 11:30am

Starting 6th Oct

Reflexology / Reiki

By Appointment Only.

Counselling

By Appointment Only.

Support Nurse Available

By Appointment Only.

Creative Arts Therapist

Available to children who have been affected by a cancer diagnosis.

By Appointment Only

WALK IN SERVICE

Cancer Information & Support.

No Appointment Needed.

TUES

Thrive & Survive programme

(Developed by Stanford University)

This is a self-management programme for cancer survivors with the aim of improving their quality of life to better manage daily health.

Next programme starting Nov 2025

Mindfulness for Men

2:30pm - 4:00PM

Starting Date TBC

Citizen's Information Adviser

Will give you advice about the financial entitlements you may receive and help you with the process. e.g., medical card application etc.

Aqua Aerobics

Please give the centre a call if you would like to attend this class.

Starting 23rd Sep 2025.

WED

Chair Yoga

Class 1: 10.00am - 11.00am

Class 2: 11.30am - 12.30pm

Booking Essential

Starting 24th Sep

Bereavement Counselling

By Appointment Only.

Funded by Laois Hospice

Manual Lymphatic Drainage

A specialised gentle massage for patients with lymphoedema, which may result from surgery or radiotherapy.

By Appointment Only.

Art

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Starting 1st Oct

Climb Programme

Helping Children Understand Cancer.

This programme is fun and creative, using drama, arts and play and aims to help children cope with a cancer diagnosis in the family.

Starting Feb 2026

THURS

Creative Arts

10:00am - 12:00pm

"Look Good, Feel Better"

11:30am - 1:00pm

Places limited

Date TBC

Play Therapist

Available for children from 3 years upwards who have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis in the family.

Garment Fitting

Serra nova sleeve/ leg garments for lymphoedema.

20th Nov

Spaces Available

Booking Essential

FRI

Prosthesis & Bra Fitting Day

28th Nov

Spaces Available

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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



DO THE RIGHT THING

What would you do if you were walking home from school and found a bag that contained a lot of money? Would you tell your parents and report your find to the Gardai, or would you say, "Wow! This must be my lucky day?"

This morning I am going to tell you two true stories about people who found a large amount of money and chose to do the right thing.

Tom Malone is a 8-year old school student. One day, Tom found a bag of money containing €120 on top of the water machine. He took it to his teacher the two of them went to the principal's office to turn in the money. When asked why he turned in the money instead of keeping it, Tom said that he was concerned that the employee who left the bag would get in trouble if he lost this money.

Eddie McLoughlin was walking home one evening when he found a bag on the footpath outside a shop. He picked up the bag, looked inside, and saw that it contained a large amount of money. When Eddie got home, he told his mother about finding the bag of money and together they counted it. There was over €4,000 in the bag. Eddie called the gardai and told them about the money. The manager of the store had dropped the bag while closing up, and without a doubt, he was happy that it was Eddie McLoughlin who found the money.

When we hear stories like these, it may make us stop and ask ourselves, "What would I have done if I had found all of that money?" To find the answer to that question, ask yourself, "What would I do if I found a euro on the floor beside my teacher's desk?" You see, honesty is not a question of how much money is involved, it is a matter of doing the right thing.

One day Jesus told his disciples a story about a rich man who had a manager, and the manager was using the man's money for himself. The rich man discovered that the manager was wasting his money so he called him in and fired him. After telling this story, Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." If we make sure that we are honest in the small things, then we can be sure that we will be honest in the big things. If people know that they can trust us in small things, they will know that they can trust us in the big things too.



First Class Relic of Carlo Acutis



We have been fortunate to have made available to us a first class relic of Carlo Acutis. It will be with us for a week. From before the 10am Mass on next Tuesday 23rd September to after the 10am Mass on Tuesday 30th. (St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise).

PRAYER

Dear Father,
help us to remember what Jesus taught about honesty and help us to be honest in every situation—big or small. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



Portlaoise Schools Confirmation Ceremonies 2026



Friday 13th February

11.30am Scoil Bhride
2pm The Heath, Ratheniska & Gaelscoil

Saturday 14th February

11.30am Holy Family (Mr. Miller, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Duff and Ms. Dooley's class)
2pm Holy Family (Mr. Dunne, Mr. Moore and Ms. Maloney's class)
and Educate Together

Friday 27th February

2pm St. Francis School



First Holy Communion Ceremonies

Friday 24th April 2026

2pm Holy Family (Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Byrne class)

Saturday 25th April 2026

12noon Holy Family (Ms. Caraffi and Ms. Finlay's class)
2pm Holy Family (Ms. Moore and Ms. Freeman's class)

Friday 8th May 2026

2pm St. Francis School

Saturday 16th May 2026

12noon Heath NS (in the Heath Church)
12noon Ratheniska NS (in Ratheniska Church)

Saturday 16th May 2026

2pm Gaelscoil

Friday 22nd May 2026

2pm Educate Together

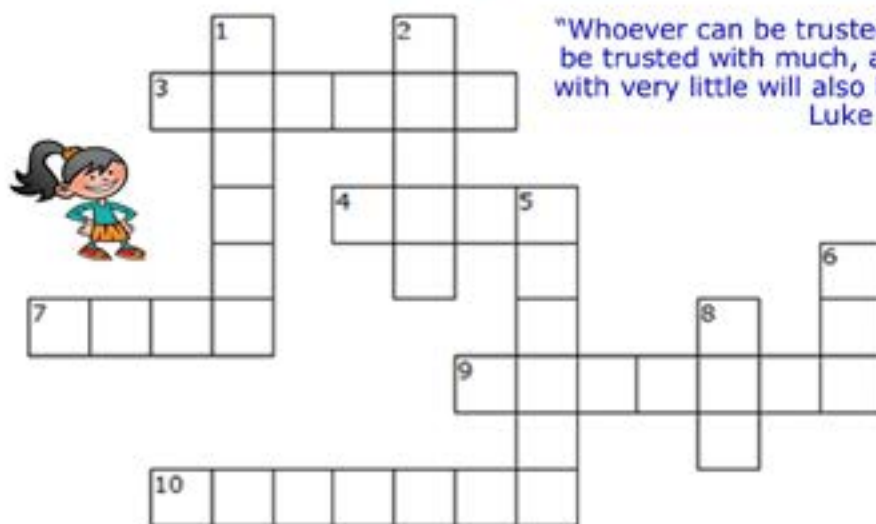
Saturday 30th May 2026

12noon Scoil Bhride (Ms. Young and Ms. Fitzpatrick's class)
2pm Scoil Bhride (Ms. Delaney and Ms. Phelan's class)



The Dishonest Manager

dig
Jesus
little
much
servant
despise
owe
honest
riches
love



"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."
Luke 16:10

ACROSS

3. A large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has
4. A very large amount
7. To like something very much
9. To feel a strong dislike for someone or something
10. A person who performs duties around the home of a master

DOWN

1. A very small amount
2. The Son of God
5. Truthful, trusted, not likely to steal, cheat or lie
6. To be obligated to repay a debt to someone
8. To make a hole in the ground with a shovel

Time to Think...

Saint Pier Giorgio Michelangelo Frassati



Recently, Pope Leo XIV declared Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian from the 20th century who died at the age of 24, and Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager from the 21st century, saints of the Catholic Church. It is good to become acquainted with perhaps the less known new saint!



Pier Giorgio Michelangelo Frassati was born in Turin, Italy on April 6, 1901. His mother, Adelaide Ametis, was a painter. His father Alfredo was the founder and director of the newspaper, "La Stampa," and was influential

in Italian politics, holding positions as an Italian Senator and Ambassador to Germany. At an early age, Pier Giorgio joined the Marian Sodality and the Apostleship of Prayer and obtained permission to receive daily Communion (which was rare at that time). He developed a deep spiritual life which he never hesitated to share with his friends. The Holy Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin were the two poles of his world of prayer. At the age of 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to serving the sick and the needy, caring for orphans, and assisting the demobilized servicemen returning from World War I.

He decided to become a mining engineer, studying at the Royal Polytechnic University of Turin, so he could "serve Christ better among the miners," as he told a friend. Although he considered his studies his first duty, they did not keep him from social and political activism. In 1919, he joined the Catholic Student Foundation and the organization known as Catholic Action. He became a very active member of the People's Party, which promoted the Catholic Church's social teaching based on the principles of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical letter, *Rerum Novarum*.

What little he did have, Pier Giorgio gave to help the poor, even using his bus fare for charity and then running home to be on time for meals. The poor and the suffering were his masters, and he was literally their servant, which he considered a privilege. His charity did not simply involve giving something to others but giving completely of himself. This was fed by daily communion with Christ in the Holy Eucharist and by frequent nocturnal adoration, by meditation on St. Paul's "Hymn of Charity" (1 Corinthians 13), and by the writings of St. Catherine of Siena. He often sacrificed vacations at the Frassati summer home in Pollone (outside of Turin) because, as he said, "If everybody leaves Turin, who will take care of the poor?"

In 1921, he was a central figure in Ravenna, enthusiastically helping to organize the first convention of Pax Romana, an association which had as its purpose the unification of all Catholic students throughout the world for the purpose of working together for universal peace. Mountain climbing was one of his favourite sports. Outings in the mountains, which he organized with his friends, also served as opportunities for his apostolic work. He never lost the chance to lead his friends to Mass, to the reading of Scripture, and to praying the rosary. He often went to the theatre, to the opera, and to museums. He loved art and music and could quote whole passages of the poet Dante.

Fondness for the epistles of St. Paul sparked his zeal for fraternal charity, and the fiery sermons of the Renaissance preacher and reformer Girolamo Savonarola and the writings of St. Catherine impelled him in 1922 to join the Lay Dominicans (Third Order of St. Dominic). He chose the name Girolamo after his personal hero, Savonarola. "I am a fervent admirer of this friar, who died as a saint at the stake," he wrote to a friend.

Like his father, he was strongly anti-Fascist and did nothing to hide his political views. He physically defended the faith at times involved in fights, first with anticlerical Communists and later with Fascists. Participating in a Church-organized demonstration in Rome on one occasion, he stood up to police violence and rallied the other young people by grabbing the group's banner, which the royal guards had knocked out of another student's hands. Pier Giorgio held it even higher, while using the banner's pole to fend off the blows of the guards.

Just before receiving his university degree, Pier Giorgio contracted poliomyelitis, which doctors later speculated he caught from the sick whom he tended. Neglecting his own health because his grandmother was dying, after six days of terrible suffering Pier Giorgio died at the age of 24 on July 4, 1925. His last preoccupation was for the poor. On the eve of his death, with a paralyzed hand he scribbled a message to a friend, asking him to take the medicine needed for injections to be given to Converso, a poor sick man he had been visiting. Pier Giorgio's funeral was a triumph. The streets of the city were lined with a multitude of mourners who were unknown to his family – the poor and the needy whom he had served so unselfishly for seven years. Many of these people, in turn, were surprised to learn that the saintly young man they knew had been the heir of the influential Frassati family.

Pope John Paul II, after visiting his original tomb in the family plot in Pollone, said in 1989: "I wanted to pay homage to a young man who was able to witness to Christ with singular effectiveness in this century of ours. When I was a young man, I, too, felt the beneficial influence of his example and, as a student, I was impressed by the force of his testimony."

On May 20, 1990, in St. Peter's Square which was filled with thousands of people, the Pope beatified Pier Giorgio Frassati, calling him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes." His mortal remains were found completely intact and incorrupt upon their exhumation on March 31, 1981; they were transferred from the family tomb in Pollone to the Cathedral in Turin following his beatification in 1990.

Many pilgrims, especially students and the young, come to the tomb of Blessed Frassati to seek favours and the courage to follow his example.

May his inspirational life, inspire us to walk the pathway of kindness and compassion.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER.

Top score: Mary Gowing 1st Lady: Kit Farrell, 2nd Lady: Margaret Flanagan, 1st Gent: Tom Dunne, 2nd Gent: Tom Gowing, 1st Half: Paula McEvoy, 2nd Half: Sean Bennett. Raffle: 1st Ann Marie Farrell, 2nd P J Cahill, 3rd Paddy Purcell, 4th Mary Delaney 5th Liz Cooper, 6th Paraic Dowling. *Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new members always welcome, lessons available if required.*

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS For family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with alcoholism. Al-anon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further information contact 086-8706017.

VOLUNTARY ORGANIST required for St Brigid's Church SHANAHOE from the area – aged 18-75. Volunteers also required to clean Church Grounds. Ph. Pat Kirk 087-9282753.

LINE DANCING with Maureen Culleton, St. Mary's Hall, Wed. 29th Oct 6th, 13th 11am-12noon. **FREE ENTRY and all welcome!** NO line dancing in St. Mary's Hall next Monday Sept. 22nd...we continue on all Mondays thereafter. 0876482038

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH takes place October 1st-31st. For further information, please log onto www.breastcancerireland.com/

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION in aid of Portlaoise Panto next weekend Sat 20th and Sunday 21st September masses in St Peter & St Paul's church. All support greatly appreciated.

CARING IN OFFALY CE SCHEME: Home Respite Care Worker, Vacancy No. 2409270, Portlaoise area 19.5 hours per week. Please contact Alison Hackett for more info on 086-0213711 / hackett@familycarers.ie

ACTIVE RETIREMENT: Mon. 22nd Sept. BOWLS St Mary's hall 2-4 pm. Wed. 24th, in Parish Center games and sports from 3pm. Thursday 23rd- Sue Ryder Kilminchy cards and chat from 3pm. further information contact Maria at 087 9187157. New members always welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: Come along and be part of our Annual Legion Day Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, 28th Sept. We'll gather at Lyster Square - leaving at 9am for a special day of prayer & community. Seats €25 for adults. €13 for children. To book your place, call Maura on 087 121 0263 or Una on 086 239 2997. We'd love to have you join us.

SEANCHISTIN, IREY, BALLYFIN, R32X5D6 ACTIVITIES: Tues. Line Dancing, 11a.m. We dance to our favourite country music star. Wed. Set Dancing 8p.m. Come alone or bring a partner. Thursday, for persons living with Parkinsons, 11a.m. movement to music, dancing, singing, poetry, refreshments & chat. Ph. Maureen 087 6482038

SING FOR JOY CHOIR: We begin for the new season on Wed Sept. 17th at 11a.m. in St. Mary's Hall, Dublin Rd, R32DW73. This choir offers an inclusive opportunity for persons, (teenagers to older adults) with additional needs, their carers and family to celebrate, through song, talent, friendship and fun in a non-judgemental environment. Contact Maureen 0876482038 for further details.

ELECTRIC COOKER RINGS - FREE 3x6" Radiant Rings 2x7" Radiant Rings Unopened Suitable for a Tricity Bendix Marquis Cooker S13412W Ph. 087/9128643.

LAOIS COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB, PORTLAOISE. Morning bridge every Wednesday morning at 10.15am in Portlaoise Enterprise Centre. Beginners are welcome and lessons given to improve your skills. Contact William on 087-0929898.

LAOISE GUIDE DOGS ANNUAL CHURCH GATE COLLECTION which will take place the 27th and 28th of September in Portlaoise. With five Masses we need volunteers to cover seven gates. If you can help, you can contact Jim at 0874746519 or Paul at 0877725264.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2026/2027 Primary Schools in Portlaoise Parish (Gaelscoil Phortlaoise, Holy Family Junior School, Holy Family Senior School, Ratheniska NS, Scoil Bhríde and Scoil an Fhraoich Mhóir) will be accepting applications for enrolment for the 2026-2027 school year from October 6th 2025 until October 24th 2025. Details and applications forms can be accessed on the schools' websites or by contacting the schools' offices directly.

LITTLE FLOWER – a special Mass will be celebrated in honour of "The Little Flower" St. Teresa, in St. Joseph's Church, Ballyadams, Co. Laois. Individual blessings with the Little Flower bone relic after Mass.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Every Sunday at 3 PM in the Parish Church.

ROSARY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH: Daily 2pm (Monday to Saturday), Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

ROSARY will be recited in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, every evening at 7pm.

VOCATIONS SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH: Holy Hour, Adoration, and Prayer for Vocations Every Friday at 3PM in the Parish Church.

LEGION OF MARY invites you to join us every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Prayer Hall as we come together in prayer and service to Our Lady.

COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP: Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp. For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome

RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an Irish-run Catholic talk radio station offering commercial-free prayer, catechesis, music, talks, and interviews. Listen anytime on Saorview Channel 210, our free app, online at radiomaria.ie, or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

ST. PADRE PIO FEAST – St. Mary's Church Edenderry Tues. 23rd Sept at 7.30pm After mass St. Pio's glove will be available for all who wish to be blessed.

ROSARY AT THE GROTTA Rosary 1st Sunday of the Month at 2.30pm at the Shrine at Top Square.



We are so blessed in our parish to have so many dedicated people who volunteer in the ministries of the Church. There are two ministries where we could always have more of you involved.

If you are interested please tick one or more of the ministries and include your name, phone number and email address and we will be in contact with you shortly about upcoming training.

Please Tick ✓

Reader at Mass	
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion	

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Return this Form to the Parish Office

I give Portlaoise Parish permission to contact me in relation to the relevant ministry activities ☐



Do you want to become an Altar Server?

Were you an Altar Server before?

Or are you currently an Altar Server?

Are in third class and upwards?

**If so, you and a parent/guardian
are welcome to a brief information meeting
in the Parish Church
on Saturday 27th of September at 2pm.**



*Our Prayers are asked
for those who recently died*



Ann Holohan
(née Kelly)
Beladd, Portlaoise &
Castlecomer, Kilkenny

Thomas McCormack
The Grange, Portlaoise &
Naas, Co. Kildare



Maria Alberta (Mary) Brophy
(née McCormack)
Portlaoise / Mountrath / West Yorkshire

Agnes McEvoy
(née Dollard)
Marian Avenue, Portlaoise



Michael Sims
Thornberry, Abbeyleix

Michael (Mick) Hogan
late of Shanahoe, Abbeyleix
formerly Co. Clare



Mary Patricia Lally
(née Behan)
Ballyroan, Laois,
formerly of Bray

*May They Rest In Peace,
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families*

In Loving Memory of
A Wonderful Son
CATHAL LALOR

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

25th Anniversary occurs 29th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Saturday 27th**
September at 6.30pm.



As day dawns and starts anew
As each day ends we think of you
And in between no matter where
Deep in our hearts you are always there.
Sadly missed by your loving family
Rest in Peace Cathal

In Loving Memory of
JOE MURPHY

22nd Anniversary occurs on 26th September 2025.



When ties of love are broken
And loved ones have to part
It leaves a wound that never heals
In an ever-aching heart.
Loved and missed always Dad.
Your loving daughter Yvonne,
son in law Mark and family.
Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
**KATHLEEN
LYNCH**

Mountrath Rd. Portlaoise.
31st Anniversary occurred
18th September.



Thinking of you today
and always.
From all your loving family
Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of
DARREN BREEN

1st Anniversary away from home 21st September 2025.



Dar
His laughter felt like sunshine,
His smile always bright.
But then life played the
Cruellest trick and took his life away,
You are missed and loved
Every minute of every day Dar.
Love Ma xxx
Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

DARREN (HAGI) BREEN

1st Anniversary occurs on 21st September 2025

Grief never ends, but it changes
It's a passage, not a place to stay.
Grief is not a sign of weakness
Nor a lack of faith
It is the price of love

*Loved and missed by your brother Mark,
sister-in-law Yvonne and family.*

Rest in Peace Darren



In Loving Memory of

JOSEPH MURPHY

1st Anniversary occurs 19th September 2025.

We hold you close within our hearts
And there you shall remain
To walk with us throughout our lives

Until we meet again.

*Loved and missed your sister Yvonne,
Brother in law Mark and family.*

May Joseph Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

PATRICK SCULLY

Millbrook, Portlaoise

1st Anniversary occurs 26th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Saturday 27th
September at 6.30pm.**

Your memory is our keepsake
From which we never part.
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our hearts.

Forever cherished, never forgotten.

Loved forever Sharon, Cliff, Ryan, Kate and Emma xxx

Rest in Peace Pat



In Loving Memory of

WILLIAM READY

Formerly O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs
23rd September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Tuesday
23rd September at 10am.**

Say not in grief 'he is no more'
but in thankfulness that he was.

Always remembered by his loving family.

Rest in Peace William



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

For a much-loved Mum in Heaven

In Loving Memory of a very dear Mum

ELIZABETH (MARY) MCEVOY (NÉE RYAN)

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.

22nd September 1941.

11th Birthday away from home occurs Mon. 22nd September 2025



Happy Birthday to My Lovely Mum in Heaven

Our time together was special, so were the memories we made,
And although you live in heaven now, those memories never fade.
I bow my head in silence, remembering my Mum with love,
And I now that you are up there watching from above.
You'll always be remembered, and time may heal my heart,
But a piece of me is missing since the day we had to part.
If heaven is for angels, I know that's where you'll be,
And I know that you'll be waiting when heaven calls for me.

Mum

It's your birthday and though you are not here,
I want to wish you a very happy 84th birthday in heaven.
Heaven shines a little brighter today in honor of your special day.
Happy birthday Mum.

A special memory on your 84th birthday in Heaven Mum

What once was such a happy day, brings many painful sorrows,
A day when silent tears are shed, for all your lost tomorrows.
No special birthday cards or gifts, just a message fond and true
To say that not a day goes by, without precious thoughts of you.
And as time passes by it seems you are missed more and more,
But I know you're with the angels and you are being care for.

Thinking of you on your birthday

It's especially difficult today, not to have you here
To celebrate the times we've shared over another joyful year.
I wish I had just one more chance to see your happy smile,
To laugh and celebrate with you just for a little while.
I'll hold onto forever deep within my heart,
And though you are not here with me Know that we'll never part.
This day was always special, so I just want to say
That I'm thinking of you with love,
On this, your birthday.

Happy 84th Birthday in Heaven Mum

I'm thinking of you every day, since you went away.
I know you're there to stay, and I'll be there with you someday.
You can show me the way and I'll have a lot to say.
Happy heavenly birthday my dearest Mother
Your spirit is with me today and always.

With love from James xxx

Birthday Remembrance Mass for Elizabeth Mary McEvoy will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Mon. 22nd Sept. at 10am.**

May my dearest Mother Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of our Daddy

**KENNETH (KEN)
CLEAR**

44 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Whose 54th birthday occurs on the 22nd
September 2025

12th birthday away from home.

Wishing you were here today, for just a little while,
So we could say Happy Birthday Daddy and see your loving smile.
The only gifts today will be memories you left behind,
Of laughter, joy and happiness that echo in our minds.
We'll gaze upon pictures; we'll think of you with love,
And hope you're doing fine in Heaven up above.
You were very kind and thoughtful, with a loving heart.
When other people needed help, you always played your part.
You're thought of every single day, whatever time of year,
But somehow more than ever, now your special day is here.
No presents can be given and that's really very sad
But nothing will stop us saying "Happy 54th Birthday" Dad.
Each memory is shining bright and treasured dearly too
Memories will never take the place of someone as wonderful as you.
May our friends and family in Heaven,
hold you close and sing you a birthday song.
We will be sending a million hugs and kisses today and all year long.

*You are never more than a thought away;
we love and miss you everyday.*

Lots of love, Becky, Dylan and your grandson Tommy.

Happy 54th Birthday Daddy



In Loving Memory of
**DARREN (HAGI)
BREEN**

1st Anniversary occurs
21st September 2025.

Daddy, today I pay tribute
To the extraordinary man that you were
Kind, Loving, Charismatic,
Positive, Bright.

On this your 1st anniversary
Away from home,
Your love and strength
Continue to be my light.

I miss every laugh and
Every moment we shared.
You were one in a billion,
Unique. Exceptional. Rare.

Love always, Joshua

May Darren Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

MARY CARROLL

Ballyglishen, Ballyroan



Mary's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyroan on
Sunday 28th September at 9.30am.

Mary's family would like to express their sincere thanks to
all who supported them during their recent loss. We are
deeply grateful to everyone who attended Mary's wake,
funeral Mass and burial. Also, to those who sent Mass
Cards, messages of sympathy and online condolences.

A heartfelt thank you to Kelly's Funeral Directors for their
compassion and guidance throughout.

Our appreciation extends to the staff of Brookhaven
Nursing Home in Ballyragget for the care and kindness
shown to Mary during her illness. We wish to thank
Margaret from Home Care who looked after Mary in the
early part of her illness.

A sincere thank you to Fr. Paddy Byrne for celebrating
Mary's funeral Mass in such a meaningful and respectful
way. To Richie and Nora – a heartfelt thank you for all
your help and kindness.

We are grateful to the Ballyroan Choir for the beautiful
hymns and music they provided during the funeral Mass
and to the Ballyroan Retirement Group for taking the
time out to form a guard of honour.

Please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our deep
appreciation and gratitude, as it is impossible to thank
everyone individually.

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered for your intentions.*

Rest In Peace Mary

In Loving Memory of
DARREN (HAGI) BREEN

Hillview Drive

1st Anniversary occurs on 21st September 2025.

Mass will be celebrated Sunday 21st at 12.30pm in Sts Peter & Paul's Parish Church.



The next time that I meet you
Will be at heaven's door
You'll be there to meet me
And I will cry no more.
I'll put my arms around you
And kiss your lovely face
And then this broken heart of mine
Will fall back into place.

*Loved and missed always by his heartbroken wife Olivia,
his 7 children and all his grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MAUREEN REYNOLDS

Beladd Upper, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 23rd September 2025.

Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, 21st
September at 12.30pm.**



Though you are far from home, our hearts are with
you, Mum. We remember your gentle love and the
joy you brought to all who knew you.

*Deeply loved and sadly missed every day by her husband Robert (Bob), her
daughter Sophia, her son Shane, the extended family, and her many friends.*

Forever in Our Hearts, Dearest Mum

Your love was a light that gently led us,
Your smile was a warmth that filled our days.
Your touch, so soft, yet strong with comfort,
Still lingers in a thousand ways.
No words could ever truly capture
The ache we feel since you've been gone.
We miss you more with every heartbeat,
And carry you as we walk on.
You live in all the quiet moments,
In whispered winds and skies of blue.
Not a day goes by, dear Mum,
That we don't think of you.

In Loving Memory of
**BETTY (ELIZABETH)
MCNALLY (NÉE MCEVOY)**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 23rd September 2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday
28th September at 12.30pm.**

*Dearly missed by all her loving family
Deirdre & Bibo, Imelda & Joe,
Frank & Siobhan, Tom & Sinead
Rachel & Gary, Nicole & Ryan,
Frank Jr. Harry, Amy, Joe, Cathal,
Finn, Chris, Eimear, Jake and Scott*

Rest in Peace Betty

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND
MONTH'S MIND**

In Loving Memory of

TOMMY O'BRIEN



Tommy's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on
Sunday 28th September at 12:30pm in the Parish
Church.

Tommy's wife Kathleen and his family would like to
thank all those who sympathised and supported them
through their recent sad loss.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended Tommy's
rosary, funeral mass and burial. Also, to those who
travelled long distances, sent mass cards, phone calls,
messages and condolences online, thank you.

We particularly appreciate the kindness shown to us
by family, relatives, neighbours and friends
near and far at this time.

A sincere thank you to Fr Alex who concelebrated
Tommy's Funeral Mass showing such warmth and respect.
A heartfelt thank you to James O'Connor and Aisling
Rohan for the beautiful hymns and music at the
Funeral Mass.

We wish to thank Matthew and David (Keegan's
Undertakers) for their professionalism
and guidance throughout.

We would also like to sincerely thank the Nursing Staff,
Palliative Care Team and General Staff of the Midland's
Regional Hospital Portlaoise for their care and kindness
to Tommy and to us in his final days.

A very special word of thanks to Karina Boyhan who went
above and beyond her duties to help us care for Tommy.
To Mavis, Aoife, Alena and the Staff of The Residence
Nursing Home, we will be forever grateful for the care
and kindness you have shown Tommy during his time
with you. It was his home away from home.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually,
please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of
our heartfelt appreciation.

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered for your intentions*

Rest In Peace Tommy

In Loving Memory of

ETHNEA COSTELLO

Guileen, Stradbally and Kilminchy, Portlaoise.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Saturday 27th September at 10am.**

One day a beam of light shone through a crevice that had opened wide,
The rose bent gently towards its warmth,
then passed beyond to the other side.

Lovingly remembered by her son Kevin and her family and friends.

Rest in Peace Ethnea

In Loving Memory of

BETTY (ELIZABETH) MCNALLY (NÉE MCEVOY)

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs
23rd September 2025



Our thoughts are ever with you,
Though you have passed away,
And those who have loved you dearly,
Are thinking of you today.

*Sadly missed by your loving sister Mary,
brother-in-law Jimmy and family.*

Rest in Peace Betty

In Loving Memory of

ANNE E. CONROY

3 Rockdale, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

12th Anniversary occurs at this time.



12th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Arles on **Sunday 28th September at 10am.**

Will those who think of Anne today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.

Greatly missed by Noel, your loving brothers, sisters and all your extended family.

May Anne Rest in Peace



Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

RICHIE GRAHAM

Ridge Rd, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs 24th September 2025.

And his wife

PHYLLIS GRAHAM

33rd Anniversary occurs 1st October 2025.

Anniversary Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Wednesday 24th at 10am.**

Time unfolds another year,

Memories keep you very near,

No need for words except to say,

You are loved and missed each passing day.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
Cora, John, Ciara, Darragh, Seamus and all their
loving family.*



May Richie & Phyllis Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

SEAN O'REILLY

Borris Road, Portlaoise.

17th Anniversary occurs 24th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 27th September at 6.30pm.**

There are some we meet in passing,

And forget as soon as they go,

There are some we remember with pleasure
And feel honoured and privileged to know.

You were that kind of person

Who left beautiful memories behind,

And there are many days

Which bring fond memories of you to mind.

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Nancy,
sons Aidan and Noel and all his family, extended family & friends.*



Rest in Peace Sean

In Loving Memory of

DARREN (HAGI) BREEN

1st Anniversary away from home

21st September 2025.

One year has passed, yet still you stay,

In every dawn, in each new day.

With rod and reel, you cast your line,

Among the stars, the rivers shine.

The woods still whisper

Where you'd roam,

But heaven's waters are now your home.

Gone too soon, yet love won't fade

Hagi, in our hearts you've stayed.

*Sadly missed, loved and always remembered.
From your sisters, brother & their families.*

Rest in Peace Hagi





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&

Wed 1st, Tues 2nd Oct '25

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Portlaoise Group Ireland

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025

Portlaoise Group Lourdes Pilgrimage

9th – 13th September 2025

All donations from parishioners for City of the Poor and Poor Clare's were delivered.

The proceeds from our draw were given to 3 Charities:

The City of the Poor, The Poor Clare's and a €500 donation for Palestinian Families.

We would like to thank all who gave us prizes for the draw:

Joe Walsh Tours, Modern Tyres, Park Hotel, Emperors Palace, First Choice Tiles, Hughes Pharmacy, SV. Mulhalls, Fruit & Nut Lester Sq., Pat Egan Music Promoter and 4 anonymous donors.

All candles were lit and petitions delivered.

We the committee would like to thank all who helped make this a wonderful pilgrimage.

Thanks to our Priests Fr. Jim O'Reilly & Fr. Tom McGree for leading us on our Pilgrimage.





VISITORS FROM L.A.

Members of the Gonzalez, Dung, Tiglao-Smith Families who visited us last Sunday from Los Angeles. They have been joining us virtually since Covid.



Every Thursday and Friday Night in St. Mary's Hall

Starts 8pm

Buses collecting from their usual pick-up points in the Portlaoise area at 7:30pm.

Portlaoise Parish

Results for

18th September 2025



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Sharon Greene
Tony Gorman
Paul Dooley
Geraldine Maloney
Liga Dreimane
Cora Carroll
Carmel & Sean
Karen O' Mahoney
Alan Curran
Kam O'Connor
Ruth Hipwell

MATCH 3s €1,000

**11
Match
3s
Receive
€91
each**

PROMOTER

Tanya Moore
Paul Dooley
Paul Dooley
Lucy Kelly
James Holohan
Geraldine O'Neill
Carmel Whelan
Paul Dooley
Veronica Curran
Paceilli Walsh
M Farrell

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Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only Tel: 0852134285

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparish

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church and the Heath Church are live streamed on our website



LINK UP

Monday to Thursday

9am to 5pm

Contact: Mary Schwer

057-8692154

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8:4-7

Responsorial Psalm 112:1-2, 4-8

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16:1-13

Supporting our Parish

Each one must give as he or she has decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver 2 Corinthians 9:7

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

- * Making your offering in the boxes at the Church entrances
- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
 - * Direct payment by cheque or cash
 - * Cashless tap facility at Parish Church
 - * Donation facility on our website
- * Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
- * Or Transfer directly to our Account

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

Scan this QR Code to take you directly to our Donate facility



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