

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
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Up**

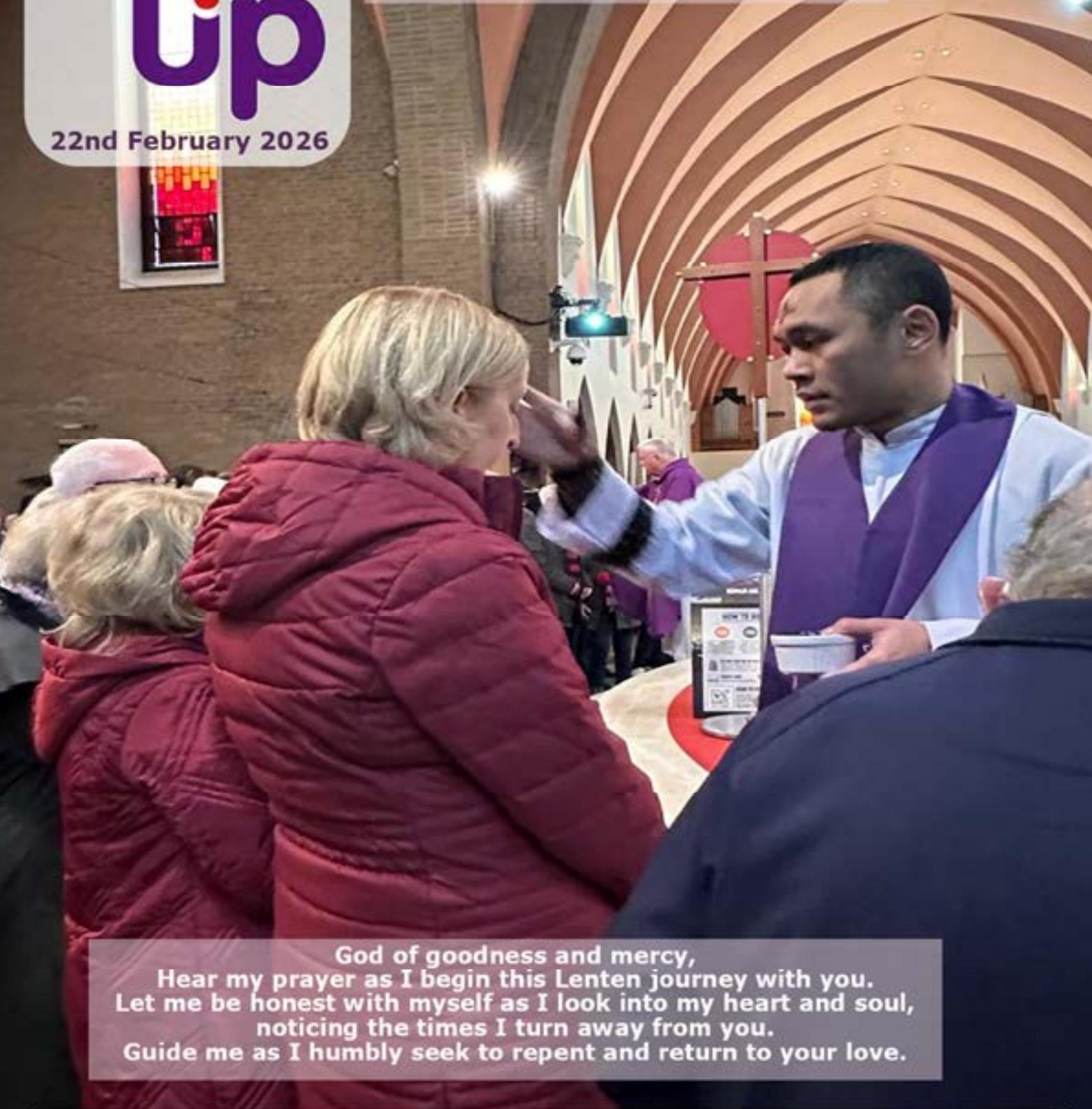
22nd February 2026

**First Sunday of Lent**

*'Come back to me with all your heart'*

The call of Lent and the opening line of the Readings  
for Mass on Ash Wednesday.

**40  
Days**



**God of goodness and mercy,  
Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you.  
Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul,  
noticing the times I turn away from you.  
Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.**

**The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)**

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**Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)**



## Daily Choices

Famous artists depict Satan as a winged demon with goat horns and cloven hooves. If the devil really presented temptation to us in this obvious guise, we would easily be able to recognise and resist it. Sadly that is not the case. We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. Temptation does not come with all the easily recognisable trappings of Satan. More often or not temptation comes as an attractive choice. Satan presents for us easy ways out of our problems. Satan dresses up poor decisions as sensible options. Worse, the devil will help us to justify our poor decision making until we reach a point where we really cannot tell right from wrong.

Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self interest. Self interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"



### Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

#### Monday - Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

#### Saturday: 10am

#### Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH  
Sunday: 9.30am

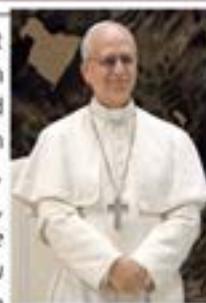
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA  
Sunday: 10am  
CONFESSIONS

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



### Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings during Lent  
after 7.30pm Mass in Parish Church.



Charity is not optional but a requirement of true worship. St John Chrysostom (347–407) vehemently denounced excessive wealth connected with indifference for the poor. *'It is very cold, and the poor man lies in rags, dying, freezing, shivering, with an appearance and clothing that should move you. You often adorn an unfeeling corpse, which no longer understands honour, with many varied and gilded garments. Yet you despise the one who feels pain, who is torn apart, tortured, tormented by hunger and cold.'* This profound sense of social justice leads him to affirm that 'not giving to the poor is stealing from them, defrauding them of their lives, because what we have belongs to them.'

Pope Leo XIV *Dilexi Te, Love for the Poor*



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.

**Thank You!**

### LENTEN STATIONS

#### For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.

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**ALL CLASSES HAVE RESUMED FOR 2026**

*In Clinic:*

Senior exercise class Tues. at 11am  
Online Pilates every Wed. at 9.30am  
Osteoporosis class every Wed. 10.30am



Osteoporosis class every Thurs. at 4pm  
Men's health and fitness every Thurs at 10am

*In Parish Centre*

Mon. morn. Osteoporosis class at 9.30am  
Intermediate Pilates class Monday evening at 6pm  
Beginners Pilates class Mon. evening at 7pm

**NEW BLOCKS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**IF YOU WISH TO ENQUIRE ABOUT  
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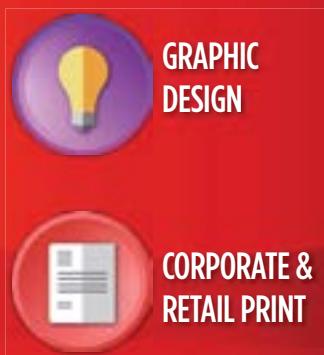
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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY

Top score: Liam McCarthney. 1st Lady: Margaret Flanagan. 2nd Lady: Teresa Mulhare. 1st Gent: Mary Delaney. 2nd Gent: Tom Gowing. 1st Half: Terry Dunne. 2nd Half: Shiela Duff. Raffle: 1st Betty Murphy, 2nd Mary Delaney, 3rd Catherine Fitzpatrick, 4th Catherine Galvin. *Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new players always welcome, lessons available if required. Contact 086 8812228*

**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.

**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.

**CHESS GAMES FOR ADULTS** in Portlaoise in Kavanagh's bar every two weeks. More information about our chess club: <https://www.meetup.com/social-chess-club-in-portlaoise/>

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT** BOWLS IN ST MARY'S HALL from 2-4 pm new members welcome tuition given. Wednesday 25th February afternoon of fun sport from 3pm in Parish Centre - new members welcome. Thursday 26th February in Sue Ryder centre Kilminchy cards and chat from 3pm new members welcome tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 0879187157.

**SOCIAL DANCING** Come join us for 6 weeks of Social Sequence Dancing at Seanchistin, Ballyfin, R32X5D6 commencing Monday Jan.12th at 11a.m. Waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, jive, tango etc. supported by Laois Sports Partnership. Total cost 20 euro. Contact Maureen 0876482038 or [cslattery@laoissports.ie](mailto:cslattery@laoissports.ie). All are welcome.

**SOCIAL AND SEQUENCE DANCING** continues each Monday 11a.m. Seanchistin, Ballyfin, R32X5D6. Come and dance waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, jive, tango etc. with a difference. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Catriona Slattery at Laois Sports Partnership. Timetable at Seanchistin. Monday as above. Tuesday 11a.m. line dancing Wednesday 8pm.

Set Dancing Thursday 11a.m. music and movement for persons living with Parkinsons Thursday 8p.m. Line Dancing. Further details Maureen 0876482038.

**BRIDGE LESSONS** Contact Catherine 087-4121913.

**DAFFODIL DAY** is Ireland's largest flagship fundraising day - requires the support of volunteers across the country to coordinate the sale of Daffodil Day merchandise in their local community. If you are available to support us on Friday 20th March 2026 and would like to become a Daffodil Day Community Organiser, please contact Monica at [volunteer@irishcancer.ie](mailto:volunteer@irishcancer.ie).

**LAOIS OPEN DOOR THEATRE** Invites you to "Perfect Wedding" by Robin Hawdon, in the Dunamaise Arts Centre on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th February, at 8pm nightly. A hilarious comedy. A night of laughter and fun. So save the date.

**EPILEPSY** - In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie). Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

**ESCORTED TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO MAYO** 8th March 2026. €699.00 pps. Price includes return transport, 5 nights in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. Contact 094 900 6426 or 087 1890 236 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

## 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.

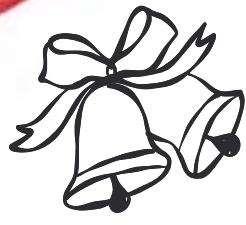
For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome.

**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](http://radiomaria.ie), or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

**DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE** RDS Dublin 28th February. Day return (from Portlaoise, motorway stop) by bus on Saturday 28th February. Exact times and locations closer to the date. Speakers include Fr. Jim Blount, Fr. John Keane, Roisin Doherty and Fr. Leon Pereira. Cost €70 to include bus & entry ticket. Contact only please via WhatsApp Karen 087-4160385 or Séamus 087-2752578 for enquiries and bookings. €40 deposit to secure place via revolut, paypal or post marked Divine Mercy Conference.

**M. NERNEY MEDJUGORJE GROUP PILGRIMAGE 2026**. Pilgrimage Date: October 14 - 21 2026. Depart Dublin to Dubrovnik, Cost €875 for 7 Days. Discount of €50 if Deposit of €200 paid by Jan 30th. Single Room Supplement €170. Insurance Optional. Spiritual Director Fr. Sean Hyland. Contact M Nerney 086 8157305 for Details.

**PORTLAOISE PARISH LOURDES COMMITTEE** are holding their Church Gate Collection this Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February. We thank you in advance for any contributions you can make to us at this time.



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**The Heath Parade**  
**17th March**

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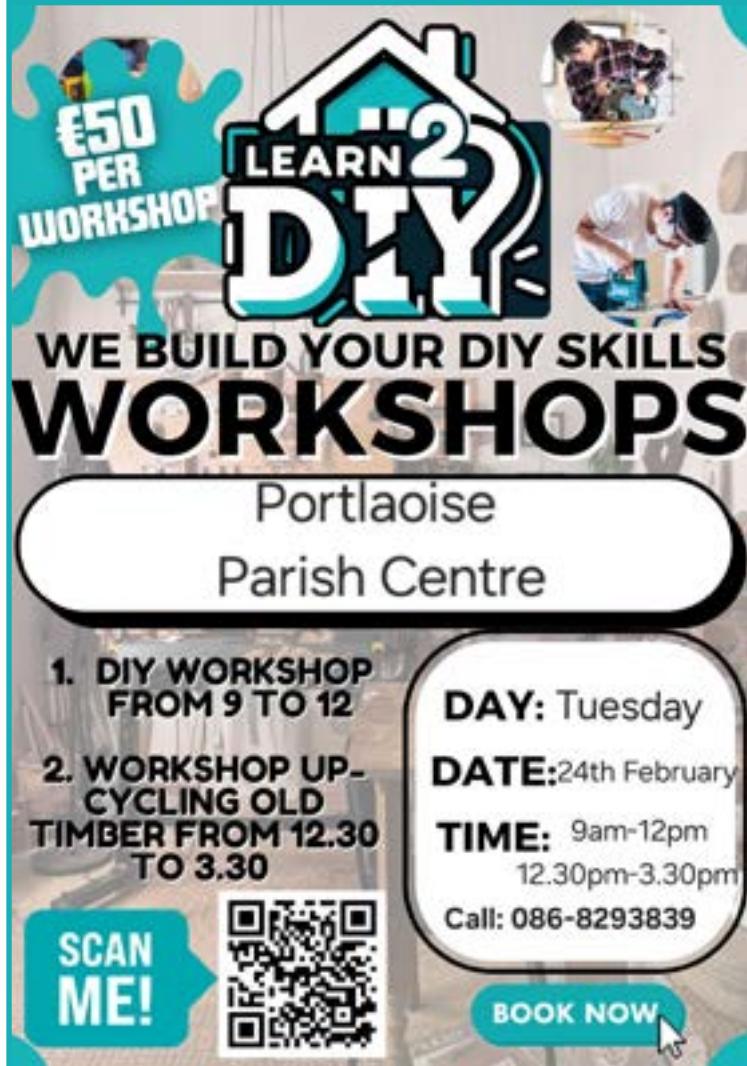
TO PARTICIPATE, YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE/DESIGN YOUR OWN BANNERS, FLOATS AND SIGNS.

THE PARADE WILL BEGIN AT THE HEATH GAA COMMUNITY HALL AT 8.45AM AND PROCEED TO THE HEATH CHURCH FOR 9.30AM MASS.

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**DAY:** Tuesday

**DATE:** 24th February

**TIME:** 9am-12pm  
 12.30pm-3.30pm

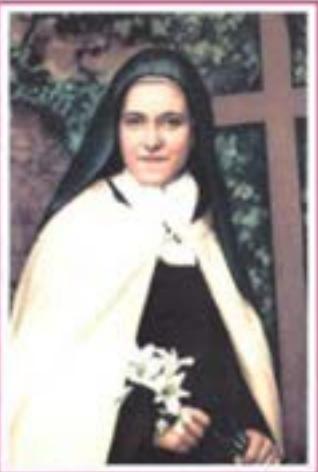
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Tuesday 17th March, 2026



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## Resisting Temptation

There was a bowl of sweets sitting on the coffee table in the living room of Mary's house. Mary's mother noticed that she was looking at the sweets and said, "Now, don't you eat any sweets until after dinner or you will spoil your appetite." The sweets looked so good and the temptation was so great. "Surely just one little piece won't hurt - and mother will never know the difference," Mary thought to herself.



Have any of you ever had an experience like that? Here is another story which might sound familiar. "Put away your books and take out one sheet of paper and a pencil," the teacher said. "We are going to take our weekly spelling test." Johnny had an empty feeling in the pit of his stomach. He knew that they were going to have a spelling test today, but he watched TV last night instead of studying for the spelling test and he wasn't ready for the test. As the test began, Johnny looked around the room and realised that he had a clear view of Sally's paper. "It won't hurt if I look at Sally's paper just this once," Johnny thought to himself. "I promise — I'll never do it again and nobody will ever know."

All of us have faced temptations such as these, haven't we? Did you know that Jesus was tempted just as we are? The Gospel tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with Scripture!

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days. He was hungry, and Satan knew he was hungry, so he said to him, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but he didn't. Instead, he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took Jesus up to a high place and showed him the worldly kingdoms below. "All of this belongs to me," he said. "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give it to you."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and led him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angels to rescue you."

Again, Jesus quoted the Scripture, "'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

Satan tempted Jesus just as he tempts you and me. Jesus resisted Satan's temptation, and we can too, by answering him with Scripture.



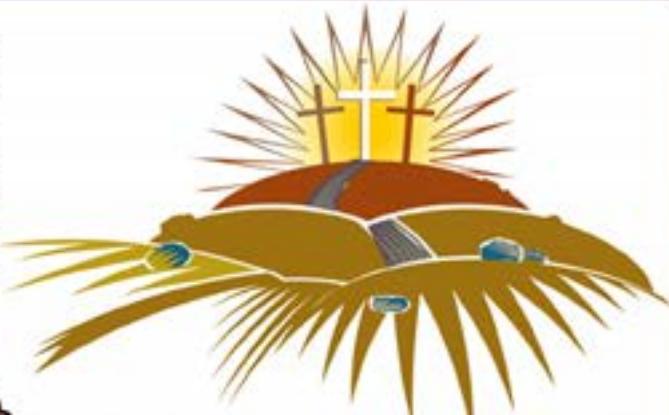
## My Prayer

Dear Father, help us to learn what the Bible teaches us to do so that when the devil tempts us, we can do what Jesus did — answer him with Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We know that Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and praying. During Lent we try to follow Jesus' example by doing something special to show how much we love him and want to be like him. This is not easy and sometimes it is difficult to decide what we want to do and even more difficult to keep doing it for forty days.

There are three things that we are asked to focus on during Lent.

They are:



# LENT

**PRAYING:** Spend a little more time with God.

**SACRIFICING:** Giving up something that you really like.

**ALMSGIVING:** Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.

## SOME OF THESE SUGGESTIONS MIGHT HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO:

I will share a smile

I will pray for those who are hungry

I will help my mammy

I will put some money in the Trócaire Box

I will write a letter to my 

I will pray for those who have died

I won't eat sweets

I will make a card for my granddad

I will play with my little brother/sister

I will help my teacher

I will share my lunch with my friend

I will clean my room without complaining

I will be patient

I will be kind to someone

I will make a card for my man-----

I will pray for those who are sick

I will eat my dinner



I will share my pencils with my friends

I will help clean the kitchen

I will put my litter in the bin

I will say thank you to Jesus

I will help mind the baby

I will do what my teacher asked

I will go to Mass

I will forgive someone who hurt me

I will call my grandparents

I will give my daddy a hug

I will pray for peace

I will read a story to my sister

I will say 'sorry'

I will share my toys

I will make my bed

I won't watch television

I will give away something that I like.

I'm sooooo sorry...



pray





# FROM VISION TO REALITY

## PLANNING APPROVED FOR

### DUNAMASE COLLEGE / COLÁISTE DHÚN MÁSC

Planning permission has been granted for Dunamase College/Coláiste Dhún Másc 9 years after the school was first established. This new, purpose-built secondary school is designed to accommodate up to 1,000 students, providing much-needed, modern post-primary facilities for the community.

The approved development will deliver a permanent school building that reflects both the scale of local demand and the educational needs of young people now and into the future, including dedicated accommodation for an Aonad Lán-Gaeilge as part of the school's bilingual identity.

In acknowledging the significant news, Joe Cunningham Chief Executive of LOETB said 'Laois and Offaly ETB is delighted to see planning permission granted for the new Dunamase College building—an essential step in supporting the school's continued growth. Dunamase College provides a dynamic learning environment where strong academic standards are enriched by opportunities in music, STEM projects, and a broad array of extracurricular activities. The Board of Management has been instrumental in championing the school's vision, and their support has been vital in reaching this milestone. The new building will allow Dunamase College to continue delivering excellence for generations of students.'

In congratulating the school on this important

development Linda Tynan, Director of Schools with LOETB, said 'The approval of planning permission for the new Dunamase College building is a hugely positive development for the entire school community. I want to pay particular tribute to the senior management team and staff, whose work is defined not only by high expectations for teaching and learning, but also by the deep personal knowledge they have of every single student.'

Their commitment to ensuring that each young person is known, supported, and encouraged is at the heart of the school's success and will continue into the future.

Speaking about the announcement, Principal Dympna Kelly said: 'This decision marks a major step forward, moving the project from long-term planning to a tangible and exciting reality.'

This is a really significant moment for our school and for the wider community. This school reflects a genuine and pressing need for a purpose-built post-primary school in the area. I want to sincerely thank everyone who has supported the school throughout this journey – particularly our parents, students and staff – for their patience, trust and belief. Their encouragement and confidence in the school helped keep the need for this development front and centre over many years.

While the decision is about a building, it's really about the future and about creating the space where our students can- Grow, Develop, Learn - Fás, Forbairt, Foghlaim It will also be a welcome space where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge can continue to grow and thrive.

I would like to thank Laois County Council for their work and engagement throughout the planning process, along with the Department of Education, the LOETB, CEO Joe Cunningham, Director of Schools Linda Tynan, Director of OSD Pam Nolan and the architects MCOH, our local councillors and ministers, who played a key role in bringing the project to this important milestone.

While a new building is something to celebrate, we are very conscious that a school is about much more than bricks and mortar. Over the past nine years, a strong sense of community, care and ambition has been built, and this new facility will allow that work to continue in a space that truly reflects the quality of education being provided.

This is a significant and hopeful moment for everyone connected with the school. We now look ahead with optimism to the next stage of the project and to continuing to build our future together.

**De réir a chéile  
a thógtar na caisleáin**



# Time to Think...

## Lent 2026 a time to grow and turn to the light



Lent 2026 is a sacred season that invites humanity to enter a time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and deeper conversion. In a world that can feel divided and noisy, Pope Leo XIV's message for Lent 2026, themed around "Listening and Fasting," offers a beautiful call to renewal. He encourages us to fast not only from food but from harmful words, unkindness, and division—choosing instead to listen attentively to God, to one another, and especially to those who suffer. By disarming our language and cultivating respect and hope, we make space for healing, peace, and the gentle presence of Christ's love. We live in an instant culture. Perhaps the greatest challenge of our time is to acquire the gift of patience. We don't do waiting very well. Easter eggs are readily available, since the end of December. The challenge of lent is to be countercultural. Perhaps a Lenten resolution for 2026, is to grow in the gift of patience. Some gifts are worth waiting for. Easter is one of them.

Lent is a season of reflection that leads us towards the three days of the Triduum, culminating with the celebration of Easter. It is a time to ask questions, a pause time on a journey, a time when we might re-examine the baggage we carry from month to month, maybe a time to lighten the load. A verse of a celebrated folk hymn, 'God's spirit is in my heart' has these words, "Don't carry a load in your pack, you don't need two shirts on your back, a workman can earn his own keep, can earn his own keep". That just about sums up the story of our journey. So, the signing of the cross on our foreheads, using ash from last year's burnt palms is a reminder of where we have come from and where we are headed and the ever-present need to take stock.

Lent is a time of return, when that which was lost is found again and a new beginning sought. The 'lost sheep' is a recurring symbol of our experience. A few years ago, I came across a solitary sheep cropping the roadside verge. It gave rise to these few lines.

"It had strayed beyond the barbed fence, head down, to graze the grass verge by the roadside.

Careless of traffic, a single sheep, carrying a rust-red stain of identity, had walked away from the field flock.

Slowly it cropped the road edge unhurried, waiting to be found". Saint Basil, known as the Great, was a fourth-century bishop of the Eastern Church who was known for his care for the poor.

He was also the writer of a monastic rule of life, which is still followed today by monks. He wrote a short piece on fasting, which can help us to a wider understanding of what it means: –

'Do not limit the benefits of fasting merely to abstinence from food, because a true fast means refraining from evil. Loose every unjust bond, put away your resentment against your neighbour, forgive him his offences. Do not let your fasting lead only to wrangling and strife. You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother; you abstain from wine, but not from insults. So, all the labour of your fast is useless.' (On Fasting, 1.10)

Maybe we could extend that idea a bit further. Why not do some of these?

Fast from anger and hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.

Fast from judging others. Before making judgments, recall how we wish God to overlook our faults.

Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that he has a mission for us in life. (Whatever you give up for Lent, don't let it be hope.)

Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, stop and recall some of the good things that happened to you in your life.

Fast from resentment and bitterness. Work on forgiving those who have hurt you.

Fast from spending too much money on yourself. Reduce your personal spending and spend instead on the poor, e.g. through Trócaire.

In Lent, don't just give up, take up. Take up prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Give up sin and take up repentance.

Lent is always an invitation to begin again. This is a time above all to build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Lent can be a most profound and liberating personal journey. Building a relationship that gifts our personal lives to hope and indulge in a most resilient confidence. A confidence that reminds us, no matter what happens we are not alone. The light of Christ is brighter than any clouds of despair or uncertainty. St. Paul reminds us, "With God on our side who can be against Us"

Make the most of this sacred season as an opportunity to grow in our humanity. The more we accept our wounded selves the more we grow in wholesomeness and peace of mind. When this happens our vision and perspective become positive and bright. The following is a lovely daily prayer for lent...

### I Will Turn

Lord, I will turn,  
Turn my face towards you.

I will lay before you the desert areas I hide  
And turn to soak in your refreshing words of life.

I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits  
And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love.

I will draw back from the harsh pull of media  
And turn to bathe in the gentle power of your Spirit.

Lord, today I turn my face towards you.

I will turn

To soak in your words of life,  
To rest in the warmth of your love,  
And to bathe in the power of your Spirit.



*Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died*



**Annie (Eithne)  
Boyle (née Devoy)**  
Kilmurray,  
Stradbally, Co. Laois



**Paddy (Patrick)  
Carroll**  
Knapton,  
Abbeyleix



**Martin O'Reilly**  
Dun Laoghaire  
formerly Dublin Rd  
& Market Square  
Portlaoise

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

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY & DOMINIC DUNNE**

Glendowns, Portlaoise.

Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 25th February 2026.  
Dominic's 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 22nd February at 11.15am.**



**In Loving Memory of  
PETER LALOR**  
The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.  
5th Anniversary occurs  
23rd February 2026.

Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church **Sat. 21st at 6.30pm.**

*Husband*

My love, losing you was hard,  
But living without you every day is the hardest  
My heart and soul still seeks for you  
But it knows that you are at peace in Heaven  
I miss you more than words can say.

*Forever loved and missed by your loving wife Jean xxxx*

*Rest in Peace Peter*



**Months Mind Remembrance  
In Loving Memory of  
FERGUS DEMPSEY**  
Glenbarrow, Portlaoise.  
Months Mind Mass will be celebrated  
in St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
**Saturday 28th February at 6.30pm.**

You always had a smile to share  
A laugh, a joke, a time to care  
A good life came to an end  
You died as you lived, everyone's friend.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his wife Margaret,  
daughters Martina, Lisa and Deborah and family.*

*Rest in Peace Fergus*



**In Loving Memory of  
MARY & DOMINIC DUNNE**

Glendowns, Portlaoise.

Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 25th February 2026.  
Dominic's 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 22nd February at 11.15am.**

*In loving memory of a special Mum*

The day you left and gained your wings,  
My heart just broke in two,  
I wish you could have stayed with me,  
But heaven needed you,  
You left me with the memories,  
And I love you dearly still,  
No matter how much time goes by,  
You know I always will,  
You were a very special person,  
With kindness in your heart,  
And the love we had together,  
Grows stronger now we're apart,  
I know I cannot bring you back,  
Although I wish it everyday,  
But a piece of me went with you,  
The day you went away.

*Dad*

Life is but a stopping place,  
A pause in what's meant to be,  
A resting place along the road,  
To sweet eternity.  
We all have different journeys,  
Different paths along the way.  
We are all meant to learn some things,  
But never meant to say.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your sons  
Joe & Dominic, daughters Teresa, Anne & Jacinta Bryan,  
sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren &  
great-grandchildren.*

*May They Rest in Peace*



**Acknowledgement & Months Mind**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
***PATRICIA (PAT)***  
***BANNON***

Died January 24th 2026.  
 Newpark, Portlaoise and formerly of  
 Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Pat's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter and Paul's Church on **Saturday 21st February at 6:30pm**.

The family of the late Pat wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported, sympathised with, and called during our very sudden and sad loss.

We are deeply appreciative of the kindness and support of Pat's many dear relatives, neighbours, friends, and former colleagues who travelled long distances to attend at the Funeral Home, Pat's funeral Mass, and burial.

We want to give a special word of thanks to the many fellow archers from IFAF Clubs around the country who travelled and provided a Guard of Honour for Pat at her funeral.

Thank you to all who called, rang, texted, sent Mass cards, flowers, sympathised and shared treasured stories and memories of Pat online and in person with us.

Your kind support shown to us has been of immense comfort to us all at this very sad time.

We would most sincerely like to thank Monsignor Byrne, the priests of the parish,

Declan, Michelle and the staff of the Parish Centre for all their help and assistance, Fr. Erick Ebot for the Anointing of the Sick, and for praying with us at Mam's passing,

Fr. Ciprian Matei for celebrating requiem Mass and his heartfelt homily.

Fr. Celsus Tierney and Fr. Tom Ryan who travelled from Holycross Abbey to concelebrate Mass, and to Fr. Petru Medves from Abbeyleix, and Sr. Julie and Sr. Sybil for assisting with the Mass.

To Heather Fogarty and to Pat's dear friends in the Parish Choir, thank you so much for uplifting the celebration of the Mass with your beautiful music and singing.

Sincere thanks to Undertakers Matthew Keegan and David Goode for the professionalism, courtesy, and kindness shown while guiding us through Pat's final journey, and to John Delaney of the Parish Pastoral Team for leading the Rosary.

Thank you to Brendan and Adrian Dunne, the gravediggers, and Bosco, Sharon and Rosie for the refreshments after the burial.

A word of thanks to Dr. Lawlor and the staff of the Cedar Clinic, and to Deirdre, Jim, and all the staff of Hughes Pharmacy for their care and attention over the years.

Thank you most sincerely to the Nurses, Doctors, and Staff of Accident & Emergency and the Intensive Care Unit of Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise for the exceptional care and attention, you gave Pat, and the compassion and kindness shown to us, this will never be forgotten.

*It would be impossible to thank everyone individually who helped, supported or lent assistance to us at this time.*

*Please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest and most sincere gratitude to you all.*

*The Holy Sacrifice of Mass has been offered for all your intentions.*

*Rest in Peace Pat*

**In Loving Memory of**  
***MARY KATE (KITTY)***  
***McCORMACK***

Late of Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.



Who died 20th February, 1984.

Whose 42nd anniversary occurs at this time.

Time may pass and fade away,  
 But silent thoughts and memories stay.

*Loved and always remembered by all your family.*

*Rest in Peace Mary Kate*



**In Loving Memory of**  
***PADDY CLOONEY***

Shanahoe Rd, Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix.  
 3rd Anniversary  
 20th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will take place in Church of The Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, at 5pm Saturday 21st February.

Your memory is a keepsake from which we'll never part.  
 God has you in His arms; we have you in our hearts.

*Always remembered never forgotten by your daughters Anne & Patricia, sons-in-law Eamon & Aidan & grandchildren Roisin, Tommy, Sean & Conall.*

*Rest in Peace Paddy*



**In Loving Memory of**  
***BREDA DUNNE***  
***(NÉE WHELAN)***

Capoley, Portlaoise.  
 3rd Anniversary occurs 3rd March 2026.  
 Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise, Sunday 1st March at 11.15am.

A daily thought, a silent tear,  
 Always wishing you were here.  
 Life goes on, we know that's true,  
 But never the same since losing you.  
 Loving you always, forgetting you never.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by her husband Liam, son Declan, daughter-in-law Maeve, grandchildren Cillian and Aoife, sister Mary, brother John, extended family and friends.*

*May Breda Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**ELIZABETH (LIL)  
GALLAGHER**

Mosse Lane, Portlaoise. Died 25th February 1999.  
27th Anniversary occurs at this time.

O far the touch of a vanished hand,  
And the sound of a voice that is still.

*Also remembering George who died 27th November 2025  
Always loved and remembered by Frank and Mary.*

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*



In Loving Memory of  
**MICHAEL RIGNEY**

St. Brigid's Place.  
10th Anniversary occurred  
18th February 2026.

No words can tell, no tears express,  
The love, the loss, the emptiness.

You are not just a memory or part of the past,  
You are ours to remember, as long as life lasts.

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by your loving sons, family & friends.*

*May Mick Rest in Peace*

Birthday Remembrance  
In Loving Memory of

**ANTHONY REDDIN**

Whose birthday occurs  
25th February 2026 (68 years).

God, Grant me the serenity  
To accept the things  
I cannot change,  
Courage to change  
The things I can,  
and Wisdom to know the difference.

*Love, Son Cole.*

*Rest in Peace Anthony*



In Loving Memory of  
**JOHN KELLEHER**

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.  
Whose Anniversary occurs 23rd February.  
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Monday**  
**23rd February at 10am.**

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

*Always remembered by his family and friends.  
Also remembering John's wife Theresa at this time.*

*May John Rest in Peace*



Acknowledgement & Months Mind  
In Loving Memory of  
**FRANCIS (FRANK)  
TYNDALL**

Cois na hAbhainn, Portlaoise.

Frank's family would like to thank most sincerely all those who supported us and sympathised with us during our recent very sad loss.

Thanks to all who attended Frank's wake and requiem Mass, to those who expressed condolences, sent messages, Mass cards, flowers and kept us in their thoughts and prayers.

We would like to thank Fr. Adriano and Fr. Eric for celebrating Frank's funeral Mass.

Our thanks to Elaine & Theresa for the beautiful music and singing.

Our thanks to Keegan's Funeral Directors for their professional service and to the grave diggers for preparing Frank's final resting place.

Thank you to our extended family, relatives and friends for their ongoing help and support to us.

To the extremely hardworking staff across the board of the Midlands Regional Hospitals in Portlaoise and Tullamore.

We really appreciate the attentive treatment Frank received as well as the support shown to us.

To the Palliative Care Nurse Olive, the Muiríosa Foundation, the Residence Nursing Home, Home Help Team, Public Health Team who cared and supported Frank with great care and kindness.

To the doctors and staff at the Cedar Clinic Portlaoise and Dr. Marese Murphy in Clann Medical Clinic and to Hughes Pharmacy for all their support and kindness.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our appreciation and gratitude.

*Rest in Peace Frank*



**Acknowledgement & Months Mind**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOHN O'SHEA**  
**Birchgrove, Portlaoise.**

The Months Mind Mass for John will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church on **Sunday 22nd February 2026 at 12.30pm.**

We, the family of the late John O'Shea, wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who sympathised with us on our recent bereavement.

We are deeply grateful to our extended family, friends, neighbours and colleagues who attended the Rosary and Requiem Mass, sent messages of condolence, sympathy cards and flowers, and supported us in so many ways during this difficult time.

Your kindness and support meant more to us than words can express.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Professor Ravi and his team at St. James's Hospital, Dublin, the Palliative Care Team at Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, and the staff at the Maryborough Practice, for the exemplary care, compassion and dignity shown to John during his brief illness.

Your professionalism and kindness made an immeasurable difference, for which we will be forever grateful.

A special word of thanks to Fr. Ciprian Matei for celebrating a beautiful and dignified Requiem Mass, and to Heather Fogarty for providing a fitting and moving musical tribute in John's memory.

Our sincere gratitude is also extended to Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors for their professional, compassionate and dignified handling of the funeral arrangements.

*As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our deepest gratitude.*

*Rest in Peace John*



**In Loving Memory of  
Our Dear Parents**

***TOM & MOIRA  
WALSHE***

Laurel Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.  
 Whose Anniversaries occur at this time.  
 Tom's 3rd Anniversary occurs 24th February.  
 Moira's 5th Anniversary occurs 28th March.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Pauls Church this **Saturday 21st of February at 6:30pm.**

You left us special memories,  
 Your love is still our guide,  
 And though we cannot see you,  
 You are always by our side.

*Sadly missed and forever loved by your family and friends.*

*May Tom & Moira  
Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
NANCY (JOHANNA)  
HORAN**

late of 23 Grattan Street, Portlaoise.  
 Whose 13th anniversary occurs on 2nd March.

Anniversary Mass for Nancy & Shiela will be in St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise on **Saturday 28th Feb at 6.30pm Mass.**

*Mammy*

Of all the special gifts in life  
 However great or small,  
 To have you as our Mother  
 Was the greatest gift of all.

May the winds of love blow softly  
 And whisper in your ear  
 "We love and miss you Mother  
 And wish that you were here"

*Sadly missed & forever loved.  
Hannah, Andy, Cian, Pat, Fiona, Jason & Rachel.*

*Also remembering Shiela Horan, late of 9 Grattan Street  
whose anniversary occurs on 9th March.*

*Rest in Peace Nancy*



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  
In Loving Memory of  
**ORLA CONROY-  
KELLY**

25 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.  
10th Birthday in Heaven occurs 25th  
February 2026.

Are there birthdays in Heaven?  
Does the angel blow his horn?  
Announcing to everybody,  
That this is the day you were born.  
Can the stars be your balloons  
And angel food your cake?  
Presents wrapped in moon beams,  
All the angels helped to make.  
Birthdays meant so much to you,  
They were always a big deal,  
Birthday presents, lots of friends  
And perhaps a special meal.  
So we'll whisper a little prayer today,  
Asking everyone up above,  
To sing you a happy birthday song  
And give you all our love.

*Happy birthday Doll, loved and missed more everyday.  
Lots of love from your loving family, children Lydian  
& Paddy, and grandchildren.*

*May Orla Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**SEAN & UNA MCEVOY**

Clontygar, Acragar, Co. Laois and  
formerly Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

Sean's 11th Anniversary occurs 20th February 2026.  
Una's 23rd Anniversary occurs 24th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on **Saturday 21st February at 6.30pm**.

Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently I gather and treasure them all,  
Unseen, unheard, you are always near,  
So missed, so loved, so very dear.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by  
all their loving family and friends.*

*May They Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**ALICE MCEVOY**  
(NÉE TOBIN)

Dysart, Portlaoise.  
4th Anniversary occurs  
22nd February 2026.

Also remembering Patrick McEvoy, Dysart, Portlaoise  
who died on 22nd July 1987.

Will those who think of them today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by Bernard,  
Robert, Caroline, Kathleen, Margaret, Marie,  
extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Alice and Patrick*



20th ANNIVERSARY  
In Loving Memory of a dear  
Wife & Mother

**GERALDINE  
CORRIGAN**  
(NÉE FARRELL)

Rockdale, Portlaoise, who died 23rd February 2006.

We hold you close within our hearts  
And there you shall remain,  
To walk with us throughout our lives,  
Until we meet again.

We miss your smile, your loving ways,  
We miss the things you use to say,  
And when old times we do recall,  
It's then we miss you most of all.

*Always remembered by Michael, Brian, Michelle & family.*

*May Geraldine Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of

**PAT REGAN**

Tea Lane, Portlaoise.  
3rd Anniversary occurs  
28th February 2026.

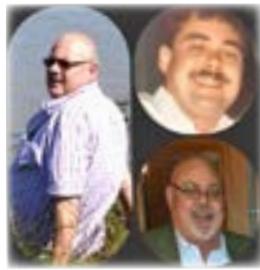
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, **Saturday 28th February at 6.30pm**.

Will those who think of Pat today,

A little prayer to Jesus and Mary say.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by  
his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Pat*



## In Loving Memory of **PETER LALOR**

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.  
5th Anniversary occurs  
23rd February 2026.

### *Brother*

No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye,  
You were gone before I knew it, and only God knows why.  
My heart still aches in sadness, and secret tears still flow,  
What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know.

*Loved and missed every day, Ger xx*

### *Brother / Uncle*

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear,  
How much we love and miss you, and wish that you were here.

*Love and miss you every day P  
Marie, Christy, Kyle and Finn xxxx*

### *Brother / Uncle*

To hear your voice, to see your smile,

To sit and talk to you a while,  
To be together in the same old way,  
Would be our greatest wish today.

*Loved and remembered always*

*Daithí, Mags, Shauna, Oisín and Cillian xxxx*

### *Rest in Peace Peter*

In Loving Memory of  
Our Loving Father

## **WILLIAM KERRY**

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise.  
27th Anniversary occurs  
19th February 2026.

Your gentle face and patient smile  
With sadness we recall,  
You had a kind word for each  
And died beloved by all.

*Sadly missed by your loving family.*

### *Rest in Peace William*

## **KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

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Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

**David 087-2369887**

# **HENRY RANKIN**

## **FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

**087-2562137**



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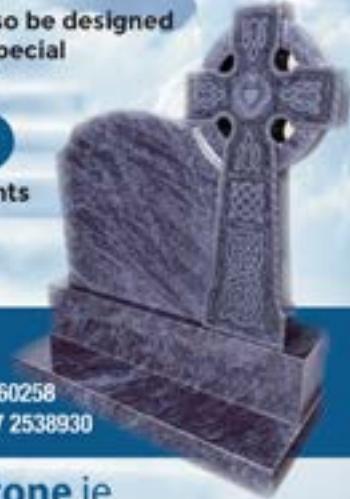
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## Portlaoise Parish

**17****19****20****21****No €17,000 Jackpot Winner****WINNERS**

Helen, Mary & Audrey  
 Danielle Ronan  
 Tony O'Brien  
 Dooley Family  
 Moira Fitzpatrick  
 Amanda Wilkinson  
 Andrew Kelly  
 Andrew Kelly  
 Barbara Moore  
 Mary & Pat Schwer  
 Betty Lynch  
 Keiva Ready  
 Trev & M

**MATCH 3s €1,000****PROMOTER**

Paul Dooley  
 Ericka McCarthy  
 Tommy Timmons  
 Paul Dooley  
 Online Lotto  
 Online Lotto  
 Lotto Gift  
 Carmel Kelly  
 Barbara Moore  
 Peter Ryan  
 Peter Ryan  
 Susan Hartford  
 Martleys

**13**  
**Match**  
**3s**  
**Receive**  
**€77**

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish  
 & Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

**Next Week's Jackpot is €18,000****First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

**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



**Thank You**  
 FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**LINK UP**  
 Monday to Thursday  
 9am to 5pm  
 Contact: Mary Schwer  
 057-8692154

E-mail: [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)  
 Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

**PARISH SHOP**  
 057 8621142 - Claire Scully

**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](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

**Parish Centre**

Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Twitter: [@portlaoiseparis](https://twitter.com/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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)  
 Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

**PARISH SHOP**

057 8621142 - Claire Scully



# The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm



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  - \* Essential Oils/Incense
  - \* Willow Tree Gifts
- \* Happy Day Soy Candles made locally
- \* Grave Ornaments

