

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

31st August 2025

**Twenty Second Sunday
Ordinary Time**



The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect our common home.



Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things -
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple
upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced
fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.
All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise Him.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

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

Follow Us  **@PortlaoiseParis**
& Like Us  **fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois**
fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

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



God's Seating Plan

How do we define 'humility'? What is our perception of a humble person? Perhaps our idea of

a humble person is someone self-effacing, someone who never pushes themselves forward or blows their own trumpet, somebody who is overly modest. In a society where we need to push ourselves forward to succeed, humility isn't a quality we value. In fact, we often consider the 'humble person' as a bit of a doormat. Fortunately, this isn't Jesus' perception of humility and he certainly isn't asking us to behave like doormats.

Today Jesus uses an invitation to a dinner party to give a lesson in humility. Jesus notices that the guests at the dinner party seat themselves in positions of honour at the table. It's clear that some of Jesus' fellow guests are so puffed up with pride that they assume the top places at the table. Jesus tells them that things will be just the opposite in God's Kingdom. "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Despite our preconceptions, humility isn't about being a doormat. True humility isn't about thinking less of ourselves but thinking of others more. True humility is about serving others without expecting anything in return. The truly humble do not seek to rub shoulders with the rich and influential, but to rub shoulders with everyone, whether they are a king or a pauper. Humility is about sharing time and money unconditionally without expecting repayment, admiration, accolades or long letters of thanks. When we approach God's table, we must remember to be first to put others first.

Bitesize

"On the highest throne in the world, we still sit only on our own bottom." Michel de Montaigne, *The Complete Essays*

Mass times for the coming week
ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday—Thursday: 7.30am & 10am

Friday (First 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.

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds this week.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Rlan Derek Gerard Flynn, Inchiskey, Mountrath

Who was baptised last weekend.

Thought for the Day!

Status-seeking is rampant in our world. Many people seek fame, power and recognition. Fame may look glamorous. However, almost every day in the

newspaper or on television we hear stories of how the famous and the glamorous have fallen or been disgraced, often by their own choices.

Today Jesus encourages us to be content with what seems to be the lowly and least. Often it is in the small and seemingly insignificant gifts of everyday life where we may experience the greatest love, joy, peace, and contentment. Today, be mindful and notice the many small gifts you receive. Thank the giver and thank God!



MULHALL MEATS

Est. 1931



**Weekly
Special**

**Now Only
€22.99/kg**



**Mulhall's Fresh Irish
Sirloin Steak**

Offer Available Monday 1st Sept - Sunday 14th Sept



Full Range Of Fresh FISH Available 7 days a week!

Mulhall's Butcher Counter is located within Mulhall's SuperValu. Phone 057 86 21044

AUDIOLOGIST HEARING AID Consultant

Patricia Kilmartin
B.A.A.T., M.I.S.H.A.A.
(30 years experience with Private & Public Sector)



- Comprehensive Hearing Assessment Adults & Paediatrics 5 years +
- Full range of Digital Hearing Aids available incl. **FREE PRSI HEARING AIDS TO VALUE OF €1000 TO ELIGIBLE CLIENTS**
- Pre-employment tests/Occupational Screening Tests
- Ear moulds, Custom made Swim Plugs, Musicians Moulds, etc.
- Hearing Aid Batteries, Minor Repairs, etc. (incl. postal service)
- Ear Wax Removal Service
- Social Welfare Grant available to eligible clients

In Attendance

10 Lismard Court, Portlaoise Co. Laois.
(Entrance beside Macra Na Feirme Hall on Timahoe Road)

By Appointment Only

Tel: 057 8692289 Mobile: 085 8568808

E-mail: pkaudiology@gmail.com

Website: www.kilmartinaudiology.ie



Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

live life physically well

The Coach House, 4 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.

JOHN SUGRUE BSc MSc MScP

NICOLA CALDBECK BSc MScP MAMCP

CONOR BOLTON BSc MSc MScP

• **www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie**

• **087 666 4808**

**Take
Note**

**ALL CLASSES IN THE PARISH CENTRE
ARE TAKING A BREAK FOR THE
MONTH OF AUGUST
CLASSES WILL RESUME IN THE CENTRE
IN EARLY SEPTEMBER**

- Osteo class on a Monday morning with John at 9.30am
- Beginners and Intermediate Pilates with Laura on a Monday evening from 6-8pm

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!

We wish everyone a nice, safe summer!



TAI CHI EXPERIENCE

Take a step towards a healthier and more balanced lifestyle. Join with us for a radiant day of Tai Chi, Chi Kung, Meditation and Conscious Connected Breathwork.

when and where

7 September 2025, 12-4pm
The Woodford Dolmen Hotel,
Kilkenny Road, Carlow, R93N207
Admission €10



Hosted by the Tai Chi and
Wellness Academy
For further info contact
Rosaleen 086 0789241

TremmALL®

Agri & Industrial Hydraulic Supplies
Oils • Hose • Chain • Bearings • V-Belts



Hydraulic Hose Replacement

BSP / Metric / JIC / ORFS

Belts, Bearings & Chains

Engine & Hydraulic oil

Grease & Lube

AdBlue, Filter & Batteries

Unit 25, Bay Road Business Park Mountmellick, Co. Laois - R32ED29

Email: Uldis@TremmALL.com



083 183 4952



ORIGINAL
THERAPIES

We are local and here for you

Private Occupational Therapy

Housing Assessments



- Housing Adaptation Grant assessments and reports.
- Stairlifts, adapted bathrooms, ramps, extensions, etc.

Paediatric Assessments



- Occupational Therapy assessments to help your child grow.
- Supporting children's development at home, in school, and during play.

Contact Us Today for an Appointment:



info@originaltherapies.ie



083 150 6755

www.originaltherapies.ie



**DECORATIVE STONE
SAND AND GRAVEL
TOPSOIL COMPOST
BARK MULCH**

KYLE 085
PORTLAOISE 7020537
R32 T2V9

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

LAOIS JET WASH SERVICES LTD



**C.C.T.V. PIPE & DRAIN INSPECTION
HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN CLEANING**

TEL/FAX 057-8681720 MOBILE 087-7749519

HAVE YOU A PROBLEM WITH YOUR DRAINS?

BREEN STEEL SHEDS

Drim, Mountrath, Co. Laois

Tel; 087-9444098 / 086-1732542 | E-mail; info@breensteelsheds.ie



- Maintenance free Steel Mobile Garden Sheds in a choice of colours.
- PVC coated with non drip sheeting to avoid condensation.
- Timber or Concrete floors fitted.
- Delivered and erected on site, can be transported in sections or fully assembled.
- All sizes manufactured; 7x5, 8x14, 10x8, 10x17, 10x20, 20x24
- Our range of Steel Sheds include two variations of buildings with many uses; garages for vehicle storage in residential areas, small workshops, office accommodation, store rooms, games rooms.



MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN
GET YOURSELF NOTICED

Business
Irish Enterprise
Awards 2022

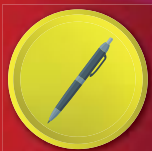
- ★ BEST PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN AGENCY – MIDLANDS 2022
- ★ ECO-CONSCIOUS EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022



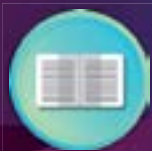
THE PRINTER YOU NEED TO KNOW



GRAPHIC
DESIGN



MERCHANDISE &
PROMOTIONAL
ITEMS



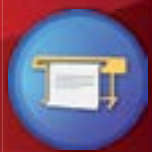
BOOK
PUBLICATIONS



MAIL
MARKETING



CORPORATE &
RETAIL PRINT



WIDE FORMAT
PRINTING



VEHICLE
GRAPHICS



PROCUREMENT
PICK & PACK

Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EH11

☎ 057 8634050

Henry Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 TF83

☎ 045 433569



mochuaprint.ie





NOLAN LOCKSMITHS

24/7 Emergency Service
Auto - Home - Commercial

086 2624270 | 085 2833064

SHOP: 057 8620135

www.jacknolan.ie

KPS CLEANING

- School Cleaning,
- General House Cleaning,
- Deep Cleaning,
- End of Tenancy Cleaning,
- Offices, schools, shops, salons & more

**CONTACT US FOR ALL
YOUR CLEANING NEEDS**

087 973 7073



GREG THE HANDYMAN

CALL 089 956 7135

- Home improvements and repairs
- Flooring, tiling, carpets
- Fence maintenance and repair
- Painting inside/outside and decorating
- Repairs of toilet, faucet and shower units
- Furniture assembly and installation

PERSON REQUIRED

to help Lady with Light Duties
for a couple of weeks.

GARDA VETTING ESSENTIAL!

CALL 087-9002350

FROM 7-9PM

PAT LALOR TARMACADAM

- Church Avenue, Stradbally
- Tarmacadam
- Kerbing
- Drainage
- Free Quotations | VAT Registered

Tel: 083 021 1577

Email: patlador37@gmail.com

PLUMBER AVAILABLE

- All Domestic Plumbing
- Solid Fuel & Oil Servicing
- Water Softener Installation
- Full Bathroom Renovations

CONTACT ALAN

085 114 1395

DS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & GROUNDWORKS



Patios, driveways, stump removal,
lawns, kerbing, hedging, fencing,
drainage.

Call now for a competitive quote!

085 775 9975

DSGROUNDWORKS22@GMAIL.COM

LAOIS TV SERVICES

Repairs to TVs and home entertainment
equipment. Supply, fit, and repair;
Saorview, aerial, and satellite systems.

CONTACT

057 873 2998

087 363 6497

083 374 2600

WINDOW & DOOR REPAIRS

- Hinges & Handles
- Letterboxes
- Sliding Patio Door Rollers
- Window & Door Draught Proofing

Fully Insured

083 315 3211

www.kukic-hms.ie

S&R SERVICES

- Painting & Decorating
- Kitchen Fitting
- Furniture Assembly
- Flooring
- Carpentry
- Tiling
- Bathrooms
- General Maintenance

CONTACT 087 489 6429

CHIROPODIST/ PODIATRIST May Collins

BSc (Hons) Podiatry, MCHSI
2 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise

TEL: 086 378 5327

*By appointment only
VHI, Aviva & Laya approved.*

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Trailor load of
Hardwood & Softwood
Delivered

CALL 085-2437088

PAINTING & DECORATING

- Interior & Exterior
- Power Washing
- 15 Years' Experience

Fully Insured

089 445 9958

www.kukic-hms.ie

TIME TO DECLUTTER?

Free collection of all scrap metal:
washing machines, cookers, lawnmowers,
etc. Garden sheds cleared, fences and
sewer issues resolved. Mini-digger and
small tipper truck available for hire.

Contact Richard

085 252 9893

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Reliable, affordable help with:

- Gutter Cleaning
- Power Washing
- Grass Cutting
- Window Cleaning
- Interior & Exterior Painting

No job too big or small!

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
AT GREAT RATES**

**CONTACT MICK
085 215 1277**



SOCIAL DANCING

Every Sunday Night at
The Rock Inn, R32 EY73
Where Only the Best Bands Play

Sunday 31st August

ft. Hughie Turner & Sean Moran

Admission: €10 | Time: 9:00pm – 11:30pm

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT JOE:

087 231 5526

ACTIVE BUILDING SERVICES

Domestic Plumbing & Oil-Fired
Central Heating

Plumber on call for Portlaoise &
surrounding areas

CONTACT FERGUS

089 454 1868



PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES

- REGULAR CLEANING
- DEEP CLEANING

Activated oxygen/ozone to remove dust, mites, allergens, spores, bacteria, etc.

 **083 373 66 60**

www.cleans.ie
contact@cleans.ie



GARDENING

Elite Landscaping & Garden Maintenance

- ✓ GENERAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE
- ✓ GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING AS & WHEN REQUIRED
- ✓ HEDGE, SHRUB & TREE PRUNING
- ✓ DECKING, PERGOLAS & FENCING
- ✓ FENCE TREATMENT & OUTDOOR PAINTING
- ✓ WATER FEATURES & KOI PONDS
- ✓ OLD PATIOS & PATHS LIFTED & RE-LAID
- ✓ JET WASHING & GENERAL CLEANUPS
- ✓ AND MORE...

FREE QUOTES from a friendly and reliable local service. From plans to completion.

Call : 085 7883188



**Quick, Cost Effective
Appliance Repairs
Portlaoise**

 **087-9080211**



**Carpets
Couches
Mattresses**

Professionally Steam Cleaned

Contact Darren

085 836 0077

FOR SALE

RENAULT CLIO

IN GOOD CONDITION

**SEND ENQUIRIES TO
089-4169262**



FUEL AVAILABLE

Can be delivered

**PH. FOR INFO
087-7737910**

GARDENER AVAILABLE

Also, small construction jobs.
Portlaoise and surrounding
areas covered.

**Contact Jim:
087-6885017**

LAOIS READING & DYSLEXIA GROUP



*National
Primary
and
Secondary
School*

- Is your child struggling to read, are you querying Dyslexia? We can help! Pre and post assessment.

- At Laois Reading & Dyslexia Group we provide workshops for children aged 6-18, helping children and teens succeed in the school system.

- We provide help with struggling readers from age 6, tutors to help with English, Maths, Geography, Assisted Technology and study skills and exam prep.

If you would like to contact us to book your child in or ask about the subjects we cover, please call;
Olive 087-7675018

Workshops after school and Saturday mornings.

BALLYFIN NS

is collecting bottles and cans for recycling under the Deposit Re-turn Scheme. Eligible items, empty and washed out please, can be left into the school at any time during school hours, or given to any pupil.

ROOM TO RENT

3 Minute Walk to
Portlaoise Town Centre
Private House

PH. 086-2288781

LK BYRNE PLUMBING & HEATING

For all your plumbing needs.

**CALL LORCAN
085-2876043**

HYPNOTHERAPY

David Ward B.Sc., D.H.P., Adv

- Addiction & Smoking Cessation
- Anxiety & Depression
- Weight Management
- Fears, Phobias & Pain Control
- Contribution Based
- Online Sessions Available

083 321 6406

www.davidward.info



SWIMMING LESSONS

NOW BOOKING

Little Swimmers – Level 6
Lanes · Rookie

Portarlington

Lessons Start
the 9th of
September.
057 864 5800

Portlaoise

Lessons Start
the 16th of
September.
057 868 1200



10 Weeks for €120



20% Sibling Discount

3 – 5 Years Old

Little Swimmers

5 – 15 Years Old

Free Swim Assessment

Book Now



LaoisLeisure.ie



@laois.leisure.por

Michael Bubl  TRIBUTE

15 | NOV | 2025

TICKETS €29.50 | DOORS 8:30PM | SHOW 9PM

(057) 863 1200 | thekilleshin.com

Tickets
available online
and at
reception


KILLESBIN
HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB
★★★★

S 
HOTELS

Ready To *Hear* Better?

Virtually Invisible.

Small and practically invisible.

Rechargeable.

No more need for small batteries.

Ai Technology.

Ideal for hearing in background noise.



FREE

HEARING
TESTS

15%

DISCOUNT ON
HEARING AIDS

WAX

REMOVAL VIA MICRO
SUCTIONING

Appointments available within 48 hours

057 863 8181



HEARMED
ACOUSTIC HEALTHCARE
hear when you need us

Unit 4, Bridge Street Centre, Portlaoise, Co.Laois

CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

HANDING ON
THE FAITH



All Puffed Up

Today's Gospel: Luke 14:1-11

Do you like balloons? A balloon is a simple toy, but it brings a lot of pleasure to people of all ages. There are so many things you can do with a balloon. You can use balloons for decorations at a party or you can bat them around in the air like a ball. If you have a long, skinny balloon, you can even make it into the shape of different animals. Yes, a balloon can bring a lot of happiness, but it can bring sadness and disappointment too. Haven't you ever seen a small child cry when his balloon bursts?

You and I are sometimes like a balloon. We sometimes get all puffed up with our own importance. We think we are great and we expect everyone else to think so too. Maybe it is because we are so good looking, or maybe it is because we are so smart. Maybe we are really good at sports, or perhaps we are the best singer in the choir. Sooner or later, if we keep getting puffed up with our own importance, something will happen to burst our balloon.

Jesus warned us that this would happen. The Bible teaches us that if we are too proud and think too highly of ourselves, we are headed for a fall. On the other hand, if we are humble, and realize that it is through God's strength that we are able to do great things, we will be given a place of honour in the kingdom of God. (Luke 14:1-11)

From now on, when you see a balloon, I hope it will remind you that we should not become too puffed up with our own importance - or something may come along and burst our balloon!



PRAYER

Jesus, help us to be humble. Remind us that whatever abilities we have are a gift from you and that you are the one who deserves the praise! These things we pray in your holy name.

Amen.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

As a new school year begins, we wish all involved - pupils, teachers and staff - a blessed new school year. Coinciding with the canonisation of Carlo Acutis next Sunday (7th September), we will bless school bags during our Masses in the Heath, Ratheniska and at the 12.30pm Mass in the Parish Church.

Looking forward to seeing all your beautiful schoolbags!





A Lesson in Humility

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 14:11



POOR
EXALT
FEAST
DINNER
FRIEND
SEAT
TABLE
HUMBLE
RICH
LAME
INVITE
GUESTS
LEAST
BLIND

M	P	V	G	E	S	M	P	E	M	D	Q	I	F	T
U	C	M	L	T	G	K	D	A	Y	P	X	Z	T	U
Z	C	B	S	L	M	O	K	F	E	A	S	T	N	M
G	A	E	S	X	Z	B	N	D	L	B	P	M	U	D
T	U	S	P	C	L	H	O	N	O	R	L	G	A	X
G	Z	S	Z	B	R	K	V	L	A	M	E	I	G	Y
C	D	E	O	I	A	A	E	L	E	A	S	T	N	M
B	I	A	V	N	A	H	R	A	S	Q	Q	K	X	D
J	N	T	X	V	P	W	L	C	U	V	X	S	D	Q
F	N	A	Y	I	L	P	E	X	A	L	T	T	H	W
Z	E	T	C	T	J	L	Z	V	D	R	A	B	L	T
R	R	B	I	E	B	Y	P	O	O	R	W	E	S	K
U	I	U	V	M	M	O	S	T	F	E	R	O	P	S
J	D	C	U	M	P	B	X	T	F	R	I	E	N	D
J	F	H	H	F	R	H	U	T	M	O	B	G	M	N

Back to School Prayer

Dear Lord,

Use my eyes to **see** new friends.

Open my ears to **hear** my teacher.

Open my mind to **learn** new things.

Let my heart **remember** You are near when I'm afraid

Help me to **love** others like you do.

I want to **shine** your light so bright in my school.

Amen.



Time to Think...



Monsignor John Byrne, 25 years as Parish Priest of Portlaoise

Often in life, we only get the opportunity to speak well of someone we highly regard and respect, after they have physically gone from us. It is therefore with a real sense of gratitude and deep appreciation I reflect on the wonderful contribution, that Monsignor John Byrne, continues to make to the people of Portlaoise, whom he is now Parish Priest for 25 years on the 1st of September. John brings with him a rich sense of hope, good humour and deep compassion. As a colleague it cannot be overestimated how his investment and encouragement to his fellow priests is deeply appreciated. 25 years have moved very quickly and despite the very challenging times the Catholic Church has lived through, Portlaoise Parish has grown and prospered against the tides of a growing secular Ireland. The beautiful restoration of St. Peter and Paul's, The Heath and Ratheniska are indicative of John's deep conviction, that the Good News is always worthy of the best possible celebration. The Parish Centre, now in its Twentieth Year, is a wonderful connection to the wider community. A warm place of welcome and inclusion that continues to make the Gospel message of faith, hope and love relevant in the life of our community.

Monsignor John Byrne's 25 years as Parish Priest of Portlaoise stand as a testament to his unwavering commitment to faith, community, and transformative leadership. Arriving in Laois in 2000 from his native Carlow, Monsignor Byrne quickly became a cornerstone of the Portlaoise community, leaving an indelible mark through his vision, compassion, and tireless dedication.

One of his most significant achievements was spearheading the amalgamation of three local schools—St Paul's, Scoil Mhuire, and Sacred Heart—into the Holy Family Senior and Junior Schools, officially opened in 2017. Recognizing the potential of excellent educators working in outdated facilities, he championed the creation of a modern, state-of-the-art campus. His determination, described by former principal Anne Buggy as a "force to be reckoned with," navigated bureaucratic challenges and secured support from the Presentation Sisters to acquire the site. The result is a unique educational facility that serves as a beacon for the parish's children, a legacy celebrated in 2024 with the unveiling of the 'Monsignor John Byrne Plaza' in his honour during his Jubilee year. This tribute, marked by song, dance, and a tree-planting ceremony, reflected the deep gratitude of a community touched by his vision.

Beyond infrastructure, Monsignor Byrne's pastoral care has been profound. As Vicar General of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese, appointed in 2014, he has supported Bishop Denis Nulty in diocesan administration while remaining a frontline priest. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he continued to serve despite two of his five priests cocooning, adapting to restrictions by broadcasting Masses to 300,000 viewers worldwide via Shalom World TV and parish radio. His empathy shone through in his reflections on the challenges of restricted funerals, expressing heartfelt support for grieving families.

Monsignor Byrne's social conscience has been equally impactful. He has been a vocal advocate for asylum seekers, decrying the Direct Provision system as "desperately unjust" and defying requests to stay away from a local centre in 2014 to support its residents. In recent times John has been a great friend to the Ukrainian people who have come to Portlaoise because of the Russian invasion and brutal war. John has also been a vociferous voice defending the Palestinian people and the brutal ongoing genocide in Gaza.

His leadership fostered a vibrant parish, managing a Catholic population of about 25,000, 3 churches, and multiple schools. The parish saw a boom in baptisms, rising from 180-190 annually two decades ago to 365, reflecting Portlaoise's growth and his ability to connect with families. He also nurtured community spirit, with volunteers stepping up during the pandemic to support vulnerable parishioners, a response he praised as a testament to Portlaoise's solidarity.

Monsignor Byrne's personal touch—whether through his humour, comparing such honours to a "preview of your funeral," or his involvement in local culture, like his part in the Slaneyville Syndicate's Cheltenham-winning horse Lecky Watson in 2025—has endeared him to many. His recognition as a former Leinster Express Person of the Year and his extensive Shalom TV interview on his vocation underscore his broader influence.

Reflecting on his tenure, Monsignor Byrne's humility shines through. He credits the principals, staff, and community for the successes, downplaying his role in the school project as "a small part." Yet, as Bishop Nulty and countless parishioners attest, his dynamic leadership, rooted in faith and service, has transformed Portlaoise for generations. His 25 years are a legacy of love, action, and hope, planting seeds that will flourish long into the future.

The life of a diocesan priest is deeply fulfilling and challenging. There is a huge need for more younger clergy in our diocese. I have no doubt that people like Monsignor John in his service, integrity and compassion, inspire many even to think "is God calling me to ministry in the church?"

The heart of the gospel message is one of kindness and compassion. Jesus in a deliberate fashion embraces the wounds and vulnerability of those whom he calls friends. Before the Last Supper, Jesus washing his disciple's feet, gave birth, to a radical life of service, reaching out with love and affection to the needs of others. This is the essential ingredient in the life of a diocesan priest. I pray in gratitude for 25 wonderful years of faithful service witnessed with joy and enthusiasm by Monsignor Byrne. May he enjoy many years of good and continued faithful service to the community he truly loves Portlaoise Parish.

St. John Vianney's Prayer for Priests

God, please give to your Church today
many more priests after your own heart.

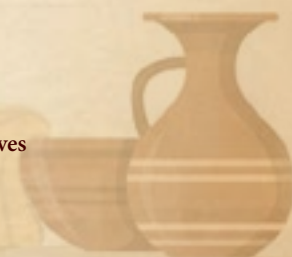
May they be worthy representatives
of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves
to prayer and penance,

be examples of humility and poverty,
shining models of holiness,

tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God,
zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to
your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother
be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.
Amen.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 26TH AUGUST.

Top score: Theresa Byrne. 1st Lady: Mary Gowing. 2nd Lady: Molly O'Brien. 1st Gent: Ann Marie Farrell. 2nd Gent: Tied; Peter Stevenson & Tom Kearns. 1st Half: Frank Keenan. 2nd Half: Sadie Chester. Raffle: 1st Mary Gowing, 2nd Kit Farrell, 3rd Frances Benn, 4th Lena Kelly 5th Catherine Fitzpatrick *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.*

PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 9-13 SEPT

Mass Bouquets for special intentions. Mass Cards or Candle requests. Available from Kitty Timmons 087-9506634 or Mary Byrne 085-2829231. Petitions will be brought and left at the Shrine. Contact Kitty or Mary. *Information Night / Flight Tickets will be distributed in Parish Centre on Mon 1st Sept from 6-7.30pm concluding with Rosary at 7.30pm.*

M. NERNEY MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

Oct. 9th to Oct. 16th €855 pp sharing, Single Suppl. €170. Contact Ml. Nerney 086-8157305

LOVELY LAOIS HOMECOMING FESTIVAL FREE WORKSHOP in Sean Nos & Brush Dancing. Sat. 6th Sept. 11am at Sean Chistin, Irej, Ballyfin. To book text 087-6482038 or email seanchistin@gmail.com. *Bring your favourite brush on the day!*

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 10-75!

LINE DANCING with Maureen Culleton, St. Mary's Hall, Mon Sept 8th, 15th, 29th Oct 6th, 13th 11am-12noon. **FREE ENTRY and all welcome!**

TOASTMASTERS Resumes at Kavanagh's Bar (upstairs) Mon 8th Sept 8pm. Contact Donal 087-9512579.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO Tuesday 26th August 2025, St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €3170, Double number €950 Lotto €500.

GRAIGUECULLEN MONSTER BINGO on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 St Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm Jackpot € 700 on 40 numbers. Double Number €1000 Lotto €550

FOURTH WALL LAOIS THEATRE GROUP – AGM Thurs. 4th Sept in Raheen ICA Drama Hall at 8pm Sharp! New members most welcome for acting or backstage. Contact Kevin 087-9614235.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT Weekly meetup continues. Monday 1st Sep. - Bowls in St. MARY'S HALL 2- 4PM. Wed. 3rd in Parish Centre "Sing Along" with Caroline from 3pm. Thurs. 4th in Sue Ryder Kiminchy "Cards and Chat" from 3pm. New Members welcome – tuition given. Further info ph. Maria at 0879187157.

SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA: Call 087-2068972 | seandoylelightengineering. Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

AGE FRIENDLY WHIST DRIVE took place in Parish Centre Wed. 20th Aug. Mass celebrated by Fr. Adriano followed by Tea and Whist! A word of Thanks to Seán and Michelle Conroy for all their help. **Top score: Mary Delaney. 1st Lady Ann Dunne, 2nd lady Kathleen Ryan, 1st gent Liam McCarthney, 2nd Gent Ann Cass. 1st half Mary Gowing, 2nd half Carmel Crowley. Raffle: 1st Marie Roach, 2nd Nellie O'Brien, 3rd Sean Carroll, 4th Sheila Duff, 5th Ann Cass, 6th Sheila Duff.**

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.

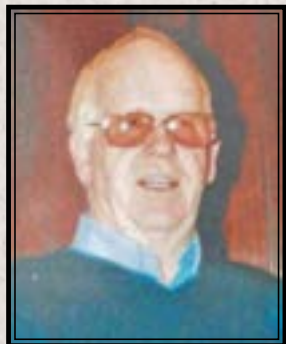
COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP: Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp. For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome

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.

PORTLAOISE PIONEER ASSOCIATION Celebrating its CENTENARY MASS on Fri. 10th Oct 7pm in the Parish Centre. Presentation of Jubilee Pins and Certificates for pioneers who have reached 25, 50 & 60+ yrs of membership. Open to all Pioneers. If any Pioneer would like to receive a pin contact Jennifer on 085-1354959. Closing date for receipt of applications Mon. 1st Sept 2025. *Apologies to Pioneers who applied for Jubilee Pins 2 yrs ago. Due to unforeseen circumstances that presentation could not go ahead on the date.*

ROSARY AT THE GROTTA @ 8pm Fri. 5th (First Friday), also on Mon. 8th 8pm (Nativity of Our Lady) and Mon. 15th 8pm (Our Lady of Sorrows)

*Our Prayers are asked
for those who recently died*



Tommy O'Brien

*St. Brigid's Place,
Portlaoise*

Timothy Crowe

*Kilminchy,
Portlaoise*



Liam Loughnane

*Rathmanagh,
Portlaoise*

Imelda Furlong

*Kilpatrick,
Stradbally*



Noel Monaghan

*Highfield Meadows,
Portlaoise*

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

*Acknowledgement and Month's Mind
In Loving Memory of
JULIA QUINN*



Julia's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on **Saturday 6th September at 6.30pm** in the Parish Church.

Julia's Mam Mary and 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 Julia's wake, rosary, funeral mass and burial. Also, to those who travelled long distances, sent mass cards, phone calls, messages and condolences online.

We particularly appreciate the kindness shown by family, relatives and neighbours near and far at this time. To those who brought refreshments, helped with the catering and those who could not be with us in person but joined us online, thank you.

To Fr. Pat Hennessy who called to the house, thank you, it meant so much to us.

A special sincere thank you to Fr. Tommy O'Connor who visited Julia in hospital and who also concelebrated Julia's Funeral Mass with Monsignor John Byrne, Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald and Fr. Pat Coffey showing such warmth and respect.

A heartfelt thank you to Nuala Kelly for her beautiful and comforting singing 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 thank the doctors, nurses and staff of St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Dublin for their care and kindness to Julia during her time with them and to Breslin's Pharmacy Portlaoise.

To Julia's colleagues and friends at the office, as well as the extended Comhairle Laighean Community, we say a heartfelt thank you for your guard of honour at the church and office, and for your continued support through her illness.

Thank you to Dan Hooban for all his assistance at the Community Centre, Ballyfin together with the grave diggers and car park attendants at the graveyard.

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 Julia



In Loving Memory of
PHYLLIS DUNNE

Woodview, Clonohill, Ballacolla.

1st Anniversary occurs 1st September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Church of the Most Holy Rosary,
Abbeyleix on **Saturday 6th September**
at 5pm.

You have gone no further than to God
And God is very near.

Sadly missed by her loving family.

Rest in Peace Phyllis



In Loving Memory of
HENRY TOBIN

Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

*2nd Anniversary away from home
occurs on 30th August 2025.*

Anniversary Mass will be held on
Sunday 31st August at 12.30pm.

Another year has come and gone
Since you were called away,
But in our hearts your love remains,
As strong as yesterday.
The lessons that you taught us, Dad,
Still shape the path we take,
Your kindness, courage, steady hands
All gifts you helped us make.
We miss your voice, your warm embrace,
The twinkle in your eye,
But we still feel your presence near,
Each sunset, star and sky.
So on this day, we send our love,
To heaven up above,
Forever proud, forever grateful,
Forever Dad, with love.

*Dearly missed by his loving daughters, Susan, Catherine,
Tracey, Nicola, Ciera, Rachel and Aideen, his son Henry,
his grandchildren, and extended family.*

May Henry Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
TOMMY KEOGH

Ridge Rd. Portlaoise

25th Anniversary occurs 1st September 2025.

A light from our household is gone A voice we
loved is stilled A place is vacant in our home that
never can be filled. We think of you in silence, we
talk about you too. We have loving memories, be we wish we still had
you. Nothing can replace you, nothing ever will, In life we loved you
dearly, in death we love you still.

Always remembered and sadly missed by all his loving family.

May Tommy Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

ARON GING

Formerly 51 Borris Little

*Whose 6th Birthday away from home
occurred 28th August.*

Thinking of you Always

It is especially difficult today not to have you here,
To celebrate the happy times we shared over another joyful year,
We wish we had just one more chance to see your happy smile,
To laugh and celebrate with you, just for a little while,
We'll hold you close forever, deep within our hearts,
And though you are not here with us, know that we'll never part,
This day was always special, so we just want to say,
That we are thinking of you with lots of love,
On this, your Birthday.



*Happy Heavenly 29th Birthday Aron.
Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.
Loved and remembered by all your loving family.*

Rest in Peace Aron



In Loving Memory of

KATHLEEN KAVANAGH

Colt, Shanahoe.

6th Anniversary occurs 3rd September 2025.

Anniversary Mass on **Sat. 6th September** in St.
Fintan's Church, Raheen at 7pm.

*Sadly missed by all her loving family,
extended relatives and friends.*

Also remembering her son

BARRY

On his 54th birthday - 1st September

May They Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

JOHN MURPHY

The Hermitage, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 4th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Thursday 4th**
September at 10am.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Sadie, son John, Esme,
granddaughters Emma and Amy, and family.*

Rest in Peace John



In Loving Memory of
ALLAN WRIGHT

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 1st September 2025

I am still with you

If it seems that I am far away, on this empty and solemn day, just open your heart and know its true, that I am still right here with you.

Sadly missed by your loving wife Iva, children Janet, Barbara, Alan, Teresa and Siobhan, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all your loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Dear Allan



In Loving Memory of
CLAIRE DELANEY

Formerly of Marian Avenue
Whose 2nd Anniversary occurs on the 3rd of September 2025.

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Loved and missed by her brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren and friends.

May Claire Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
ARON GING

Whose 6th Birthday away from home occurred 28th August.

Happy Heavenly Birthday

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

Loved and missed dearly Dad, Lisa, Emma, Ross and your nephew Michael

Rest in Peace Aron



In Loving Memory of
JULIA (PEG) HOLOHAN

12 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurred 1st September 2025.

You're not just a memory silently kept, you're a part of our family we will never forget, gone from our sight and from our touch, but in our memories, loved so much.

Loved always and remembered by Liz, Peter & family and niece Lorraine.

Gone from home that smiling face, those cheerful happy ways, the heart that won so many friends, in by gone happy days.

From P.J., Ann & family.

It's not the tears that are shed at the time, that tell of the hearts that are broken, but the silent tears in the after years, when our loved ones name is spoken.

Sadly missed and remembered by Mary, Liam & family.

Thinking of you today and always.

From James & family.

May Julia (Peg) Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
CHRISTOPHER CON CARROLL

26 Beladd Upper, Portlaoise.
20th Anniversary occurs 29th August 2025.

Chris, you always had a smile to share,

A time to give, a time to care,

A loving nature, a heart of gold,

One of the best this world could hold,

God came himself and took you,

Because he thought it best,

To save you further suffering,

He took you home to rest

Sadly missed by your loving wife Sheila.

May Christopher Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
CHRISTOPHER DWANE

28 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
19th Anniversary occurs 27th August 2025.

We did not know that morning,

What sorrow the day would bring,

When a heart of gold stopped beating,

And we couldn't do a thing,

It broke our hearts to lose you,

But you did not go alone,

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

Always remembered by his loving mother and family.

May Christy Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
PETER KEOGH

Late of Borris Rd. Portlaoise.
30th Anniversary occurred 27th August 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday 31st August at 12:30pm.**

Gone are the days we used to share Peter,

But in my heart you are always there,

The gates of memory will never close,

I miss you more than anyone knows,

With tender love and deep regret,

I who loved you will never forget.

Deeply missed by your loving Julie xxx

May Peter Rest in Peace Forever



In Loving Memory of
CHRISTOPHER HIGGINS

17th Anniversary occurs at this time.
Anniversary Mass **Saturday at 6.30pm**
in the Parish Church.

Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure.
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.

From your loving family.
Rest in Peace



MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN
MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

A SPECIAL MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONE

📍 Clonminam Business Park
Portlaoise, Co. Laois
R32 EH11

☎ 057 86 34050

✉ info@mochuaprint.ie

🌐 www.mochuaprint.ie



*Rest in
Peace*



HENRY RANKIN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise

087-2562137



Portlaoise Stone Centre

Five Generations in Stone Cutting

Established in 1991 by **Terry Swayne** manufacturing superior quality headstones.

All work undertaken by Portlaoise Stone Centre is guaranteed and carried out to the highest standard by certified & qualified craftsmen.

Unique Headstones can also be designed and created to your own special requirements.

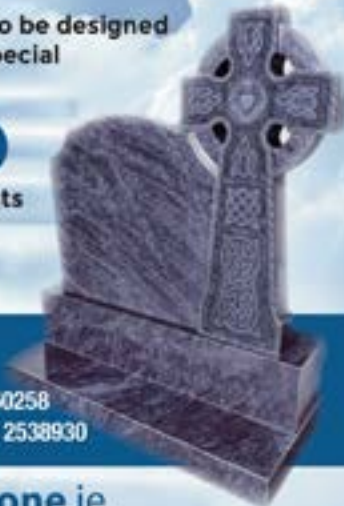
Visit our Showroom

to discuss your requirements and view our range of headstones and grave accessories.

Unit 3B Clonminam
Business Park
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
R32 DW71

Tel: 057 8660258
Mobile: 087 2538930

www.portlaoisestone.ie



† KEEGAN'S † FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

Helping Local Brands
Make a Big Impact.
Advertise with Link Up today!
Contact: 057 8692154



• **NEED HOME HEATING OIL?**
 • **NEED TRACTOR DIESEL?**
Call Sean Smyth 086-3561669



**Scoil Fionntáin Naofa,
 Shanahoe**
 will host their annual
**Truck, Tractor & Vintage
 Road Run**

Sunday, September 7th 2025
 Registration from 1pm
 Shanahoe Community Hall R32E3FR
 departing at 2pm sharp
 Registration Fee €20
 Vintage all the way to new are welcome!

~Kids' Big Wheely Fun Run~Food~Refreshments~



All monies raised will
 support our school



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.

World Taekwondo Association Portlaoise

St.Frances Special School
 Boris Rd. R32 DN24



Tuesday 7pm
Men, Women & Children



Fun - Friendship - Inclusion
www.worldtaekwondo-ireland.com / 086 8359333

Ballyroan Community Hall

Monday & Thursday

**Children
 7pm - 8pm**

Thursday

**Adults Only
 8pm - 9pm**

First Friday Devotion 5th September 2025

6:00pm Adoration
 6.45pm Divine Mercy
 7.00pm Rosary
 7.15pm Benediction
 7.30pm Mass

St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
28th August 2025

17

20

23

25

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Dooley Family
Liam Matthews
Paddy Lalor
Marie O'Sullivan

MATCH 3s €1,000

PROMOTER

Paul Dooley
Lotto Gift
Jennifer McEvoy
Paul Dooley

4
Match
3s
Receive
€250
each

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us

portlaoiseparishlaois

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
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Thought for Today!

Jesus' name translated from Hebrew to English would be
'Joshua', but by translating the Hebrew name to Greek to
Latin to English it becomes 'Jesus'.

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Eccles (Sir) 3:17-20, 28-29

Responsorial Psalm 67:4-7, 10-11

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

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 Friday

9am to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm or
12 noon Wednesday (Subject to availability of space)

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

The Parish Shop



For Your Special Day
Stocking a wide selection of Wedding Candles, Gifts and Cards



ALSO STOCKING

- * Large selection of Baptismal Candles, Cards and Gifts
candles may be personalised
- * Essential Oils/Incense
- * Happy Days Soy Candles, made locally in Portlaoise
- * Inspirational Books and Gifts
- * Sacred Art items for your home
- * Bibles & Spiritual Books for adults and children



At The Parish Centre

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

057 862 1142

www.portlaoiseparish.ie