

PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
**link  
up**

5th April 2026

Easter Sunday

Alleluia  
He is  
Risen



Last year's Vigil led by Bishop Denis and broadcast by RTE



*May the celebration of Easter bring new hope to your being.  
May the victory over earthly death turn your eyes to the promises of heaven.  
May the empty tomb help you to leave your sorrows at the foot of the cross.  
So that God's hope, promises and forgiveness reign in your life forever.  
Amen.*

*Alleluia!*

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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

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## Life Without End

Belief in the resurrection is essential to our faith, yet the account of Jesus' resurrection, or rather the lack of it, leaves us as confused as the original disciples. We've been left with a puzzle with pieces missing, a story with an

important part untold. As Christians we are reminded that religion is ultimately a faith not a science.

Our human search for certainty urges us to try and work out who moved the stone, but at this point all we can do is put the resurrection into the context of the rest of Jesus' life and teachings. We have to trust that everything Jesus has told us is true, and that the resurrection is not just an invention to give a tragic story a happy ending, but the realisation of the promises Jesus made all along. Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as truth.

So how do we find that trust that everything Jesus has told us is true? First of all we have to develop a toolbox of faith, trust, and intuition. Christians are accused of propping up impossible and improvable theories with blind faith. If this were true the accusers would have a point, but true faith runs deeper than this. We all use faith in every walk of life and we all need trust. People of faith are people who can push boundaries and take brave steps into the unknown. People of trust recognise possibilities in others and in themselves. People of intuition recognise integrity and truth. Anais Nin said, "We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are." "What you believe sets a course for your future and directs your daily activities. Consequently, when you believe only what you can see, a whole world of possibility is lost."

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.

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

### Easter Sunday

Vigil 9pm (Parish Church)

& Dawn Mass in the Heath at 6am  
8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

**Sunday: 9.30am**

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

**Sunday: 10am**

**Easter Monday to Easter Saturday: 10am**

**7.30am Mass will resume on Monday 13th April**

### CONFESSIONS

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



**We welcome into our Parish Community**

Tommy Gerard Brophy, The Maltings  
Amelia McAlorum Marum, Cosby Avenue

Eoin Aidan O'Brien, Berryridge Avenue

**Who were baptised last weekend.**

## An Easter Sunday Family Table Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that on this glorious day of your resurrection, you are in our midst.

We welcome you to our Easter table.

Bless this food and our family and fill us with the joy of your Resurrection Life.

May this meal remind us of your endless grace and the promise of new beginnings.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Easter Collection

### For the support of our Priests

Easter Collection for the priests of the parish takes place over the Easter period. Envelopes at the Church porches for those not using an Envelope Box. You may also donate to this collection via our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) or directly to our Clergy Account, details inside the back cover. The Easter Collection is one of four collections that take place during the year to support our priests.

**The Priests of the parish thank you for your support and take this opportunity to wish you all the joys and blessings of this great Feast.**

## Trócaire



Please bring any remaining Trócaire boxes to Mass next Sunday or leave them into the Parish Centre. Do NOT leave Boxes in the Church at any time. Trócaire boxes are still available in Church porches or in the Parish Centre.

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 087 666 4808

## 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

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Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Midlands Park Hotel 11am - 5pm

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- Be Creative



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# Intimacy & Relationships

## Information talk for women

With Dr. Ruth Stewart  
Senior Clinical Psychologist Beaumont Hospital  
Thursday 9th April 2026, 11am



**Cuisse Cancer Support Centre**  
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Friday April 10th



Closing date  
Thursday April 9th

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# PORTLAOISE TRADFEST 2026

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## PORTLAOISE TRADFEST 2026 HEADLINE ACTS



### ALTAN

Fri 1<sup>ST</sup> May | 8pm  
Dunamais Arts Centre



### CLADA

Sat 2<sup>ND</sup> May | 9pm  
Kavanagh's Bar



### GEORGE MURPHY AND THE RISING SONS SUN

Sun 3<sup>RD</sup> May | 9pm  
Kavanagh's Bar

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 31ST MARCH

Top score: Paraic Dowling. 1st Lady: Margaret Flanagan. 2nd Lady: Sadie Chester. 1st Gent: Catherine Galvin. 2nd Gent: Peter Stevenson. 1st Half: Bernie Cahill. 2nd Half: Christy Fitzpatrick. Raffle: 1st Billy Jackson, 2nd Christy Fitzpatrick, 3rd Frances Dunne, 4th Mary J Dunne, 5th Mary Delaney. *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*

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT** Monday 6th April NO Bowls. Wednesday 8th April NO Active Age in Parish Centre. Thursday 9th APRIL IN SUE RYDER CENTER KILMINCHY CARDS AND CHAT FROM 3PM. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TUITION GIVEN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT MARIA AT 0879187157 HAPPY EASTER to all.

**WALK IN THE PARK FOR PARKINSONS** will take place on Saturday, 11th April at 11a.m. in Colt G.A.A. Grounds, Raheen, Abbeyleigh. R32 V085. Visit [www.parkinsons.ie](http://www.parkinsons.ie) to register in advance or register on the day. Phone John on 087-2712448 or Mary on 087-9617940 for more information. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Doogues Bar, Raheen. All support greatly appreciated.

**FOURTH WALL LAOIS THEATRE GROUP** presents "Moll" by J.B. Keane on Saturday 25th April in Dunamais Arts Centre.

## 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.

**EMMANUEL HOUSE CLONFERT** Divine Mercy Sunday, 12th April starting at 11am led by Eddie Stone & Team. Divine Mercy Novena begins Good Friday. Please bring a packed lunch. Schedule for Healing Services: Weds 11am & Thurs 7am.



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## ROSARY AT THE MARIAN SHRINE

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## Cake Sale & Coffee Morning

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**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**



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Centre  
after the  
10am  
Mass.

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HAPPY  
**EASTER**

Let's Arise, Pray, Play and Praise together!

**Easter at Camp Pio**

**Date:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Time:** 12pm-2pm

**Venue:** Bloom HQ, Old Convent  
Mountrath R32D29F

To register contact:  
[camppio2024@gmail.com](mailto:camppio2024@gmail.com)  
Laura 0876313370  
Caroline 0852430529

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## I've Just Seen Jesus

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and another disciple, whose name was John. She told them, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!"

Peter and John started out for the tomb. They were both running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed -- for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary stayed behind and stood outside the tomb weeping. As she knelt down and looked inside, she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken her master and she didn't know where they had taken him. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought he was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard his voice, she recognised Him. After she saw that it was Jesus,

she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Some people, like Mary, Peter, and John can't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in a grave or on a cross. He isn't there! He is risen and is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. If you want to see Jesus, look in His Word, He will reveal Himself to you, just as He did to Mary!



*May your  
Easter basket be full of  
Joy, Happiness & Peace  
Today & Always!*

# Happy Easter



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### CHARITY TABLE QUIZ



**ABBEYLEIX GOLF CLUB**

**FRIDAY, 10 APRIL 2026**  
AT 9:00PM

### MONSTER RAFFLE GIVEAWAY

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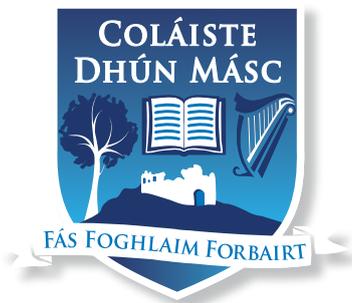
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2. Accounts Assistant - full-time, on-site, starting Mid-April to June 2026

For job description, contact Ann-Marie at  
[annmariegollogly@lasalleigbm.org](mailto:annmariegollogly@lasalleigbm.org) or Kevin  
at 087-1763729



At **Dunamase College / Coláiste Dhún Másc**, the Irish language and culture are a key part of everyday school life, and this strong sense of pride is especially evident during Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Week) - a celebration that students and staff look forward to each year.

Organised by the Cumann Gaelach and the Gaelbhratach committee, in collaboration with the Irish department, the school enjoyed an action-packed two weeks full of events that celebrated Irish in fun, creative, and meaningful ways, both within the school and in the wider community.

A wide range of in-house activities took place, ensuring that every student had the opportunity to engage with the language. These included a poster competition

and a meme competition, encouraging students to use Irish in modern and imaginative contexts. Students also took part in quizzes, bingo, and movie screenings as Gaeilge, while a lively Just Dance as Gaeilge session brought great energy and enthusiasm to the celebrations. A door-decorating competition also took place, with students transforming classroom doors and corridors with Irish-themed designs, adding to the festive atmosphere throughout the school. Fifth-year students particularly enjoyed participating in Bingo Loco, which added a fun and interactive element to the week.



A Lá Glas (Wear Green Day) was also held, with both students and staff proudly dressing in green, creating a strong sense of community and celebration throughout the school.

Teachers also got involved through a Phrase Bingo challenge, where they collected and used Irish phrases in their daily interactions,



highlighting that the promotion of Irish extends beyond the classroom and is embraced by the entire school community.

Fifth Year students Nina, David, and Cuileann also participated in an EU translation competition, where they were tasked with translating a script from a European language into Irish. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experience what it is like to work as a translator, while also gaining a deeper appreciation of the wide range of career opportunities available through Irish.

As part of the celebrations, students reached out beyond the school, visiting local primary



schools including Gaelscoil Phort Laoise, Gaelscoil Thromaire, Ratheniska National School, Timahoe National School, and Barnashrone National School. Here, they organised céilís and hosted quizzes, sharing their love of Irish with younger students and inspiring the next generation of Gaeilgeoirí.

The Gaelbhratach Committee were proud to host a Pop-Up



Gaeltacht in Portlaoise Library, providing a welcoming space for the wider community to come together and speak Irish. The event highlighted the importance of Irish in modern life, particularly across social media, music, and community engagement, reinforcing the idea that Irish is a living, thriving language: “Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam.”

In recognition of their ongoing efforts to promote Irish in innovative ways, students were once again invited to TikTok HQ, celebrating the school’s success in bringing the language to a wider audience online. Students enjoyed meeting Irish-language content creators and, of course, creating their own Irish TikToks.

The school’s podcasting team also played an active role in promoting the Irish language during the celebrations. Students recorded a series of Irish-language segments for Midlands 103, giving them the opportunity to share their cúpla focal with a wider audience. This experience not only built students’ confidence in using



Irish in a real-world setting, but also highlighted the relevance of the language in modern media and communication.

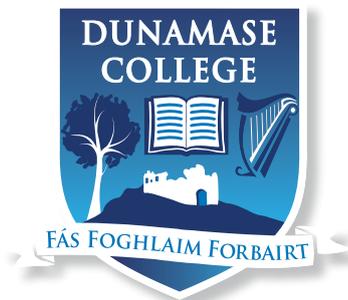
Aonad students Cuileann, OJ, Aoife, and Kayla travelled to Galway to attend the Muintearas event, where Irish-medium schools from Education and Training Boards Ireland across the country came together to celebrate the language and

culture. On the day, they met with Catherine Connolly and presented their vision for the future of Gaeilge, emphasising the importance of creating more opportunities for young people to use Irish within their local communities. This experience highlighted the growing influence of student voice at a national level.

Fifth-year Aonad students also had the opportunity to attend Fís, an inspiring event organised by Conradh na Gaeilge. The day began with an engaging panel discussion hosted by Peadar Ó Caomhánaigh, featuring speakers such as Caitríona Kenny, Róisín Seoighe, Éadaoin Fitzmaurice,



and DJ Próvaí. The discussion highlighted the growing presence of Irish across social media, music, and community life. A particularly powerful message was that although Irish is an ancient language, it is very much alive in the modern world, and its future lies in the hands of young people: “Beatha teanga í a labhairt.”



Following this, students explored a wide range of interactive stands divided into themes of Careers, Community, and Future. Organisations such as TG4, Bloc, Gaelbratach, Kinia, Óglaigh na hÉireann, and An Garda Síochána were among those present. The event provided students with a fresh insight into the wide range of opportunities available through Irish, from careers to community involvement, clearly demonstrating the important role the language plays in contemporary life. Overall, the celebrations reflected the deep-rooted passion within Dunamase College / Coláiste Dhún Másc for the Irish language, showing that it is not just a subject, but a vibrant and valued part of daily life in the school community.

# Time to Think...

## Easter 2026 - a time of Grace



Easter 2026 finds itself in the context of a troubling war in the Middle East. The sacred and holy city of Jerusalem has felt the consequences. Christians prohibited from public worship and a palpable sense of tension and unease throughout this war-torn region. Pope Leo, in his Easter message, reminds Christians that we are all called to be agents of peace, reconciliation and compassion. Easter is a triumphant season, fuelled with an Amazing Grace, that in a moment in history, God himself triumphed over sin and darkness. Ours is that everlasting victory and with joy Hallelujah is our song.

Easter is a time of hope and new life, an opportunity to begin again in a new way. The Angel said to the wounded followers of Jesus "Why Look among the living for the dead" Easter reminds us in a very powerful way that we belong to a place that is so much bigger than whatever situation we may find ourselves in. That place is about gentleness, hope, love, compassion and love. That sacred place is told through the eyes of faith. Faith is a necessary and wonderful gift. Faith will carry us up any mountain, no matter how overwhelming the climb maybe. Faith brings with it a sense of perspective and a deep confidence, that no matter what "All will be well". Easter is about new possibilities and opportunities. Easter is rich in gifts and blessings. There is no recession in the Lord's love. Where the shadows of conflict, war, sickness and uncertainty prevail, the Easter message, contains a dawn that promises brighter days ahead.

"Peace be with you". These were the first words of Jesus to his disciples, after the resurrection, when he met them behind locked doors on the evening of that first Easter Day. He showed them the marks of the crucifixion on his hands and side - the evidence of his suffering - and he said to them, "Peace be with you". In the midst of their fear, sorrow and pain, he wanted them to find peace. Despite all that had happened in previous days, the words and sentiments he offered were words of comfort and love and not anger or hatred.

The words, "Peace be with you", represent much more than a simple, customary greeting. They express a deep desire and hope for an end to pain, for calm after the storm, for a time of reconciliation and healing.

This Easter the world we live in is overshadowed by conflict in so many places - from across the Middle East to much closer to home in the war that has ravaged Ukraine for over four years now. In all those regions, heartfelt cries are heard for an end to the violence that has already caused the deaths of tens of thousands of people, widespread destruction of homes and businesses, as well as the separation and displacement of countless families.

Too many people live in fear of what the future holds in store. Hope is hard to find in the rubble of a bombed hospital or school, or in the tears of those whose loved ones have been killed through acts of violence.

The cross of Calvary continues to cast a long shadow over the world. Yet the sadness of Good Friday will give way to the joy of Easter morning. The Easter story begins "while it was still dark", but it is soon bathed in the light of the resurrection. Love defeats hatred. It overcomes the darkness of despair. Nothing, then, should be permitted to rob us of hope that goodness will triumph over evil. This is Easter Hope: the "hope that does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

We must persevere, therefore, in our prayers and efforts to build lasting peace in the world, always looking to that day when swords will be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.

This Easter, let us renew our determination to live in a world where all life is valued, where mutual respect and understanding are treasured, and where peace is a living reality. May the words and actions of all people mirror those of our risen Lord, now and in the days to come: "Peace be with you".

The late Pope Benedict beautifully described Easter joy...

*"Dear brothers and sisters,  
Easter does not work magic.  
Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them  
on the far side of the Red Sea,  
so the Church, after the resurrection,  
always finds history filled with joy and hope,  
grief and anguish. And yet, this history is changed,  
it is marked by a new and eternal covenant,  
it is truly open to the future.  
For this reason, saved by hope,  
let us continue our pilgrimage,  
bearing in our hearts the song that is ancient and yet  
ever new:*

*"Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!"*  
Pope Benedict XVI 20010



*Our Prayers are asked for those  
who recently died*



*Kay Maher  
Ballinakill Rd. Abbeyleix*



*Mary Kenneally  
Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix*



*Mary Bergin  
St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise*



*Michael (Gilpin) Conroy  
Ballydavis / formerly O'Moore  
Place, Portlaoise*



*Aine Bowden  
Athy and formerly Meelick,  
Portlaoise*

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

In Loving Memory of  
**DANIEL (DAN) FITZPATRICK**

Old Rd, Ballydavis, Portlaoise

3rd Anniversary occurs 7th April 2026



A life well lived is a precious gift  
Of hope and strength and grace  
From someone who has made our world  
A brighter, better place.

It's filled with moments, sweet and sad  
With smiles and sometimes tears,  
With friendships formed  
and good times shared  
And laughter through the years.

A life well lived is a legacy  
Of joy and pride and pleasure,  
A living, lasting memory  
Our grateful hearts will treasure.

*Always remembered and sadly missed by his loving family*

**MONTH'S MIND  
REMEMBRANCE**

In Loving Memory of

**NORA TOBIN**

Ballyroan

Month's Mind Mass will be  
celebrated

Saturday 4th April at  
5pm in Abbeyleix Church

&

Sunday 5th April at  
the Dawn Mass 6am in  
Ballyroan



*Remembered with  
Love and Affection*

**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

In Loving Memory of Our Father & Grandad

**MICHAEL KERRY**

Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10am



Though your smile is gone forever,  
and your hand we cannot touch,  
Still, we have so many memories,  
of the one we loved so much  
*Sadly missed by all his loving family and  
friends.*

*Rest in Peace Dad*



In Loving Memory of

**JERRY LODGE**

'Curradubh', Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

No farewell words were spoken,  
No time to say goodbye,  
You were gone before we knew it,  
And only God knows why.

*Deeply regretted by his loving family.*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND MONTH'S MIND**

In Loving Memory of

**MARY CARROLL  
(NÉE DOYLE)**

35 Marian Ave, Portlaoise



Mary's family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who sympathised with them and supported them in their recent bereavement.

Thank you to all who sent Mass cards, flowers and wreaths, phoned or uploaded messages online.

We are deeply appreciative of everybody who attended the wake and Requiem Mass whether in person or via the parish webcam.

A special thank you to Fr. Ciprian for celebrating the Requiem Mass and for his support to the family during this time.

Our heartfelt thanks to Sarah Troy for providing such beautiful music at the Mass.

We offer our sincere appreciation to all the staff of the Residence Portlaoise who looked after Mary with such kindness and dedication over the last two years.

A very special word of thanks to the staff of Hughes Pharmacy and Clan Pharmacy.

To all Mary's wonderful neighbours in Marian Avenue for all their help and support over the years.

We extend our thanks to Matthew and David for the compassionate manner in which they carried out the funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing Mary's final resting place with such care.

We are deeply grateful to all our family and close friends, for their ongoing support and kindness during this difficult time.

Please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

A Thanksgiving Mass will be offered for the intentions of all who supported us.

*May Mary's gentle soul  
Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of

**PATRICK (PADDY) CARRIGAN**

Capoley, Portlaoise, Co Laois,

(late of Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny)

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on  
5<sup>th</sup> of April at 10am in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church

We think of you in silence

We often speak your name

But all we have are memories

And your picture in a frame.

Your resting place we visit

And put flowers there with care

But no one knows the heartache

As we turn and leave you there.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered*

*by his loving wife Lizzie and family*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam*



In Loving Memory of

**PHYLLIS (PHIL) CULLETON  
(NÉE BOWE)**

St. Martins, Rossleighan, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in

Sts. Peter and Paul's Church on

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm.

Death ends a life, not a relationship,

All the love you created is still there,

All the memories are still there,

You live on in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here.

*Sadly missed by her Husband John,*

*Sons John, Shane Paul and Philip Anthony.*

*Brothers and Sisters and her grand children.*

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*



In Loving Memory of

**EAMONN FARRELL**

115 Rossvale, Portlaoise.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Eamonn was a husband  
and father so very rare,

Content in his home and always there,

On earth he toiled,

In Heaven he rests,

God Bless you Eamonn,

You were the best.

*Loved beyond words and cherished forever*

*Your loving wife Kim,*

*daughters, Roisin, Rachel, Amy & Reiltin*

*grandchildren Opie, Bonnie, Alva, Jax, and Juno xx*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND MONTH'S MIND**

In Loving Memory of

**MARIE (NENA) READY**

163, St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise

Marie's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Peter & Paul's Church on  
Sunday 12th April at 12.30pm



The family of the late Marie Ready would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who sympathised with us on our recent and very sad loss.

Her husband Paddy, sons Patrick and William, daughter Katie, her partner Paddy and her grandchildren Bridget and Kyle are deeply grateful to all our family, friends and neighbours who supported us during this difficult time.

Thank you to all who attended the wake, funeral and burial sent Mass cards, sympathy cards and messages of condolence. Your kindness, presence and prayers brought us great comfort.

A sincere thanks to Fr. Ciprian for a beautiful and meaningful Requiem Mass for Marie.

A special word of thanks to Heather Fogarty for the beautiful singing and to Michelle Bartley for all her help with the funeral arrangements.

We would also like to thank Keegan Funeral Directors for their professionalism, kindness and guidance throughout the funeral arrangements.

A special word of thanks to the staff of the Oncology unit of Tullamore Hospital for the care and compassion shown to Marie during her illness, to Dr. Byrne and all the staff in the Maryborough Family Practice and Chemco Pharmacy for all their help and kindness.

We would also like to thank Bosco's catering for providing the food after the funeral and to the staff at the Parish Centre for their hospitality and facilities which allowed family and friends to gather and share memories of Marie.

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

*Forever loved and sadly missed.  
Rest in Peace Marie*



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND MONTH'S MIND**

In Loving Memory of

**JOHN MEEHAN**

Newpark, Portlaoise

Who died March 3rd 2026

John's Months Mind Mass  
will be celebrated

in St. Peter and Paul's Church on  
Sunday 12th April 2026 at 12.30pm.

The family of the late John wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported, sympathised with, and visited during our sad loss.

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

We wish to give a special word of thanks to the members of The Heath Golf Club and Portlaoise AFC who provided a Guard of Honour for John at his funeral.

Thank you to all who visited, rang, texted, sent Mass Cards, sympathised and shared treasured stories and memories of John 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 like to thank Monsignor Byrne, the priests of the parish, Declan, Michelle and the staff of the Parish Centre for their help and assistance, in particular, Fr. Adrian McNamara, who travelled from Stoke on Trent, in the UK, to celebrate John's requiem Mass and leading the rosary at the funeral home and the removal prayers.

To Georgina Ireland and Mary Wisely, thank you so much for uplifting the celebration of the Mass with your beautiful singing and music.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for their professionalism, courtesy, and kindness shown while leading us through John's final journey.

Our gratitude is also expressed to the gravediggers who prepared John's resting place.

A word of thanks to Dr Burke and Dr Lawlor and all the staff at Cedar Clinic, and to Marcus and staff at Breslin's Pharmacy, for all their care and attention over the years.

Our gratitude is also expressed to the Laois Palliative Care Team for all their support in John's final weeks.

It would be impossible to thank everyone individually who helped, supported or aided 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 John*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of  
**TONY WALSH**  
Church Street, Ballinakill  
Sunrise: 29th July 1945 –  
Sunset: 02nd March 2026

Tony's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated  
on Easter Sunday at 11am in  
St. Brigid's Church, Ballinakill

The family of the late Tony Walsh wish to express our sincere thanks to all who sympathised with us and supported us in our recent bereavement.

We are deeply grateful to our relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for your kindness, sympathy and generosity. Your visits, messages, cards, food and flowers and attendance at dad's wake, funeral and burial were a great comfort to us.

We offer our sincere appreciation to Kilminchy Lodge Nursing Home, who looked after dad with such compassion and dedication. Thank you also to the HSE carers who were a great help and support also while dad was at home. Thank you to O'Donnell's Pharmacy and to Dr. John Madden and their staff for their ongoing assistance and care.

A special word of thanks to the Ballinakill GAA Club for their Guard of Honour, it was very much appreciated on that wet March morning.

A special thank you to Fr. Petru Medves, Fr. Paddy Byrne and Fr. Sean Conlon for celebrating the Requiem Mass and for all their support to our family during this time.

Our heartfelt thanks to the choir for providing such beautiful music and song at the Mass. Thank you also to Michael Carter, sacristan, for your help and assistance.

We are deeply grateful to all who took part in any way in the Mass – it meant a great deal to us, thank you.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dermot and Ray Duggan for the professional and compassionate way they carried out the funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing dad's final resting place with such care.

Thank you to The Abbyleix Manor Hotel for your hospitality and exceptional service.

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

The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

*You were always there when we needed you, no task too great or small.*

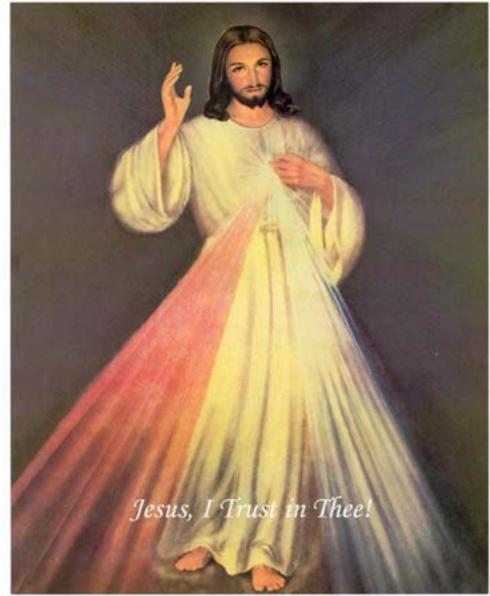
*With a loving heart and willing hand, for us you did it all.*

*God bless and keep you father dear, and thanks for all you've done.*

*We know that God has given you, the crown you've truly won*

*May Dad's gentle soul rest in eternal peace*

## Come Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday



Welcome to the Feast of Mercy being celebrated at:

**Venue:** St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.  
**Date:** 12th April 2026  
**Time:** Confessions at 2:30pm followed by Procession Up the Church at 2.45pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass.



## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**BREDA WALSH**  
(NÉE KEOGH)

Late of Chelmsford, Essex  
and Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

Wishing you were here today  
for even just a while,  
so we could say Happy Birthday  
and see your loving smile.

But we'll gaze upon your pictures  
and think of you with love,  
and hope you're celebrating  
in Heaven up above.

Forever Loved, Never Forgotten  
Always Missed

*Matty, Jason, Helena, Emma, Shane, Viola  
and all the grandkids and extended family.*

*Happy Heavenly Birthday Breda*

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## **Stoma Support Group for Cancer Patients and Carers**

**Tuesday 7th April @  
2.30pm**

Group facilitated by Stoma Care Specialist Nurse Anna Bergin. This group will provide stoma advice on the issues that affect you every day – from leakages to skin protection and much more. It offers a safe and supportive space for individuals living with a stoma and those caring for them.

If you are interested in availing of this free service please contact: 057 868 1492  
[info@cuislecancersupport.ie](mailto:info@cuislecancersupport.ie)

**Cuisle Cancer Support Centre**  
Block Road, Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois, R32 Y8P2



## Portlaoise Parish

## Results for 02nd April 2026



11 14 20 27

**No €13,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Mary & Richard Phelan  
Paul Dooley  
Pat Bowler  
Sadie & George Dempsey  
Damien & Breda Allen  
Ann Carroll  
Danny O'Loughlin  
Maureen Thompson  
John Egan  
Sun  
Geraldine Greene  
Keith Hughes  
Nuala Brophy  
Enda Keenan  
T. Gorman  
Roisin Fitzpatrick

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

16  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€63

### PROMOTER

Richard Phelan  
Paul Dooley  
Pat Bowler  
Lotto Gift  
Lotto Gift  
Lily Whelan  
John Loughlin  
Peter Ryan  
Peter Ryan  
Martleys Shop  
Susan Hartford  
Keith Hughes  
Greg Keenan  
Peg Keenan  
M. Farrell  
Mai Murphy



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**Next Week's Jackpot is €14,000**

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

## 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

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- \* 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

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Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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Thank you  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

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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



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057-8692154

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