

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

17th May 2026

**The Ascension of  
the Lord  
&  
World  
Communication Day**



**Statistics from our Website/Webcam**

**Year to date (Jan to 1st May)**

**Hits - 120,667**

In addition Shalom World TV transmit our daily 10am Mass to an estimated 'virtual' congregation of 10,000 people from all over the World. This is evidenced by the number of requests we receive for inclusion in prayers. And also by the number who visit us in person who are part of our 'virtual congregation'.

It has certainly taught us that it is a 'small world' and our Church is truly Universal. Many comment on our wonderful Music Ministry and so it is. We are truly grateful to those who make it so.



**IT'S A  
SMALL, SMALL WORLD**



For the 60th World Communications Day 2026, Pope Leo XIV's message, titled "Guarding Human Voices and Faces," warns that AI and digital innovation must serve human dignity, not replace it. He urges the protection of human interaction and empathy against faceless, algorithm-driven communication, advocating for responsible, ethical technology use.



**'Go out to the whole World and proclaim the good news'** *(Today's Gospel)*

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)



### What Is On Your Mind Today?

What is on your mind today? Perhaps you have to get the car through its N.C.T. Perhaps you have to do the shopping with not enough money in your purse. Perhaps you have to get some work done with not enough hours in your day. Perhaps you have to visit a family member who is ill, or help your child fix a failed friendship at school. There is so

much to do. Continuing Jesus' mission on earth problem doesn't figure much in the pages of our diaries.

Today we are privy to Jesus' prayer made on our behalf at the close of his ministry on earth. In this prayer, we are reminded that Jesus had finished the work that he had come to do. Jesus had made God's name known, so that all could share in eternal life. However, for this to happen, we have to carry the baton and keep Jesus' teaching alive in a world bursting with conflicting values.

The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we are all very familiar with the promise of eternal life, even though these words were spoken over two thousand years ago. It doesn't matter how busy we are, life is so much easier for us than it was for those early disciples. We really don't have much excuse. We have been entrusted with an important job, yet for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. We have all the benefits of a twenty first century world at our fingertips, now we just need to capture some of the passion that drove those early disciples.

We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty first century means to spread God's love, change is not beyond any of us.

'Eternal Life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent...'

### Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

**Monday to Friday: 7.30am & 10am**

**Saturday: 10am**

**Sunday**

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.

### St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery Mass Sunday 31st May at 1pm

This Mass will replace the 12.30pm Mass in the Parish Church on that Sunday.



### Ratheniska Cemetery Mass Friday 5th June at 7pm

### COLLECTION FOR OUR RETIRED PRIESTS NEXT WEEKEND 23rd/24th MAY

We ask for your support for this collection which will be held next weekend.

There are over 20 retired Priests in our Diocese, a number of them in Nursing Homes and others with need for extra assistance to remain in their own homes.

With a reduced number of priests in Parishes it is now necessary to invite the assistance of the faithful in the Diocese to contribute to the Retired Priests Fund by way of this annual collection.

**Envelopes are available in Development Boxes or you can pick up an envelope in the Church porches.**

We thank you in anticipation of your generosity.



### We welcome into our Parish Community

Cillian Michael Booth, Killenny, The Heath

Vlad Radu, Mell Street, Kilminchy

Sophia Leze-Ann Mooney Doda, Rath Galline.

**Who was baptised weekend.**

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**By Appointment Only**

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E-mail: [patriciakilmartin@kilmartinaudiology.ie](mailto:patriciakilmartin@kilmartinaudiology.ie)

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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

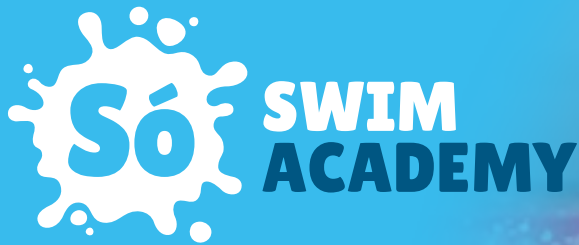
Intermediate Pilates class Monday evening at 6pm

Beginners Pilates class Mon. evening at 7pm

**NEW BLOCKS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**IF YOU WISH TO ENQUIRE ABOUT  
OR JOIN ANY CLASS,  
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL OUR OFFICE**





zest

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## ROSARY AT THE GROTTO

Rosary will be recited  
at the grotto every  
evening 8.00pm  
for the month of May.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



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**IRISH GUIDE DOGS**

Celebrating 50 yrs of Guide Dogs in Ireland and as part of the celebrations the Laois branch is also celebrating 40 yrs of Guide Dogs in Co. Laois. National Guide Dog Day 22nd of May will take place in the Laois Shopping Centre and on the 23rd in the Kyle Shopping Centre. All donations will be greatly appreciated. It costs €5.2 million to run the charity. There are currently 400 guide dog partnership working in Ireland of which 6 are in Co Laois. Guide dogs are currently looking for people to puppy raise. For more information, go to the Guide Dogs website to apply. Volunteers are always welcome at our local branch on Facebook Laois guide dogs to join.



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 12TH MAY

Top score: Ann Healy. 1st Lady: Sadie Chester. 2nd Lady: Bridie Kennedy. 1st Gent: Christy Fitzpatrick. 2nd Gent: P J Cahill. 1st Half: Margaret Flanagan. 2nd Half: Billy Jackson. Raffle: 1st Bridie Kennedy, 2nd Molly O'Brien, 3rd Lena Kelly, 4th Billy Jackson, 5th Ann Pearson. *Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues every Tuesday at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new players always welcome, lessons available if required; Ctc 086 8812228.*

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT** Monday 18th May - Bowls in St. Mary's Hall from 2-4pm new members welcome. Wednesday 20th of May talk by Grace Scully on ASSISTED DECISION MAKING FROM 3PM. IN PARISH CENTER. THURSDAY 21ST MAY cards and chat in Sue Ryder center kilminchy from 3pm new members welcome tuition given.

**NATIONAL EPILEPSY WEEK 2026** takes place on 18th May - 25th May. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie/content/national-epilepsy-week-2026-epilepsyweek](http://www.epilepsy.ie/content/national-epilepsy-week-2026-epilepsyweek).

**ALONE** supports older people across Ireland who may be experiencing loneliness, isolation, frailty, illness, homelessness, or financial hardship. ALONE Needs You — Volunteers Wanted We are currently looking for compassionate volunteers in your area to support older people in your community. By giving a small amount of your time, you can: Reduce loneliness / Build meaningful connections / Make a real difference in someone's life" Please call us on 0818 222 024 if you or someone you know needs support.

## PARISH BULLETIN NOTICE

**ARE YOU, OR IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW, LIVING WITH A LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITION?**

If so, then you may be interested in the 'Living Well Programme'. Living Well is a FREE, Online 7week self-management group programme for adults living with long term health conditions, such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart conditions, stroke and others to name but a few. There are spaces available for the Online Programme due to start in early June.

To book your place please contact Aine 041 6850676 / 087 1140371 or Elaine 041 6860710 / 087 4308735.

(Closing date for registration is Friday 5th June)

**SOCIAL CHESS CLUB PORTLAOISE** for adults only (male and female). The next meeting will be held in Portlaoise Library on Saturday 23rd May, 2026 between 1 pm and 4pm and it is free. Board games are provided in the library. Chess games are held every two weeks in the library. Check the website for clarification. <https://portlaoisechessclub.ie>

**SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA** Call 087-2068972 | [seandoylelightengineering](http://seandoylelightengineering.com). Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

# 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.

**AN IGNITE IRELAND** day conference, with special guest speaker Scott Hahn, will take place in Dublin on Saturday, 23rd of May. Scott Hahn is a well-known writer and broadcaster, and is a much sought after speaker. It is an event not to be missed. For information and to book your ticket, go to: [www.dominicans.ie](http://www.dominicans.ie).

**BELADD ANNUAL OPEN AIR MASS** takes place on the Lower Green Wednesday June 3rd at 7pm. All are welcome.

**FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 11-18 JUNE** Book your Candle [€3] to be lit at the Grotto (Capilino) on the 13th June – for your deceased, sick, intentions or in thanksgiving. Candle bookings/petitions etc from Maura 087-1210263; John 087-1254841; or any member of the Fatima committee. Further info from Maura/John.

**ROSARY IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA** to be held at the Top Square Grotto, Portlaoise on Saturday 16th May at 4pm please.

**BALLYFIN**  
Vintage Rally  
24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

R32Ad92

DOG SHOW

TUG of WAR

AND MUCH MORE!

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Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May



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# FUN

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### GOOD DOWNHILL FINISH

Wednesday May 27 | 7.30pm  
Registration from 6.30pm  
**SHANAHOE COMMUNITY HALL**  
Refreshments Served

Adult & Over 16s 4 mile: €15  
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## NATIONAL FAMINE COMMEMORATION DAY

### SUNDAY 17TH OF MAY

Today, the people of Ireland pause to remember all who died during the Great Hunger. As part of this National Day of Remembrance, Fr Paddy will offer prayers at our Mass for the famine victims who perished in the Abbyleix Workhouse and in workhouses across the country.

We also remember with tenderness the 28 young orphan girls taken from the Abbyleix Workhouse between 1848 and 1850 and sent to Australia under the Earl Grey Scheme. Their courage, suffering and resilience form an important part of our parish story.

May their memory be a blessing, and may we honour them by keeping their story alive in our community.

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## Go For Life Games

Where?

St. Mary's Bingo Hall, Portlaoise

When?

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June

Time?

11am - 12noon

Participation Fee?

FREE of charge

Contact Catriona - 086 7935234

**Go for Life**

An Age & Opportunity sport initiative  
The National Programme for Sport and  
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GOLF  
IRELAND



HEATH GOLF CLUB

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Emma Kavanagh: 0860382830

Ber Fitzpatrick: 0857684979

Join Us!



# IGNITE

IRELAND

CONFERENCE

Embers into flames

Saturday,  
May 23rd

Dublin Convention  
Centre

9:00 am to 7:00 pm

SCOTT  
HAHN



MICHELLE  
WARD



FR. CONOR  
McDONOUGH O.P.



MAURA  
MURPHY



FR. PATRICK  
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For more information & to book tickets, please visit

[www.dominicans.ie](http://www.dominicans.ie)

For group bookings, please call 01-4048187 (10am - 2pm)



# It's not too late!

IT'S BEEN SUCH A COLD SPRING THAT NOW  
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tumbler cherry slicing/salad beef

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## Up, Up and Away

I love balloons. There are so many things you can do with balloons. Some people can make balloons into various shapes. That is fun to watch! There are also a lot of different games you can play with balloons. You can tie them around your ankle and play "Stomp the Balloon" or you can fill them with water and have a water balloon fight.

One of the most enjoyable things one can do with a balloon is to fill it with helium. I am sure you know that when filled with helium, a balloon floats in the air. If you don't want it to get away from you, it is a good idea to hold on tight or tie it around your wrist. But it is also quite enjoyable when it does float away from you. It is fun to stand and watch as the balloon floats higher and higher into the heavens until it totally disappears. The only way to experience that is to be willing to let it go.

When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, he took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to him. He explained why it was important for him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the Scriptures had said about him. He also told them that he was going to return to his Father in heaven, and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

In my imagination I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until he disappeared from view. Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There they stayed continually in the temple, praising God.

We are here today for the very same purpose. We have come into the temple to worship him with great joy!



## PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving us and always being with us.

Today we remember when You went up to heaven to be with Your Father.

Help us to follow You, love others, and share Your peace every day.

When we feel sad or afraid,

remind us that You are always close to us.

Fill our hearts with joy, kindness, and courage to do what is right.

Bless our family, our friends, our teachers, and everyone in the world.

Help us to shine Your light wherever we go.

Amen.

Dear Father,  
we thank you for  
sending Jesus,  
your only Son, to  
die for our sin.

We know that he has risen  
from the dead and has  
returned to heaven.

Bless us today as we worship  
him with great joy!

Amen.



# The Ascension of Jesus



While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.  
Luke 24:51

X	W	V	D	J	Q	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11-16-13-18-13-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22-8-18-4-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-8-10-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-13-16-13-18-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26-12-17-13-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-13-12-3-13-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4 \_\_\_\_\_

## SCRIPTURE

**RISE**  
**REPENT**  
**HEAVEN**  
**BLESSING**  
**MINDS**  
**TAKEN**  
**OPENED**  
**WORSHIPED**  
**FULFILLED**



**RISE**  
**REPENT**  
**PROPHETS**  
**TAKEN**  
**SUFFER**  
**PSALMS**  
**OPENED**  
**FORGIVE**  
**HEAVEN**  
**SCRIPTURE**  
**FULFILLED**  
**MOSES**  
**WORSHIP**  
**BLESSING**  
**UNDERSTAND**



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

**The Ascension**  
**Jesus goes back to heaven.**

**Today's feast is the Ascension of Jesus into heaven,  
40 days after his death and resurrection.**



## *In the Gospel*

Jesus blesses his friends and goes back to Heaven as he has done everything his Father wanted him to do. He promises his friends he will send the Holy Spirit.



# WE ARE HIRING!



## Administrative Assistant

### Job Summary

We are seeking a highly organized and detail-oriented Administrative Assistant to support daily office operations. The ideal candidate will handle a wide range of administrative and clerical tasks to ensure the efficient operation of the office. You will be the point of contact for internal and external stakeholders, providing support to managers and employees.

### Key Responsibilities

- Answer and direct phone calls, emails, and other correspondence
- Organise and schedule appointments
- Maintain filing systems (physical and digital) and update records
- Prepare reports, memos, invoices, letters, and other documents
- Assist in the preparation of regularly scheduled reports
- Order office supplies and maintain inventory levels
- Welcome visitors and provide general support to clients and staff
- Ensure the office operates smoothly on a daily basis
- Maintain confidentiality of sensitive information

### Qualifications

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Proven administrative or office assistant experience
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent organisational and time management skills
- Ability to prioritise tasks and work independently
- Attention to detail and problem-solving skills
- Professional demeanor and strong interpersonal skills

### Preferred Qualifications

Experience with office management software (e.g., SMBO, QuickBooks, CRM systems).

### Work Environment

Office-based role. Standard business hours, Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

### Job Type: Full-time

---

## Lawn Care Operative / Groundsman

### Greenfeet Lawncare – Laois / Kildare Area

Greenfeet Lawncare, established in 2008, is a leading specialist lawn care company providing professional lawn treatment and grounds maintenance services. Due to continued growth, we are currently seeking Lawn Care Operatives / Groundsmen to join our team in the Laois / Kildare area.

### Role Overview

The successful candidates will be responsible for carrying out a range of lawn care treatments and grounds maintenance services to domestic customers within their allocated areas. This is an outdoor role working throughout all seasons and involves daily travel within your scheduled work area.

### Main Duties

- Applying lawn care treatments to domestic lawns
- Carrying out general grounds maintenance duties
- Providing excellent customer service and communicating professionally with customers
- Maintaining company equipment and vehicles
- Working independently and as part of a team
- Ensuring all work is completed to a high standard

### Requirements

- Applicants must be over 25 years of age
- Full clean Irish driving licence essential
- Experience or knowledge in lawn care, horticulture, landscaping, or grass management is an advantage
- Good communication and customer service skills
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions

### What We Offer

- Full-time permanent position
- Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Company van during working hours
- Company phone and uniform provided
- Salary negotiable depending on experience

**If you feel you would be suitable for this role, please forward your CV to: [info@greenfeet.ie](mailto:info@greenfeet.ie)**



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€120

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# Time to Think...

## Ascension. A time for Going home



There is a very beautiful stained-glass window, over the choir loft, in our parish church, here in Abbeyleix. The window depicts the glorious Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. It tells the story of Jesus, now fulfilled in his ministry, returning home to his father in heaven and making that permanent pledge to his followers “I am with you always, yes, until the end of time.” This is a wonderful time of year, when nature reflects the joy of resurrection and ascension and awakens within us all a deep and lasting hope, that all will be well.

The following hymn is often sung at funeral masses. It is comforting to remind ourselves that the core message of Christianity is the powerful gift of resurrection and new life. It also reminds me about the great feast of the Ascension.

### Going Home

“Going home, going home,

I’m just going home.

Quiet-like, slip away-

I’ll be going home.

It’s not far, just close by;

Jesus is the Door;

Work all done, laid aside,

Fear and grief no more.

Friends are there, waiting now.

He is waiting, too.

See His smile! See His hand!

He will lead me through”.

The Italian composer Giacomo Puccini wrote *La Boheme*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*. It was during his battle with terminal cancer in 1922 that he began to write *Turandot*, which many now consider his best work. He worked on the score day and night, despite his friends’ advice to rest, and to save his energy. When his sickness worsened, Puccini said to his disciples, “If I don’t finish *Turandot*, I want you to finish it.” He died in 1924, leaving the work unfinished. His disciples gathered all that was written by *Turandot*, studied it in great detail, and then proceeded to write the remainder of the opera.

The world premier was performed in La Scala Opera House in Milan in 1926, and Maestro Arturo Toscanini, Puccini’s favourite student, conducted it. The opera went beautifully, until Toscanini came to the end of the part written by Puccini. He stopped the music, put down the baton, turned to the audience, and announced, “Thus far the master wrote, but he died.” There was a long pause; no one moved. Then Toscanini picked up the baton, turned to the audience and, with tears in his eyes, announced, “But his disciples finished his work.” The opera closed to thunderous applause and found a permanent place in the annals of great works. — Jesus instructs us in his Ascension message to finish his work of saving mankind by proclaiming His Good News by words and deeds.

The recent walk celebrating “Darkness into Light” mirrors that ascension journey. Whilst “Darkness into Light” raises significant funding towards those seeking healing regarding mental health, it also suggests that light brings hope and healing. The Christian story is a celebration of how our God blesses us with resilience,

courage and hope, even in times of challenge. As we move through the month of May, nature responds magnificently to the blessing of light and warmth. The dawn chorus, these days, sings a beautiful hymn, proclaiming that indeed God’s light is brighter than any darkness, God’s hope is greater than any despair. Ascension essentially is returning home to where all of us feel a deep sense of belonging and inclusion.

A beautiful old story tells of how Jesus, after his Ascension into Heaven, was surrounded by the holy angels who began to enquire about his work on earth. Jesus told them about his birth, life, preaching, death and Resurrection, and how he had accomplished the salvation of the world. The angel Gabriel asked, “Well, now that you are back in Heaven, who will continue your work on earth?” Jesus said, “While I was on earth, I gathered a group of people around me who believed in me and loved me. They will continue to spread the Gospel and carry on the work of the Church.” Gabriel was perplexed. “You mean Peter, who denied you thrice and all the rest who ran away when you were crucified? You mean to tell us that you left them to carry on your work? And what will you do if this plan doesn’t work?” Jesus said, “I have no other plan — it must work.” — Truly, Jesus has no other plan than to depend on the grace-assisted efforts of his followers!

St. Teresa of Avila, when writing the following, realized that every moment of life is both sacred and unique. Her spirituality celebrates a deep awareness that we are all part of Christ’s body.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



*Our Prayers are asked for those  
who recently died*



**Kathleen Cullen**  
Cappakeel, Emo



**James Smith**  
Ballydavis, Portlaoise



**Kathleen Dunne**  
(née Delaney)  
Dysart, Stradbally,  
Laois

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



In Loving Memory of  
A Wonderful Husband, Father,  
Grandfather and Great-Grandfather  
**JOHN (JOHNNIE)**  
**PRESTON**

Late of 28 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.  
32nd Anniversary occurs 18th May 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on **Sunday 17th May at 11.15am.**

For all you were to me in life Johnnie and all the joy you brought  
Your memory is still with me in every single thought  
And though my heart is heavy it's always full of love  
And that's enough to comfort me while you're in Heaven above.  
*Sadly missed and fondly remembered by your loving wife, Eileen xxx*

*Dad*

For the Dad who gave us everything,  
Asked nothing in return, but to love and help each other  
As long as this world did turn all our lives we turned to you  
When things were right or wrong, we never thought the day would come  
when we would find you gone

No matter what we asked for Dad, a favour big or small  
It was never too much trouble; your family was your all.  
You made our lives so happy when we were very small  
You always had time for us; we only had to call.

*Loved always and never forgotten by your loving sons,  
daughters, son-in-law, and daughters-in-law xxx*

*Granddad*

Time slips by, life goes on from our hearts you are never gone.  
*Loved and sadly missed by your grandchildren and great-grandchildren xxx*

*May John Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of Dad

**MICHAEL**  
**TIMMONS**

53 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
35th Anniversary occurs 18th May 2026.

Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard but always near  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

*Loved & remembered always your son Thomas &  
daughter in law Teresa.*

*Rest in Peace Dad*



In Loving Memory of Dad

**MICHAEL**  
**TIMMONS**

53 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
35th Anniversary occurs 18th May 2026.

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

*Sadly missed by his daughter Margaret,  
Brendan and family.*

*Rest in Peace Dad*



*Rest in Peace*



**Acknowledgement & Month's Mind Remembrance**

In Loving Memory of

**MERCEDES MAHER**

Beladd, Portlaoise.

Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise on **Saturday 16th May at 6.30pm.**

The family of the late Mercedes Maher wish to thank sincerely all who sympathised with us on our recent loss. Many thanks to our relatives, neighbours, friends and to all who attended the funeral Mass, sent letters of condolences and who brought food and flowers to the house.

Special thanks to Monsignor John Byrne & Clergy for celebrating the Requiem Mass.

Heather Fogarty for her beautiful singing & music.

Michelle Bartley in the Parish Centre for help & assistance with arrangements.

Deacon Eugene Keyes & Fr. Simon Jin for attending to her spiritual needs while in the hospital.

To Deacon John Delaney for reciting the rosary in the house.

A special word of gratitude to the staff at the Midlands Regional Hospital, including the A&E Dept. CCU, the Emo Court ward, Palliative Care team & the Ambulance team for their prompt response to our call.

To Keegans Funeral Directors for their professional services & to the grave diggers.

*Rest in Peace Mercedes*

Treasured Memories of

**PATRICK DWANE**

41 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

45th Anniversary occurs 20th May.

Quickly and quietly came the call,  
Without farewell you left us all,  
A sudden call from God on high,  
You had no chance to say goodbye,  
Without farewell you fell asleep,  
But memories of you we'll always keep.

*Always remembered by your loving wife and family.*

*Rest in Peace Patrick*



In Loving Memory of

**MARGARET (PEGGY)  
GORMAN**

Borris Great, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 17th May 2026.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 17th May at 12:30pm.**

They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal,  
But neither time nor reason will change the way we feel.

For no one knows the heartache that lies behind our smiles,  
No one knows how many times we have broken down and cried.

Gone from home that smiling face, those cheerful happy ways,  
The heart that won so many friends in bygone happy days.

We want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt,  
You're so wonderful to think of but so hard to be without.

We cannot bring the old days back, when we were all together,  
The family chain is broken now but memories live forever.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your husband Marty,  
son Kevin, daughters Sinéad and Sarah and grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Peggy*



In Loving Memory of

**SEÁN FARRELL**

Broomville, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 23rd May 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church **Saturday 23rd May, 6.30pm.**

Missed in the morning of every day,  
Missed in the evening as light fades away,  
Missed in a thousand and one little ways,  
Around every corner, a memory stays.

No one knows the pain we bear,  
When we all meet and you're not there,  
We talk, we laugh, we play our part,  
But behind it all lies a broken heart.

You gave us years of happiness, then sorrow came  
With tears, you left us lovely memories,  
We will treasure through the years.

*Sadly missed by Betty, John, Billy, Catherine, Mark,  
grandchildren and all your loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Seán*



In Loving Memory of

**MICHAEL  
(SPIKE) DONOGHUE**

Late of Beladd, Portlaoise

14th Anniversary away from us - 17th April.

Fourteen years have passed now Dad,  
Since we had to part,  
Fourteen years of grieving  
With a broken heart,  
We talk about you often,  
We think about you still,  
You shall never be forgotten.

*Also remembering his wife Ellen*

*whose 35th Anniversary occurred 15th May.*

*Sadly missed by your sons Micheál and Raymond, daughters Elaine, Sandra and Joy, sons-in-law Sean, John and Pat, daughter-in-law Jacinta, grandchildren Oran, Jack, Pauric, Rita, Ellen, Tom, Fionn, Sarah, Bett, Molly, Daisy, Luke and Ellie.*

*May Dad & Mam Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of

**MARIE WHELAN**

O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.

10th Anniversary occurs 20th May 2026.

Along the road of suffering

A loving hand got you by the hand

And took you up to Heaven

And ended your pain.

*Sadly missed by your husband Peter.*

*Rest in Peace Marie*



Cherished Memories of

**DAVE LALOR**

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.

27th Anniversary occurs 19th May 2026.

Anniversary Mass for Dave & Molly will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Saturday 16th May at 6.30pm.**

*Dad*

A daily thought, a silent tear,  
A constant wish that you were here.  
*Love and miss you always Daddy,  
Gerard x*

*Daddy/Grandad*

Everyday in some small way,  
Thoughts of you come our way.  
Thinking of you always.  
*Love and miss you always Daddy  
Marie, Christy, Kyle and Finn xxxxx*

*Dad/Grandad*

Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.  
*Sadly missed everyday, Daithí, Marguerite,  
Shauna, Oisín & Cillian xxxxx*

Cherished Memories of

**MARY (MOLLY) HEALY**

Cullohill.

27th Anniversary occurred 11th May 2026.

Will those who think of Molly today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

*Missed everyday by her loving Family.*



*May Dave & Molly  
Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of

**WILLIAM  
(BILL)  
CLOONEY  
&  
MAUREEN  
CLOONEY**

11th May 1980  
46th Anniversary



22nd May 2019  
7th Anniversary

Bill and Maureen will be remembered on **Friday 22nd May at 10.00am Mass** in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church.

Mass will be streamed on the Parish Webcam.

Those special Memories of you will always bring a smile.

If only we could have you back for just a little while

Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do.

The fact that you are no longer here will always cause us pain.

But you are forever in our hearts until we meet again.

*Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by their son William, daughters Carmel, Pauline, Valerie, daughter in law Mary, sons in law Richard, Dave, Noel, grandchildren, great grandchildren & extended family.*

*May they Rest in Peace*



**39th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

In Loving Memory of

**IAN LAWLOR-AMARAL**

Bennekerry and Oakleaf Place,  
Portlaoise.

5th Birthday away from Home occurs  
20th May.

*A Loving Son, Brother, Uncle,  
Nephew and Friend*

Today would have been such a special day,  
But now it brings sadness and sorrow.  
If we could share just one more birthday,  
If there was one more tomorrow.

But birthdays are a time to reflect and look over  
The time that has passed, and we can't believe it's been  
Five years; the time just goes so fast.

But memories of happier times in our hearts will stay,  
We will treasure each one, until we meet again someday.

So we'll say "goodbye" for now and blow kisses to  
Heaven above, to wish you a Happy Birthday  
And to send you all our love.

*Deeply loved and missed by his mother Annette, brothers Owen,  
Paul and Wayne, sister Gemma and brother-in-law Fahad, niece  
Sara, nephew Sameer, extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Ian*



In Loving Memory of

**EDWARD (TEDDY)  
LEWIS**

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs  
16th May 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
**Saturday 16th May at 6.30pm.**

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

*Sadly missed by your loving wife, Patricia (Pat),  
sons Frank, Derek, Keith & Gavin, daughters Yvette &  
Avril, daughters-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren  
and great grandson.*

*Also remembering his daughter in law Geraldine Lewis,  
The Heath, who's birthday occurs at this time and  
his cousin Carol Ann Kearns, Dublin  
whose Anniversary occurs at this time.*

*Rest in Peace Ted*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

In Loving Memory of

**GERALDINE LEWIS  
(NÉE BUGGY)**

The Heath, Portlaoise.

7th Birthday in Heaven occurred  
13th May 2026.

Today is your birthday in Heaven above,  
My blessings I send on the wings of a Dove,  
Not just for today, but every day here of,  
I think of you always with all my love.

*Always loved, forever missed by your loving husband Derek,  
children Serena, Rachel and Darragh and grandchild Killian.*

*Rest in Peace Geraldine*



In Loving Memory of

Our Mam

**MARY (MAI)**

**DOYLE**

And Our Brother

**JIM DOYLE**

Late of 37 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.  
25th and 12th Anniversaries occur at this time.

*Mam / Brother*

Sadly missed along life's way  
Quietly remembered every day  
No longer in our lives to share

But in our hearts you are always there.

Holds memories that will last forever. .

*Sadly missed, always loved, never forgotten by your loving daughters,  
son, brother and sisters, Joe, Ellen, Guggie, Mary and families xx*

*May They Rest in Peace*



**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

In Loving Memory of

**GERALDINE LEWIS  
(NÉE BUGGY)**

The Heath, Portlaoise.

7th Birthday in Heaven occurred  
13th May 2026.

Wishing you were here today for just a while, So we could say  
happy birthday and see your loving smile.  
But we will gaze upon your picture and think of you with all our  
Love, and hope you are celebrating in Heaven above.

*Never forgotten by your loving family; Daddy, Mammy, Sean,  
Valerie, Edel and families xxxxx*

*Also remembering Geraldine's father-in-law, Ted Lewis,  
whose 4th Anniversary occurs at this time.*

*Rest in Peace Geraldine*

In Loving Memory of  
**MICHAEL TIMMONS**

53 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.

35th Anniversary occurs 18th May 2026.

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 son Michael,  
daughter-in-law Phil, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Michael*

In Loving Memory of  
**GERARD (GERRY)**

**McCORMACK**

26 The Downs, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurred  
13th May 2025.



In God's care you rest above,  
In our hearts you rest in love.

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Philomena and family*

*Also remembering our Brother and Uncle*

*Rev. Father Patrick Canavan*

*Port Elizabeth, South Africa*

*Whose 3rd Anniversary occurs 30th May.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**NOTICE!**

**CEMETERY  
SUNDAY MASS**

31st of MAY, 2026

Due the restricted parking spaces

**PARKING  
IS  
RESERVED**

for the Elderly & Disabled only.

**PENTECOST**  
*sunday*



**Night Vigil**  
for  
**Pentecost beginning**

**Saturday 23rd May**  
**at 8pm**

**Concluding with**  
**Benediction**

**Sunday 24th May**  
**at 8am**

## Cemetery Masses

**Portlaoise**

St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery

Sunday 31st May at 1pm

(Replacing the normal 12.30pm Mass)

**Ratheniska**

**Cemetery Mass**

Friday 5th June at 7pm

**Abbeyleix**

**adjoining Cemetery Mass**

Saturday 6th June at 5pm

**St. Patrick's**

**Cemetery Mass**

Sunday 7th June at 11am

**Raheen**

**Cemetery Mass**

Saturday 27th June at 7pm

**Shanahoe**

**Cemetery Mass**

Sunday 28th June at 12noon

# KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**



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✉ info@mochuaprint.ie

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Moblie: 087 2538930

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☎ Call us on  
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## The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF CARDS AND GIFTS FOR COMMUNION



Prayer Books  
Rosary Beads  
Rosettes  
Personalised  
Cards and Candles  
Photo Frames  
Gift Sets  
Bookmarks  
Sterling Silver  
Chains & Crosses



- ALSO STOCKING A LARGE SELECTION OF
- Wedding & Baptismal Candles, Cards & Gifts (Candles & cards can be personalised)
  - Personalised Cards for all occasions
  - Essential Oils/Incense
  - Willow Tree Gifts
  - Happy Day Soy Candles made locally
  - Grave Ornaments



## Portlaoise Parish

Results for  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2026



22

23

26

31

**No €10,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Siobhan Holmes  
Margaret & Chloe Langford  
Hilda O'Reilly

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

3  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€334  
each

### PROMOTER

Online Lotto  
Margaret Langford  
Paul Dooley



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish  
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

**Next Week's Jackpot is €11,000**

## 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)



## The Ascension of the Lord

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11  
Responsorial Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9  
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23  
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

## 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](mailto: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 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**

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