

PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
**link  
up**

7th June 2026

## The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Jesus said to the Jews:

'Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Our Cemetery Mass hit the headlines this year for all the wrong reasons. On this feast of Corpus Christi it is good to reflect on what is at the heart of our coming together — the Body and Blood of Christ.



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## Where Else Should We Go?

Jesus tells us that he is the bread of life, that he provides the only food which truly nourishes, that he gives us his own self to sustain us on our journey, that we are to eat his flesh and blood in order to abide in him. For many of Jesus' disciples this was just too hard to

understand and they walked away.

It would be too easy for us to write these lapsed disciples off as fools, as lacking in faith, or as lazy and stupid. We have to remember that up until this point, these men and women had been faithful disciples. To have found a stumbling block too great to overcome must have been a sad and painful moment for them. It would have been interesting to know how many of them might have returned to Jesus at a later date, or how the lapsed had found an alternative way to fulfilment. The real point is that the stumbling block that finally proved too great for those early disciples could face any one of us, and what we need to address, is how we as disciples should cope with the same kind of difficulty.

Key to loyal discipleship is to ask what made Peter and his fellow disciples different from the ones that gave up. They were just as human as the others; they probably had just as many doubts as the others and no more in the way of courage or intellect. The answer has to lie in Peter's simple, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" The 'twelve' might have struggled with doubts and understanding, but they never doubted where they should be looking for answers. Quite simply, they didn't take their eye off the ball. They knew that they should trust Jesus even if some of his teachings were over their heads.

Every day we are faced with the same decisions. Do we follow Jesus' blueprint for living exemplary lives? Do we look to Jesus as the Son of God and the key to eternal life? Do we join in Holy Communion believing in Jesus' real presence.... or do we turn our backs and look for

*Jesus said to the Jews: 'Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'*

## 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.

## Prayer for students doing Exams



Heavenly Father,  
be with all students during  
their exams.

Give them calm hearts,  
clear minds,

and confidence in their abilities.

When they feel anxious or worried,  
remind them that you are always  
by their side.

Bless them with peace, strength, and  
hope. Amen.



**We welcome into our Parish Community**

Filip Dariusz Matuszewski, Lake Gardens

Leo Aodhán Tynan, Kyletelisha

**Who was baptised weekend.**



**The Feast of the Sacred Heart**  
**12th June 2026**

The heart has always been seen as the "centre" or essence of a person ("the heart of the matter," "you are my heart," "take it to heart," etc.) and the wellspring of our emotional lives and love ("you break my heart," "my heart sings," etc.) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is devotion to Jesus Christ Himself, but in particular it is a chance for us to remember all the manifestations of His love for us.



## **Cemetery Mass 2026**

**A Day of Prayer**

**and Remembrance**

**Marred by Violence**

Our annual Cemetery Mass in St. Peter & Paul's has long been one of the most significant gatherings in the life of our community. Each year, thousands of people come together in faith, hope and love to remember and pray for their deceased loved ones. It is a beautiful tradition that speaks of the respect we have for those who have gone before us.

This year's gathering was blessed with fine weather and, for the overwhelming majority of those present, was a prayerful and moving occasion. It was therefore deeply upsetting that the occasion was disrupted by a serious outbreak of violence involving a group of individuals intent on pursuing a long-running feud. Armed with knives and blades, they came not to pray, not to remember their dead, but to cause harm to one another.

Such behaviour deserves the strongest possible condemnation. Those responsible showed a complete disregard for the sacred nature of the occasion, for the thousands of people gathered in prayer, and for the dignity of the cemetery itself. They did a grave injustice to families who had come to honour their loved ones and they dishonoured not only their own deceased relatives but all who rest in St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery.

Particular thought must be given to the many innocent people who were caught up in, or found themselves close to, these frightening events. People who had gathered peacefully to honour their dead were subjected to scenes of aggression and violence that have no place in any civilised society, let alone in a cemetery during the celebration of Mass. We deeply regret the fear, anxiety and trauma caused to those individuals and families. They deserved a peaceful occasion of prayer and remembrance; instead, through no fault of their own, they became witnesses to conduct that was both reckless and disgraceful.

A cemetery is a place of remembrance, prayer and peace. It is not, and must never become, a venue for settling scores or continuing vendettas. The actions of a small minority cast a shadow over what should have been an entirely peaceful and prayerful gathering.

Thankfully, the disturbance was brought under control quickly by An Garda Síochána, whose significant presence and prompt intervention prevented an even more serious situation from developing. We are deeply grateful to the Gardaí for their professionalism and commitment to public safety. We also thank the Cemetery Committee, our stewards, volunteers, parish staff, Order of Malta and all who worked so hard to prepare for and facilitate the Mass.

It is now a matter for the courts to deal with those responsible, and it is to be hoped that justice will be served.

We must not allow the actions of a few to overshadow the purpose of the day or undermine a tradition that means so much to so many families. For generations, people have gathered at this annual Mass to remember, to grieve, to give thanks, and to pray. We owe it to our deceased loved ones, and to future generations, to ensure that this proud tradition continues in an atmosphere of dignity, respect and peace.

May all who are buried in  
St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery rest in peace,  
and may God grant us the wisdom and grace  
to build peace among the living also.

*John Byrne, P.P.*

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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

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# Time to Think...

## St. Peter Claver and Lampedusa



Soon, Pope Leo XIV will travel to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, returning to a place that has become one of the most powerful symbols of the migrant crisis and the Church's call to solidarity with the vulnerable.

The visit comes thirteen years after Pope Francis made Lampedusa the destination of the very first journey of his pontificate in 2013, shortly after a migrant boat capsized in the Strait of Sicily, claiming countless lives. At the time, Pope Francis said the tragedy had remained "like a thorn in my heart causing me pain," explaining that he felt compelled to go there "to pray, to show my solidarity, but also to awaken our consciences, so that what happened will not happen again."

Pope Leo's return to Lampedusa will inevitably recall the words Pope Francis spoke there in 2013 — words that continue to resonate across the Church and the world. "Where is your brother?" Pope Francis asked during that historic visit. "This is not a question directed at others; it is a question directed at me, at you, at each one of us."

One of the blackest marks upon the many colonies established by European countries was, of course, the establishment of a slave trade. Countless people were sold as commodities and sent across the world to live out their days on plantations and in mines. In the Spanish colonies of South America in the 1600s, the indigenous peoples were dehumanised in this way, and voices of protest were rare indeed. Which makes the work of Saint Peter Claver even more remarkable: he devoted his life entirely to the physical and spiritual welfare of slaves.

Peter Claver was born to a wealthy family in Verdu, Spain, in 1581. He studied at the University of Barcelona and after graduating decided to enter the Society of Jesus. At the age of twenty, he joined the Jesuit noviciate at Tarragona. While studying philosophy at Majorca, Claver was advised by Alphonsus Rodriguez to travel as a missionary to the Spanish colonies in South America. Claver agreed and volunteered for the missions, arriving in Cartagena in 1610. Cartagena, located in modern day Colombia, was one of the major port cities of South America, and slave ships from Africa would dock there to sell their goods.

These slaves were in high demand for working in the gold and silver mines there, and an estimated ten thousand slaves travelled into the port each year. When Claver arrived in Cartagena, he travelled first inland to Bogotá where he finished his studies. This achieved, he returned to Cartagena where he was ordained a priest in 1616. Then, Claver, who in the time he spent in the colony had become very aware of the plight of the slaves, set about ministering to the welfare of the hundreds of West Africans brought across the Atlantic to be put to work.

Claver was on hand from the moment the slave ships docked at the port. The slaves were kept in the hold in such horrendous conditions that an estimated one third of those who undertook the journey didn't survive. Those who did make it arrived malnourished and terrified; Claver brought medicines and food with him when he went down into the holds of newly arrived ships and would not leave the ship until he had in some way given aid to everyone he encountered.

Father Alonso de Sandoval, five years Claver's elder, acted as mentor to him in his efforts. Sandoval too felt strongly the need to help those who had lost their freedom and been brought across a sea against their will. While Claver looked to the needs of the newly arrived slaves, Sandoval travelled the plantations where they were put to work, converting some and pleading for better treatment of them by their owners. Claver too would journey to see those he had helped on the boats during the season when few trade ships crossed the Atlantic. As he travelled the plantations, Claver would refuse to stay with slave owners, instead spending his nights in the slave quarters.

Claver devoted decades of his life to the welfare of others, until by the end of his life he was left too ill to leave his room. For four years he was bedridden, forgotten and neglected until his death in 1654. Upon his death however he was given a public funeral and many turned out to pay their respects.

Fr Peter Claver was beatified in 1850 and canonised in 1888 and was declared the patron saint of missionary work among all African peoples. Claver's tremendous witness challenges all people who follow Christ to embrace the most vulnerable with a sense of compassion and kindness.

**Prayer to St. Peter Claver for compassion and justice**

O God of mercy and compassion,

You filled St. Peter Claver with heroic love for the poor, the abandoned, and the enslaved.

Through his example and intercession,

ignite in us the same fire of charity,

that we may see the dignity of every human being

and serve Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters.

St. Peter Claver, defender of the oppressed,

pray for us that we may have courage to stand for justice,

hearts ready to forgive,

and hands eager to serve.

May your life of sacrifice inspire us to live not for ourselves,

but for the glory of God and the good of others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Peter Claver, pray for us!



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 2ND JUNE

*Top score: Bernie Cabill. 1st Lady: Sheila Duff 2nd Lady: Ann Pearson. 1st Gent: Catherine Gavin 2nd Gent: P J Cabill.*

*1st Half: Catherine Fitzpatrick 2nd Half: Paddy Purcell. Raffle: 1st Lena Kelly, 2nd Sheila Duff, 3rd Bridie Kennedy, 4th Lena Kelly.*

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 8th June Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. Wednesday 10th June Sing Along with Caroline from 3pm in Parish Centre. Thursday 11th June in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy Cards and Chat from 3pm - new members welcome to all. Tuition given - for further information contact Maria at 0879187157.

**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)

**FINDING GOD IN NATURE AND CULTURE** – Saturday 27th June 2026, Kildare Town. A day of talks, music, storytelling, prayer, and pilgrimage exploring the relationship between Christian faith, Irish culture, imagination, and the natural world. Featuring Paul Vander Klay, Fr. Conor McDonough OP, and Heather Pollington. Hosted at Solas Bhríde Centre with pilgrimage visits to St Brigid's Well and Kildare Cathedral. Tickets and information on eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/finding-god-in-nature-and-culture-tickets-1988447493982>.

**LOURDES PETITION BOX** Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee wish to advise that a petition box will be in placed in the Parish Church (large brown box under Our Lady) for anyone wishing to have a petition brought to Lourdes on the Parish Pilgrimage. The box will be in there from the 8th June to 22nd June. Please do not place money in the envelope as they will not be opened.

**SOLAS** An Indian Irish Cultural evening, Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise, 20th June from 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. SOLAS is a self-funded locally organised cultural evening celebrating connection, creativity, inclusion, and community through Indian and Irish music and dance traditions. The event brings together artists from different cultural backgrounds. The event will feature Indian Classical Kathak Dance Maestro- Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee (visiting artist from India for his first-ever performance in Ireland), Kathak Dance Artist-Moumita Pal, Tabla Artist-Sanatan Shrivastava, Clarinet Artist- Dr. Paul Roe, Camross Comhaltas, Lynam School of Irish Dancing.

**"C'MERE 'TIL I TELL YA A GOOD ONE"** at Seanchistin, Irej, Ballyfin R32AY99. Sunday, June 14th, 5p.m. Michael Creagh, singer, poet, storyteller, from Rathdowney, will present his one man show Cash only 15euro...a time to sit back, relax and enjoy a good laugh. Follow Michael Creagh on Facebook.

**SOCIAL DANCE** 9pm Saturday 13th June Parochial Hall Market Square, Portarlinton R32 YK24. Music by John Molloy. Adm €10 refreshments served.

**THE ARC PROJECT LAOIS** hosts weekly Family & Recovery Support Meetings every Monday from 7:15pm to 8:15pm at the Laois Partnership Building, New Road, Portlaoise. These free, confidential meetings provide a safe and supportive space for individuals in recovery, as well as family members affected by a loved one's addiction. The groups offer peer support, connection, encouragement and practical help in a welcoming environment. Everyone is welcome and no referral is required. For further information: 085 818 7470 [www.thearcproject.ie](http://www.thearcproject.ie) [info@thearcproject.ie](mailto:info@thearcproject.ie)

**GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO** Tuesday 9th June 2026. St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €5,900. Double number €1,860. Lotto €2,400. Bonus Ball €1,700.

# RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

**ROSARY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH** Daily 3pm.

**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.

**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.

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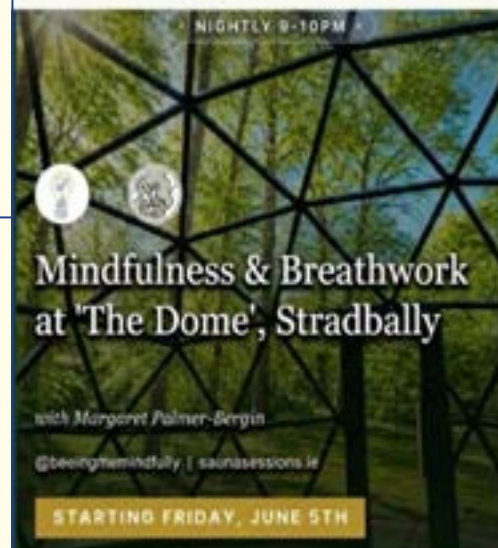
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REMEMBER



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## FATIMA CANDLE

Will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church Saturday 13th June in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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# Prostate Cancer Information Mornings

## Workshops for men

### **John Dunne**

Glenbarrow Physiotherapy  
4th June 2026, 11am

### **Sonya Bowen**

St James's Hospital  
11th June 2026, 11am

These workshops are aimed at men diagnosed with prostate cancer. They will provide education and support as well as the opportunity to meet men in similar situations.

To register please contact the centre on 057 8681492 or email: [info@cuislecancersupport.ie](mailto:info@cuislecancersupport.ie).



**Cuisle Cancer Support Centre**  
Block Road, Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois, R32 Y8P2  
T: 057 868 1492

**SUNDAY,  
JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

the Community Arts Centre,  
Mountmellick  
after the 11am Mass.



## Direction for Our Times

Direction for our Times [DFOT] is an organisation established in 2004 to promote the writings of the Returning King. Jesus calls this a rescue mission for souls. Through the writings He invites people to accept their call to both personal holiness and service to the Gospel message as co-responsible lay people. The late Sr de Sales Egan of Presentation Convent, Mountmellick first introduced DFOT to this area.

Short presentation / free booklets from the apostolate will be available

*All welcome.*



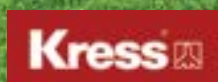
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## The Feast of Corpus Christi: Food for the Journey What We Are Celebrating

On the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, the Church celebrates The Feast of Corpus Christi, also known as The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This Feast commemorates the immense gift of the Eucharist in our lives and in the Church.

In Latin, *Corpus Christi* means *Body of Christ*. On Holy Thursday, we remember the institution of the priesthood and the Eucharist, the Last Supper, the Agony in the Garden, the betrayal of Judas and the beginning of the Passion of Christ. It is easy to become lost in so many beautiful things to remember. Corpus Christi Sunday allows us to focus solely on celebrating the real presence of Christ – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – in the bread and wine.

## A Feast Begins



The origins of the Feast of Corpus Christi date back to the Middle Ages!

During the thirteenth century, a Belgian nun named Sister Juliana, had a great devotion to the Eucharist. Through visions, Our Lord told her to establish a Feast dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. Through the influence of Sister Juliana, the importance of spreading devotion to the Blessed Sacrament reached the future Pope Urban IV. Sister Juliana died in 1258 and is now recognised as a Saint.

In 1263, a German priest by the name of Father Peter, stopped to celebrate Mass in Bolsena, Italy while he was on his way to Rome for a pilgrimage. Father Peter was having doubts at the time as to whether the Eucharist was truly the Body and Blood of Christ. However, as he celebrated Mass, when he prayed the prayer of Consecration, blood emerged from the consecrated host, spilling onto the altar.



Father Peter reported the miracle to Pope Urban IV, who sent delegates to investigate the miracle. Today, the Cathedral of Orvieto, Italy, is the resting place of the relics from this Eucharistic miracle.

The message of Sister Juliana and the Eucharistic Miracle in Bolsena, greatly affected Pope Urban IV. In 1264, through a papal bull called *Transiturus de hoc mundo*, Pope Urban IV instituted the Solemnity of Corpus Christi after Pentecost. Under Pope Clement V, Corpus Christi became a universal Feast. However, under Pope John XXII, devotion to the Holy Eucharist spread widely.

# Today we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi otherwise known as The Body and Blood of Christ

Fill in our word search

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

- Jesus**
- Altar**
- Mass**
- Body**
- Blood**
- Sacrament**
- Communion**
- Holy**
- Eucharist**
- Wine**
- Host**
- Chalice**
- Church**
- Father**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All children who made their

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion

in 2026 are warmly invited to a

*Special Mass*

in Portlaoise Parish Church

Saturday, 13th June 2026  
at 5.00 pm



This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather all our First Holy Communion children together once again in prayer and thanksgiving.

*Families are most welcome.*



We look forward to seeing you there!



Portlaoise Parish



"Jesus said, 'I am like special bread from God. When people follow me and accept my love, they can be with God forever. I love everyone so much that I give myself to help the whole world.'"



### Prayer for Corpus Christi Sunday

Jesus, Body and Blood, we are grateful for the gift of your life and the way it strengthens us to live ours.

Teach us to draw on the gift of your Body and Blood for energy, renewal, strength and grace.

May we never take the gift of your presence for granted.

Amen.



# The Parish Shop



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# DUNAMASE COLLEGE

## TEACHERS SHOWCASE DIGITAL EXCELLENCE ON NATIONAL STAGE



Dunamase College continues to strengthen its reputation as a leader in innovative teaching and learning, with two members of staff recently representing the school at Loinnir: Festival of Digital Learning 2026, a national celebration of excellence in digital education.

Teachers Aisling McAuley and Grace Fanning showcased the outstanding work taking place within the school, highlighting how digital technologies are being used to enhance learning, teaching and assessment across a range of subject areas. Their presentations reflected the school's ongoing commitment to providing students with engaging, future-focused learning experiences

that prepare them for success in an increasingly digital world.

As a recognised digital school, Dunamase College has embraced technology as a key driver of educational excellence. Through innovative classroom practice, collaborative learning opportunities and the thoughtful integration of digital tools, the school continues to create an environment where both students and teachers can thrive.

The contributions of Aisling and Grace at the festival demonstrated the high standards of teaching and learning that are embedded throughout the school community. They represented Dunamase College with professionalism, enthusiasm and generosity, sharing best practice with educators from across Ireland and contributing to important national conversations around digital learning.

In addition to presenting at Loinnir, both teachers participated in a collaboration day involving the Department of Education, Oide and Initial Teacher Education providers from across the country. They shared their expertise with representatives from leading higher education institutions, including Maynooth University, Dublin City University, Trinity





College Dublin, the University of Limerick and the Technological University of the Shannon, Athlone.

Their involvement in these prestigious events reflects not only their individual commitment to excellence but also the growing recognition of Dunmase College as a centre of innovation and leadership in education. The school's willingness to share its expertise and collaborate with educational partners nationwide highlights its role in shaping best practice for the future of teaching and learning.

Principal Mrs. Kelly congratulated both teachers on their achievements, saying "We are immensely proud of Aisling and Grace and the way they



represented Dunmase College at both the Loinnir Festival of Digital Learning and the national collaboration event with our third-level education partners. Their professionalism, expertise and willingness to share best practice exemplify the culture of excellence that exists throughout our school."

As Dunmase College continues to invest in digital innovation and educational excellence, it remains committed to providing students with the skills, knowledge and opportunities they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

**Loinnir FESTIVAL OF DIGITAL LEARNING**

Participants will engage with three 30-minute parallel workshop sessions from the selection below:

- Cross-Sectoral: Emerging Technologies**  
Explore how emerging technologies, including Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and AI-enabled approaches such as Vibe Coding, can enrich learner experiences.  
(Claregalway ETNS, Riall na Mara, Moyle Park College)
- Cross-Sectoral: Digital Tools for Inclusive Classrooms**  
Consider how digital tools can help remove barriers, support diverse learners and create more inclusive learner experiences.  
(St. Anne's Special School, St. Rita's Special School)
- Cross-Sectoral: Digital Literacy**  
Examine purposeful approaches to developing digital literacy through digital citizenship, whole-school planning and broader digital skills development.  
(Mercy Moylerwell, St. Joseph's Ballybrook, Coláiste na Ríochta)
- Primary: Formative Assessment Using Digital Portfolios in the Primary context**  
Discover how digital portfolios can support formative assessment by capturing learning, encouraging reflection and making learner progress visible.  
(Trinity Primary School, Tuam, Grange NS, Carlow)
- Primary: Empowering learners to engage critically and creatively with digital technologies**  
Explore how digital technologies can support the development of key competencies in the Primary Curriculum Framework, including through the meaningful integration of areas such as data literacy and computational thinking.  
(St. Joseph's Longford, St. Catherine's Aughrim, Presentation Monastery Killybegs)
- Post-Primary: Purposeful use of GenAI to engage learners**  
Consider how GenAI can be used purposefully to create engaging, creative and learner-centred classroom experiences.  
(Dunmase College, Dunsgraven CBS, St. Gerard's)
- Post-Primary: Activating Learner Agency through Digital Portfolios and Flipped Learning**  
Explore how digital portfolios and flipped learning can support learner agency, reflection and active participation in the learning process.  
(Bullinger Community College, Coláiste Dún Iascaigh)

*Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died*



**Brendan (Benny) Barry**  
*Clonking, Abbeyleix /  
Ballinakill*



**Joan Murphy**  
*(née Duggan)*  
*Athy & formerly Main St Abbeyleix*



**June Breen**  
*(née Nolan)*  
*Birch Grove, Portlaoise*



**Ned Peacock**  
*Millbrook, Portlaoise /  
Ballyroan*



**Pauline Nisbet**  
*Ballinakill / Rosenallis*



**Richie Finn**  
*Kilminchy, Portlaoise*

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



First Anniversary  
**MICHAEL KILLEEN**

Meelick, Portlaoise.

The family of Michael remember him with love on his first anniversary, which occurs on 16th June.

Anniversary Mass for Michael will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise, on **Sunday 14th June at 12.30pm.**

Knowing you are beside us Michael with every step with take.  
Missing and loving you every day.

*Rest in Peace our precious man.*

*We carry you heart in ours until we're together again.*

*With love from your beloved wife Maureen,  
your son Mike, your cherished grandsons Max and Seb  
and the extended Killeen and Carroll families and friends.*

*May Michael Rest in Peace*



Treasured Memories of

**JOHN DREA**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise & late of Carlow & Athy.

1st Anniversary occurred on 4th June 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Saturday 6th June at 6.30pm.**

John's wife Brenda, together with the Drea and Marum families wish to acknowledge the great support we received from neighbours, friends and relatives on the sad passing of John, R.I.P.

We wish to extend our great appreciation to Mons. John Byrne, P.P. Portlaoise for the beautiful celebration of Mass for John and all who contributed to enriching the ceremony so much for us.

We thank also those who called to the house, sent Mass cards etc. and those who attended the funeral.

Mass will be offered for your intentions

Too dearly loved to be forgotten.

*Loved and missed every day by his wife Brenda,  
sister Ann and the extended Drea and Marum families.*

*May John Rest In Peace*



In loving memory of

**LOUIS G. CULLITON**

Glendowns, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurred  
3rd June 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Saturday 6th June at 6:30pm.**

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Mairéad, sons Donn and Eamonn,  
daughter Sile, sisters Nano, Maura and Alice, and extended families.*

*Rest in Peace Louis*



Acknowledgement & Month's Mind Mass  
In Loving Memory of

## ***JAMES FRANCIS SMITH***

Late of Elm Grove, Ballydavis, Portlaoise.

Month's Mind Mass for James will be celebrated on  
**Sunday 14th June at 9.30am**  
in the Church of the Assumption, The Heath.

We the family of the late James Francis Smith, wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who sympathised and supported us through our recent loss.

Thank you to everyone who stood by us.

We are deeply grateful to those who travelled long distances, sent floral tributes, and left kind condolences. Sincere thanks to the Medical Staff of the Dunamais ward in Portlaoise Hospital and Oghill Nursing Home in Monasterevin who looked after Dad in his final days.

The kindness and compassion they showed to Dad and us will never be forgotten.

To Monsignor Byrne for the beautiful Mass and to Guillfoyles.

Undertakers for their professional and compassionate care on Dad's final journey.

One month has passed since you held my hand, but your legacy walks with me across the land.

I still reach for your advice, your strength and your grace.

And I strive every day to make you proud in this place.

You taught me how to stand, how to love, and how to give. Your blueprint is the way I chose to live.

Rest easy Dad, though the days without you are long, in every lesson you left me, I am strong.

*From your loving son Bernard.*

It's been a month since I heard your voice, but in the warmth of your memory, I still rejoice.

The silence in the house is heavy and deep, but the love that you gave me is mine to keep.

You were my first hero, my guide and my light, and I still feel your hug when I'm missing you at night.

Though the pain of your loss is a heavy, quiet cost, I know I'm forever anchored by the love that we lost.

*From your loving daughter Paula.*

I saw you leave, I heard your call, but my paws could not follow you at all.

I whined and sat beside your chair and wondered why you were not there.

They say your journey took you away, to a place where souls go to rest and play.

But how can I rest when my heart is so sore, when you aren't here to open the door?

So, I lay in the sun on the kitchen floor, right by the edge of the door.

And I watch every path, I sniff every breeze, hoping your Spirit is walking with these.

I'll wait by the gate, I'll keep up the watch, with a faithful heart and a joyful touch.

Time means so little, the wait isn't long,

Because you are my heartbeat, my life and my song.

And when my time comes to finally cross, to heal all the pain and the terrible loss,

I'll run to your arms with a wag of my tail, together again, on the other side of the trail.

*From your friend Alfie.*



In Loving Memory of  
**CATHERINE  
 FARRELL**  
 (NÉE PAISLEY)

Grallow Wood, Abbeyleix.  
 2nd Anniversary occurs 3rd June 2026.

Catherine's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul Church on **Sunday 7th June 2025 at 12.30pm.**

*1 earth, 7 seas, 7 continents, 196 countries, 7 billion people and I was lucky enough to find you.*

Two souls don't find each other simply by accident.  
 My soul chose yours; it saw you and it kind of went  
 "oh there you are, I've been looking for you".  
 Imagine finding both love and friendship in one person.  
 You were my right and my left, my reason and my way,  
 my morning and my night.  
 When you smiled, the stars sparkled,  
 the moon glowed, and the sun shone.

The universe knew how rare you were. You were pure love.  
 Some people are just born walking the earth shining their  
 love on everything they touch.

All the love you created is still here.

All the memories are still here.

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

Being loved by you was one of the most special things about  
 me and the thing I am most proud of.

If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died.

But the end came too fast. You had so much life left to live.

So many sunrises to wake up to, so many memories to make,  
 so much more love to give.

It will forever break our hearts that you didn't get that time.  
 And we needed more time too, more time to memorise every inch  
 of your face and more time listening to the sound of your laugh.

We needed a thousand more tomorrow's and a thousand  
 more I love you's.

And we are not done loving you, we will carry you in  
 our hearts until there are no more days left to us.

We were blessed to have someone who made  
 saying goodbye so hard.

If there is something after this, know that I will meet you there  
 because no distance can separate what is bound by eternity, no  
 time can fade what is written in the stars.

Some souls are meant to find each other, over and over again.  
 You will forever be my always.

And even though you didn't make it to the end of our story,  
 I will always have the corner folded down on your page because it  
 was my favourite.

*Loved and missed by Rob, Sam, Rose, Noelle and all her family.*

*Rest in Peace Momma Bear*



In Loving Memory of our Wonderful Aunt

**CATHERINE  
 FARRELL**  
 (NÉE PAISLEY)

Grallow Wood, Abbeyleix.  
 2nd Anniversary occurs 3rd June 2026.

Of all the special gifts in life  
 However great or small,  
 to have you as our Aunt  
 was the greatest gift of all.

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

Deep in our hearts, your life is kept  
 to love and cherish not forget.

No more tomorrows we can share  
 but yesterdays are always there.

A silent thought, a secret tear  
 keeps your memory ever near  
 in our hearts forever.

*Loved and missed by Carla and Rachel.*

*Rest in Peace Path*



In Loving Memory of  
**BILLY LYNCH R.I.P.**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

(10th Anniversary)

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this  
**Saturday 6th June at 6.30pm.**

*Bill*

Although you can't be here with me, we're truly not apart,  
 Until the final breath I take, you'll be living in my heart.

*Loved always and missing you, from Betty xxx*

*Dad*

Nothing can ever take away, the love a heart holds dear,  
 Fond memories linger every day, remembrance keeps him near.

*Loved always from your sons xxx*

*Dad*

Every year gets harder, since you were taken away,  
 A Dad so very special, in our hearts you'll always stay,  
 We think about you always and miss you everyday.

*Loved always by Lisa and Ann-Marie xxx*

*Grandad*

You're never far from mind Bill and spoke of everyday,  
 you left us many memories that will never go away.

Missing you grandad Bill.

*Love from your grandchildren and great-grandchildren xxx*  
*Also remembering his son Willie and grandson Shane at this time.*

*May Billy Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**DAVID CARROLL**  
whose Anniversary occurs  
on 7th June.



Time unfolds another year.  
Memories keep you very dear  
Simple words but very true  
We will always love and remember you.  
*Sadly missed, loved and always remembered*  
*Dad, Mam, Brothers and Sister xxx*

*Also remembering David's Grandad Jim,*

Will those who think of Jim  
A little prayer to Jesus say.

*Jimmy, Maureen and Family*

*May They Rest in Peace*



In loving memory of  
**ANNA (HADE)**  
**MURPHY-NEWTH**

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

Anna's first anniversary Mass will be celebrated on the  
**7th June 2026 at 11.15am** in St. Peter and Paul's Church  
Portlaoise.

On Anna's first anniversary her family would like to  
extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to all those  
who joined us in saying goodbye.

Thank you to all who sent Mass cards,  
messages of condolences and flowers.

A special word of thanks to the wonderful group of ladies  
who cared for Mam in her own home, the staff of  
Kilminchy nursing home who cared for Mam in her last few  
weeks and the doctors and nurses at Maryborough practice.

We would also like to show our appreciation for the  
Priests, undertakers and singer at Anna's funeral Mass.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually,  
please accept this acknowledgement with our heartfelt  
appreciation.

*"A Life well lived, A Love well shared".*

*Rest in Peace Anna*

In Loving Memory of  
**MARGARET LEECH**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise, formerly of  
Kellystown Wolfhill.

13th Anniversary away from home.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church,  
Wolfhill, **Sunday 7th June at 10am.**

Nothing different on the day you were gone  
The world still turning, the sun still shining  
Birds singing and people living  
Nothing different - but everything.

*Forever in our Hearts.*

*Anne, Elizabeth, Colette, Geraldine, Michelle and families.*

*Rest in Peace Margaret*

In Loving Memory of  
**GERARD DUNNE**

Braccas, Ballacolla, and formerly  
Borris Little, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary away from home  
occurs 8th June.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, **Saturday 6th June at 10am.**

We begin to remember,  
Not just that you died,  
But that you lived,

And that your life gave us memories  
Too beautiful to forget.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by*  
*his loving wife Kathleen and family xxx*

*May Gerard Rest in Peace*



In loving memory of  
**GER, JOHN &**  
**SÉAMUS DUNNE**

Late of 6 Borris Little, Portlaoise,  
whose anniversaries occur at this  
time.

Wonderful memories of ones so dear,  
Treasured still with a love sincere,  
In our hearts they are living yet,  
we loved them too dearly to forget.

*Loved and remembered by Geraldine, Tony and family.*

*Rest in Peace*





Acknowledgement & Month's Mind  
In Loving Memory of  
**KATHLEEN  
(KAY) DUNNE  
(NÉE DELANEY)**

Dysart, Stradbally, Laois.

Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska on Sunday 7th June at 10am.

The family of the late Kay Dunne wish to thank most sincerely all who sympathised with us on our recent loss.

Thanks to our relatives, neighbours, friends, work colleagues, and all who travelled long distances to be with us, attended the funeral Mass, sent Mass cards, letters and online condolences and those who brought food and flowers.

Special thanks go to:

Monsignor John Byrne and Fr Martin Delaney and clergy for celebrating the Requiem Mass,

Heather Fogarty for the beautiful singing & music at the funeral Mass, Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors for their professionalism, kindness and guidance with the funeral arrangements.

A special thanks to Maryborough Family Practice, especially Dr Averil Atkinson and Dr Michelle Byrne, Prof Mark Doherty and the staff at SVPH, Dublin and her great friends and staff at the Cuisle Centre.

Thank you also to the Carers, The Laois Palliative Care Team, Sarah, Sonya, and Olive, and Night and Twilight Nurses, especially Sharon O'Brien, for their wonderful care of Kay.

Thank you to Chemco Pharmacy for their advice and kindness to us,

Park Ratheniska GAA Club and our neighbours for car parking services,

The Heritage Hotel Killenard for their hospitality and facilities on the day of the funeral.

*May Kay Rest in Peace*



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  
In loving memory of

**CHRISTINE RONAN  
(NÉE WHELAN)**

Higgins Park Fairgreen Village, Portlaoise.

To our wonderful Mother, loving Wife  
on your 2nd Heavenly Birthday June 6, 2026.

We thought of you today

But that is nothing new

We thought about you yesterday  
and will tomorrow too.

We think of you in silence  
And make no outward show  
For what it meant to lose you  
only those who love you know.

Remembering you is easy

We do it every day.

*Much loved & sadly missed every day by your heartbroken family.*

*May Christine Rest in Peace*

In loving memory of

**DANIEL (DANNY)  
WHELAN**

12th Anniversary occurs  
on 8th June 2026.



So many things have happened  
Since you were called away  
So many things to share with you,  
Had you been left to stay.  
Every day in some small way  
Memories of you come our way  
Though absent, you are ever near  
Still missed, loved and always dear.

*May Danny's Soul Rest in the Arms  
of Heavenly Angels*

In loving memory of

**EILISH COOGAN**

Lower Main St, Portlaoise.

Whose 1st Anniversary occurs at this time.



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.

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by your loving sister Kathleen & family.*

*Rest in Peace*



Acknowledgement & Month's Mind  
In Loving Memory of  
**SÉAN FARRELL**  
Aisling, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.

Sean's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in  
St Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise, on  
**Sunday 7th June at 12.30pm**

The family of the late Sean Farrell wish to express our  
sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who sympathised  
with us on our recent and very sad loss.

We are deeply grateful to our relatives, neighbours, friends,  
and colleagues for their support, kindness, and compassion  
during this difficult time.

We were truly touched by all who sent Mass cards, messages  
of condolence, travelled long distances, attended the wake and  
funeral and offered their support in so many ways.

Your kindness and words of comfort meant so much to us  
and helped us through a very difficult period.

A special word of thanks to the wonderful staff of Droimnín  
Nursing Home for the exceptional care, dignity, and  
compassion shown to Sean during his time there, and for the  
unwavering support they extended to our family.

We sincerely thank The Heath Golf Club for providing  
a Guard of Honour, a gesture that was greatly appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Ciprian Matei for celebrating such  
a beautiful and meaningful Requiem Mass in Sean's memory,  
and to Michelle Bartley in the Parish Centre for all her  
assistance in organising the funeral liturgy.

We are also grateful to Heather Fogarty for the beautiful music  
and singing, which added so much to the ceremony, and to  
Brian for his moving rendition of "Hallelujah" at the graveside.

A special thank you to David and Matthew Keegan  
and all at Keegan's Funeral Home for their professionalism,  
kindness, guidance, and support throughout the funeral  
arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually,  
please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere  
appreciation and gratitude to all who supported us in any way.

*Forever loved, always remembered, and sadly missed.*

*May Sean Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**PATRICIA MULHALL**  
**(NÉE FARRELL)**

12 River View, Ridge Rd. Portlaoise.  
1st Anniversary occurs on the 7th June 2026.

Along the road of suffering, you found a little lane.  
That took you up to Heaven and ended all your pain.  
You may be out of sight, we may be worlds apart,  
But you are always in our prayers  
And forever in our hearts.

*Sadly missed, always remembered by your son Christopher,  
daughter Jennifer daughter in law Bernadine, son in law  
Richard, Grandkids, family & friends.*

*May Patricia Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**PATRICK (PAT)**  
**PAISLEY**

Formerly of St. John's Square, Portlaoise.  
8th Anniversary occurred 9th June 2026.

Treasured memories keep forever of times when we were together,  
Each of us in our own way, have special thoughts of you today.

*Also remembering at this time;*

Patrick's Parents Christopher and Kathleen, his brothers Mike  
and Christy, sister-in-law Sylvia and dear niece Catherine.

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

*Loved and sadly missed by all their loving families and friends.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

## Cemetery Masses

**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



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## PORTLAOISE PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

If you have lost a loved one there is a confidential one-to-one support service available.



*To make an appointment*

**Call 087-9878300**

## † **KEEGAN'S** † **FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

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David **087-2369887**

## **HENRY RANKIN**

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**CARLOW  
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SOCIETY**

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**MENDELSSOHN**

# ELIJAH

**FRIDAY 12 JUNE, 2026 7.30PM**

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION, CARLOW



**RTE Concert  
Orchestra**

**SOLOISTS**  
Soprano Katy Kelly  
Mezzo-soprano Raphaela Mangan  
Tenor Conor Prendiville  
Baritone - Elijah Benjamin Russell

**Conductor Blánaid Murphy**

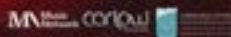
Suggested patronage for people over 16 years is €25. See

Choir Members, Everdrite.ie (plus booking fee) or Scan QR Code.

WWW.CARLOWCHORALSOCIETY.COM



Digital Concert Programme available on website before concert



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## Portlaoise Parish

Results for  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2026



**One €13,000 Jackpot Winner**

**Congratulations to Sarah Troy  
Promoter Sarah Troy**

### WINNERS

Danny O'Loughlin  
Murt Keogh  
Thomas O'Connor  
Mary Anne Dunne  
Mary Bowe  
Chloe & Tara

**MATCH 3s €1,000**



### PROMOTER

Browns Shop  
Sharon Dunphy  
Paddy O'Connor  
Peter Ryan  
Paul Dooley  
M Farrell



Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish  
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

**Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000**

## 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 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**  
Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16  
Responsorial Psalm: 147:12-15, 19-20  
1 Corinthians 10:16-17  
John 6:51-58

## 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**

**LAOIS HOSPICE FOUNDATION**

**SUNFLOWER DAY**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Laois Hospice are seeking volunteers to collect on the day.

Would you have **one hour or two** to spare on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June** to help with Sunflower Day?

If you have please contact Mary Delaney 086-8157280 or Mary Finlay 087-2968433 or Irene Murray on 087-2897753

This is one of our biggest fundraising events each year.

All monies collected on the day will stay in Laois to fund the much needed hospice home care and patient comfort services in Laois.

Please support Laois Hospice on the day and thank you for your continued support.

  
**LAOIS**  
**HOSPICE**

*Thank You!*