



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Mary's CBS

2019 Zambian Immersion Team

Our prayers and good wishes go with the pupils and staff of CBS for their two week Zambian trip. We hope they will be enriched by the experience of visiting and helping out in Orphanages, Clinics and Schools.

Back row: Geoff Brennan, Thomas Dunne, Kevin Swayne, Adam Duffin, Ben Dunne, Daniel O'Toole, James Walsh.

Middle row: John Keogh, Cathy Mulligan, Alain Carroll, Eddie Critchley, Niall Carey, Ben Brennan, Brian Fingleton, Eimear Lewens.

Front row: Stephanie Buckley, James Connelly, Michael Rodgers, Peter Conroy, Marc Ramsbottom, Jack Delaney.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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

7th February 2019

Portlaoise Parish



One **€10,000** Jackpot Winner



One Jackpot Winner of **€10,000**

Winner: Joan O'Reilly Promoter John O'Reilly

WINNERS

Sheila Roche
Paul Quail
Catherine Larkin
Kathleen Foley
Cody Redmond
Eimear Leahy
Peter & Breda
I Russell
Victory Feighery
Frank & Mary Haslam
Tony & Maria

PROMOTER

Paul Dooley
Lotto Gift
Anne Brennan
Tom Colohan
Carmel Whelan
Lily Gleeson
Peter Ryan
Paul Dooley
Breda Conroy
Mary Haslam
Peg Lawlor

11
Match 3s
€91
each

Next Week's Jackpot **€10,000**

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Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8692153



Fr. Paddy Byrne C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Tom O'Connor P.E.
(Parish Chaplain)

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142

Outside of Office Hours
In emergencies only
To contact the Priest on duty
057-8621364

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie 057-8692151
(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church
are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
Religious gifts and books.



Portlaoise Cemetery Committee pictured above at the recent blessing of the renovated Calvary. Our thanks to this committee for all their hard work in maintaining this Sacred resting place.



WORLD DAY of the SICK 2017

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Monday 11th February 10am

Celebration of the Eucharist
And Anointing of the Sick
In our Parish Church
Celebrant: Bishop Denis Nulty
There will also be a special blessing
for all who care for the Sick.
All are Welcome.



**Rosary at the Grotto on Monday at 8pm for the Feast of
Our Lady of Lourdes.**

Online Lourdes Petition/Prayer

You might never get to go to Lourdes in person, but you can still post a petition online. When you post online your petition/prayer request will be placed at the Grotto in Lourdes, as quickly as possible. Millions of pilgrims visit Lourdes each year and many of them place their prayers at the Grotto. Visit www.lourdesprayerrequest.com



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

A Course will take place next Tuesday (12th Feb) in the Parish Church at 7.30pm to train new Ministers of Holy Communion.

All our present Ministers are welcome to attend this course as a refresher course.

If you would like to partake in this important service in our Parish please give your name to any of the Priests, or the Parish Centre before 3pm next Tuesday
Tel: 057 8621142

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday — Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

Polish Mass, 3rd Sunday of the Month at 5pm.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am
& 6.30pm Masses.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Please consider giving a couple of minutes of your week to adoring the Blessed Sacrament in the Parish Church. Sign up sheets available in Church porches.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Evan Jacob Young,
Rath Gailine

William Terry O'Donoghue,
Colliers Court

Brooke Avril Sylvia McFadden,
Allenwood South, Naas.

Who were baptised last weekend

Sunday 3rd February 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,882.00
Development Fund	€3,663.00
	€6,545.00

Thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish.

Communions & Confirmations

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SPORTS PEOPLE;

May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.

CHILDREN;

Who are in toeing, out toeing, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.

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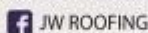
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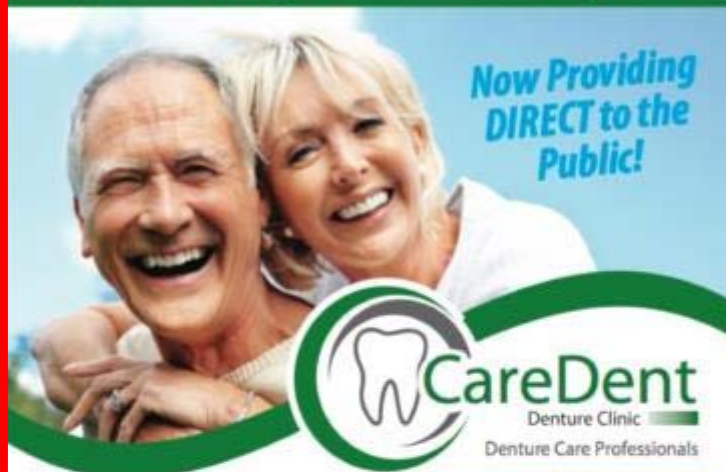
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What a Catch!

Have you ever wondered why so many people like to go fishing? There are many reasons why people go fishing. Some people go fishing because they like to eat fish and catching the fish yourself might be less expensive than buying it at the grocery store. For others, fishing is just a hobby. It gives them a chance to get away from their daily routine for a time of rest and relaxation. I have even heard some people say they don't even care if they catch any fish, they just enjoy going fishing. I would never fit in that last group. If I am going to go fishing, I want to catch fish. I want to catch a lot of them and I want to catch them right now! You know, the Bible has a lot to say about fishing. The reason for that is that the first disciples that Jesus called were fishermen. They didn't fish for fun and relaxation and it wasn't a hobby. They fished because that is how they made their living. Do you think they cared whether they caught any fish or not? You had better believe they cared.



In the Gospel today we hear about one of the disciple's fishing trips. The story begins with Jesus preaching on the shore beside the sea of Galilee. There was a huge crowd of people gathered around him and they kept pressing closer so that they could hear him better. Jesus noticed two empty boats at the water's edge where the fishermen were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats and asked Simon, the boats owner, to move it out a little further from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and preached to the people from there.

When Jesus had finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Move on out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Simon answered him, "Master, we have fished all night without catching a thing, but if you say so, I will let down my nets again." This time the nets were so full of fish that they began to break. A call for help brought their fishing partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were so full of fish that they were about to sink.

When Simon saw what had happened, he was filled with awe and perhaps with fear to be in the presence of someone with so much power. He fell on his knees before Jesus.

Jesus said to him, 'Do not be afraid: from now on it is men and women you will catch.'

When they reached the shore, they pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed Jesus.

What did Jesus mean when he told them they would be fishing for men and women? Obviously, he didn't mean that they would go out and throw a net over them. What he meant was that just as they had been bringing the fish into their boats, they would now be bringing people into the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants you and me to be fishers of people too. That means that we will tell the people we meet about Jesus so that they can know him and become his followers too.



Our Prayer



Heavenly Father, just as Jesus called his early disciples to fish for people, he has called us to tell others about his love so that we might bring them into the Kingdom. Help us to be faithful to become fishers of people. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Be Not Afraid

Jesus said 'Do not be afraid, from now on it is men you will catch.' Then bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

BOATS
AFRAID
LUKE
JOHN
JAMES
SINFUL
MASTER
CROWD
GENNESARET
NETS
LAKE
JESUS
PETER
MEN
WOMEN
FISH
FISHERMEN

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





TIME TO THINK!

FR. JOHN A LOVELY MAN

The recent tragic death of Fr. John Cummins, following a freak car accident has left me numbed and deeply saddened. It resonates with ancient wisdom that life is indeed so very fragile and none of us know what's around the corner. There has been a huge outpouring of grief, since John's untimely death. I think of his mother, his beloved siblings and extended family and many friends, I think too of his Diocesan family, Bishop Denis and his brother priests.

One of the wonderful gifts of the priesthood is that it opens so many doorways into peoples lives. For 27 years John in his gentle, sincere, unobtrusive and lovey nature opened the door of faith, hope and love in a ministry that he lived and loved to the full. Priesthood is a wonderful gift not just for those of us who are called to live our lives in ministry, but also for the faith community where we serve.

Priesthood is always about service, being present and available to others. It's not rocket science, an effective priest is a good parishioner. John was a wonderful priest. His family in the days after his death remarked how he loved living his life as a priest.

When we consider the tsunami of change and crisis, that the Catholic Church in Ireland, has gone through during John's priestly life, his vocation despite the challenging environment remained strong and life giving. Like so many of us priests John found tremendous support and encouragement where he ministered with faithfulness and generosity. Blessed with a keen intellect (A gift he carried likely) John's wisdom and understanding pointed others in a direction of hope and peace. His role as Chaplain in Carlow Institute of Technology was valued by so many students and staff. He was instrumental in the development of faith development services in our diocese, a role that facilitates lay faith leadership to support local parishes to nourish the many gifts and talents that live and dwell in all our hearts.

John spent 18 months ministering to the people of Abbeyleix and Ballyroan Parish, a short time, where he made an immense impression on the local people. I remember calling to visit John shortly after his arrival to Abbeyleix and his smile and affirmation on the parish was wonderful. "The people here are lovely". Knowing John, if he landed on the moon he would have said "the martians here are lovely". Happy and contented people see others in a positive and encouraging manner - John Cummins was such a man.

I find myself asking where is God in all of this.... A struggle I'm sure many share. I asked a brother priest the same question and he reminded me of Mary mother of Jesus, what she must have asked when she saw the tragic and brutal death of her beautiful son as he died on the cross. Death is difficult and indeed painful. Death strips us of the familiar and leaves us often both naked and vulnerable, with our bereavement and



painful losses, we all have experienced when a loved one dies. The Death of a loved one often leaves us asking many questions struggling in finding answers as we wrestle in the coping and continuing of our day to day without a husband or wife, sibling or friend. The great Christian writer C.S. Lewis describing his experience of loss simply said, "The tears and loss that I now feel is the love we once shared,"

Perhaps the two most powerful lines in the entire Gospel describe the human emotion felt by Jesus when his friend Lazarus died, "Jesus wept". Jesus knew the pain and hurt that comes to visit when someone we love dies. In fact in order for God to fully embrace the human condition, he also through his Son had to embrace death itself. The humiliating, brutal manner of Christ's death united God with all experiences of suffering and persecution. The final words that came from our dying God was a prayer of welcome and wonderful invitation "Today you will be with me in paradise".

John's death, and the wonderful, kind, compassionate response by thousands of people following, has in many ways given me a deeper appreciation into the gift of Priesthood. It's a sacred gift that I hold with great love in my heart. Priesthood is a necessary and valuable way of life in every Christian community.

John personified the great dignity of the priesthood. In a time when our Diocese needs faithful and generous priests, I pray John Cummins will inspire and give courage to those who sense God's call to this wonderful way of life. When the late Bishop Ryan, presented John with his chalice and paten during his ordination in Newbridge 27 years ago he said "Receive from the Holy People of God the gifts to be offered to God. Know what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's cross." I have no doubt that John exemplified this invitation and the Good Lord warmly embraces his soul to eternal Life.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 15,400 followers or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

Fr. Paddy's book *"All will be well"* on sale in the Parish Shop or online at www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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(€5 supplement)

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(cheese & tomato on bun) served
with salad, chips & onion rings
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Mary Lynch
Borris Road



Tom Rolston
Glendowns and late
of Sligo



Billy Maguire
Mountmellick and
formerly Portlaoise
and Newbridge

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod
and your staff - they comfort me.*

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to
the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

In Sad & Loving Memory of
Our dear brother
JOHN HOULIHAN

Late of Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurred 31st January 2019. Mass offered.



*From where we sit we shed a tear,
Wishing somehow you were near,
So we close our eyes and think of you
and just for one moment,
you step into view.
Beautiful memories wrapped in gold,
These of you John are ours to own.*

Loved and always missed by your sisters, Tina, Catherine,
Ann, Margaret, Liz, Mary and brothers Paddy and Con.

May John Rest in Peace

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In Loving Memory of PETER ALLEN

Eyne, Portlaoise.

21st Anniversary occurs 10th February 2019.



*Thinking of you as time goes by,
Our memories will never die,
Deep in our hearts your life we keep,
Not gone from us, just gone to sleep.
Sadly missed and always remembered
by Bridie and all your loving family.*

May Peter Rest in Peace



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In Loving Memory of **BILL WHELAN**

Corrigreen, Stradbally. 4th Anniversary occurs 15th February.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in the Church of the Assumption,
the Heath on
Sunday 17th February at 9:30am.
*Never more than a thought away and
those who have loved you dearly are
thinking of you today.*

Loved and remembered by his loving wife, family and friends.

May Bill Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MARY CONROY** 18 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise *For a Wonderful Mum*



*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.*

7th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Wednesday 13th February at 10am.

*Love you always Mam, from your loving son
Michael and daughters Marie, Phil and Josephine.*

May Mary Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MAUREEN CONDON** (née Daly) 16 Rockdale, Portlaoise. (15th Anniversary)



*You gave us years of happiness,
Then sorrow came with tears,
You left us lovely memories, we will
treasure through the years.
Sadly missed and always remembered
by all your loving family.*

May Maureen Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of My Husband **CHARLIE CLARKE**

5 Abbeylax Rd. Portlaoise.
24th Anniversary occurred 8th February 2019



*Your memory is our greatest treasure,
To have and cherish and keep forever.
Always remembered by his loving wife
Peggy and his daughter Dorothy.*

May Charlie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **KATHLEEN BRACKEN**

née Dunne

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise. 5th Anniversary occurs at this time.



5th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this Saturday 9th February at 6.30pm.

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

Loved always by Larry, Frances & family

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MADGE McEVOY**

Capoley, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs Wednesday 13th February 2019.
Much loved and cherished Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother.



*Just a prayer from the family who loved you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by;
Sarahann, Ailish, Mary, Joe, Breda and their families.*

May Madge Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **CHRISTY WHELAN**

138 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurred 7th February 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 10th February at 11:15am.

*Thinking of you today and always
We miss your smile, your joking ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
And when old times we do recall
It's then we miss you most of all.*

Sadly missed by his loving wife Lily and all his family.

May Christy Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

MARIA LOUISE GREENE

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise

5th Birthday in Heaven - 7th February 2019



*Of all the gifts in life, however great or small,
To have you as our daughter was the
greatest gift of all,*

*Remembering you is easy now,
We do it everyday,*

But there is an ache within our hearts that will never go away.

*Happy 10th Birthday our Beautiful Daughter Maria
From Daddy, Mommy, brother Stephen, sister Natalie,
grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins & friends.*

Maria - Away with the Angels

In Loving Memory of

LARRY McDONALD

45 Lakeglen, Portlaoise whose 7th Anniversary occurs 13th February.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 10th February at 11:15am.

*Gone are the days we used to share, but in our
hearts you are always there.*

*The gates of memory will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows.*

*With tender love and deep regret, we who love
you will never forget.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Margaret, sons,
daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchild
& the McDonald family.*

May Larry Rest in Peace



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving memory of
DAVID RAFTER

"Ardville", Glenside, Portlaoise.



The family of the late David Rafter would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised, sent Mass cards, sympathy cards, floral tributes and messages of support, on the loss of our beloved David.

We would especially like to thank the wonderful staff of Portlaoise General Hospital, the Paramedics who

attended to David, Dr. Gerard White, Dr. Simon Honan, Portlaoise Gardaí for their professionalism and support at such a sad time.

A special thank you to Matthew Keegan, funeral directors, for his professionalism, assistance and attention to detail when carrying out David's funeral arrangements and to Brendan and Adrian Dunne (gravediggers) for taking such care in preparing David's final resting place.

A very special thank you to Fr. Paddy and Fr. David for their support and spiritual guidance throughout this difficult time.

We would also like to thank Noel Daly and staff from Portlaoise College, M&M Catering, Café Latte and Bosco's.

Sincere thanks to Fiona Kelly, Catherine Quigley and James O' Connor for the beautiful music they provided and to the staff of Portlaoise General Hospital for their guard of honour, the residence of Glenside for their kind and continuous support to us and Grellan Delaney & Sons for providing the venue for the refreshments.

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

David's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of Rest Church at Portlaoise General Hospital on Friday 15th February at 7pm.

"The ones that love us, never really leave us"

May David's Gentle Soul Rest in Peace.

ROSARY AT THE GROTTTO



The Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto this
**Monday 11th February at 8pm for the
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.**



*Fatima
Candle*

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am
Mass in the Parish Church on
Wednesday 13th February in honour
of Our Lady of Fatima and for the
intentions of all parishioners.



Ballinakill / Knock Parish Fundraiser

**Michael English
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Sunday, 24th February, 2019

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Claire 086-8600298.



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RELIGIOUS NOTICES

Adoration: Monday to Friday after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Saturday after 10am Mass concluding with Rosary 6pm. Sunday commencing at 2:30pm, concluding with Rosary 7pm. From 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Sunday will be a special time of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood.

Adoration in the Church of the Assumption the Heath Sundays from 2.50pm to 4pm.

Rosary: Please join the Prayer for Ireland team in praying the Rosary daily at 9.30pm on the Parish radio (106.5fm) or web cam.

Rosary at the Grotto: First Fridays and all Feast days to Our Lady, 8pm.

Legion of Mary: meeting every Wed. night at 8pm in the Prayer room of the Parish Church.

"Meditating... Being Mindful... Seeking God": Treo Nua (Knockmay Centre). Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

Parish Bereavement Support: If you have lost a loved one, there is a confidential one to one support service available (by appointment), call 087-9878300.

Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting: Every Monday 8-9pm in the Prayer room of Portlaoise Parish Church.

USEFUL SERVICES

Accord: Going through a difficult time in your marriage/relationship? Counselling Services available at Accord, Parish Centre, Portlaoise, call 057-8661581 or e-mail us at; accordportlaoise@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Host families wanted for Spanish Students (Age 11-16) for two weeks, 28th June-12th July. Children of a similar age required. Reimbursement €800-2 students / €400-one student. Tel. Michael 087-9235496 or e-mail laoislanguagecamps@gmail.com.

Mountmellick Macra present their 21st Annual Pantomime: 'Little

Red Riding Hood': It will take place in the Macra Hall, Mountmellick at 8:15pm nightly on; Thursday 14th February Friday 15th February Saturday 16th February Sunday Matinee at 3pm and Sunday evening at 7pm. Tickets are €10 for adults, €5 for children and on sale in O'Gorman's shop and on the door each night of the show.

Laois Alzheimer's Society Resource

Centre at 47 Main Street Portlaoise is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Our **Social Club** is held on Thursday 14th February from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in Droimnin Nursing Home, Brockley Park, Stradbally, for people with Dementia and their carers. This is a very relaxed informal event where activities, fun and chat can be shared over a cup of tea.

Support Group; Wed. 20th February from 7.30pm to 9pm in Resource Centre, Portlaoise. The support groups provide an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation and to access information and practical advice in a supportive environment. Free to family members affected by dementia and memory issues. For any information on dementia contact;

Ann Munnely, Home-care Coordinator, 057 866 3398 / 086 8372168 or e-mail; laois.branch@alzheimer.ie

Newbridge and Kildare Samaritans are recruiting new volunteers:

If you live in County Kildare/surrounding counties and are interested in volunteering with the Samaritans, please come along to one of our upcoming information nights for prospective volunteers on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st February at 7.30pm at 3 McElwain Terrace, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

For further information please phone 086-0855785 or you can e-mail us at; samaritansrecruitment@gmail.com

Retired Nurses

Association Laois/Offaly

Branch will hold it's meeting on Tuesday 12th February at 2:15pm in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise. All retired nurses are welcome.

Enrolment in Timahoe NS

Is now open and will close before mid-term on Friday 15th February

For enquiries contact; 057-8627051

GROW Community Mental Health Support Group meet at 7:30pm every Wed. in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Why not come along and learn more about positive mental health, well being, recovery and how GROW may help you achieve this. Free of charge. All welcome. Contact; Michelle on 086-4183805 or visit www.grow.ie.

Midlands Living Links Outreach Listening and Support Service for people bereaved by Suicide. Call; 086-1600641.

Portlaoise Men's Shed are open Tuesdays & Thursdays at Portlaoise Equestrian Centre, Timahoe Rd., 11am-3pm. Drop in for a chat and a cuppa and see some of the new projects and activities. New members welcome.

Sue Ryder Charity Shop:

Donations always welcome of ladies/gents good quality clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, jewellery, gift sets, curtains, household appliances, unwanted gifts, bed linen, blankets, furniture. Call Marguerite on 085-8662842.

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be held Tuesday 12th February in the Parish Centre after 10am Mass. New members are always welcome.

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Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

Bowls: Every Monday at 3pm in St. Mary's Hall, regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part.

Whist: Play/learn Whist at Sue Ryder centre every Thursday 2.30-4pm. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events - 13th February: Caroline will join us with guitar and hatful of songs for an eventful and enjoyable day with everything focused on St Valentine's Day theme. It might even bring back some memories of when we were all much younger than today. All ideas are welcome.

Portlaoise ARA held our AGM at the Parish Centre on 30th January. Despite inclement weather we had a large turnout. Our Chairperson Bernie Downey and Secretary Trudy Nealon provided a detailed summary of our many activities and highlights during 2018. We hope to enjoy as many memorable moments during the present year. We have ambitious plans with many outings and activities planned. Thankfully Bernie and Trudy agreed to continue in their roles for this year. One of the founding members of the Active Retirement Groups in Co. Laois, Jimmy Todd, gave a lovely informative talk as Guest Speaker. He helped set up the groups in Laois and we owe him many thanks. We are also delighted that a founding member of Portlaoise ARA, some 15 years ago, Andy McQuillan, and still a very active member, has been elected Honorary President for 2019. We wish all our members a happy and healthy year.

Consultation workshop entitled "Access for all - Disability Community Awareness":

The Laois Public Participation Network in collaboration with The Disability Federation of Ireland will be hosting this consultation workshop in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise on Wednesday 13th February at 7pm. This workshop is targeted at various sectors of the community to highlight, document and give an awareness of the challenges people with disabilities face within our society.

Congratulations to Henry Hewitt, the lucky winner of last week's €10,000 lotto jackpot, our fifth lucky winner of 2019!

Pictured below; Fr. George Adzato presenting Henry with his cheque and Nora Walsh, promoter receiving her cheque for €1,000.

Play lotto online at www.portlaoiseparish.ie or call into the Parish Centre and buy a lotto membership and you too could be as lucky as Henry!



AWAKE 2019

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by phone to 057-8621847 or by e-mail
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or before 17th April, 2019

19th/20th Feb.; Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise. 5-9pm.

21st Feb.; St. Brigid's Church, Coone, Castlecomer. Children's retreat 10am-1pm. Adults 5-9pm.

22nd Feb.; St. Fintan's Church, Raheen. Children's retreat 10am-1pm. Adults 5-9pm.

23rd Feb.: The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Durrow, 5-9pm.

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Wednesdays: Rookie Lifeguard 5.55pm–6.55pm, LS, Levels 1 & 2

Wednesdays: Survive & Save 7pm–7.40pm (12-16yrs or completed Rookie)

Fridays: Little Swimmers to Level 6: 3.30pm, 4.15pm, 5.00pm, 5.45pm

Saturdays: Little Swimmers to Level 6: 10am, 10:45am & 11.30am

Sundays: Little Swimmers to Level 6: 9.15am, 10am & 10.45am



Little
Swimmers
to **Level 8**

Levels to suit all abilities

€90
10 WEEKS

☎ 057 86 45800

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