

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

10th March 2019

# First Sunday of Lent



Our Diocesan Lenten Programme

See Pages 16 -18

## CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Congratulations to the 333 young people Confirmed in our Parish Church over 3 ceremonies, Friday and Saturday.

May the Holy Spirit enrich your lives and may you enrich the life of our Parish.



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)



7th March 2019 Portlaoise Parish



**€13,000 Jackpot Winner**

**Anne Ryan** promoter Tanya Moore

**WINNERS**

John Buggy  
Bunty Connell  
Mary Lalor  
Tom Lalor  
Jo Jo McNellis  
Carmel & Richie  
Sheila Barton  
Hilary Hynes  
Aidan Conroy  
Catherine Larkin  
Jane Louise Kelly  
Anne Brophy  
Peter Ryan  
Maura Hyland  
Lisa O'Brien  
Kathleen Carroll  
Jimmy Grehan  
John Mortimer  
Mary Kirwan

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

19  
Match 3s  
€53  
each

**PROMOTER**

Maura Buggy  
Mary O'Connell  
Lotto Gift  
Bernie Lalor  
Jo Jo McNellis  
Tony Fitzpatrick  
Rocky Kehoe  
Greg Keenan  
Greg Keenan  
Rocky Kehoe  
Jane L Kelly  
Paul Dooley  
Peter Ryan  
Parish Centre  
Lisa O'Brien  
Ambrose Larkin  
Mary Arthur  
Anne O'Keeffe  
Frances Byrne

**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](http://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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

**PARISH SHOP**

Religious gifts and books.

*Lenten Reflection*

**Friday 10.30am**

**Parish Centre with Fr. Eddie Lalor**

**All are welcome.**

**LENTEN STATIONS**

**For the support of our Priests**

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can bring this envelope to Mass next Sunday or any Sunday during Lent.



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.

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Working for a Just World





## Tempted to Distraction?

If we are not criminals, and we don't particularly consider ourselves to be sinners, do we really need to worry about the devil, or the dangers of temptation? If the temptations in our lives are simply to sit at the computer too long, or indulge in the odd tippie, how much does that really matter?



On the first Sunday of Lent we are always treated to the same lesson. We are asked to consider what we are about, how the devil might put spanners in the works, and what we can do about it. Today the devil finds Jesus in the wilderness. He finds him when he is hungry and weak and tempts him with attractive options, food, fame and protection. We don't see Jesus dithering, not even for a minute. Jesus is able to put the temptation behind him because he knows what he is about. Jesus understands his mission and it isn't about materialistic benefit or power. Jesus is able to put aside the temptation because he is confident that the same Holy Spirit that has taken him into the wilderness will lead him back out.

The wilderness comes in all shapes and sizes. For us it could be moments when we're feeling lost, broken, unloved, tired or overburdened. In these moments of weakness this is when we are most at danger. These are moments when the devil can come to us offering comfortable and attractive options. Comfortable and attractive options can tempt us to make poor decisions; decisions that provide distractions. The devil can be subtle. Temptations rarely lead the majority of us into crime or even into sin. Being tempted to finish off a bottle of wine or spend longer than we ought on Facebook doesn't seem so bad, but are the tens of little distractions we succumb to each and every day taking us away from who we really are, and from what is genuinely important?

Every day the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards our specific missions in life. Do we say 'yes' to the work God has lined up for us, or do we fall for all those comfortable little distractions?

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday to Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

### 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.



## We welcome into our Parish Community

Matt Heffernan,  
The Hermitage

Anna Elizabeth Horan  
Straboe

Who were baptised last weekend

## Sunday 3rd March 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,966.00
Development Fund	€3,472.00
	€6,438.00

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





## A Special Treat For Mom

Carvery lunch 12.30 - 3.30pm 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

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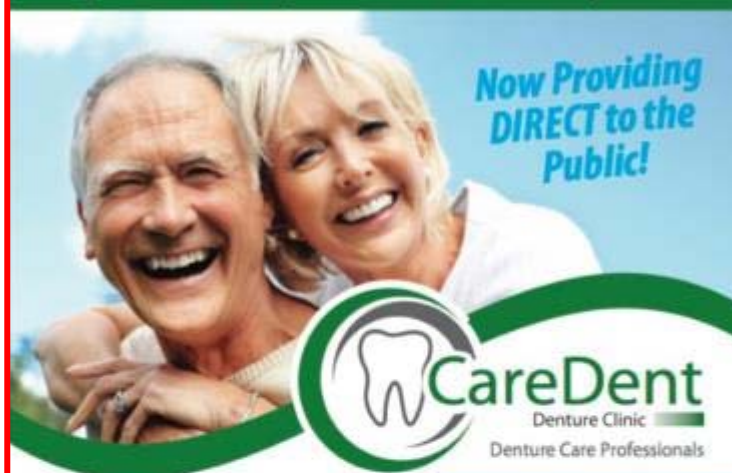
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#### ELDERLY PEOPLE;

May benefit from Orthotics to support, comfort & Correct the Mechanics of the feet. Conditions such as arthritis and diabetes may require softer coverings.

#### 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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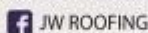
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**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

**Time: 10am-7pm each day**

**Venue: Laois Shopping Centre**

*Donations of quality books will be gratefully received on each day of sale or alternatively books may*

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For more information contact the  
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email: [paddybuggy@mountmellickdevelopment.com](mailto:paddybuggy@mountmellickdevelopment.com)



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connect  
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MDA



# FREE Practical Information Evening for Students and Parents

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Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm

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Limited places are available. Booking is essential

**BOOK  
EARLY**

### Speakers:



Guest Speaker

This year People First CU are delighted to welcome **Rory O'Connor** or as he is better known "**Rory's Stories**" as our guest speaker. Rory started blogging in 2013 and since then his career has catapulted as his popularity grows through social media, stand-up comedy and writing bestselling books.

Rory will speak about "believing in yourself, taking risks, seeing opportunities and above all being happy and content with who you are".



**Seán Dunne** is the CEO of People First Credit Union. He has over 30 years' experience of working within financial services. Seán is familiar with the stresses that come from parents and students worrying about funding college education. "We are hosting this evening to educate both parents and students about how they can put financial planning into place early which will ease the burden and allow easy transition from secondary to third level". Seán will discuss:

- Student Loans
- Grant Payments
- People First Credit Union On-line Facilities



**Mary Quirke**, owner of 'Career Confidence' is a qualified Career Guidance-Counsellor with 20 years' experience. She co-authored her first book 6 years ago - 'Sorted'. Mary works closely with larger organisations such as the HSE, REHAB, FETAC and the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. Most recently she worked as Assistant Director with AHEAD - a National Body actively advocating for a future where students and graduates with disabilities. Currently Mary is studying for a PHD in Career Guidance with TCD. Mary will discuss topics:

- CAO
- Change of mind
- Options outside of going to college



**Damian Butler** is the Budgetary Advisor in UCC. He has previously worked for SUSI Grant Funding and he has extensive knowledge on educational supports and funding for college life. Damian will discuss:

- SUSI Grant Funding
- Coping with college life
- Securing accommodation







# Congratulations

**Congratulations to the 333 young boys and girls who received the  
Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend**



*May the Lord guide you always, may you find strength in His power,  
joy in His love, rest in His peace as you continue to walk in faith.*



## Gaelscoil Phorthlaoise

Dilean de Brún  
Eva de Róiste  
Fionn de Staic  
Oisín Mac an Chrosáin  
Cillian Mac an Mháistir  
Aaron Mac Cormac  
Rebecca Mharascail  
Rian Millard  
Molai ní Bhriain  
Zara Ní Bhroin  
Aisling Ní Chaomhánach  
Aoda Ní Ghreácháin  
Órna Ní Mhaoldúin  
Ellie Ní Mhaolmhuaidh  
Kellai Nig Congail  
Noah Ó Breartún  
Fionn ó Cionnaith  
Micheal Ó Draighnéain  
Liam Ó Duifinn  
Dónal Ó Duinn  
Conchúr Ó Fearnáin  
Cathal Ó Fógartaigh  
Craig Ó Lochlain  
Seamus Ó Maolain  
Rian Ó Scolai  
Niamh Scinéir  
Hazel Whalley  
Orla Uadlóg

## Scoil Bhríde

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Kandece Ryan  
Abi Dixon  
Erin Leonard  
Ella Peters-Fitzpatrick  
Michael Shiels  
Ben Biranne  
Sophia Stokes  
Paulina Berezanska  
Georgina Abebe  
Abigail McDonagh  
Charlie Lynch  
Robertass Makarovs  
Cian Dunne  
Kacper Horoszkó  
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Ketia Kapinga  
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Kevin Lawrence  
Lukas Lasys  
Richmond Akinkuolie  
Divine Atanda  
Lena Lewandowska  
Dylan Gorman  
Shane Mulhall  
Joshua Doran  
Alyson Skerritt  
Ciara Sweeney  
Mia Rankin  
Aleks Garbarski  
Ryan Keegan  
Zuzanna Libelt  
Lucy Doyle  
David Lawless  
John Leppla  
Óran McEvoy  
Jake Byrne  
David Agha  
Anastazja Bryszkowska  
Conor Keyes  
Savannah Lawless  
Kayleigh McDonagh  
Taylor Moore  
Michael Kruk  
Erikas Vaiciulionis  
Darragh Timmons  
Divine Kabamba  
Abigail Osula  
Sam Bride  
Megan Butler  
Julians Mickans  
Rio Lacumber  
Charlie Lawless

## Scoil Bhríde

Rainers Melderis  
Reece Kelly  
Filip Swiecki  
Jesse Murphy  
Peter Joseph McDonagh  
Elijah Usiahon  
Chelsea McDonagh  
George Okpara  
Merissa Webster  
Samantha Danne  
Alex Danne  
Corey McGuirk  
Roisin O'Connor  
Evelyn Murphy  
Natalia Gajoch  
Rebekah Momo

## Educate Together

Daniel Aliu  
Tomas Andriukaitis  
Samanta Baltrusaityte  
Rory Costigan  
Tomass Golubovskis  
Caleb Fitzsimons  
Gromoslaw Grygiel  
Oliwier Hajdenrajch  
Oliwia Jaskiernia  
Myke Kwiatkowski  
Michał Marczewski  
Matas Matijosaitis  
Rachel McDonagh  
Radminas Mickevicius  
Caoimhe Murphy  
Jonathan Murphy  
Evan O'Connor  
Aleksandra Pietrasik  
Saskia Van Amersfoort  
Kacper Wycka  
Tividas Zavedskas

## Ratheniska

Cillian Bowe  
Laura Brennan  
Sarah Cahill  
Emma Casey  
Ciara Conroy  
Grace Cunningham  
Kayla Daly  
Ciara Duff  
Danny Farrell  
Aibhla Jennell Rowney  
Chloe Gallagher  
Aodha Griffin  
Conor Kavanagh  
Tiarna Kavanagh  
Aaron Keane  
James Kelly  
Ewa Korzeniowska  
Jack Murrell  
Sarah Murrell  
James Norton  
Ellen O'Byrne  
Anna Sheehan  
Cathal Tierney  
Benjamin Toomey

## St. Francis School

Kyle Reidy Dundon  
Sarah Cooling  
Isaac O'Donoghue  
Shayne Ward







# Congratulations

## Holy Family

Kristians Arklins  
Matthew Bowler  
Calum Carroll  
Megan Carroll  
Erin Carroll O'Reilly  
Melody Cissy  
Aishling Dobrotwor  
Mia Dunne  
Tirna Harrison McCormack  
Rhianna Keogh  
Jakub Kozlowski  
Paige Lambert  
Ciarán McEvoy  
Ryan McEvoy  
Amy Nevin  
Kyle Newman  
Eimear O'Boyle  
Rachel O'Callaghan  
Keeva O'Reilly  
Kieran O'Reilly  
John Paul O'Shea  
Nathaniel Owoseni  
John Roche  
Eva Roe  
Dylan Shudds  
Evan Shudds  
Kamil Sobczak  
Lucy Whelan  
Kai Wilkie  
Kelvin Alaka  
Stefanie Abrama  
Chloe Abmazan  
Logan Cullen  
Rico Donoghue  
Christopher Dwane  
Poppy Jarrell  
Roisien Galleon  
Toghian Galvin-Jarrell  
Maksymilian Gandyk  
Andrea Gartee  
Olivia Gruszka  
Sophie Hickey  
Luke Kelly  
Arjeta Kovaci  
Ryan Lambe  
Aaron Langford  
Ryan Moore  
Shakira McInerney  
Ricco McInerney  
Raivo Oga  
Carla Phelan

## Holy Family

Aine Rosney  
Conor Stack  
Kevin Thompson  
David Whelan  
Winner Alozie  
Jamie Bartley Bray  
Luke Bowe  
Callum Hennessy  
Katie Carlin  
Rebecca Carlin  
Racheal Cranney Dunne  
Katie Dowling  
Alex Esposito  
Fabio Rossi  
Kosongo Gondwe  
Mikayela Hyland  
Leonardo Jelic  
Emily Lewis  
Conor Maher  
Una McEvoy  
Owen McGowan  
Kaitlyn Nolan  
Ben O'Connor  
Brooke O'Leary  
Dawid Plaskota  
Katie Scully  
Emma Sheehan  
Cillian Smith  
Daniel Thornton  
Lena Trebacka  
Anelisa Tshula  
Jessica Adams Lynott  
Eve Bracken  
Aoife Collins  
Millie Dargan-Jennelly  
Peter Delaney  
Sophie Delaney  
Kylan Dixon  
Brannagh Dunne  
Alesha Dyer  
Shonagh Finlay  
Ben Forrestal  
Ankit Gurung  
Ashin Joshy  
Oliver Junca  
Klaudia Krol  
Bartosz Kupisiak  
Ciara Maher  
Lola Marum  
Katelyn McInerney  
Luke O'Shea  
Victoria Pacajova Ryan

## Holy Family

Leo Picard  
Shannon Quigley  
Elisabeth Weidling  
Frankie Williams  
Michal Angelczyk  
Roland Bak  
Adam Carroll  
Gordon Delaney  
Darrin Dunne  
Sophia Eddery  
Stefan Hill  
Noah Holohan  
Kyle Jennings  
Robert Keane  
Amber Kelly  
Aaron Kingston  
Emma Laffan Skehan  
Ciara Lee  
Conor McCausland  
Oisín Mills  
Emily O'Loughlin  
Teagan O'Reilly  
Kate Phelan  
Divine Samuel  
Andrew Schiller  
Wiktor Stankiewicz  
Sorina Stratu  
Shane Walsh  
Amy Young  
Louise Allen  
Aaron Branagan  
Evan Brophy  
Dylan Brown  
Shane Caulfield  
Jannet Cierocka  
Callum Conroy  
Kate Cowley  
Gabriele Dapkeviciute  
Ali Delaney  
Ella Delaney  
Shanelle Donoghue  
Treasure Esho  
Dawid Filipek  
Sophie Flynn  
Kathryn Iro  
Kyle John  
James Juson  
Clare Keyes  
Korneliusz Macholla  
Anto John  
Niamh Murphy  
Winifred Nevin  
Caoimhe O'Friel  
Markuss Oga  
Zuzanna Stanczyk  
Abi White  
Luke Wilson  
Deimantas Vaskalea

## Heath N.S.

Katie Keane  
Lydia Keyes  
Aljona Lisovska  
Daire Loughnane-Kenneally  
Patrick O'Callaghan  
Cillian O'Connell  
Odhrán Phelan  
Oliver Quail  
Cillian Tynan  
Tony Walsh  
Jessica Beere  
Jayne Booth  
Anna Browne  
John Conroy  
Eve Doyle  
Patrick Fitzpatrick  
Hannah Ging  
Aiden Grace  
Cormac Howson



WISDOM  
UNDERSTANDING  
KNOWLEDGE  
WONDER & AWE  
COURAGE  
RIGHT JUDGMENT  
REVERENCE





## SUNDAY, MARCH 10: DIGGING DEEPER – AN INVITATION



*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

As we gather across the diocese to celebrate the First Sunday of Lent, some of us have the very fresh memory of coming to church last Wednesday and being marked with ashes on our forehead. As we left the church and continued about our daily business, this very visible sign was saying something to those we met - about ourselves - about the community of

faith of which we are a part and - about the journey we, together, are setting out on.

The journey of Lent to Easter is about our renewal, refreshment and healing through God's love and mercy. This is our annual retreat, our annual turning back to God; it is a powerful reminder to us that change can happen, fresh starts can be made, our friendship with God and, in turn, our family and the world, can be deepened and enriched.

This Lent, as your Bishop, I am inviting you personally to make the journey to Easter with me in a very particular way. Each of us, no doubt, will have our own unique journey to make as we turn our lives back to God. Alongside this, I am inviting you to a shared journey as a diocese this Lent. I am asking each of you to join me in reflecting on our Sunday Mass - digging deeper and renewing our belief in this central act of our Christian life. As Catholics, we believe that the Mass is the source and the summit of our lives. To say it is the source, is to say that what we celebrate in the Mass flows into our lives, nourishing it and shaping how we live; to say it is the summit, is to say that it is the highpoint of our Christian life together, a highpoint that we are invited to return to again and again.

So, what better time to turn our attention to what is central to our lives as Christians than in this time of Lent. By doing this I hope that when we renew our own baptism at Easter and welcome new Christians, and when we receive our Easter Holy Communion, that we will do so with a renewed sense of what the celebration of the Mass is about.

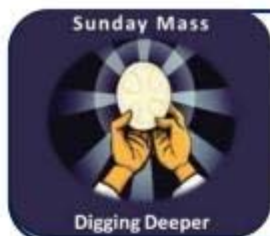
To help us do this, at my request, the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation has prepared a set of resources that I am asking parishes to draw on and use. 'Sunday Mass – Digging Deeper' is a suite of resources that includes homily notes, handouts, video material as well as, for those who would like to dig even deeper, four sessions exploring the Mass called 'Signposts on the Road to Emmaus'. There will be details on the parish bulletin and on our KANDLE website [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

I am personally committing to take this time to renew my own sense of the Mass and its celebration. I'm inviting you, in the weeks ahead, to join me and parishioners from across the diocese in this particular Lenten journey. As we dig deeper into our Sunday Mass let us pray that our reflection will be a source of nourishment and renewal for us all and for our celebration of the Mass in our parishes in the years ahead!

I pray God's abundant blessing on each of you in this season of renewal.

✠ Bishop Denis





## A Menu of Resources for Exploration



*At a glance and coming each week...*

- Homily Notes
- A4 two- sided handout
- iCatholic video exploring a part of the Mass
- Signposts on the Road to Emmaus – an Exploration of the Mass (a parish four-week programme in venues across the diocese)

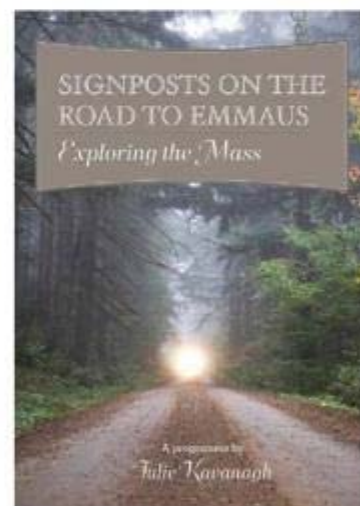
See the special 'Sunday Mass - Digging Deeper' section at [Kandle.ie](http://Kandle.ie) for the weekly handouts, iCatholic videos and a list of venues, dates and times for the parish programme. ***Will be updated each week.***



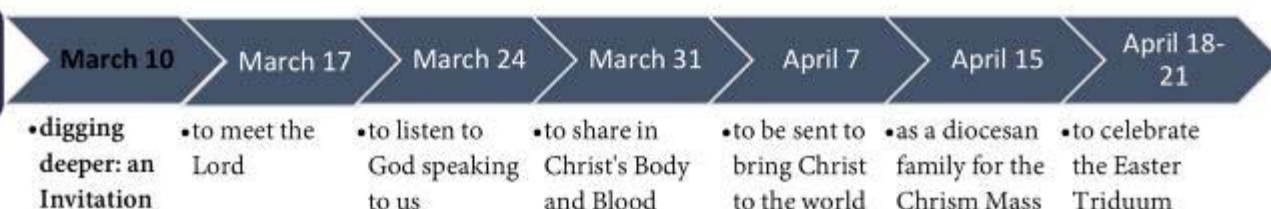
*Weekly videos will be available for viewing at [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) or at [iCatholic.ie](http://iCatholic.ie).*

*These short videos will take you through a reflective exploration of our celebration of the Mass, as outlined in the timeline below.*

This programme will be hosted by a number of parishes across our diocese. Each of the four stand-alone sessions explores a different part of the Mass, beginning with our gathering in the *Introductory Rites*. Using our own human experience and the story of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus as starting points, this programme offers a fresh approach for our own personal reflection on and engagement with the Mass.  
**See [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) for a list of venues.**



***A Timeline of the Journey We are on:***     *We Come together...*





# SUNDAY MASS DIGGING DEEPER

AS PART OF OUR LENTEN  
JOURNEY THIS YEAR, LET'S  
DIG DEEPER INTO OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE  
CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY  
MASS – THE HIGHPOINT OF  
OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE  
TOGETHER

ALL RESOURCES CAN BE  
VIEWED ON [KANDLE.IE](http://KANDLE.IE)

SIGNPOSTS ON THE  
ROAD TO EMMAUS:  
EXPLORING THE MASS

PORTLAOISE PARISH CENTRE  
BEGINNING ON MARCH 19TH  
FOR FOUR WEEKS  
7.30PM

**KANDLE**  
KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

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# TIME TO THINK!

## LENT - A TIME TO EMBRACE POSITIVITY

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer. Lent is a good time to concentrate on fighting the urge to gossip about others and instead trying to correct one's own faults and defects, Pope Francis said as part of his Lenten message. "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" "We all know it usually is easier or more comfortable to notice and condemn the defects and sins of others rather than seeing our own with that kind of clarity,"

The pope said that Jesus "wants to teach us to not go around criticising others, not go looking for others' defects, but look first at your own."

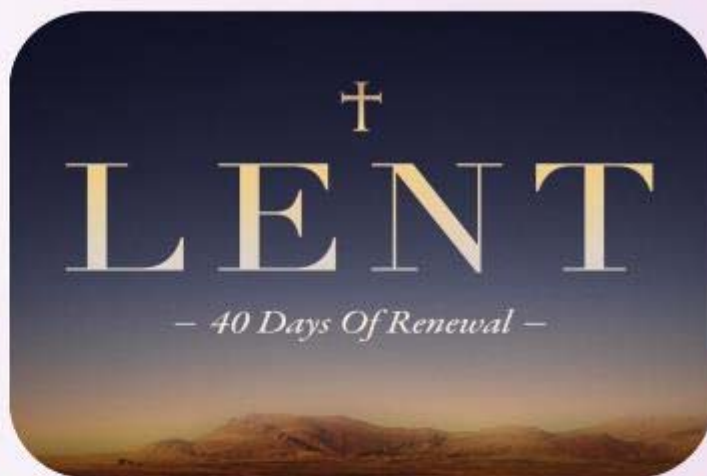
If someone were to say, "but, Father, I don't have any," the pope said he would explain that "I assure you if you don't notice you have any here, you'll find them in purgatory! It's better to notice them here." Unfortunately, he said, people seldom stop at just noticing others' defects, something "we are experts at."

What almost always happens next, he said, is that "we talk about them," not telling the person to his or her face in a way that could help the person improve but indulging freely and happily in gossip. "It's something that because of original sin we all have, and it leads us to condemn others," the pope said. "We are experts in finding the bad things in others and not seeing our own."

Speaking the Sunday before Lent was to begin, Pope Francis said it would be great if everyone tried during Lent to reflect on Jesus' words to see the faults only of others and on the temptation of gossip. Catholics should ask themselves, "Am I a hypocrite who smiles and then turns around to criticise and destroy with my tongue?" He said. "If, by the end of Lent, we are able to correct this a bit and not go around always criticising others behind their backs, I assure you (the celebration of) Jesus' resurrection will be more beautiful."

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem. The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (and not all do significantly) use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and



Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favourite foods or smoking. Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

Lent is always an invitation to begin again. This is above all, a time to build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lent can be a most profound and liberating personal journey allowing us to build a relationship that gifts our personal lives hope and resilient confidence, a confidence that reminds us, no matter what happens we are not alone. The light of Christ is brighter than any clouds of despair or uncertainty. St. Paul reminds us, "With God on our side who can be against Us"

Make the most of this sacred season as an opportunity to grow in our humanity. The more we accept our wounded selves the more we grow in wholesomeness and peace of mind. When this happens our vision and perspective becomes positive and bright.

### *I Will Turn*

(A daily prayer for Lent)

Lord, I will turn,  
Turn my face towards you.

I will lay before you the desert areas I hide  
And turn to soak in your refreshing words of life.

I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits  
And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love.

I will draw back from the harsh pull of media  
And turn to bathe in the gentle power of your Spirit.

Lord, today I turn my face towards you.

I will turn

To soak in your words of life,  
To rest in the warmth of your love,  
And to bathe in the power of your Spirit. Amen

**Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 15,500 followers or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)**

**Fr. Paddy's book "All will be well" on sale in the Parish Shop or online at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)**



# LENT IN PORTLAOISE PARISH

## MASS TIMES IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Monday to Friday; 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm

Saturday and Sunday; usual weekend Mass times

## Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church

Fridays of Lent 8pm - after evening Mass

Rosary every evening 7pm



## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP 2019

23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March

Our Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is an important focus on our Lenten Journey. This nine day Novena will bring rich blessing and strength for the many personal intentions that will be remembered throughout the nine days. *Personal petitions will be available in the Parish Church and Parish Centre.*

**Daily Masses:** Weekdays 7am and 10am (We will also celebrate the usual 7:30pm Lenten Mass)  
Sundays 11:15am and 12:30pm

*Full details including the speakers for each day are available on our Parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)*



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# **The Heath Golf Club**

**R32 WR52**

## **Development Weekend**

**16<sup>TH</sup> 17<sup>TH</sup> 18<sup>TH</sup> March 2019.**

**Open 4 Person Team any Combination.**

**Sponsor Heart ER ambulance services.**

**Best Ladies Team Prize/Best Visitors Prize**

**Entry Fee Visitors €15 Members €10**

**Booking available on line on [www.theheathgc.ie](http://www.theheathgc.ie)**



**OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR  
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;**



**Paddy Killeen**  
**Ridge Road**



**Fiona O'Neill**  
**Rosenallis and**  
**late of Green road,**  
**Portlaoise**

*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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)



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**Fatima  
Candle**

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



**† KEEGAN'S †  
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Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

**HENRY RANKIN**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Contact;

057-8620567

PAUL; 087-2562137

NIALL;

086-2770095



**In Loving Memory of**

**DAN DUNNE**

*St. Judes, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.*



6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am.

Dan, deep in our hearts your memory  
is kept,

To love and to cherish and never forget.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife  
Maureen and family.*

*May Dan Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**

**BRIGID O'BRIEN, Ridge Road, Portlaoise**  
*Died 10<sup>th</sup> March 1968. (51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)*



Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently we gather and treasure  
them all,  
Unseen, unheard, you are always  
near,

So missed, so loved, so very dear.

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by your loving family.*

*May Brigid Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of MARIA GREENE

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Maria's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in

Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.

*Sometimes when I first awake,  
I think that you're still here,  
And for a fleeting moment,  
The clouds all disappear.*

*For you brought endless sunshine, until you went away,  
And now I miss you desperately, each minute of the day.  
You would not like to see me sad, so what I try to do,  
Is live a bright and happy life, in memory of you.  
For though I'll always miss you, and it's dreadful being apart,  
I haven't really lost you, you are still here in my heart.*

*Forever in our hearts, from Daddy, Mommy, brother  
Stephen, sister Natalie, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins  
and friends xxx*

*Maria, Away with the Angels*



Anniversary Mass for Jim Delaney, 50  
Borris Rd., Portlaoise, will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.

## In Loving Memory of PATRICK (Bumper) WHELAN

16 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home.



*Dad:*

*A million times we have  
needed you,  
A million times we have cried,  
If love alone could have  
saved you, you never would  
have died,  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we love you still,*

*In our hearts you hold a place, no one else can ever fill,  
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone,  
Part of us went with you, the day God called you home.*

*Missing you always, from all your loving family.*

*May Patrick Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of  
**ANTHONY (TONY) DUNNE**  
8 Glendowns, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.  
Died 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.



The wife and family of the recently departed Tony Dunne would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere gratitude to all who attended Keegan's funeral home, the funeral Mass and the cemetery afterwards. We are very grateful to all who called, sent Mass Cards and expressed their condolences at this

sad time. Thank you to all who travelled and especially to extended family members who travelled great distances to be with us.

We will never forget the kindness and compassion shown to Tony and to ourselves by the doctors, nurses and all of the staff in the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise. The level of care and commitment from all the staff is most highly commended. We also wish to thank the friends who visited Tony in the hospital and especially Fr. Eddie Lawlor who gave us great comfort at this time.

We were so moved by the wonderful turnout of people at the funeral home, all the friends and neighbours both past and present, extended family members who travelled from far and wide and the friends and work colleagues from the Prison Service who shared their wonderful memories of Tony and brought a smile to our faces.

We especially wish to thank both the retired and current serving Prison Officers who made up the magnificent guard of honour at the funeral Mass and at the cemetery later on. It was an honour that we shall never forget. We wish to thank the Retired Prison Officers Association for their help and advice at this time.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Eddie Lawlor for celebrating the funeral Mass in such a warm and personal way and our thanks to Msgr. John Byrne, Fr. Paddy Byrne, Fr. David Vard and Fr. Tom O'Connor who assisted at the Mass. Our thanks to the altar servers, the Ministers of the Eucharist and to Josephine Meehan and the choir who all made a wonderful contribution on the day.

Our sincere gratitude to Matthew Keegan funeral directors for the very kind and compassionate way they guided us through this sad event. Thank you to the gravediggers who prepared Tony's final resting place with such care.

Our sincere appreciation to the work colleagues who came to the funeral and especially those who travelled all the way from Cork. We wish to thank all of Mum's wonderful friends from the Over 50's Active Retirement Club who have supported her and continue to support her through this most difficult time. We express our appreciation to Hare's Corner, Mountmellick who provided the lovely food and refreshments and wonderful service on the day.

To each and every person who has made our loss a little more bearable, you have our heartfelt appreciation, please accept this acknowledgement as a gesture of our gratitude.

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.*

Rest in Peace Tony



**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN (Jack) DEMPSEY**

Main St. Portlaoise. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.



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 and always remembered by Una and J.J. Tynan  
and all the gang at the Round Table in Maggie Mays.

*May John Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
PATRICIA NORTON**

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Gone are the days we used to share,  
But in our hearts you're always there,  
Loved with a love beyond all telling,  
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.

Patricia's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

*Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.*

*May Patricia Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JACK DEMPSEY**

70 Main Street, Portlaoise.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.



I hold you close within  
my heart and there you  
shall remain,  
To walk with me  
throughout my life,  
until we meet again.

So rest in peace dear loved one,

And thanks for all you've done,

I pray that God has given you, the crown  
you've truly won.

Sadly missed and always loved and remembered by his  
partner, Uná O' Higgins and all your good friends.

*May Jack Rest in Peace*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARGARET (Peg) NOLAN**

26 Borris Rd. Portlaoise

18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Also her husband Mick and son Sean R.I.P.



In loving care you rest above,  
In our hearts you rest with love.

Margaret's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter  
& Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30pm.

*Always remembered and missed by your loving family.*

*May Margaret Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JANINE BROOMFIELD**

Broomville, Dublin Road, Portlaoise  
16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Janine, 16 years have passed since that  
sad day, you closed your eyes and  
slipped away.  
You left so quietly without a fuss,  
And broke the hearts of all of us.  
A special person, a special face,  
A wonderful daughter, and sister, we  
can never replace.

*Missing you so much, lots of love Dad, Mam, Leonie & Danielle*

Also Remembering

Janine's Grandparents

**PATRICK (Paddy) and**

**MARGARET (Greta) DOLLARD**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Whose Anniversaries occur at this time.



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday  
evening, 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm.**

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
Our beloved brother**

**JOHN (Jack) DEMPSEY**

70 Main St. Portlaoise. Died 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017.



2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm.

Our hearts still ache in sadness and silent tears  
still flow, what it meant to lose you, no one will  
ever know.

Sadly missed by all his loving family; Ann Marie, Gérard, Mary,  
nieces and nephews.

*May John Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of JOHN & BRIDGET TYNAN

Late of 68 Main Street, Portlaoise,  
whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm

*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.*



*Loved and missed by all your loving family and friends.*

*May John & Bridget Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of WILLIAM (Billy) O' SULLIVAN

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019.



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

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8:30am.

*Sadly missed by all his loving family.*

*May William Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of  
DAN FINGLETON

The Tocker, Grange, Stradbally, Co. Laois.  
Died 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.



Dan's wife Catherine, sons, daughters, brother  
Paddy, sister Kitty and extended family would  
like to extend their sincere thanks to all who  
supported them during their difficult time.

A very special word of thanks to our relatives,  
friends and neighbours for their support and  
kindness. To all who attended Dan's funeral,  
those who travelled long distances, sent Mass  
cards, messages and letters of condolences.

Catherine and family would also especially like to thank the  
management and staff of Esker Ri Nursing Home, Clara, Co. Offaly,  
for the exceptional love and care they gave to Dan over the past  
number of years.

Our sincere thanks to Msgr. John Byrne, Fr. Paddy Byrne and  
Fr. Jim Fingleton who concelebrated Dan's funeral Mass. Thanks  
to Fr. Conor McGee and Fr. Solomn Ciprian, Clara, who attended  
to Dan while in Esker Ri.

To Rankin undertakers, the grave diggers, Ratheniska GAA and  
hall committee, the musicians, those who helped with parking  
and to all who provided refreshments at the family home and in  
the hall.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually we trust  
you will accept this as an acknowledgement of our deepest  
gratitude.

Dan's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated at 10am in the  
Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

*Rest in Peace Dan*

## In Loving Memory of EAMON SMYTH

Late of 11 Cois na Habhainn, Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise.  
9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home.



*You can see the clouds around me,  
I know you can from above,  
I know you are here beside me,  
Holding me with all your love,  
When I start to cry and then the  
tears start to rise, every teardrop  
becomes a beautiful rose.*

*R.I.P. My Love  
I will always love you.*

*From your loving wife Carmel and all your loving family.*

*May Eamon Rest in Peace*

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of  
JOSEPH BUGGIE

3 Kylebeg, Stradbally  
3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday away from home.



*Dearest Dad, to hear your voice  
and see your smile and just sit  
and talk to you,  
Would be our dearest wish  
today, on this your birthday.*

*Always remembered from your  
loving wife Patricia, daughters,  
Celina, Margaret and Samantha  
and grandkids.*

*May Joseph Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of THOMAS DOHENY

St. John's Sq., Portlaoise. 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurred 9<sup>th</sup> March.



*It broke our hearts to lose you, but you  
did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you, the day God  
called you home,  
You left us peaceful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you, you are  
always by our side.*

*Sadly missed by your sons, sons-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law,  
grandchildren, great grandchildren and all your family and friends.  
Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at this time.*

*May Thomas Rest in Peace*





New  
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To discuss how we can help you grow your business

### 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 Wednesday 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.

**Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 2019:** 7 Night Package €705 incl., 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October. Spiritual Director; Fr. Sean Hyland cc. Contact; Michael Nerney 086-8157305.

### 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

**Portlaoise Toastmasters:** Do you feel nervous talking in group situations or doing any kind of public speaking? Do you have a presentation to give at work in the near future? Portlaoise Toastmasters is the perfect place to develop your skills and build confidence in a supportive and warm environment and have fun while doing it. Our next meeting will take place Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in the Killshin Hotel, Portlaoise. New members are always welcome, first two sessions are free. Please look us up on Facebook.

### 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;

**13<sup>th</sup> March:** Time to stretch the vocal chords again and enjoy a fun afternoon with Caroline where we can sing along with many well known favourites in a relaxed atmosphere that is not a talent show or X-Factor.

**Laois Local Forum for people using Mental Health Services, family members, carers:** Open meetings held monthly in Triogue Centre, Bridge St., Portlaoise 6pm-7:45pm, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May (No booking required).

New members always welcome. Tel. 087-3761552

E-mail mhengage.mlm@hse.ie  
www.hse.ie/mentalhealthengagement

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



**Pop Up Gaeltacht:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at An Sean Chistin, Irey, Ballyfin, Portlaoise, R32X5D6. All are welcome to come along and use their cúpla focal in a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere. Free admission. All ages and abilities welcome. There will be light refreshments and informal conversation as Gaeilge. For further info., contact Maureen 087-6482038.



### Teacht le Céile na Gaelscoile / Gaelscoil Reunion

Dé hAoine, an 15ú Marta 6.00-8.00pm

Comhrá, Ceol, Comhlúadar & Cupán Tae/Caife To Celebrate  
"21 Bliain fé Bhláth"  
1998-2019

All past pupils are welcome to attend/ Céad míle faillte roimh larscoláirí  
Please send us any old photographs for display or videos (including well wishes from faraway places) to gaelscoilphortlaoise@hotmail.com



### Cuisle Fayre Charity Shop

Church Ave. Portlaoise  
(at the side of the old Shaws)

We are inviting applications from people who wish to give 3-4 hours (approx. 1/2 day) per week as a volunteer in our charity shop. Full training will be given and you would always be part of a team. Application forms are available from the shop and can be returned to the shop when completed. Management will be in contact with you following receipt or you could phone Sheila 087-7769884.

100% of all proceeds from shop sales go to support the care of Cancer patients or their families at the Cuisle Centre, Block Rd., Portlaoise.

Please remember us if you are spring cleaning or downsizing. We gratefully accept donations of good clean ladies and gents wear, clean household items, DVD's and CD's, unwanted gifts and jewellery. Your generous donations stock our shop so we can keep selling and funding the Cuisle Centre and helping people every day who are suffering with cancer. All our volunteers including our Manager give their time and expertise free of charge. Thank you.

### Laois-Offaly branch of Retired Nurses Association

will hold its meeting in Portlaoise Parish centre on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. This will be our last meeting before our A.G.M. on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (same venue). Refreshments will be served, parking tickets available at reception.

### COME PLAY BINGO

Every Thursday and Friday at 8.30pm in St. Mary's Hall

€1,000s to be won.

Bring a friend

Enjoy a Night Out!





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### **THE ROUND HOUSE** **COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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*An Irish Night of Music and  
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Facebook; gabrielmccannhandyman

### **ST. JOSEPH'S** **YOUNG PRIEST'S** **SOCIETY**

Monthly meeting will be  
held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March in  
the Parish Centre after 10am  
Mass. New members are  
always welcome.

### **FOR SALE**

Bags of logs €3 each  
5 bags of kindle wood  
€10  
(Free delivery to your door)  
Contact;  
**087-7645855**





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