

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

12th January 2020



The Baptism of the Lord



Blessing of Babies


*Today (Sunday) at 2pm
in the Parish Church*

Children baptised during the past year have received a special invitation to this short blessing ceremony but of course all are welcome.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
9th January 2020

10 14 20 25

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Vron & Mossie
Hazel Byrne
Anna McNally
Margaret McCarthy
Kathleen Foley
Maureen Moore
Margaret Donovan
Lisa O'Shea
Ronan Wall
Teresa Brennan
P & P Kelly
Mary Quinn

MATCH 3s €1,000

12
Match 3s
€84

PROMOTER

Anne O'Shea
Tony Fitzpatrick
M. Fallon
Carmel Whelan
Tom Coulihan
Tanya Moore
Greg Keenan
Greg Keenan
Lily Wall
Brian Conroy
Peggy Kelly
Mary Arthur

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Next Week's Jackpot €20,000

Priests of the Parish



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



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



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 office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364



Parish Centre

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

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Jooly 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.

Baptisms in our Parish

Baptisms are celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church, every weekend - full details on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie.

In Holy Cross Church Ratheniska on the second Sunday of the month immediately after the Sunday Mass.

Due to renovations in the Church of the Assumption, The Heath, baptisms will not take place in the Heath until renovations are completed.

To make arrangements please collect a form at the Parish Centre or for more information phone 057 862 1142 or email info@portlaoiseparish.ie. You will be invited to meet a member of our Baptism Team prior to the Ceremony.





Happy New Year

Happy New Year! It's something we've heard a lot of over the last couple of weeks, but what are we really expecting of the new year? Do we face the new year

with optimism and eagerness, or do we face the new year in a spirit of "same old same old." Not all of us are starting 2020 happily. Many of us face the new year with ongoing problems. For many, illness, hardship, or difficult relationships aren't things that will simply go away. Some of us will be struggling to find work; others may be stuck in jobs they hate. Increasing numbers are trapped in inadequate housing or afflicted by addiction, depression or loneliness. Do we face the new year eager and optimistic, or tired and disillusioned?

In today's account of Jesus' baptism, we are told how the heavens opened, and how the Spirit of God descended like a dove. This marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Filled with the Spirit of God, Jesus had the power to work miracles, to cure the sick and raise the dead. The Spirit of God enabled Jesus to face any challenge.

In baptism we are filled with the same Spirit that filled Jesus. The very same Spirit! Our baptism might seem no more than a photograph in a dusty photo album, but could our lives be very different if we were to call upon the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit isn't going to make our problems go away, nor are we promised an easy life. What we are promised is the strength and direction to make good decisions. Through our baptism, and because of Jesus' baptism, we can resolve to confront our problems head on, and make something meaningful happen in the year ahead.

'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Today's Gospel (Mt 3:17)

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,

Rathenskis: 10am.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am
& 6.30pm Masses.

Visit our website:

www.portlaoiseparish.ie



We welcome into our
Parish Community

Isabella Margaret Marsh
Derby

who was baptised last weekend

**Blessing of Babies will take place
in the Parish
Church**

**Today (Sunday)
at 2pm**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**



Sunday 5th January 2020

Offertory Collection €2,820.00

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€6,220.00

Monday 6th January

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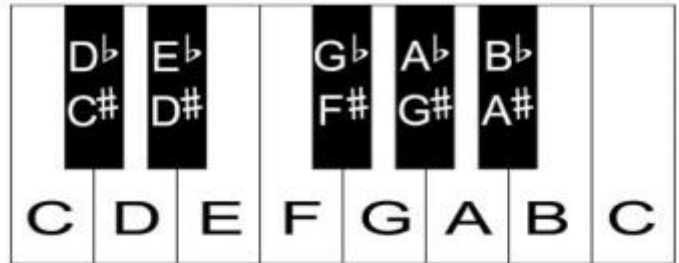
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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



New Beginnings

January is an exciting time. It is the beginning of a brand new year. Some people like to make New Year's resolutions or promises to themselves about what they plan to accomplish in the new year. The number one resolution that people make is, "I am going to lose weight." I don't think too many people succeed, since it seems to be the number one resolution year after year. I know that it usually makes my top ten list of things I would like to accomplish in the new year.



Even if you don't make any New Year's resolutions, this is an exciting time. It is a time that we can forget our past mistakes and look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is a time of new beginnings.

Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in his life too. One of those times was when he was baptised. There were a couple of very important things that happened when Jesus was baptised. First of all, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and landed upon him. The second thing was that God spoke and said, "You are my Son. I love you and I am well-pleased with you."

This event marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry here on earth. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God upon him, Jesus began to perform great miracles. From this new beginning, many people began to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and they began to follow him.

Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. When we are baptised, it shows the world that just as Jesus rose from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we also live a new life in him. (Romans 6:4) God may not always be well-pleased with us, but I think that He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus.

New beginnings — God gives us opportunities for new beginnings. Let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.

OUR PRAYER



Dear Father, thank you for new beginnings. Help us to make the most of them — not through our own strength — but through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. Amen.

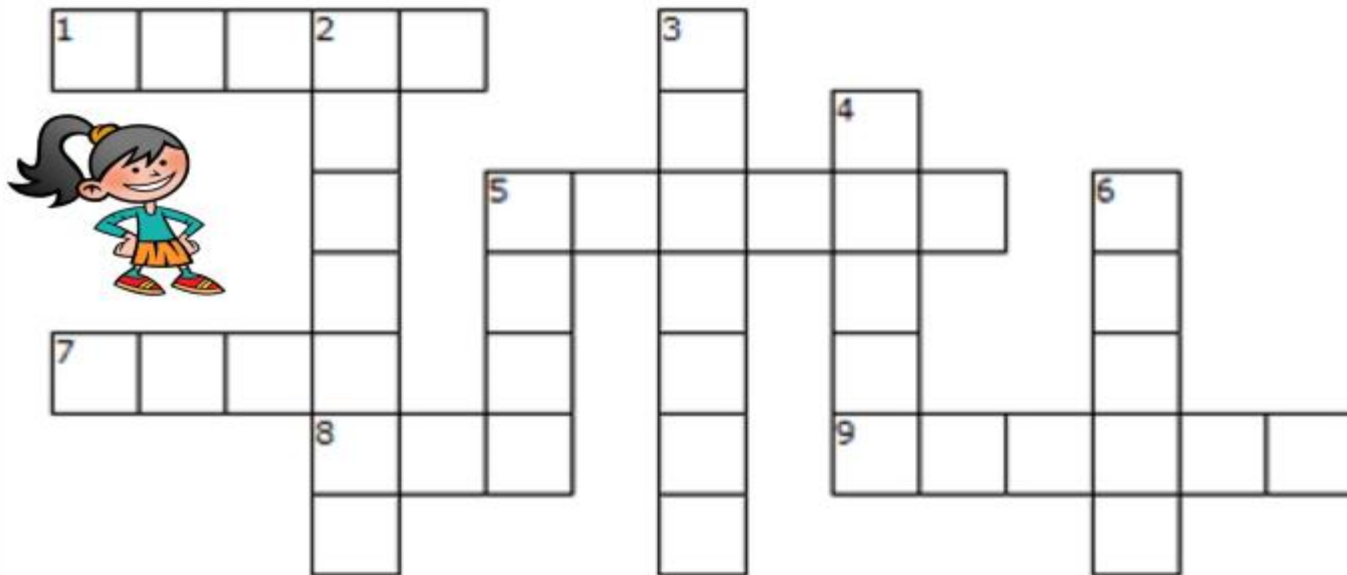
*Pray and Play Group resumes on Sunday 12th January.
Looking forward to seeing our young parishioners!*



The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:4-11



ACROSS

1. What was heard when Jesus was baptised.
5. The river where Jesus was baptised
7. The Spirit cam down from heaven like a _____.
8. To break one of God's commandments.
9. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. To pardon for sins.
4. The liquid used to baptise someone.
5. Name of the man who baptised Jesus.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

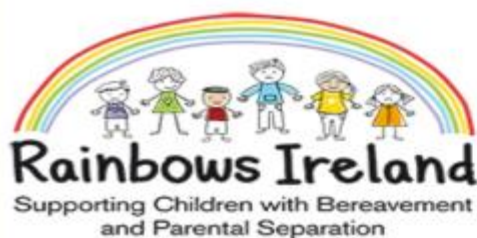
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WATER**

**JOHN
SIN**

**DOVE
VOICE**

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TIME TO THINK!

THE TWO POPES - AN INSPIRATIONAL MOVIE

Belief is central to identity, and we live our lives based on our systems of beliefs. Faith, particularly organised religion, demands a faith that requires adherence to certain rules, requirements, etc. When you get into the Catholic Church, you're dealing with not only 1.2 billion followers, but also two millennia of doctrine, dogma, history, and conflict that continues to this day. It is an awesome and terrifying responsibility to be the leader of that faith, to stand as "Jesus' representative here on Earth," and know that you are only human with all the faults that entails. Fernando Meirelles' *The Two Popes* skillfully examines that gulf between the human and the divine and where two religious figures of conflicting beliefs fall into it. Jonathan Pryce and Anthony Hopkins are fantastic in finding the humanity in their historical figures as they show the burden of their responsibilities, the grace in their failings, and what it means to be "Pope" in the 21st century.

The film begins in 2005 with Catholic cardinals gathering following the death of Pope John Paul II to elect a new Pope. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pryce), an Argentinian who shuns the finery of the Church in favour of ministering to the poor and pushing for reforms, has no interest in becoming Pope. Cardinal Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger (Hopkins), a traditionalist who knows how to glad-hand and get the votes for the job, eventually is elected Pope Benedict XVI, but Bergoglio makes a surprising second-place finish. Seven years later, the Church has become drenched in multiple scandals, and Bergoglio is looking to retire so he can live out his days as a simple Priest. However, he is called to Rome to visit with Benedict and talk about retirement. Benedict doesn't want Bergoglio to retire because it will send a signal that a major reformer has given up on the papacy, and Benedict has other plans for the humble Argentinian cardinal.

Watching Hopkins and Pryce play off each other is a blast because you have two consummate, veteran actors playing diametrically opposed characters who, regardless of the feelings you take into the movie, are not painted as good or evil. Some may cringe at the political agnosticism of screenwriter Anthony McCarten, but *The Two Popes* isn't really interested in making a statement about the entire Catholic Church as much as it's about examining the individual man who leads it. While I wouldn't be opposed to a movie that delves into the various controversies raised by the modern Church, that's not the story Meirelles and McCarten are interested in telling. Instead, they want to take the unique figure of the Pope and try to find his humanity and the conflicts he has to face.

What makes those conflicts so interesting is that they depend on the divine. Everyone wrestles with his or her place in the universe, and if you're a person who believes in God, you wrestle with man's inhumanity to man and the silence you may hear when you try to speak with your creator. That's hard enough for most of humanity, but imagine that dealing with it is in your job description and 1.2 billion people are depending on you. The Catholic Church exists as a bizarre political and spiritual entity that's both important to the lives of over a billion people, but also kind of a relic of a Western European balance of power that doesn't exist anymore. So where does that leave Benedict and Bergoglio? What does it mean to lead the Catholic Church in the present day?



The Two Popes tries to answer this question by embracing its lead characters' flaws, although it's certainly more Bergoglio's story than Benedict's. Pryce is sublime as the humble, self-doubting Bergoglio, and the movie also includes flashbacks about his life including how he became a Priest, his questionable role during Argentina's military dictatorship, and the guilt he carried despite trying to live a life of not only piety, but also being socially conscious of the Church's role in the lives of the poor. Benedict's past remains more of a mystery (the film leaves his participation as a conscripted Hitler Youth hanging over the narrative), but Hopkins provides a light touch showing a man who is so disconnected from the world that he eats his meals alone and doesn't recognise the songs "Yellow Submarine" and "Eleanor Rigby".

Some may demand more from *The Two Popes* than what it's trying to do, and I'll admit there's certainly room for the film to go further in exploring Benedict and Bergoglio's differing approaches to the Church. But we shouldn't miss the rich character study happening in front of us. We see how these towering figures of Christian divinity try to be in the world and of the world and tend to fail at both at one point or another. It's endearing that Pope Benedict XVI likes an Austrian cop drama about a dog that solves crimes, but it's infuriating that he was too blind to the sexual abuse scandal unfolding because he believed that confession was enough. Bergoglio chides Benedict that the Church was treating these sins like a stain rather than a wound, hoping to blot them out rather than doing the work of healing, especially for the victims. The fight between traditionalism and reform isn't just some intellectual debate; it has serious consequences in people's lives.

The Two Popes shouldn't be taken as a biopic on either pontiff, but rather using their lives as inspiration for a story about how we all wrestle with our sins, our shortcomings, how we've changed over the course of our lives, and how all of this leads back to God. The notion of Jesus' representative here on Earth being an imperfect person leading an imperfect system is not an easy concept, but Meirelles handles it with a light touch, never forgetting that humour and absurdity are just as much a part of the human condition as regret and despair. Even if you're not Catholic or even if you're not religious, you'll likely still find *The Two Popes* an engaging experience that will make you rethink Pope Benedict and Pope Francis.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 16,800 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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19.30-21.00

PUBLIC MEETING

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE

**IF YOU ARE WORKING IN, INVOLVED IN AND/OR
INTERESTED IN THE SCREEN SECTOR:**

Film, TV, Animation, Commercials, Video Games, Visual Effects,
Acting, Screen Writing, Producing, Directing, Sound,
Lighting, Casting, Location Scouting, Film Studies, etc

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A MEETING WHICH AIMS TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO, WHERE YOU ARE BASED, WHAT YOUR
SCREEN SECTOR INTERESTS ARE, WHAT RESOURCE CHALLENGES YOU
FACE, HOW LAOIS CAN DEVELOP AND RESOURCE ITS SCREEN
SECTOR, ETC.

RSVP: Ann Lawlor, Creative Ireland Laois, project
manager by Friday January 17
alawlor@creativelaois.ie, 087 6564548

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Daniel Conroy
England and formerly Old
Town, 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 HE REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to his family.

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

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Contact Matthew
087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

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Contact;
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PAUL; 087-2562137
NIALL;
086-2770095



✠ *In Loving Memory of* ✠
CARMEL FITZPATRICK

Borris Road, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 20th January 2020



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 19th January at 11:15am.

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

Also remembering her husband Christopher Noel whose
85th birthday occurred 10th January.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by James,
Betty, Noel and families.*

Rest in Peace Carmel

✠ *In Loving Memory of* ✠
MARY MEEHAN

Newpark, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 15th January 2020 and Mary's
3rd Birthday away from home occurred 10th January.



Life is not the same without you

The sun still rises in the
east,
And darkness falls at night,
But nothing now seems
quite the same, each day is
not as bright.

The birds still sing, the
flowers grow, the breeze
still whispers too,
But it will never, ever be the
same world without you.

It's so sad that you had to go, your leaving caused
such pain,
But you were so very special and earth's loss is
Heaven's gain.

*Fondly remembered and always missed by her
loving family xxx*

Rest in Peace Mam



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*1st Anniversary Remembrance
Of Our Darling
DAVID RAFTER
Ardville, Glenside, Portlaoise.*



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday, 11th January at 6:30pm.

Without your kind and gentle smile, and sweet familiar face, A treasured life is missing and our world's a sadder place.

You lived your life so graciously, you always did your best, and now you're with the angels and it's time for you to rest.

We see the stars at night time, shining bright and clear, and as we say goodnight, God bless, we know that you will hear.

Sadly missed everyday, by Vanda, your son Stefan and daughter Amy xxx

Our Beloved Son David

To lose a fine and precious Son, whether man or boy, deprives the heart of all it's warmth and life of so much joy.

We took those days for granted "David" and never dreamt or thought, that all our lives would change so much, and yours would be so short.

Forever loved and remembered by your loving Mam and Dad xxx

My Darling Brother Daithí

He had a nature you could not help but love,
And a heart that was purer than gold,
And to those who knew him and loved him,
His memory will never grow old.

*Loved and missed every second of the 365 days since you have been gone.
John Martina and Craig xxx*

*May David's Gentle Soul
Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of
DAVID RAFTER*

Ardville, Glenside, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 15th January 2020



Think of David as living in the hearts of those he touched,
For nothing loved is ever lost and he was loved so much.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by Jimmy, Claire, Aaron, Rachel
and Jonathan xxxxx*

Rest in Peace David

*In Loving Memory of
MARTIN BRENNAN*

54 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2020

*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 by your loving wife Ann, Helen & Mark,
Martin's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 18th January at 6:30pm.*

May Martin Rest in Peace

*In Loving Memory of
PATRICK & ELLEN MAHER*

*Grange, Stradbally whose anniversaries occur at this time.
Also remembering Eileen, MaryAnn and John.*



*In God's care you rest above,
In our hearts you rest with love,
Never more than a thought away,*

Loved and remembered everyday.

*Lovingly remembered by all your family.
May They Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of
DAVID RAFTER

'Ardville' Glenside, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 15th January 2020



One year ago, it's sad to say,
My heart is broken since that
day,
You were the best brother
anyone could have,
A true friend, a gent, a comrade,
The soundest man I've ever
known,
Smile down on me from
Heaven,
Your new home.

Loving and missing you always
Jack, Jenni, Cian and Hollie.

There is always a face before me,
A voice I would love to hear,
A smile I will always remember,
Of a brother I loved so dear.
Deep in my heart lies a picture,
More precious than silver or gold,
It's a picture of my brother, whose memory will never
grow old.

Love always, Adrian, Leonie and Anna.

David, although a year has gone,
My childhood memories of you linger on,
Days in the sun and beside a lake fishing,
No happier memories a sister could wish for.

Forever in my thoughts
Love always, your sister Linda.

Your memory is my keepsake, with which we'll never
part.

I pray for you in Heaven for you're always in my
heart.

**From your loving sister Kathleen, Sean and
family.**

David, your absence is a silent grief,
Your life a beautiful memory,
Sadly missed along life's way,
Lovingly remembered every day.

**Love always, Dolores, James, Ava, Darragh and
Conor.**

Rest in Peace David

In Loving Memory of
FRANCES O' BRIEN

Late of 94 Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 11th January 2020



*Two tired eyes are sleeping,
Two willing hands are still,
For one who suffered far too much
Is resting at God's will.
Resting where no shadows fall,
In peaceful sleep she awaits us all,
God will link the broken chain,
When one by one we meet again.*

Never more than a thought away.

Sadly missed by your daughter Anne, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.

May Frances Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
ROSANNA KERRY

née Phillips
61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary away from home occurs 12th January 2020



We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.

*Sadly missed by your sons, daughters, grandchildren,
great grandchildren & extended family xx*

May Rosanna Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
JOE & MYRA McCABE

Late of Raheenabrogue, Ballyroan, Portlaoise.
Joe's 1st Anniversary occurred 2nd January '20.
Myra's 16th Anniversary occurred 13th December '19.



Deep are the memories,
Precious they stay,
No passing of time,
Can take them away.



*Remembered always by
Mary, Sheila, Nicola,*

*Brioda, Patricia, Hugh, Rena, sons-in-law and their six
grandchildren.*

May They Rest in Peace



Birthday Remembrance
Of A Cherished Husband, Father and Grandfather
WILLIAM (Willie) O' REILLY

28 Lakeglen, Portlaoise. 2nd Birthday away from home - 13th January 2020.



Husband;

Today is full of memories, happiness and tears,
Of Birthday celebrations we've shared throughout the years,
And though I'll always miss you, the endless joy you brought,
Warms my heart with gratitude and fills my every thought.

Wherever you are resting, I hope that you can see,
How precious and uplifting your memory is to me,
Having you in my life Willie was like a dream come true,
So I'll celebrate your birthday, but I'll spend it missing you.

Thinking of you today and always Willie

Your loving wife Anne.

Daddy;

Happy Birthday memories Daddy fill our hearts today,
With a warmth we've missed so much since you had to go away,
We know that we could turn to you if ever things went wrong,
You were always there to help us, gentle, kind and strong.
When we stop and think about the wonderful times, we've had,
We long to thank you once again for being the Perfect Dad,
You guided us and brought us strength; you filled each day with love,
And now you send us courage from your resting place above.

Happy 73rd Birthday Daddy

Never more than a thought away. We love and miss you everyday.

Alan, Michael, Thomas, Lisa, Nicola, Jenny, Trevor, Becky, daughters-in-law; Mary, Fiona, Sara, Nicole
and sons-in-law Trevor and Séan.

Grandad;

The day that God called your name, it broke our hearts in two,
But Heaven needed an Angel and the one He picked was you,
We just wish He could have waited and let you stay with your family,
But you left memories in our hearts, that's where they will always be.
We just wish we could rewind the clock or make it turn real slow,
We could have hugged you one more time but then we'd never let you go,
No matter how much time will pass we'll miss you everyday,
Keep shining bright in Heaven Grandad so you can light our way.

Happy 73rd Birthday Grandad

Joanne, Leona, Megan, Avril, Katie, Billy, Dylan, Sarah, Aimee, Leah, Abbey, Jayden, Sean, Carly,
Braidan, Caoimhe, Óisín, Maisie and baby Noah-Alan.

**In Loving Memory of
FRANCES DUNNE**

Late of Silverdale, Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise who died on
14th January 2010. 10th Anniversary of a dear sister and best friend.



*To hear your voice, to see your smile,
To sit and talk to you a while,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.*

*Loved and remembered always Chrissie,
Yvonne, Trevor, Jack & Aine xxxxx*

May Frances Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN HARTFORD**

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.



The family of the late John Hartford would like to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with them in their sad loss, to everyone who attended the funeral home removal and burial, sent Mass cards and phoned.

Our sincere thanks to the Priests of Portlaoise Parish especially Fr. Eddie Lawlor who officiated at the funeral home, the Mass and burial, also to Fr. Hennessey, Castletown who officiated at the Mass and to the staff of the Parish Centre for their help.

To Matthew Keegan Undertaker who carried out the funeral arrangements with such care and dignity. Thanks to the Active Retirement Association who provided a guard of honour.

Our thanks to. Dr. White and his staff for caring for John and to the doctors and nurses and care staff of Portlaoise hospital for their kindness to John. We will be eternally grateful to Bernie and Joe Brennan and staff of Ballard Nursing Home for their amazing care of John while in their care, they made his stay there so comfortable and happy.

Heartfelt thanks to the neighbours in Marian Avenue for their kindness to him and to Imelda and staff of Tynan's Restaurant who looked after him, special thanks to Rosita who was so kind to him.

Thanks also to his colleagues of St. Fintan's hospital for draping his coffin with his football jersey and to everyone who helped in any way, again our sincere thanks.

Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
SEAN PHELAN**

Straboe, Portlaoise.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 11th January at 6:30pm.



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

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all his loving family.

Rest in Peace Sean

**In Loving Memory of
AGNES CARROLL
ROONEY**

43 Liogard, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs at this time.



*My heart still aches in
sadness,
My silent tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.
A silent thought, a secret tear,
Keeps your memory ever near,
Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal,*

*Love leaves a memory no one can steal,
Though absent you are very near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by all her loving family.*

May Agnes Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
FRANK SYDES**

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on
Saturday 18th January at 6:30pm.



*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
all his loving family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Frank

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of **JOHN FITZPATRICK**

Ashton Manor, Portlaoise, Co. Laois and
formerly of Meelick, Portlaoise.
Died 19th December 2019



The family of the late John Fitzpatrick wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy shown to us following our recent sad loss.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many friends, neighbours and well-wishers who attended the wake, Mass and burial and who provided emotional and practical support. For those who travelled long distances, sent cards and messages of condolence as well as those who made charitable donations.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Rory O'Hanlon and the nurses and staff at the Blackrock Clinic, along with the doctors, nurses and staff at both the Portlaoise and Abbeyleix Hospitals for their kindness and support; to Monsignor John Byrne for officiating the funeral Mass and to all the Priests of the Parish; the musician Marie-Louise and singer Aishling.

Thanks also to Clonad GAA for their Guard of Honour; to the local Gardaí for traffic management during the funeral and to the funeral directors, Matthew Keegan for their sensitive and professional handling of the arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

John's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 18th January at 6:30pm in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church.

Rest in Peace John

*Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Adoration Committee
invite you to*

**A Day of Prayer in Carlow College
Saturday 25th January 2020**

Beginning at 10am - Holy Mass, Adoration, Rosary,
sharing and music.

Refreshments served. All welcome.

Enquiries to Br. Matthew Hayes 086-3822247



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057-873-1639 and 085-703-7301



*Fatima
Candle*

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





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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 2.50-4pm.

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.

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.

“Meditating... Being Mindful... Seeking God”: In the Parish Church (old sacristy), Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

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

The Rosary is recited in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe every Monday evening at 8pm. All are welcome.

St. Joseph's Young Priest Society: Please join us for a Holy Hour at 3pm every Friday, as we pray for vocations to the Priesthood and religious life. All are welcome.

Thank You: Sincere thanks to those who gave their time to decorate the Shrine so beautifully in the Market Sq. for Midnight Rosary New Year's Eve.

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

HSE

Suicide Prevention Training

Free 2-day workshop taking place on 21st and 22nd January in the Parish Centre. Contact Josephine Rigney (HSE) to register your place. Tel. 086-8157850 or e-mail josephine.rigney@hse.ie

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

Bowls:

Every Monday in St. Mary's Hall at 3pm - regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part and become a member of the ARA Bowls team.

Whist:

Play or learn Whist at Sue Ryder Centre every Thursday from 2.30pm to 4pm. All are welcome. Absolute beginners and improvers are catered for. Learn an enjoyable past-time and meet new friends.

Jan. 15th: Time to start getting fit again for the New Year and what better and most enjoyable way than in the company of dancing maestro Maureen to learn and practice some new and traditional steps in a comfortable environment.

Portlaoise GROW Group: GROW Community Mental Health Movement support group meets weekly in Portlaoise Parish Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesdays. If you feel anxious, isolated or are suffering from stress why not come learn a practical psychology of mental health. Contact Michelle 086-4183805 or visit our website; www.grow.ie. [GROW Promoting Positive Mental Health].

Dancing at An Sean Chistin, Irej.

Ballyfin, R32X5D6: Commencing

Mon. 13th Jan.; Set Dancing 8pm.

Tuesday 14th; Line Dancing 11am.

Wed. 15th; Line Dancing 8pm.

Gentle exercise, fun and friendship guaranteed. All are welcome. For info. tel. Maureen 087-6482038.

Sing for Joy: Weekly rehearsals commence on Wed. 15th Jan. at 11am in Portlaoise Parish Centre. The members, their carers and family eagerly look forward to a musical 2020. Sing for Joy is a community choir. Members from all caring facilities and situations in Co. Laois and beyond are very welcome. For this term we look forward to preparing songs for celebrating St. Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Further details from Maureen Culleton choir director, 087-6482038.

Portlaoise Literature Studies

Group resumes on Wednesday 15th Jan. in the Parish Centre from 10:45am to 12:45pm. If you enjoy a good book, lively discussion and great company, then this is the place for you. You can be assured of a very enjoyable morning. Contact Ann 086-0678828 or Helen 085-1529558.

Planning Transition from Post-Primary School to College for Students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities:

Talk for parents before CEO deadline in Laois Education Centre, Mon. 13th January, 6-7pm. Booking essential.

Tel. 057 8672402

E-mail; yvonne@laoisedcentre.ie

Mountmellick Embroidery Class

will resume on Monday 13th Jan. in Portlaoise Parish Centre at 7:30pm. New members welcome.



COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING

Sat. 18th January from 10am in the Parish Centre.

This fundraiser is in aid of 7 year old Jamie Mannion, who needs to get to the USA for specialised treatment in neuroplasticity and intensive intervention to help him walk.



THE ROUND HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

presents;

An Irish Night of Music & Song

Tuesday 14th January, 8pm.

Also available for bookings, contact;

Claire 086-1718718

Dear Friends; I have been helping a school in Mombasa Kenya along with family and friends for the last 15 years. I have on two occasions been there and have witnessed the poor conditions that they have to endure, alot of families cannot send their children to school because they don't have the money and that's how we help the children by asking friends to sponsor a child which costs €80 yearly in primary and after primary they go to secondary which then costs €400 yearly. The time I was there I noticed the kids playing football in trainers which were not the best of quality and not having proper gear. I would like to send them football gear for 10 and 14 year olds. If your children are finished with the gear they have out grown and if you would like to donate them to Zimlati primary school, I can send them to the children with DHL. You can meet me outside the Parish Centre on **Sat. 18th January, 11am-12:30pm**. I will have a sign displaying Zimlati Primary. Thanking you, Dick Connell and friends.



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with steel handrails installed to
provide safe access for
everyone. For more info. call
David 087-2675106

NOTICE

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes
Committee would like to advise
that our savings club for our
2020 Pilgrimage has now begun.
We will meet weekly in the Parish
Centre, every Thursday from
6:30-7:30pm for the next 21
weeks and any money saved is
not refundable or transferable.
This scheme is to try and help
people to save their fare or part
off weekly. The deposit of €200
must be paid towards your fare
before you begin the savings
scheme. Please see poster in the
Church for further info. regarding
deposit. Thank you.

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Contact: Aisling Brennan,
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good condition, €500.
Contact;
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tuition in English.
€25 per hour. Phone;
087-2182773

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be
held Monday 13th January in
the Parish Centre after 10am
Mass. New members are
always welcome.

PORTLAOISE PANTOMIME GROUP

36TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION



Robin Hood

Saturday, Jan. 18th to Saturday, Jan. 25th, 2020

Nightly at 8pm

With Matinee on Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th and Saturday 25th at 2.30pm

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE, PORTLAOISE

ADMISSION: Adults €16; Children €9; MATINEES €13/€9 (Concessions €13/€9 Sat 18th – Mon 20th)

Booking: Box Office 057-8663355 or Online at www.dunamais.ie. EARLY BOOKING RECOMMENDED