

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

KNOCK

On the 21st August 1879 Our Lady appeared at the gable of the Church in the company of St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist - 140 years ago next Wednesday.

Inset picture - Pope Francis blessing a new statue of Our Lady of Knock which will be unveiled at the Shrine next Wednesday and used from now on as the processional statue.

OUR LADY OF KNOCK Pray for us

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#### Portlaoise Parish 15th August 2019



## One €10,000 Jackpot Winner

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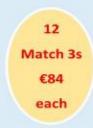
#### WINNERS

Lara, Owen & John **Mary Delaney** Frank White Liz & Gerry Bowe **Homeward Bound** Anne Conroy **Chloe & Annie Sims Noel Bannon Tomasz Nowat** Sadie Cuddy

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John & Elma Cullen

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## St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)20th August



Bernard's life was characterised by a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. His sermons and books about Mary are still the standard of Marian theology. "In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may more surely

obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favour, you shall reach the goal".

(St. Bernard)

#### Priests of the Parish



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



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



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



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

## Visiting Priests



Fr. Benny Antoney Fr. Thulani Gubula



To contact the Priest on Duty: Parish Centre during office hours Tel: 057 8621142 **Outside office hours** in emergency only Tel: 057 8621364



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. 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

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#### Keeping the Fire Kindled

If Jesus came back today and joined one of our parishes how would he behave? Could we imagine him on the finance committee, submitting articles for the Link Up, joining our baptismal team, taking charge of our

Play and Pray group or volunteering to decorate the Church for Christmas? Everything we do for the church is important, but on a scale of one to ten, we are probably not reaching our full potential as Christians...not by a very long chalk! Christianity has become all too comfortable. We've inherited our Catholic culture from our parents and our grandparents and it comes packaged in nostalgia and sentiment. We tend to visualise Jesus the way he was depicted in our religion books in school, and think of him as permanently gentle meek and mild. The uncomfortable truth is that if Jesus joined one of our parishes today he would probably not be doing any of the things we consider important. It's likely he would shake everything up big time! Could it be that as Christians we have become complacent and comfortable? Today we are reminded that Christianity is not just about joining Church groups and reading at Mass. Christianity is about real life and death issues, it is about more than looking good and doing the 'right thing.' Every job we do to help others is important no matter how small, but Jesus had a burning desire to change the world in the face of great opposition, and it's our job to keep that fire alive.



## Saint Bartholomew 24th August

St. Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles. He is mentioned in the three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and was also a witness of the

Ascension in Acts of the Apostles. He is often mentioned in these gospels along with Phillip. However, he is not mentioned in the Gospel of John, but Nathaniel is often mentioned in this book in conjunction with Phillip. Nathaniel was also born in Galilee, the region where Jesus found all twelve of his apostles. Therefore, scholars believe that Bartholomew was not his given name, but rather his family name. St. Bartholomew is believed to be the same person as Nathaniel, who is mentioned in more of the books of the Bible.

#### 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.

#### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses

#### Blessing of school bags will take place at the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 31st August.

Congratulations to all our parishioners who received exam results and C.O.A. offers during the past week. We wish you every blessing as you embark on this next chapter of your lives. Life is all about finding the best path through life, but that 'best path' certainly isn't the same for everyone.



#### We welcome into our Parish Community

Who were baptised last weekend:

Evan Joseph McEvoy Capoley Willow Kathleen Barratt Berkshire, UK Teagan Christine Heffernan Mountmellick

Sunday 11th August 2019

Offertory Collection Development Fund €2,932.00 €3,574.00

€6.506.00

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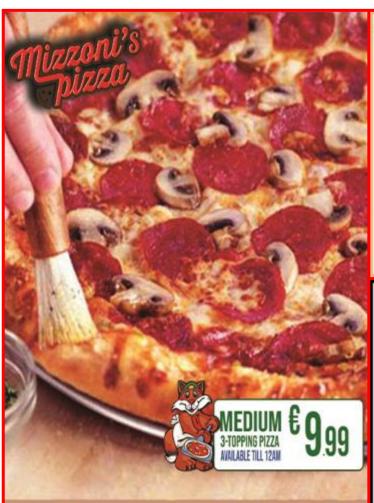


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#### PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR FEET A LOT;

Farmers etc. may require additional cushioning and correction.

#### SPORTS PEOPLE:

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

#### **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.

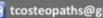
#### CHILDREN;

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

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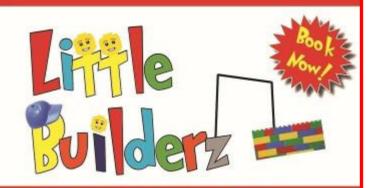
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Portlaoise Parish Centre Thursday 22nd August 4pm to 5.30pm



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#### **Run the Race**

Our Bible reading today says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of



witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Have you ever run a race? Have you ever won a medal or a trophy for running a race? It is a thrill to run a race and hear the voices of the people who are watching as they shout words of encouragement. It is an even greater thrill when you finish the race and win a medal or a trophy.

In 1992 when the Olympics were held in Barcelona, Spain, the world saw one of the greatest moments in Olympic history. Derek Redmond, a young man from England, had dreamed all his life of winning a gold medal in the 400 meter race. He had worked hard to get to the Olympics and his dream was within his reach. He was in the semi-finals and was running the race of his life. He could see the finish line just ahead as he rounded the final turn. Suddenly, he felt a sharp pain in the back of his leg and he fell to the track with a torn muscle in his right leg.

As the medical attendants ran toward him, Derek struggled to his feet. He started to hop toward the finish line on one foot in an attempt to finish the race. Suddenly, a large man came out of the stands, pushed aside a security guard and ran to Derek's side. It was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek. "Well, then," said his father, "we're going to finish this together." And they did. They stayed in Derek's lane all the way to the end. At first, the crowd watched in silence. Then they rose to their feet and cheered - and wept.

Derek Redmond didn't win the gold medal, but he walked away with the incredible memory of a loving father who, when he saw his son in pain, left his seat in the stands to help him finish the race.

That is what our Bible lesson is about today. It teaches us that life is like a race that has been set before us. We may struggle and face many obstacles, but we have a great crowd of witnesses who are cheering us on. We have a Heavenly Father who loves us and will help us when the pain is too great. We have a Saviour, who left his place in heaven and came to earth to show us how to run the race. If we will keep our eyes on him, how can we help but finish the race?

#### PRAYER

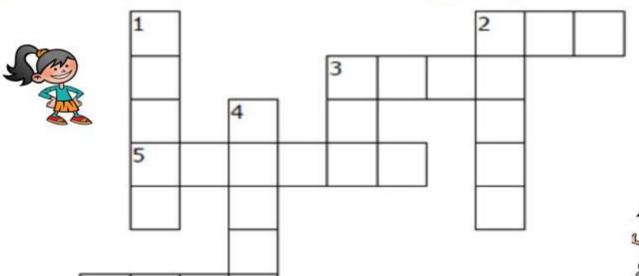
Father, help us to be faithful in running the race which you have set before us. We pray that we will keep our eyes on Jesus and follow the example he set for us. Keep us from the sin that will keep us from faithfully running our race. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1b

This puzzle is based on Hebrews 12:1-2

CROSS JESUS RUN THRONE FAITH JOY EYES RACE







- 2. A feeling of great happiness
- 3. A contest of speed

6

- The place where a king or queen is seated.
- 6. The organs which are used to see

#### DOWN

- 1. A strong belief in God.
- 2. The Son of God
- To travelling on foot at a fast pace.
- The wooden structure on which Jesus was crucified;

## Word Search

E A E N X G E Z Q G Y В Т H W Т N U E L J W Q H U S B E F I E F E S P A т G H V A B D A I Z H 0 T S I A I S X H F M U X H R A S D L N S H C L K C Т D E S D I K 0 D I D 0 K C R U N F W M I U N M E E S F T R E 0 T P 0 F R M H 0 N Y U A A Y M I L I F E E S G K S A R A E C W X U L J X B R N F R J K J C V H Q G U E E I T Q E S C S F A K B U E H I A U F C ] 0 C 0 D U U D M U т E A F F N N K S R Z E V M H S I M 1 R G T P 0 K N R K L U

GREAT
RACE
JESUS
WITNESSES
THROW
MARKED
FIX
THRONE
HINDERS
JOY
EYES
CLOUD
FAITH
RUN
SIN



## TIME TO THINK!

## RELEASED FROM PRISON

Recently I had a very sad encounter with a young man just as he was being released from prison. I stopped to chat with him, as he was carrying his luggage in a large green plastic bag. I asked him if he was ok and he shared his story. He was a recovering heroin addict. He hoped that this was the beginning of something new. He had enough money to return home to Dublin to his family. But he was afraid that very soon he would re-engage with both addiction and criminality. A vicious and crippling cycle, where so many vulnerable young people find themselves. "It's easier on the inside" was his very sad reality. Outside of imprisonment life for him is too difficult. Yet surely the gift of life is to embrace freedom, liberation and opportunity.

Addiction often binds and imprisons. Few of us escape its reality as we journey through life. I was greatly inspired by Christy Dignam's recent appearance on T.V. It was a very honest conversation, despite his cancer he is enjoying recovery, from serious addiction. The painful and indeed productive journey has also brought with it deep personal reflection and inner healing. Healing so often is associated with the wisdom of letting go in order to begin again.

As we journey through life often unknowingly we find ourselves letting go, of things, of emotions, of friendships and indeed loved ones. In many ways life itself is a continuous process of letting go, in order to begin again. This process begins with birth itself letting go of the warmth and safety of the womb in order to embrace and begin the experience of life on the "outside". Letting go embraces every step that is the journey of our human condition and brings with it all the emotional felt experience that accompanies us all on our fragile pathway as we walk through life itself. At times letting go can be easy or indeed something to be looked forward to; moving on from our studies to a workplace that has new opportunities. However, more significant moments of letting go are much more challenging and indeed a painful process that can be hugely emotional.

Letting go doesn't mean we don't care. Letting go doesn't mean we shut down. Letting go means we stop trying to force outcomes and make people behave in a way we would like them too. It means we give up resistance to the way things are, for the moment. It means we stop trying to do the impossible, controlling what we cannot, and instead focus on what is possible, which usually means taking care of ourselves. We do this in gentleness, kindness, and love, as much as possible.

Often we find as a result of losing, it may be very



difficult to let go. We hold fast by letting go. We become something new by ceasing to be something old. For me this is close to the mystery that is life itself. I once visited a very wise elderly person who had reflected much on the mystery of life. I wrote down a very powerful statement that she expressed close to her death. "I know no more now than I ever did about the far side of death as the last letting go of all, but now I know, that I do not need to be afraid of knowing. God knows, that's all that matters."

The greatest thing is, at any moment, to be willing to give up who we are in order to become all that we can be. This is a very hopeful invitation that is realised through God in our lives. We all need to let go. Many of our lives may be bruised or indeed scared by baggage that has weighed us down and limits our desire and indeed potential to grow into a space of freedom and contentment. In this regard there is an enormous desire for healing in all our hearts. Healing is that very beautiful process of letting go with peace in order to begin again in the new life and opportunities that God has ordained for us this day. One of the great spiritual movements of our world is the A. A. movement. Its spirituality in a higher power, tells a real story of letting go and being open to the present. The Serenity prayer is a gift for us all.

"God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and the wisdom to know the difference".

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patience, understanding and persevering love.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 16,200 followers or @AbbeyleixP 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



# PORTARLINGTON

## **Further Education & Training Centre** LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT

#### Part-time Third Level Programmes for September 2019

Portarlington Further Education and Training Centre, in association with The Institute of Public Administration, a recognised college of UCD (IPA/UCD), Accounting Technicians Ireland (ATI), University College Cork (UCC) and IPASS offer you the following suite of part-time programmes that may commence in September 2019.

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Certificate in Public Management	6	IPA/UCD
Diploma in Public Management	6	IPA/UCD
BA Honours in Public Management	8	IPA/UCD
Certificate in Business Studies	6	IPA/UCD
Diploma in Business Studies	6	IPA/UCD
Bachelor of Business Studies	8	IPA/UCD
Diploma in Law Specific Purpose Award	7	IPA/UCD
Certificate for Accounting Technicians Year 1	6	ATI
Diploma for Accounting Technicians Year 2	6	ATI
IPASS Stage 1	6	IPASS
IPASS Stage 2	6	IPASS
Certificate in Interpersonal Communications	7	UCC
Higher Diploma in Relationship Mentoring	8	UCC

















In Conversation with Michéal Ó Muircheartaigh GAA brings everyone together and that's what the Power of Words hopes to do. Join sports journalist Steven Miller as he interviews the legendary GAA commentator Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh about sport, life and language. Followed by an audience-led Q&A session.

Friday August 23rd 8.30pm Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix Tickets €10 adults, €20 family ticket Book on eventbrite.ie



# **ABBEYLEIX**

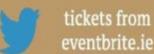
AUGUST 23rd-25th

A Weekend celebrating Words -Written, Spoken, Acted and Sung!

www.powerofwords.ie







THE HEALING POWER OF WORDS Fr Paddy Byrne, author of 'All Will be Well' and Dr. K. Mark Hilliard, author of 'The Crow's Enchanted Dance: The Phenomenology of Sacred Place and Sacred Space' will share some of their writings, on the longing for, and necessity of, a sacred space - a church, a forest or time spent reading a book. They will examine our need for a place to rest our hearts and minds, to heal and move on. Followed by Q&A. Event facilitated by Siobhan Hoy



Saturday August 24th 8:00pm CYMS Hall Tickets €10. Book on www.eventbrite.ie

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# OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY;



Mary Anne (Nan) Lawless

Birchgrove and formerly Marian Avenue

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 SHE REST IN PEACE Our sympathy to her 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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# In Loving Memory of my dear father PAUL DELANY

Dunmasc and Lower Sq., Portlaoise. 5th Anniversary occurs 17th August 2019



A daily thought, A silent tear,

A constant wish that you were here.

From your loving son Paul, daughter-in-law Ruth and grandchildren Tanya, Daniel and Maria.

May Raul Rest in Reace



## In Loving Memory of JOSEPH DOWNEY

7 Harpurs Lane, who died 18th August 2005.



As each day dawns, we think of you, As each night falls, we pray for you, And throughout our lives, no matter where,

In our hearts you are always there.

Always remembered by his family and grandchildren.

May Joseph Rest in Reace



#### In Loving Memory of A loving Mother, Sister & Nannie

ANNIE GREENE

74 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019.



Love and Pride

I can't forget that fateful day,
You had to leave, you went away,
A sadness filled me up inside,
Emotions that I could not hide.
Tears, they came, sadness too,
All my emotions, just for you,
Time will heal, so I was told,
But time could never fill this hole.
Here in my heart there is a place,
Your always there, keeping me safe,
It's filled with love and happy times,
It's never dark, your light it shines.

In Heaven now you do reside, to watch over me with love and pride, I know one day we'll meet again, until we do, just know how much I miss you.

And you are always with me. Always!

Love and miss you always; From your daughter Mary, grandson Keelin, sister Ellie and the Greene family.

Rest in Reace Mammy



# In Loving Memory of ANTHONY DOHENY-DUNNE

Born an Angel 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Heaven

Today is your birthday in Heaven above, Our blessings we send on the wings of a dove,



Not just for today, but every day hereof, We think of you always, with all of our love.

Love always and forever in our hearts.

Mammy, Daddy, Cassie, Paul and Pauric, great-granny, grannies, grandad, aunties, uncles and cousins.

Rest in Reace Son



## In Loving Memory of

ANNE MOORE Coolbanagher, Emo. 1st Anniversary occurs 26th August 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Paul's Church, Emo on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm.

Silent thoughts of times together, Hold memories which will last forever.

Loved and missed by all her loving family and friends.

May Anne Rest in Reace



# In Loving Memory of CATHERINE (KITTY) SIDES

6 Ridge Road, Portlaoise. Died 14th August 2006.



Loving memories of one so dear, Treasured still with a love sincere, In our hearts you will live forever, Because we loved you too dearly to forget.

Sadly missed by her husband Dick, daughter Ann, son-in-law Noel and granddaughters Aoife and Aine.

May Kitty Rest in Reace

# Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage 2019









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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": Parish 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.

<u>Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting:</u> 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 to join us.

St. Pio's Glove will be in the home of Betty Malone, Shindella, Rathangan, Co. Kildare (located on the Rathangan -Monasterevin Rd.) on Sunday 1st September from 11am to 5pm. Padre Pio items will be on sale on the day. For further information, call Betty 045-525094. All welcome.

#### **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

Caroline's Holistics M.N.R.R.I.:
Reflexology, Indian Head Massage,
Hopi Ear Candle Treatment.
Treatments are one hour, cost €50.
Appointments 11am to 8pm. Call;
086-4055618 (Abbeyleix).

Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Granstown, Ballacolla, Laois. 087-2068972; Clothes line poles, wall mounted clothes lines, winders, pulleys for old lines, bicycle stands, saw horses etc.

Facebook; seandoylelightengineering
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Laois/Offaly Branch of Retired Nurses Association are having an afternoon outing to Japanese Gardens with refreshments this Tuesday 20th August. Meal on the way home. All grades welcome. Further details from Joe McGill 087-2682206 Charlotte Griffin 087-2068974 Marie Costigan 087-6219253. Folklore by local children: A collection of folklore and local traditions compiled by primary school pupils of Mountmellick and Rosenallis areas between 1937 and 1939, will be on display in Mountmellick Library

**GROW Community Mental Health** Support Group meets Wednesday at 7.30pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Why not come along and learn more about positive mental health, wellbeing, recovery and how GROW may help you achieve this. Free of charge. All welcome. Contact Michelle 086-4183805 or www.grow.ie for further information. [GROW Promoting Positive Mental Health] Portlaoise Library News - Board Games Club: Weekly meet-up to play board games with like minded adults in Portlaoise Library, on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, scrabble, ticket to ride, chess and many more. All welcome. Booking advised.

Sue Ryder Charity Shop: Donations always welcome of ladies/gents good quality clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, jewellery, giftsets, curtains, household appliances, unwanted gifts, bed linen, blankets, furniture. Call Marquerite on 085-8662842.

## CONCERN

for the month of August.



**Annual Concern** 

Church Gate
Collection
will be held at all
Masses on the
weekend of
24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> August.
Thank you for

your support.

# FOSTER CARERS NEEDED LAOIS S.P.C.A



## BE PART OF THEIR JOURNEY

CONTACT: Cats - 0852397059 Dogs - 0864169559

www.LSPCA.ie www.facebook.com/lspca.rescue



Portlaoise Pantomime Group will hold their AGM in Kavanagh's Main Street at 8pm, this Tuesday evening 20<sup>th</sup> August, all current members and intended new members are welcome to attend.

## PAIR OF GLASSES FOUND

On the path outside the Church carpark (Stradbally road side). Contact the Parish Centre for details.



- NEED HOME HEATING OIL?
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#### **ACTIVE PLUMBER**

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087-2619426 / 087-1672029

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Brown leather sofa seats, pull out for recliners, €100.

Lovely kitchen table and 4 cream leather chairs, €120.

Tel. 087-7935332

# CLASSIC CAR PICNIC BALLINTUBBERT GARDENS Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> September 1pm-5pm.

Don't miss this one-day-only event featuring original 1953 County Laois Fire Engine and cars from every decade since early 1900's. Admission €5 per adult, bring your own picnic.

Enquiries to Ken 087-2303827 or George 087-6402614 BVCOC.

## PART-TIME BUS DRIVER REQUIRED

Full D licence and up to date CPCs. Contact;

086-2772104

#### **FOR SALE**

3-in-1 Pram, Buggy and Car Seat.

Brand new, never used, unwanted present. Cost €400, will sell for €250.

Call; 086-3536374

## PLUMBER AVAILABLE

All domestic, solid fuel, oil servicing, water softener installation. Contact Alan;

085-1141395

## NAIL TECHNICIAN REQUIRED

To rent a chair in a salon in Mountrath. Contact;

085-8320045

## MIDLAND APPLIANCE REPAIRS

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## COROLLA FOR SALE



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Oisín Cream Stanley Stove in perfect condition. Contact;

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