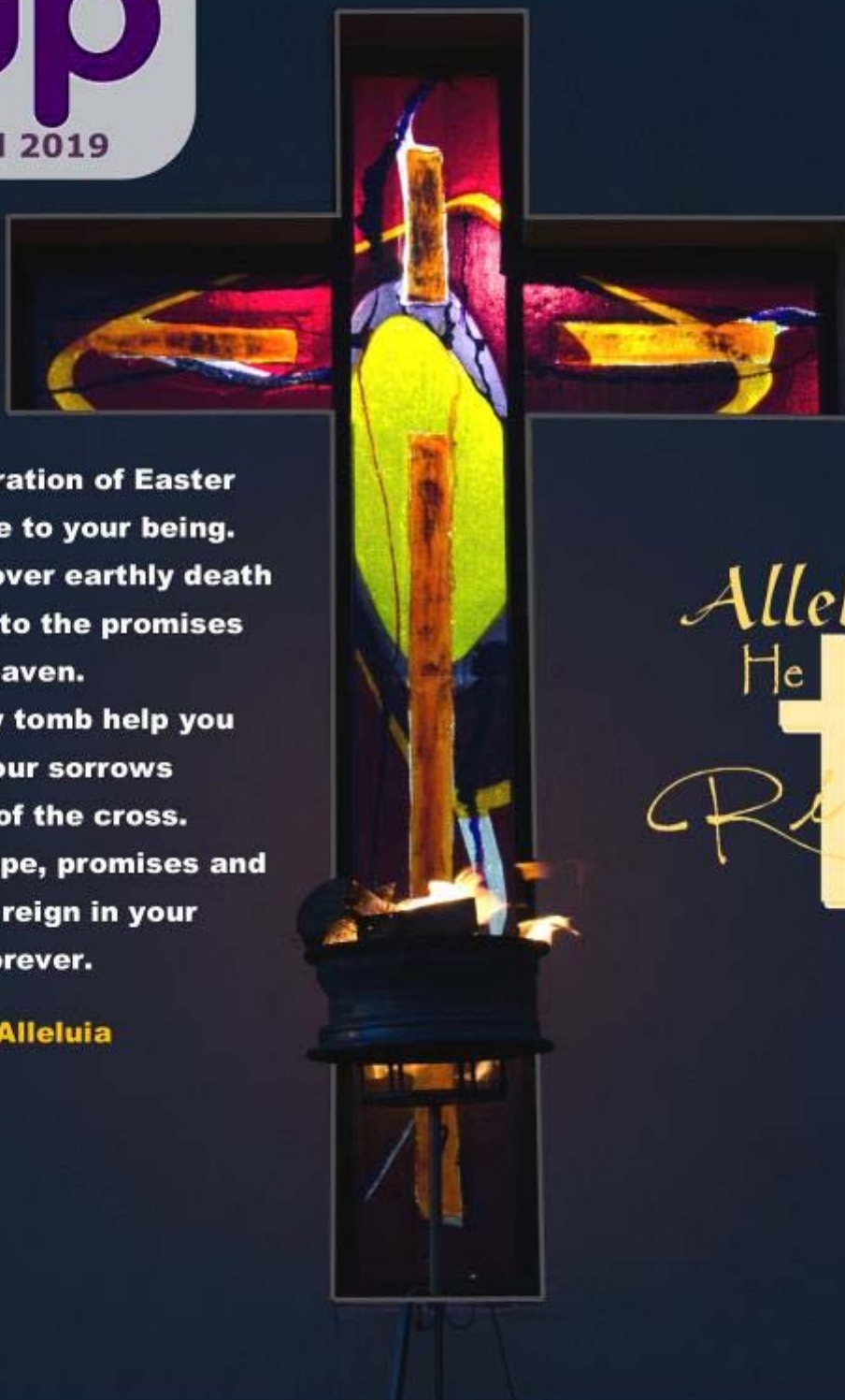


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up

21st April 2019

Easter Sunday



May the celebration of Easter
bring new hope to your being.
May the victory over earthly death
turn your eyes to the promises
of heaven.
May the empty tomb help you
to leave your sorrows
at the foot of the cross.
So that God's hope, promises and
forgiveness reign in your
life forever.

Amen Alleluia

Alleluia
He is
+
Risen

The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

18th April 2019

Portlaoise Parish



No €15,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Ann Foy
Anne Marie Byrne
N & Dee Arrigan
Elliot Clear
Tom Conroy
Michelle Holohan
Mary Stapleton
The Ryan Line
Teresa & Susan
Martha Dalton

MATCH 3s €1,000

10
Match 3s
€100
each

PROMOTER

Paul Dooley
Parish Centre
Nuala Arrigan
Anne Ging
Mary Conroy
Ann Delaney
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Breda Ryan
Elizabeth Dowling

Next Week's Jackpot

€16,000

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Easter Collection for the Priests

Easter Collections for the priests of the parish will take place at all Masses this weekend. Envelopes are available in the Church porches for those who aren't using a Development Box. Thank you for your continued support. The Easter Collection is one of four collections that take place during the year to support our priests.

The Priests of the parish thank you for your support and take this opportunity to wish you all the joys and blessings of this great Feast.

Msgr. John Byrne P.P. V.G.

Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.

Fr. David Vard

Fr. Paddy Byrne C.C.

Fr. Tom O'Connor

Priests of the Parish



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



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



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



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



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

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

Outside of Office Hours

In emergencies only

To contact the Priest on duty
057-8621364



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

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

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

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



Secretary: Julie Conroy
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Trócaire

Please bring any remaining Trócaire boxes to Mass next Sunday or you can leave them into the Parish Centre. Do NOT leave Boxes in the Church at any time. Trócaire boxes are still available in Church porches or in the Parish Centre.

A Stronger Hope

Belief in the Resurrection is central and imperative to our faith, and because it is central and imperative it really ought to be rock solid. For many, this truth is distinctly



uncomfortable. The account of Jesus' Resurrection is lacking in detail, and it can leave us with more questions than answers. For many, belief is far from rock solid. A rock solid belief that Jesus died and rose again to give us a clean slate would surely mean us living our lives very differently, but more often than not, this is not the case.

Traditionally at this time of year thousands of Christians are baptised all over the world. One such candidate was asked whether he felt any different now that he was baptised. The candidate replied, "Yes, I went from believing nothing, to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope that God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey." The Resurrection is a little like this. In all honesty, the story of the Empty Tomb doesn't have us leaping up and down in the church pews. In truth, the Resurrection doesn't make everything great. We still have fear and doubt and pain, but whereas before we had nothing, now we have a hope. For some of us it might be a vague kind of hope, but we trust that God will make it a stronger hope as we continue our journey of faith and understanding.

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year

Bring peace and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear

And may Christ, Our Risen Saviour, be always by your side
To bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday (Bank Holiday)

10am

Tuesday — Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

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

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Séan Lewis
Killimy Road

Aaron John McDonagh
Ashewood Walk

Radha Cara Thornton
Borris Road

Iga Zadorozny
Kilminchy Court

Alannah Mary Christie O'Shea
O'Moore Place

were baptised last weekend

Bitesize

Once you choose hope, anything's possible.

Christopher Reeve

Sunday 14th April 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,851.00
Development Fund	€3,177.00
	€6,028.00

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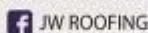
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I've Just Seen Jesus

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and another disciple, whose name was John. She told them, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!"



Peter and John started out for the tomb. They were both running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed -- for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary stayed behind and stood outside the tomb weeping. As she knelt down and looked inside, she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken her master and she didn't know where they had taken him. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought he was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard his voice, she recognised Him. After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Some people, like Mary, Peter, and John can't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in a grave or on a cross. He isn't there! He is risen and is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. If you want to see Jesus, look in His Word, He will reveal Himself to you, just as He did to Mary!



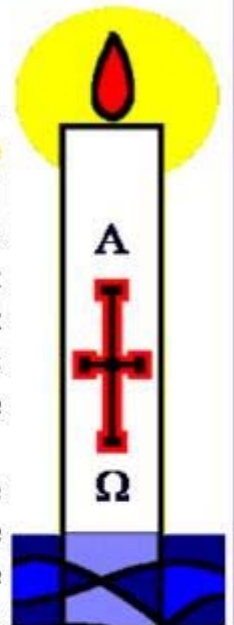
Father, we thank you that Jesus, our Saviour, is not in a grave. He is alive! We serve a risen Saviour! Hallelujah! In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Easter Vigil Mass

On Holy Saturday night we gather to celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead. We light our Paschal or Easter Fire as a reminder that Jesus is **the light in the darkness**. From that fire a new Paschal or Easter Candle is lit, placed in a special candlestick and put where we can all see it, usually near the altar or ambo. The Paschal Candle will be lit at every Mass during the Easter Season. It is also lit during Baptisms and Funerals throughout the year. The Paschal Candle is different from other candles because it has special markings or symbols on it that remind us of how much Jesus loved us. Look at the coloured picture and see if you can make your own Paschal Candle.

First draw a **large red cross** on the candle. Now draw a Letter **A** at the top of the Cross and the **upside down horseshoe** at the bottom of the Cross. In Greek, the letter A is called **Alpha** and the upside down horseshoe is the final letter of the Greek alphabet. It is called **Omega**. This is to remind us that Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything.

The current year is placed in the four corners of the Cross, so now put the figures **2 0 1 9** in the corners. Go in a clockwise direction starting with **2** in the top left hand corner. Finally five pieces of incense are placed in the points and centre of the Cross representing the five wounds that Jesus got when he was crucified.



Easter Sunday

Before daybreak Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She hurried to tell Jesus' friends Peter and John, who raced to the tomb. Peter went in and Jesus was not there. He had risen from the dead!

On Easter Sunday

We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.



May your
Easter basket be full of
Joy, Happiness & Peace
Today & Always!

Happy
Easter





TIME TO THINK!

EASTER A TIME TO HOPE

"He is not here, he is risen", is the signal message which the women receive as they make their way to anoint this dead body of Jesus. That the Lord is truly risen is a fundamental element of the Christian faith.

The Old Testament readings at the Easter Vigil liturgical celebration are all about how God created every dimension of the cosmos as good and that when humankind drifted away from God's original plan, God remained faithful. Throughout the centuries God guided those with faith away from the path of oppression and persecution and domination towards that new liberty which would then be fully achieved in Jesus death and Resurrection. Jesus came to save us, to liberate us for new life. Christianity is a faith of new life and of liberation. Saint Paul, tells us, "In baptism we are joined with Christ's death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life".

"Christianity is a faith of new life and of liberation". What does that mean? For many Christianity has been experienced in precisely the opposite sense. For many, Christianity had been turned into a faith of prohibitions. Certain theologians spoke about freeing people from sin, but had developed a concept of sin and sinner which made it almost impossible for a sinner ever to feel himself or herself truly liberated. There were so many rules that many were left with a sense of scrupulosity which left them trapped and oppressed by guilt and doubts. We had created a religion of fear, so much that even when we tried to live the good life we were never left with a sensation of being free.

Certainly Christianity is not a religion of anything can go. The good life is a life lived in goodness rather than in libertinism. We had overlooked that sin in its essence is not a failure to observe rules and norms: is it a failure to love. We could find people who observed all the norms and yet were the deepest of sinners because of the way they lived. We could find poor sinners who failed and failed again but their struggle was a struggle to be loving persons and they realised that the Lord's hand was always there to pick them up again, so that they could stand up once more and with their head hung high.

Jesus had a special love for sinners. He reached out to sinners: he spoke to prostitutes and adulterers; he touched lepers and the unclean; he released people from the bonds of possession which weighed them down. Jesus has come to liberate.

The Lord is truly risen. It is not an easy thing to believe. It defies rationality. We note in the various Gospel accounts how the disciples who head out to visit the tomb, head out to anoint a dead body and that when told they find it hard to understand that Jesus is truly risen.

Despite what they had heard from Jesus, after his death they found the idea of his rising from the dead almost impossible to believe. Rising from the dead seems impossible. But if Jesus has risen from the dead his message to us is that with faith in him even what seems impossible in our lives can be attained. Rather than a faith that imprisons us in our weakness, Christianity is a faith which opens horizons of possibility. The mercy of God is a sign that the Lord wants us to rise with him to great things.

Saint Paul wrote: "As Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory we too might live a new life". We are not called to reflect or discuss the new life. We are called to live the new life. The Christian cannot live at peace in word where people are oppressed. If Christianity is a faith of liberation, then the Christian and the Church of Jesus Christ must be a place of real witness to the reality of the powers of darkness which still



today trap people in oppression. None of us can claim to be free if we live immune to the fact of so much oppression and need for liberation. Freedom is not the privilege of the few: It is a call to take responsibility for all. Too often however we acquiesce in watching oppression.

Too often the Church has fallen into the logic not of new life but of siding with power and conformity and safety. A Christian theology is always a theology of liberation. But it is not an ideology of liberation. Not every ideology of liberation is really one which will enable people to be free. A true theology of liberation is not purely political. True liberation theology is one which will never leave any politics happy.

Liberation is present in the Church through the presence of the Risen Lord who enables us – and challenges us – to live the dangerous and perplexing path of freedom. We should not be fearful of the fact that freedom may sometimes lead us in the wrong direction; it is oppression which always leads in the wrong direction.

The Lord is truly risen. Our belief is in the resurrection of the body. The risen body of Christ is the light and the hope for our bodies. How then can we be insensitive to the needs and the suffering of the bodies of children who are victims of violence and abuse; how can we not be angry with those who support an industry which fosters a drug trade which holds people trapped in addiction; how can we hide away from the fact of the sexual exploitation especially of women; how can we be insensitive to hunger and yet spend millions of a false culture of the body; how can we be unconcerned by political and economic cultures which leave men, women and children unable to realise their full abilities.

Jesus is raised to new life. As Christians we are called to live newness of life, a life which is founded on integrity and truth, on honesty and love. The Christian life is a calling for all Christians. There is legitimate separation between Church and State; but the Christian cannot avoid working to ensure that the new life of Christ reaches out into every corner of a society. The Christian cannot remain insensitive to a politics which becomes sterile through tiredness and negativity. The Christian cannot remain insensitive to a Church which becomes trapped in its own self-interest. There is legitimate separation between Church and State, but both can benefit from the contribution of authentic believers.

We celebrate the mystery of Christ who died and Christ who is risen to bring us new life. We thank God for the gift of the new life of the Risen Lord. We open our hearts to the Risen Lord so that we can become heralds of new life to all who lives are troubled, beleaguered and oppressed in mind or body. Easter is a powerful gift of Hope!!!

This Easter Season may we be anointed with great Hope and peace.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 15,600 followers or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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

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The Age Friendly programme is compiling a register of Older Peoples groups and facilities in Laois. The purpose of the list is to ensure the key members of the programme are aware of all groups in the County and to share all available services with older people in Laois. The programme members include An Garda Síochána, HSE, Local Link, Laois Offaly Education Training Board, Laois Partnership, Lions Club, Laois Alzheimers Society, Portlaoise Parish. If your group provides a service to older people, meet for social outings or simply meet for a cup of tea each week, we would like to hear from you.

Please contact the office by post or email to agefriendly@laoiscoco.ie with the Name of group, Location, Contact Person, address and email/phone number.

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



Joe Doyle,
Monksbridge,
Maryborough
Village



Ritchie Connor,
Droimnin
Nursing Home &
formerly
Raheny,
Dublin 5

*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



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In Loving Memory of **BRIDGET GORMAN**

*Late of Ballacolla Village
10th Anniversary occurs at this time.*

*I will never forget Dear Mother, you came to
stay with me that Holy Easter week.*

*Little did I know that Jesus had other plans for
you so early on that Easter Sunday morning ten
years ago. Jesus brought you home to Heaven Mam. R.I.P.*

Love and miss you always. Daughter Kathleen and Family.

May Bridget Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of **ALAN LENIHAN**

Ballydavis, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs on 27th April.

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Peter and Paul Church on
Saturday 27th April at 6.30 pm.*

We miss you more than words could ever say.

Loved and remembered always by all your loving family.

May Alan Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory Of JOHN O' LOUGHLIN

Clonad, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary occurs at this time.



No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
We thought we had forever,
But only the blink of an eye,
But now you are watching over us,
In a place you call home.

Sadly missed by all your loving family
May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of SALLY (Sarah) WHELAN

The Cottage, Beladd, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
24th Anniversary occurred 6th April 2019.



Quietly today your memory we
treasure,
Missing you always, forgetting you
never.

Sadly missed by Bridie and Chris.
May Sally Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of JOHN EGAN

Caragh House, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise
2nd Anniversary occurs on 30th April 2019

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on
Sunday 28th April at 12.30pm



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.

Rest in peace Dear loved one, thanks for all you've done
We pray that God has given you the crown you truly deserve.

Sadly missed by his loving wife Anne, daughters Jennifer,
Deborah, and Stella, grandkids Corey and Tamin and all your
loving family and friends.

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 25th April 2019.



My Mother seems so far away
from me, on that beautiful white
shore across the sea,
Yet I remember loves soft glow
upon her face, and the feel of
her touch and tender embrace.

The Path is unclear and I feel so
forlorn,
I remember her loving support was always near, and
her advice made the path ahead seem clear.

When I feel there is no one who seems to care,
or when the heartache seems too hard to bear,
I remember how she always stood by my side, and
would tenderly wipe away the tears I cried.

When there are moments of great joy and pride,
and I wish my Mother was standing at my side,
I remember she saw more than I thought I could be,
and know I owe my triumphs to her belief in me.

When I remember about the things she used to say,
and I miss her and think she is so far away,
I remember what she gave lives on through me, and
one day I'll see her on the shore across the sea.

Rest in Peace

You are not forgotten Mum
nor will you ever be.
As long as life and memory last, your soul will live
in me.



I miss you now
My heart is sore.
As time goes by
I'll miss you more.

Your loving smile,
Your gentle face,
No one can fill your vacant place.

Missing you always Mother
Always on my mind,
Forever in my heart,
Love James x

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

If we have **died** with him
then we shall **live** with him
Timothy 2:11

In Loving Memory of TONY KAVANAGH



Colt, Ballyroan, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 5th May 2019.

Your resting place we visit,
We place some flowers with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St. Fintan's Church, Raheen on Saturday 27th
April 2019 at 7.30pm.*

Sadly missed and never forgotten by his wife and family.

May Tony Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of MARY FINGLETON

Late of Park, Stradbally, Co. Laois.



The family of the late Mary Fingleton wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and kindness shown to us on our sad loss. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many kind relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues who visited our home, attended the ceremonies and who provided

support to us during those difficult days.

For those who travelled long distances, sent cards and messages of sympathy, we are truly grateful. Our deepest appreciation to the priests concelebrating her requiem Mass, Fr. Vard, Fr. Lalor, Fr. Fingleton and Fr. Harding; Aisling Rowan for her beautiful singing and music and to the altar servers at her Funeral Mass.

A special word of thanks to all the staff of Ballard Lodge Nursing Home and Dr. Anna Gullane for their excellent care of Mary and to many priests of the Parish who visited her there over many years.

Many thanks to Ratheniska GAA for their assistance with traffic management which was most helpful to the family and to Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors and their staff for their guidance and professionalism.

Please accept this acknowledgement from us as a token of our appreciation and gratitude.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intention.

*Months Mind Mass for Mary will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Church on Sat. 27th April at 6.30p.m.*

May Mary's Gentle Soul Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance for DAVID RAFTER

1st Birthday away from Home.



... Life is not the same
without you.

The Sun still rises in the East and
darkness falls at night, but
nothing now seems quiet 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.

*Love you always your heartbroken wife
Vanda.*

Happy Birthday Dave xx

DAD,

As long as I live you will live
As long as I live you will be remembered
As long as I live you will be loved.

Happy Birthday Dad, love Stefan and Amy xx

To my Darling brother David,

Crying is a way your eyes speak, when your mouth
can't explain how broken your heart is.
Missing you today and everyday.

*Happy Birthday Daithí
Love always John, Martina and Craig xx*

David,

Though your smile is gone forever and your hand we
cannot touch still we have so many memories of a
son we loved so much.

From your heartbroken Mam and Dad xx

*May David's Gentle Soul
Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of

*A Cherished Mother, Grandmother,
Great-Grandmother, Sister & Sister-in-Law*

KATHLEEN PAISLEY

2nd Anniversary occurs 28th April 2019



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, Portlaoise, on
Sunday 28th April at 12:30pm.
Your name is often spoken
We talk about you still
You haven't been forgotten,
You know you never will.

No words or verse could ever say
How much we have miss you every day
Deep in our hearts your memory is kept.
We love you too dearly to ever forget
Some day we know we'll meet again
Some day we know not when
To clasp your hand in a better land
Never to part again.

We will love and miss you always

*From your daughters Pauline, Catherine, Maria,
Jean, Fidelma, sons Brian and Joe, sons-in-law,
daughter-in-law Martina, grandchildren,
great-granddaughters Grace, Rebecca-Jane,
Hannah –Grace, Anna– Rose, sister Peg and
sisters-in-law Mena, Betty and Nan.*

Also remembering at this time; Kathleen's late
husband Joe, her brother Bill Doyle and all deceased
members of the Doyle and Paisley families.

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

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

THOMAS DOHENY

*St. John's Sq., Portlaoise.
Special 80th Birthday Remembrance*



We cannot send a birthday card
Your hand we cannot touch
But God will take our greetings
To the one we miss and love so much.

*Sadly missed by your sons, daughters, grandchildren,
great grandchildren and all relatives and friends.*

Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at
this time.

May Thomas Rest in Peace

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARGARET "RITA" SCULLY

174 St. Brigids Place Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 29th April 2019.



No special day is needed for us to think of
you

For you were very special
We thought the world of you.

It's been a year since you slipped away.
That day seems just like yesterday today,
we tell you softly you are still so wonderful to think of
and so hard to be without.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure
Loving you always, forgetting you never
In Heaven you rest, no worries, no pain
In God's own time, we will meet again.

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

*Sadly missed by you loving family John, Patrick, Teresa, Peter,
Jacinta, Roch, Margaret, Kathleen. Sons and daughters –in-law.*

*1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter
and Paul's Church, Sunday 28th April at 12.30 Mass.*

May Margaret Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MARGARET (RITA) SCULLY**

174 St. Brigids Place Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary Remembrance



Granny,

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and
whisper in your ear,
How much we love and miss you and wish
that you were here,

A beautiful memory dearer than gold,
Of a Granny whose worth can never be told.

Always remembered your loving grandchildren

May Margaret Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **WILLIAM BERGIN**

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.



*9th Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated on Sunday 28th April at
12:30pm in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church.*

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

Sadly missed by his loving wife and family.

May William Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of ANNIE DELANEY

*Ballygormill, Timahoe.
Died 22nd March 2019*



The family of the late Annie Delaney would like to express our sincere gratitude for the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following the death of our mother Annie.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the great number of relatives, neighbours and friends who attended the house, removal and burial, sent Mass cards, messages of sympathy and floral tributes. Your practical and personal support will never be forgotten.

To Park Ratheniska GAA Club and our neighbours for looking after the parking arrangements, to those who provided food and assisted with the catering at the house, thank you all.

Thanks to Monsignor John Byrne for the use of Ratheniska Church, to Arthur Drennan for his helpful assistance, to the altar servers, to Nuala Kelly for her magnificent singing and to Niall and Matthew for their professionalism.

A special thank you to Fr. Kelly for the beautiful and personal funeral Mass he celebrated and for his kindness to Annie always.

Thanks to Dr. Grimes, the staff at Stradbally Medical Practice and the Public Health team. We would, above all, like to thank Ann Brennan for her exceptional kindness to Annie at all times.

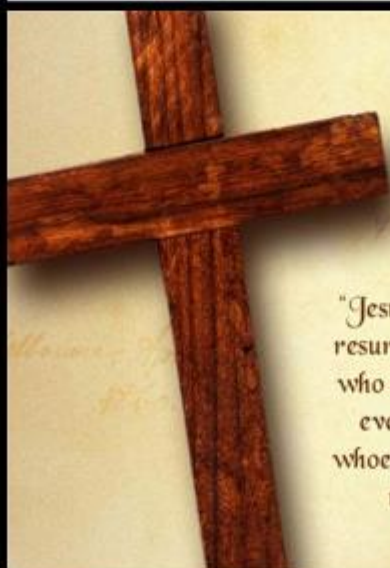
To the Gandon Inn, Treacy's and Bosco Ramsbottom for the excellent food provided.

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

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

Annie's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Michael's Church, Timahoe on Sunday 28th April at 10.30am.

May Annie Rest in Peace



John

11:25-26 (niv)

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'"

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In

PORTLAOISE PARISH CHURCH

On

Sunday 28th April - 3pm



Ceremonies begin at 2:45pm with Confession followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass with Fr. Paddy Byrne. Music Ministry; Margaret Brennan.

Why Divine Mercy? Jesus spoke directly to St. Faustina, "I want this image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, the depths of My Mercy will be open to all. Whoever will go to confession and Communion on that day will receive complete forgiveness of sin and all punishment. Mankind will not enjoy peace until it turns with confidence to My Mercy."

"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not be lost. I also promise victory over its enemies here on earth, but especially at the hour of death, I myself will defend your soul as My own glory."

Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday: Preparation begins on Good Friday.

1. Commence a novena of Divine Mercy Chaplets with the Special prayers (found on the leaflets in the Church/online).
2. Confession on the day if possible or as close to the day as possible. St. Faustina herself went the night before!
3. Receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday.
4. Venerate the Divine Mercy Image- this will be done publicly on the day.
5. One must perform at least one Act of Mercy toward their neighbours during the 9 days of preparation (either by word/deed or prayer).

Also:

6. The Sermon by the priest on that day should be on Divine Mercy.
7. The image of Divine Mercy is to be ceremoniously blessed on the day and should be exposed.



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": Parish Centre.

Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome. **Please note change of venue.**

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.

Divine Mercy Novena: We will be praying the Divine Mercy Novena every day in the Portlaoise Church at 3pm concluding Saturday 27th April.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Celebrations: Sunday 28th April at 11.00 a.m., Emmanuel House, Clonfert Co. Galway led by Eddie stones and team. Confessions available and finishing with Holy Mass. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Granstown, Ballacolla, Laois.

087-2068972: Clothes line poles, wall to wall clothes lines, winders, pulleys etc., retractable clothes lines, bicycle stands etc. *Facebook;* seandoylelightengineering.

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 or learn Whist at Sue Ryder centre every Thursday 2.30 to 4.00pm all are welcome

Upcoming Event: On the 24th, Portlaoise ARA is celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the foundation of the club. This is a major milestone in our history, and promises to be a very entertaining and exciting day for all our members. It will feature live music, a DVD highlighting a 15 year story of achievement, followed by delicious afternoon tea, with catering by Café Latte.

We have been looking forward to this day for some time, and wish all our members a very enjoyable and memorable afternoon. We hope to see a full house on the day.

Lost: Car and house keys lost in Portlaoise on Saturday 30th March, between the Killeslin Hotel and Main St. area, consisting of one Mazda Car key and two house keys. There is a Beauty Salon fob with the word "Poppies" in print. If found, please call 086-3824431.

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, Thurs. 25th April, 23rd May and 27th June (*No booking required*). New members always welcome.

Tel. 087-3761552

E-mail mhengage.mlm@hse.ie

www.hse.ie/mentalhealthengagement

Portlaoise Library News:

Keeping Kids Safe Online, Bob Flavin who runs a successful You Tube channel will be speaking to parents about safety online. He will advise of things to look for in children's online use and of ways to promote their safety. This talk will take place on Wednesday 24th April, 6.30pm. Booking is advised.

History Lectures series starting in May at Portlaoise Library Tuesdays, 7.30pm. A series of history lectures on a number of topics with guest lecturers. Booking recommended.

Found: Pair of children's glasses (pink and yellow) found outside the cleaners in Lyster Sq. on Monday 25th March. Contact; 087-2648194.

Portlaoise Library News / Upcoming Events:

Portlaoise Library is currently looking for volunteers to help mentor and run a children's chess club which will take place in the library on Tuesdays at 3.30pm. All enquiries to laoislibrary@laoiscoco.ie or phone 057 8622333.

Greyhounds on the Train-Theatre production at Portlaoise Library:

The War of Independence story that no one has told. Meet four women, not ordinary women, but fighters in a struggle to achieve Irish Independence. This event takes place on Thursday 2nd May 6.30pm.

Solemn Novena: To our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen, 9 Monday nights 29th April-24th June, 2019. Time: 7.30pm. (Rosary at 7.10pm). Singing will be led by Fr. Liam Lawton, accompanied by the poor Clare Community and Parish choirs.

Speaker: 29th April Gerry O'Hanlon S.J (Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice, Author of "The Quiet Revolution of Pope Francis").

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME:

Community & Voluntary groups are invited to apply for Community Enhancement Programme to support small-scale funding for projects which range from purchasing lawnmowers and IT equipment to minor renovations to buildings. Ultimately the Programme responds to local needs and also provides funding towards larger projects. Application forms and guidelines are available from dce@laoiscoco.ie or by phone 057 8664206/8664169.

Special Mass: In honour of "THE LITTLE FLOWER" in St Joseph's Church, Ballyadams, Laois on Thursday 16th May @ 7.30pm and individual blessing with "The Little Flower Bone Relic".

ARCH CLUB: (Social club for adults with intellectual disability).

DISCO at: MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL THURSDAY 25th April 2019,

8.00-10.00am. Please note that

everyone attending the disco must sign in at the door for insurance purposes. This includes members, volunteers, staff & family members. **ADMISSION €5,** Contact: Mary Heaney 087 2188794, Órlagh McCrory 087 6836156, Trish Carroll 087 6756955

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OUR LADY OF FATIMA FEAST DAY

Pilgrimage to KNOCK SHRINE
Sunday 12th May 2019
Bus leaves: Lyster Sq. Portlaoise
at 9am. Book your seat with
deposit to;
Maura 086-3344722
Michael McEvoy 057-8621853

Laois/Offaly Branch of Retired Nurses Association AGM

will be held in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise (on church grounds) on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 at 2pm. Parking Tickets available at reception desk. National President and Secretary will be in attendance. Good attendance expected & new member always welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Filipino Woman

Seeks work as cleaner, carer for elderly or childminder.

**Contact Julie:
086-2588154**

CARER AVAILABLE

Irish lady available to work as carer, housekeeper, home help, also light gardening. Experienced and can provide references. Tel:

089-4045355

FATIMA MASS

Wednesday 22nd May Mass in the Parish Church for all parishioners travelling to Fatima.

Celebrant Fr. Paddy Byrne.

Tickets will be distributed in the Parish Centre after the Mass.

CLEARANCE SALE

Second hand furniture

3 piece suite, table and chairs, wardrobes etc.

Also antique furniture.

**McDonnells, Cloneyhurke,
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**Combined Pool table/
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087 284 7772**

ORDER OF MALTA

Last Saturday the Portlaoise unit of the Order of Malta had the privilege to host the Regional Cadet Competitions. Sincere thanks to Maura Murphy and the Board of Management of the CBS for allowing us use the school. Also thanks to everyone who helped out on the day. Special thanks to all the "Mammys" who organised and ran a bake sale.

Senior Home Nursing—First Place.

Senior Individual—First Place.

Senior First Aid Team—First Place.

Cadet Unit of the Year—First Place.

Senior CPR Team—First Place.


Junior Home Nursing—Second Place

The teams will now go forward to represent the Midlands Region in the All Ireland's in June.

The Cadets also received CPR pins to wear on their school jumpers they receive these after completing a CFR course which included the use of AEDs. Course is for Cadets over 14 years and we were one of the first units to complete the course and first to receive pins.

Congratulations to all.



 **PORTLAOISE MACRA NA FEIRME**
3RD ANNUAL


TRACTOR RUN

In aid of
PIETA HOUSE & PORTLAOISE MACRA

 **PIETA HOUSE**

EASTER MONDAY
22ND APRIL

12:30PM
Registration
From 11:30am



**Departing from the Rock Inn,
Dublin Road, Portlaoise, at 12:30pm
with registration from 11:30am.**

Last year's event raised €1,800 for Pieta House - which works with those who have suicidal thoughts or who self-harm, as well as providing counselling to those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

Portlaoise Macra na Feirme is a club for young people between 17-35 interested in making friends, developing new skills or just having a good time. They are currently recruiting new members.

Anybody looking for information on the Tractor Run or looking to learn more about Portlaoise Macra should contact club chair;
Adrian Seale 087-9342927

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