

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
up

21st July 2019

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fort Protector & Fitzmaurice Place Conservation Project The Historic Core of our Town

The first phase of the transformation of Fort Protector and Fitzmaurice Place was opened on Friday 28th June. It dates from 1547 when Portlaoise was established as a fort.

Well done to all who have contributed to this first phase of redevelopment and we look forward to its progression.



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 July 2019

Portlaoise Parish



No €14,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Mick Carroll & Joanne
Bee Lee
Ger Lalor
Mary Thompson
Geraldine Greene
Betty Delaney
Breda Guilfoyle
Teresa Dowling
Bennett Family
A Dunne
Martina Gosling
J Dunne

MATCH 3s €1,000



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www.portlaoiseparish.ie

PROMOTER

Joanne Bennett
Ray Scott
Marie Rowe
Barbara Dowling
Geraldine Greene
Betty Delaney
Parish Centre
Mary Arthur
Joanne Bennett
Anne Carroll
Rita Watkins
Anne Carroll

Next Week's Jackpot €15,000

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Priests of the Parish



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



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



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



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



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

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

Outside of Office Hours

In emergencies only

To contact the Priest on duty
057-8621364

Choosing the Better Part

"Don't just stand there gawping," we're told as children, ".... do something!" we have grown up knowing that we all must pull our weight, and so when the overworked Martha complains to Jesus that her sister Mary has not helped with the meal, we get understandably hot under the collar when Jesus condones Mary's choice to sit at his feet in conversation. There is of course a big danger in the story of Martha and Mary. The danger is that we feel the need to side with one sister, thereby judging the other wrong. In truth, both sisters have something to teach us.

Martha we are told, was concerned with many things, but we're led to believe that all of them were finite and transitory. If we took time to make a list of the concerns in our own lives we might find that we have a lot of Martha in us. We worry about work, we worry about money and we worry about how we are going to fit our chores in. If we look back at our anxieties of last year, or last month, or even last week, we might be forced to admit that most of those worries had no lasting significance, yet they still managed to dominate our lives and rob us of what was important. Mary on the other hand was only concerned with one thing, ... the Kingdom of God ... finite, ultimate and lasting.

It is important to note that Jesus was not reproaching Martha, after all without Martha there would have been no meal on the table that night. Without the Marthas of the world nothing would get done. On the other hand, it doesn't matter how hard we work, without God at the centre of our lives, our actions are hollow. Mary chose 'the better part', but we all need a little of Martha too.

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie 057-8692151

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

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



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

Religious gifts and books.



Ss. Joachim and Ann
"Celebrating Grandparents"
26th July



Whether or not Joachim and Ann are the real names of Mary's parents, this date is a good opportunity to celebrate grandparents everywhere. It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come, and it reminds the younger generation of older people's greater perspective.

PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI (2008)

Lord Jesus,
 you were born of the Virgin Mary,
 the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
 Look with love on grandparents the world over.
 Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
 for families, for the Church and for all of society.
 Support them! As they grow older,
 may they continue to be for their families
 strong pillars of Gospel faith,
 guardian of noble domestic ideals,
 living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
 Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
 that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
 of their mature human and spiritual experience.
 Lord Jesus, help families and society
 to value the presence and roles of grandparents.
 May they never be ignored or excluded,
 but always encounter respect and love.
 Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
 in all the years of life which you give them.
 Mary, Mother of all the living,
 keep grandparents constantly in your care,
 accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
 and by your prayers, grant that all families
 may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
 where you await all humanity
 for the great embrace of live without end. Amen!

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhríde, 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 will take place this Sunday evening (21st July) at 5pm in the Parish Church.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am
 & 6.30pm Masses.



**We welcome into our
 Parish Community**

Bonnie Anne Farrell Kerry
 Cherrygrove

Ella Margaret Dillon , Grenville

Noah James Carey

Jack Patrick O'Shea, Grenville

Íde Mary Reddin, Abbeyleix Road

Who were baptised last weekend

Bitesize

There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?

Robert Francis Kennedy, 1968 presidential campaign

Sunday 14th July 2019

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
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Limited group numbers so please contact John or Nicola for more information on pricing and availability.

Together is Better
Baby & Toddler Group

Invite you to their

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In Portlaoise Parish Centre on
Saturday 27th July from 10am to 2pm.

Sale of pre-loved baby & children's items.
Are you looking to sell your unwanted
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Jenny 086-2378816 or Liga 089-2559080.

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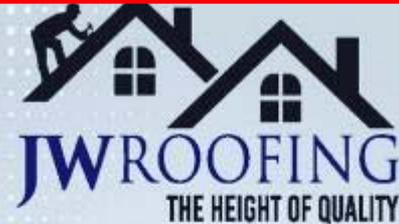
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BER C2

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BER C2

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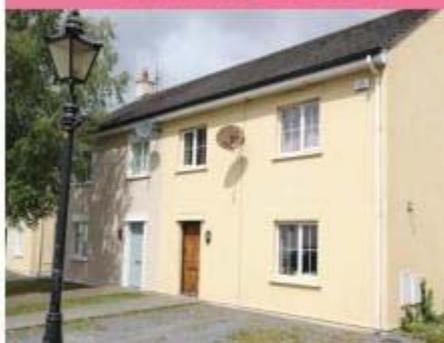
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BER C3

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BER C2

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Today's Gospel

Jesus was in the village of Bethany where his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. Jesus went to their home to visit and Martha invited him in and began to prepare dinner. Her sister Mary just sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to the words he had to say. The Gospel says that Martha was distracted by all the preparation that had to be made. She became upset with her sister and went to Jesus and said, "**Lord, don't**



you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "**Martha, Martha,**" Jesus said, "**you are worried and upset about many things. But there is one thing that is the most important and Mary has discovered it.**" Martha was doing her best to make Jesus feel welcome in her home, but Mary had discovered something more important. What was that thing that Mary had discovered? It was sitting at the feet of Jesus and receiving his words into her heart.

It is important for you and me to be careful that we don't get so busy "**doing things for Jesus**" that we forget to listen to his words and take them into our heart.

That is the most important thing!



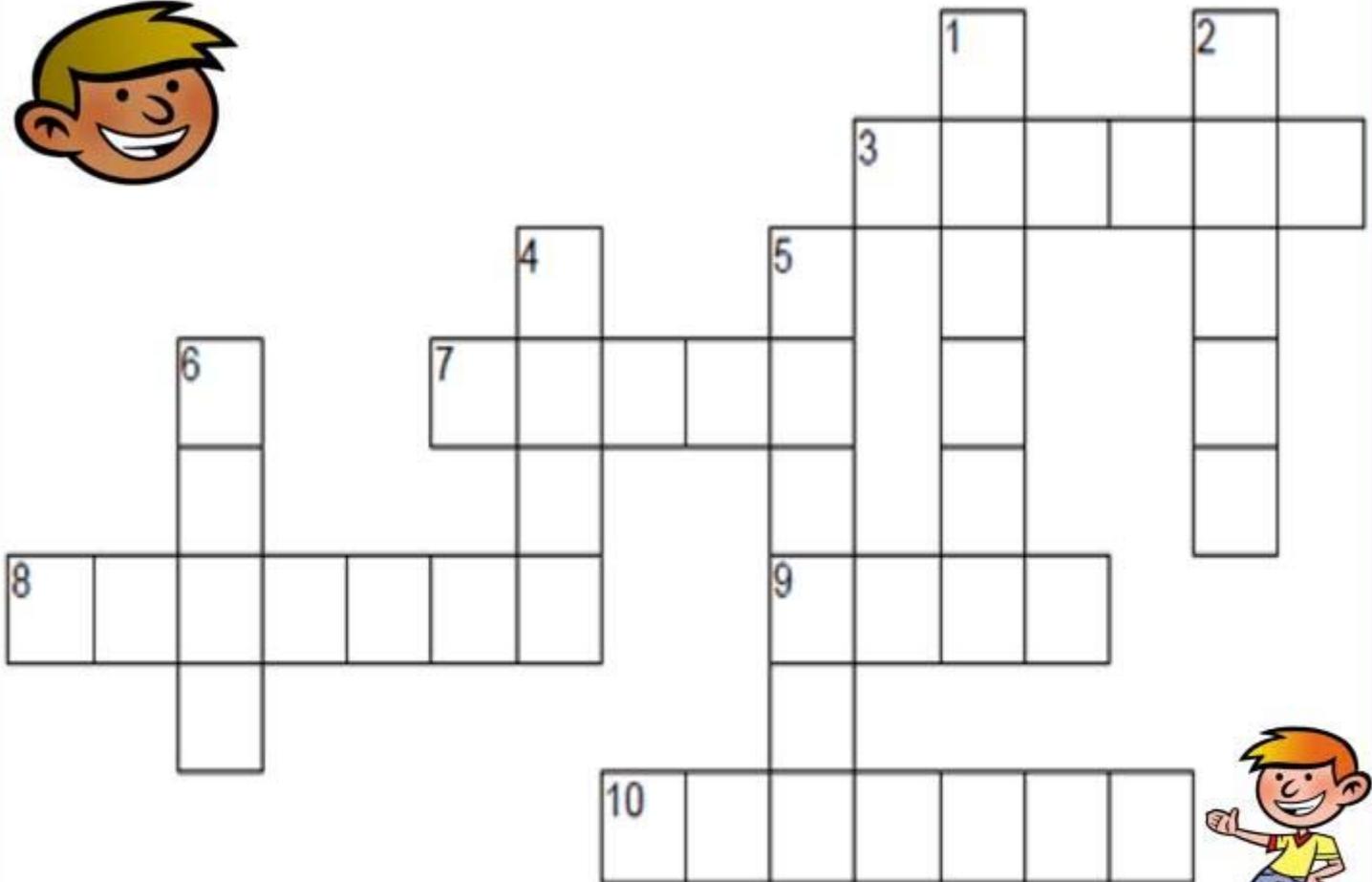
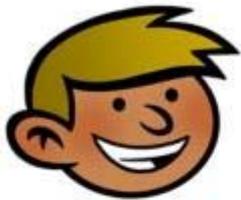
Heavenly Father, we love you and want to serve you, but most of all, we want to take the words of Jesus into our heart and apply them to our life.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

At the Feet of Jesus

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed - or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Puzzle is based on Luke 10:38-42



ACROSS

3. To pay attention to what someone says
7. An adult female human
8. A very small town
9. Activity, such as a job, which a person, performs; labour
10. To be concerned about something; to be troubled

DOWN

1. A female having the same parents as another person
2. The son of God
4. The place where a family lives
5. A spoken or written reply to a question
6. To give assistance to someone

HOME

WORK

ANSWER

WORRIED

VILLAGE

LISTEN

WOMAN

JESUS

SISTER

HELP



TIME TO THINK!

THE ELEPHANT MAN

The movie *The Elephant Man* tells the true story of John Merrick. Merrick was born in the slums of England in 1862, and almost from birth experienced massive rejection due to his grotesque appearance. Merrick suffered abnormalities that resulted in a large and severely misshapen head, loose, rough skin, and twisted arms and legs.

His mother loved him dearly, but died when he was ten. His new step-mother didn't take to him, and at twelve, he was expected to work to contribute to the family finances. After two years working in a cigar shop he was dismissed because his deformities meant he could not keep up the required pace. His father found him a job, of all things, as a door-to-door salesman. This only accentuated Merrick's self-loathing. When people opened their doors and saw him people would literally scream and slam the door in his face. Those who knew who he was refused to answer their doors.

After this "failure" Merrick's father began beating him. Merrick wound up on the street and was rescued by a kindly uncle, the only person who would help him out. Not wishing to further burden his uncle Merrick left to live in a squalid workhouse for drunks, cripples and the mentally ill. His life there was so miserable that he offered himself to a carnival owner as a sideshow act. Merrick was a hit. People would pay money to line up and observe him like some animal in a zoo. But the carnival finally provided him with security and a place he belonged. It was while the sideshow was in London that Merrick met Dr. Frederick Treves. Disgusted by Merrick's treatment Treves wanted to help. He gave Merrick his card, but lost track of him. The police started clamping down on the sideshows, so Merrick was sent to Belgium to work in a sideshow there. But when Belgian police also clamped down Merrick was forced to make his way back to England. As he limped down Liverpool Street station, foul smelling and misshapen, a crowd gathered simply to watch him.

The police took him aside to sort things out, but Merrick's speech was so slurred by his deformities that they couldn't understand him. It was at this point Merrick showed them Dr Treves' card. The police sent someone to get him, and Treves rushed back. He took Merrick back to London hospital and began a newspaper appeal for funds to help Merrick. The response was very warm, and soon sufficient that Merrick was able to have his own house on the hospital grounds with permission to live there permanently.

Treves' care marked a real turning point for Merrick.

At first Merrick would act like a frightened child and hide when anyone came into his room, but over time he began to engage some in conversation.

Dr Treves discovered that Merrick was in fact highly intelligent and

sought to nurture his growth. Yet Merrick's greatest hurdle was still to fall. All his life Merrick had known only fear and rejection from women. They had literally run from him. So Dr. Treves asked an attractive widow he knew if she could come into Merrick's room, smile at him and shake his hand. When she did Merrick broke down into a ball of tears, later telling Treves that she was the first woman in his life apart from his mother to have showed him kindness.

That was a breakthrough moment for Merrick. In the coming years more and more people, women included, would meet him and show him kindness. He began meeting Countesses and Duchesses. He even had many visits and letters from the Princess of Wales, forming a friendship with her. Throughout this time Dr. Treves reports Merrick changed dramatically. He began to develop self-confidence, to spend time traveling in the country, to discuss poetry with another new friend, Sir Walter Steel.

Merrick died in April 1890. His deformities had never allowed him to sleep lying down as most people do. He had to sleep in a sitting position, his head resting on his knees. He apparently tried one night to sleep lying down, to be more "normal", and sadly dislocated his neck and died.

Merrick's story shows us the power of love and acceptance. Rejected all his life, treated as a "thing", it was the loving welcome of others that liberated him to become all he could be. His life was made tragic not by his deformities but by the response people made to them. We all respond best to love and encouragement. We may not be marked by the physical crosses that Merrick lived with, but may well disguise our inner wounds and fragile vulnerability. Empathy and kindness bring friendship and love, important values in a wounded world.



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 16,100 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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née Buggy**

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William (Bill) O' Shea
*Borris Court and late of
St. John's Square*

*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.*

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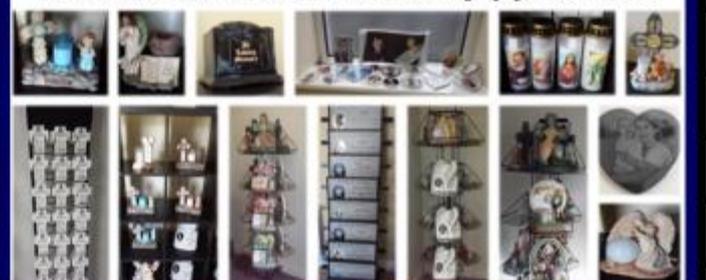
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2nd Anniversary occurred 19th July.

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OLIVER CLEAR**

Late of 32 Liogard Portlaoise.
20th Anniversary occurs 23rd July 2019.



Now God has called you to his home above,
There to protect you with eternal love,
Often at night when we pray for you,
I hope you look down and pray for us too.
*Sadly missed and always remembered
by all your loving family.*

May Oliver Rest in Peace

**9th ANNIVERSARY
Of our Mother & Grandmother
ROSALEEN KERRY**

Late of 48 O' Moore Place,
Portlaoise. Died 21st July 2010.
Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this
Sunday 21st July at 10am.
*Heavy are our hearts today,
Memory brings you back once more,
To the time you were with us,
To the happy days of yore.*



Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

May Rosaleen Rest in Peace

**6th ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of**

MARY WHELAN Oakleaf Place, Portlaoise.



Mary's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church this Saturday 20th July at 6:30pm.
6 years gone from her loving home,
Sadly missed everyday.

From her loving Partner Tom

May Mary Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JULIA GORMAN**

11 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary, 21st July, 2019



*A light is from our household gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home,
That never can be filled.*

Sadly missed by your loving family
and extended family.

May Julia Rest in Peace

**31st ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
PATRICK FARRELL**

39 St. John's Square, Portlaoise. 31st Anniversary occurred 18th July.



*Quickly and quietly came the call,
Without farewell you left us all,
A sudden call from God on high,
You had no chance to say goodbye.
Without farewell you fell asleep,
But memories of you, we'll always keep.*

From his sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, sister-in-law,
grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.

May Patrick Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
GERRY ALLEN**

Eyne, Portlaoise. 35th Anniversary occurs 26th July 2019.
The happiest days we ever knew, were as a family complete with you.



*You shared our laughter, joy and tears,
We remember with love those happy years,
Sunshine passes, shadows fall, but love and
memories outlast them all,
Time passes, life goes on, from our thoughts
you're never gone,
Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
To love and cherish and never forget.*

Always loved and remembered by Mam and all your family xxx

May Gerry Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PADDY DOYLE**

64 Lakeglen, Portlaoise. 18th Anniversary occurs 23rd July.
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Saturday 20th July at 6:30pm.



*In God's care you rest above,
In our hearts you rest in love,
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered everyday
Sadly missed and always remembered by his wife Nan
& family.*

Rest in Peace Paddy

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**In Loving Memory of
THOMAS (Tom) KELLY**

147 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurred 19th July. Missed so dearly.

6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 21st July at 12.30pm



*I lost my life companion, a life linked with my own,
And day by day I pray for you, as I walk through
life alone.*

*The house you left is lonely and I am lonely too,
Those left behind are good and kind, but my heart
still aches for you.*

Always remembered by his loving wife Frances and family and friends.

May Tom Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JULIA MARGARET "BELL" DOHENY**

23 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise. 3rd Anniversary occurs 23rd July.



Mother. A mother like ours is more than a memory, she is a living presence. Our mother is always with us, She's the whisper of the leaves as we walk down the road; she's the smell of bleach in our freshly laundered socks; she's the cold hand on our brow when we're not well. Our mother lives inside our laughter and she is crystallised in every tear drop. She's the place we came from - our first home, and she's the map we follow with every step we take.

She's our first love and our first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can separate us. *Not time, not space - not even death*
Always remembered and never forgotten. From her daughters, sons, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, relatives and friends

Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at this time.

May Julia Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
NORMA LUDDEN**

Erinbrae, Clonminam Road, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 26th July 2019.

No-one loved is ever forgotten and she was loved so much.



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Friday 26th July at 10am.

*Sadly missed and fondly remembered by
Mary and all her family and friends.*

May Norma Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
KEVIN FRANCIS MURPHY**

Late of Beladd, Portlaoise

Died 23rd July, 16th Anniversary occurs at this time.



*Time unfolds another year,
Memories keep you very near,
No need for words except to say,
You're loved and missed
each passing day*

Sadly missed by your loving wife Mary, daughters Sinead & Niamh, sons Cathal and Tadhg, Susan, son-in-law James, daughter-in law Clare, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

May Kevin Rest in Peace

**A Prayer for all those
Travelling this Summer**

*In the name of God I go on this journey.
May God the Father be with me, God the
Son protect me, and God the Holy Ghost be
by my side.*

*Lord, be our guide and our protector
on the journey we are about to take.
Watch over us.*

*Protect us from accidents,
Keep us free from harm to body and soul.
Lord, support us with Your grace when we
are tired.*

*Help us be patient in any trouble which
may come our way.
Keep us always mindful of Your presence
and love.*

Amen.

**Cherished Memories Of
PHIL O'KEEFFE**

"Ardmóna", Cork Road, Portlaoise"



2nd anniversary occurs on 20th July 2019

Also his precious granddaughter Kate, 7 Beechfield whose 24th Anniversary occurred on 13th July 2019

Those we love are always in our hearts.

Sadly missed by Maureen, Antoinette, Claire, Sarah, Tom & Brian xxxxxx

May They Rest in Peace

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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.

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

Kildare Pilgrimage to Lough Derg: from Tues 13th August to Thurs 15th August, Feast of the Assumption. Bus leaving Monasterevin at 6.30am, Fro further details contact Michael on 087-669702 or Joe 087-3815887.

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 and retractable clothes lines, winders, pulleys etc., repairs etc. FB; seandoylelightengineering

COMMUNITY NOTICES

An Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community Praise and Worship Meeting: Saturday 27th July in Portlaoise Parish Centre, commencing at 10:40am immediately after 10am Mass, concluding at 12.15pm. Format: Rosary, Praise and Worship with Music Ministry. Teaching Topic: Healing. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill. For details contact Michael Nerney on 086-8157305. All are welcome.

Rambling House Festival: From Monday July 29th to Monday August 5th there will be various cultural activities at An Sean Chistin, Ire, Ballyfin R32X5D6. Tuesday July 30th Rambling House Session at 8pm. Wed. July 31st Pop up Gaeltacht at 8pm. Thursday Aug 1st, Laois Matters when we will celebrate the best of Laois singers, musicians, dancers, storytellers and poets. Saturday Aug 3rd Sean N6s and brush dancing workshop at 11am, all ages, abilities welcome. Sunday August 4th Farewell Rambling House Session at 7.30pm. There will also be four céilithe in Community Centre Ballyfin, over the Bank Holiday weekend. For further info. tel. Maureen 087-6482038 or e-mail; seanchistin@gmail.com.

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GROW Community Mental Health Support Group meets every 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 visit our website, www.grow.ie for further information. [GROW Promoting Positive Mental Health]

Thank You: GROW would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to their recent church gate collection and all who collected at it.

Laois/Offaly branch of Retired Nurses Association will hold it's branch meeting in Portlaoise Parish Centre, Monday 22nd July at 2:15pm. New members welcome, refreshments served. Congratulations to Joe McGill on becoming National Secretary, on the retirement of Eddie Kelly, Enniscorthy

Fort Wall Laois Theatre Group will hold their A.G.M on Monday 22nd July in Raheen Village at 9pm. New members most welcome for on stage or back stage. For further information contact 087-9614235.

Dance Workshops with Marie Cashin: at the Laois Music Centre, Church Ave Portlaoise from Tues. 30th to Thurs. 1st Aug. from 11am to 1pm and a second workshop from 2pm-4pm for ages 7 to 12 yrs. A fun introduction to hip hop, jazz and free style. Cost €25 Contact: artsoff@laoiscoco.ie or Tel: 057 8664013/33 or download application forms from website: www.laois.ie. Also available from local libraries.

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