

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

24th March 2019

# Third Sunday of Lent



Our Diocesan Lenten Programme  
See Pages

Congratulations to Scoil Chríost Rí on a wonderful Intercultural Day. Photo shows pupils with Principal Helen O'Donnell and the organiser of the day Anne Byrne. It shows again what wonderful places of diversity and inclusion our Catholic Schools are.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)



21st March 2019 Portlaoise Parish



**No €11,000 Jackpot Winner**

**WINNERS**

Peggy Kelly  
Mary McEvoy  
Dorothy Clarke  
Geraldine O'Neill  
Detta Bergin  
Pauric Lynch  
Elly Devane  
Gordon  
Anita Lavery  
Claire Caffrey  
Imelda Dunne  
Emma Scully

**MATCH 3s €1,000 PROMOTER**

Peggy Kelly  
Peggy Kelly  
Kitty Laffan  
Geraldine O'Neill  
Frank Cullen  
Paddy O'Connor  
Anthony Preston  
Lily Moore  
Anita Lavery  
Niamh Doyle  
Kathleen Rigney  
Anne O'Keffe

12  
Match 3s  
€84  
each

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**Next Week's Jackpot**

**€12,000**

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*Priests of the Parish*



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



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



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



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



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

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

Outside of Office Hours

**In emergencies only**

To contact the Priest on duty  
057-8621364

**Parish Centre**



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

**MANAGER** Declan Kelly

**Parish Secretaries** Michelle Bartley  
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

**Accounts** Michelle Conroy

**Sacristans Parish Church**

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

**All Masses and services from the Parish Church**  
are live streamed [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)



**Secretary: Julie Conroy**  
Monday to Thursday  
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm  
057-8692154

**Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday**  
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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**The Feast  
of the  
Annunciation  
Monday  
(25th March)**

On Monday March 25th, nine months before Christmas, we celebrate one of the Church's most important feast days, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. It is interesting to reflect that God did not need any human being in order to do his work, however, he chose to redeem us in a way that included human participation through a humble young woman's consent.





## The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise

When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom

line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise... something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday to Friday

7am, 10am & 7.30pm

### Saturday

10am

### SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

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

### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.



Fáilte

## We welcome into our Parish Community

Billie Catherine Dempsey  
Ashley Gardens

David Niall Bowler  
Clondarrig Close

Conor James O'Connor Daly  
Aghnaharna Court

Sophia Rose Farrell  
Hawthorn Way, Esker Hills

Peigi Kate Campbell  
Clonboyne Close

## Who were baptised last weekend

[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

## Sunday 17th March 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,664.00
Development Fund	€3,106.00
	€5,770.00

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





## A Special Treat For Mom

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

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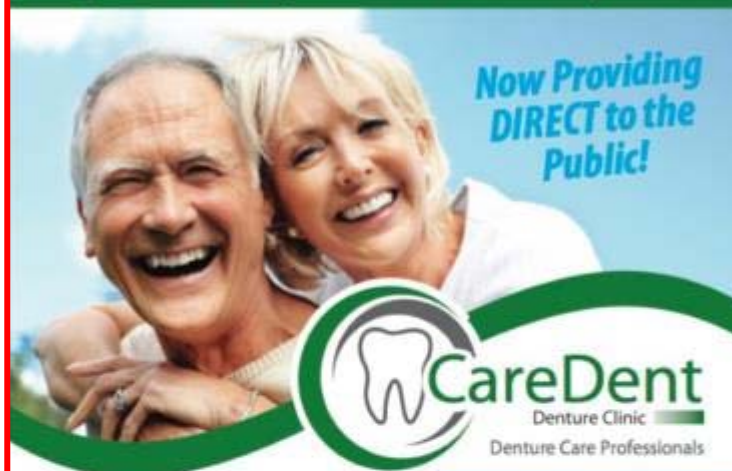
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FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

Joe Cunningham 086 247 4434

Kevin Fingleton 086 771 9331

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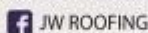
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## Living a Fruitful Life



What is your favourite fruit? Apples, oranges, peaches, bananas?? Mine is Apples. Yum! Yum! Do you know what I think would be great? I think it would be great to have a lot a fruit trees in your yard so that any time you wanted a snack, you could just go out and pick a piece of fruit off of the tree. But what if you had an fruit tree in your yard that never had any fruit on it? It wouldn't be good for anything except shade, would it?

In the Gospel today, Jesus told a story about a man who planted a fig tree in his garden. After some time had passed, he went to look for some fruit on the tree, but there was none. Year after year he watched the tree, but the tree never produced any fruit. Finally, the man went to the gardener who took care of the tree and said to him, "For three years I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! It is just taking up space in the garden."

The gardener answered, "Please, sir, give it one more chance. Leave it for another year. I will give it special attention. I will dig around the tree and give it plenty of fertilizer. If the tree produces fruit next year, great, if not, then you can cut it down."



Rainbows offers a 9 week listening, group support programme for children following a bereavement or parental separation.

Children of a similar age and loss experience are in separate groups.

Rainbows is suitable for children from age 7 years

Rainbows is not counselling or professional therapy.

Visit [www.rainbowsireland.ie](http://www.rainbowsireland.ie) for more information on the Rainbows Service

**Start date: April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Book your place now.**

**Venue: Holy Family Junior School, Portlaoise.**

**Time: Wednesdays at 3.15 pm**

**Contact: Orla Coughlan 0833758421**

In telling this story, Jesus was really talking about us and about God. God has "planted" us here on this earth and he expects us to produce good fruit in our life. What kind of fruit does he expect? When He looks at the way we live our life, he wants to see things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness. There are times when he is disappointed in what he sees, but he is willing to give us another chance. What can we do to help us produce the kind of fruit that God expects? We can worship regularly, read his Word, and pray. Those things will help us to live a fruitful life.

Heavenly Father, we know that you expect good things from your children. Help us live a life that will be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





## Types of Prayer

- Seeking Forgiveness from God / Confession / Contrition
- Giving Thanks / Thanksgiving
- Giving Praise to God / Adoration / Worship
- Seeking Help / Intercession
- Seeking Guidance

### **Confession / Contrition**

Sometimes we pray to say sorry for letting someone down or hurting someone or failing to do the right thing 'forgive us our trespasses'



### **Thanksgiving**

Sometimes we pray giving thanks to God because things are going well in our lives 'hallowed be thy name'



### **Intercession**

Some people pray because they have illness or suffering in their lives



### **Petition**

Sometimes we pray to God asking his help when times are difficult or we are powerless to help someone we love.



## **WHY DO**

**Different circumstances give rise to different kinds of prayer**

### **Protection**

Sometimes when we feel weak and vulnerable we pray to God to strengthen us.



## **WE PRAY**

### **Petition**

Some people pray to create a stronger bond between themselves and God



### **Seeking Guidance**

In times of crisis in our lives we pray for guidance.



### **Adoration/Worship**

Praising God. God is a mystery. 'Who art in heaven'







# TIME TO THINK!

## SPRING - A BLESSED SEASON OF HOPE

According to the English Catholic priest-cardinal John Henry Newman, "Growth is the only evidence of life." Life is then most apparent in the springtime with the bursting and budding of flowers, trees, and whistling of birds. Winter precedes this era of new life. Is it not interesting that within nature, newness of life springs forth from the cold, dark, dreariness of the death of winter? Currently, we live in a time of transition - March, the chimeric month whereby it begins calmly like a lamb and ends ferociously like a lion or vice versa! I do not think it is a coincidence that the Holy Spirit guided the Early Church, and sustained the ecclesia through the ages to place Lent during the lowest point (CLIMATICALLY SPEAKING) of the calendar year!

SPRING IS AN AWAKENING. So is the turning of a soul to God. It was a soul asleep; it is a soul awake. It is opening its eye on a new world, a new time, new thoughts, new possibilities, a blessed new life.

SPRING IS A MANIFESTATION OF LIFE. How full, how manifold is this new life in a converted soul! Thoughts which came and went without God before, are now alive with God. Hear how the birds are singing in the actual woods! That is nothing to the song of a soul on whom the spring of a new life has descended. See how the verdure hastens to clothe the naked branches of the trees! That is nothing to the glory which decks the hitherto bare and dead powers of a converted soul. See how the fields are aglow with flowers! That is nothing to the beauties of holiness in a regenerated soul. Oh, the joy of spring! Oh, the better joys of conversion! Oh, the newness, the freshness, the deliciousness of the hum of the singing of birds! Oh, the more blessed newness, freshness, and deliciousness of a soul attuned by grace to God! The summer which follows spring is not more truly a natural sequence of spring, than holiness, trust, love, righteousness, prayer, joy in the Holy Ghost are natural outcomes of the awakening we name conversion. Why is this not always experienced? Because we will not believe the truth of God, and will not taste and see that God is good: because we refuse to be filled with the Spirit, and are slack to go in and possess the land.

SPRING IS A GATEWAY. It is the gateway to the harvest, seedtime first, then harvest. At the gateway of the year, a promise; at the end, fulfilment. A gateway! A way into the King's highway; a way to bread and wine, and milk and honey; a way to joy

and wealth, and labour and the reward of labour. Wordsworth speaks of "the harvest of a quiet eye." But every new-born faculty in the life of the converted gathers a harvest for itself. The life becomes fruitful; and the several powers of life bring forth fruit to God. In every form, and along every line by which it comes, we owe to Christ the renewal of life, which leads to these harvests of the soul. His blood was the price He paid for our joys. The death that was ours, He took upon Himself, that we might become the heirs of the life that is His.

### A PRAYER IN SPRING ROBERT FROST, 1874 - 1963



Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird  
That suddenly above the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which it is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends He will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

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

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



# LENT IN PORTLAOISE PARISH



## MASS TIMES IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Monday to Friday; 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm  
Saturday; 10am and Vigil for Sunday 6.30pm  
Sunday; 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm  
Scoil Bhríde (Vigil) Saturday 7.30pm  
The Heath; Sunday 9.30am  
Ratheniska; Sunday 10am

## Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church

Fridays of Lent 8pm - after evening Mass

Rosary every evening 7pm



## **NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP 2019**

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



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

### Daily Masses;

**Weekdays 7am and 10am**

(We will also celebrate the usual 7:30pm Lenten Mass)

**Sundays 11:15am and 12:30pm**

*Personal petitions will be available in the Parish Church and Parish Centre*

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> ;	Fr. John Harris O.P. - Prior of Newbridge College
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> ;	Julie Kavanagh - Understanding the Eucharist (11:15am, 12:30pm)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> ;	Bishop Denis Nulty - Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> ;	David Walsh - Founder of Netwatch - Entrepreneurship
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> ;	Fr. Patrick Cahill and the Holy Family Mission
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> ;	Maria Steen - The Value of Life
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> ;	Fr. Conor McDonough O.P.
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> ;	Fr. Liam Lawton - Anointing of the Sick
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> ;	Fr. Richard Gibbons - P.P. Knock, celebrating Mother's Day (11:15am, 12:30pm)

**Portlaoise Parish Centre 057 862 1142**

[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

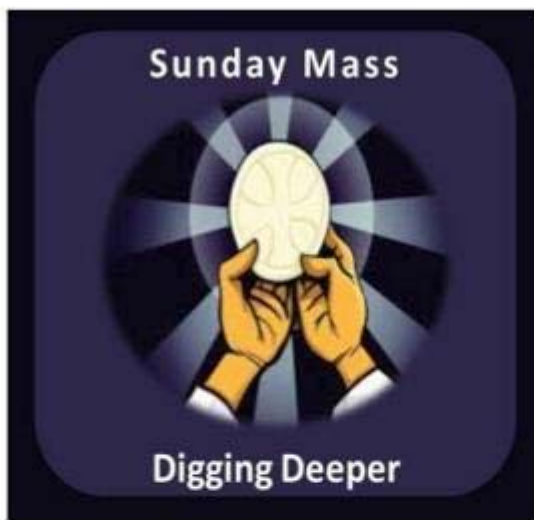


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**portlaoiselinkup**





## PART TWO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

WE COME TOGETHER TO LISTEN TO GOD SPEAKING TO US

### A Glossary of Terms

**Liturgy** – refers to all the official public prayer rituals of the Church

**Lectionary** – the name of the liturgical book from which the readings are proclaimed. Taken from the bible, the scripture texts have been specially selected for each celebration of liturgy.

There are 3 lectionaries – 1. for Sundays, feasts and seasons 2. for weekdays in ordinary time and 3. for ritual celebrations (i.e. weddings, funerals etc)

**Lector** – the Latin word for Reader, sometimes used for the parish Reader.

**Liturgical Year** – beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, in the LY the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation until the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Christ's second coming through the seasons of Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent, the Easter Season and Ordinary Time.

The highpoint of the year is Easter; the highpoint of the week is Sunday. The readings are chosen specifically for the season we are in within the LY.

**Lectern** – the place in the sanctuary area reserved for the proclamation of the readings. This is the table of God's word. Often called the *Ambo*.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD - GOD IS SPEAKING TO US TODAY

We are God's people and we believe that God continues to speak to us today both as a community and individually. As Catholics, we believe that the scripture texts in the Bible are the inspired Word of God. Each time these scriptures are proclaimed in the liturgies of the Church God is speaking directly into the very circumstances of our lives, nourishing us and calling us to faith. God has a word to say to us.

These are not history lessons or stories of long ago. As St Paul said, the Word of God is alive and active. These are the words that bring us life – the words we need to listen to in the midst of all the words and false messages with which we are constantly bombarded. This is God's living word for us today.

#### What does a Reader do?

Parish Readers put the word of God out into the midst of the assembly who have gathered. They speak a message from God to us, sharing a word of faith. As ministers of the liturgy, they are called to prepare well – preparing to read aloud the text in a manner that is clear, audible and conveys an understanding in faith of the text. This faith understanding can only come about by the Reader praying with the text.

#### What are we called to do?

When God shares his word with us he awaits our response: 'Be doers of the word and not hearers only' (James 1:22) What is God saying to me? to us? How can I actively welcome this word into my life? How am I being called to live and share this word with others?

#### The Word of the Lord – Christ is present in the Word

At the end of the reading, the reader proclaims; 'The Word of the Lord'. This is a faith statement, like the faith statement we hear later in the Mass – 'The Body of Christ'. It declares that Christ is present among us through his word. The Church teaches that 'Christ is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church...' On a Sunday, with the rest of our community, we get to meet Christ present in his word. Do we come prepared for this encounter?

**A Word on Silence...** Silence is one of the most essential elements of the Mass. Both our own interior silence and the shared external silence in the church building during and between the readings, helps us to really listen to God speaking to us and to begin to hear what God is saying to us. Silence creates a space for God.

*A 2019 Lenten Initiative of the Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation*



## THE SHAPE OF THE MASS

Introductory Rites

**The Liturgy of the Word**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Concluding Rites

**Liturgy draws on all our senses...** We **taste**, **see**, **hear**, **touch** and **smell** within our liturgical celebrations. This dialogue of prayer, this communication between ourselves and God, engages our whole body. And what our body experiences in all its senses is important.

From week to week, when we **see** the reader proclaiming from a Ritual book, the Lectionary, rather than from a Missalette (which we will put in the bin or recycle afterwards) we unconsciously come to understand that these words are different to other words. These are sacred words.

### Exploring the Liturgy of the Word

- \* **First Reading:** We sit to listen to God's word to us. Usually from the Old Testament, this First Reading is typically chosen to link with the Gospel. While these texts were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit centuries ago, they continue to speak to us. They are the living story of God's relationship with God's people today. In a moment of **silence** at the end of the reading we briefly reflect on what we have heard.
- \* **Responsorial Psalm:** The Psalm is taken from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament, often called the Christian prayer book. Jesus, as a faithful Jew, prayed with these texts. It is a response to the First Reading so it will reflect the mood or sense of the Reading, i.e. praise, thanksgiving, petition... Psalms were originally written to be sung which is why the preference is to sing them within the Mass.
- \* **Second Reading:** Ideally another reader will proclaim this reading, giving us a variety of voice which can assist our listening. This text is taken from the New Testament. Often we hear from one of the letters of St Paul – letters he wrote to some of the early Christian communities who had questions about their faith or who were coping with particular situations that had arisen. In the seasons of Advent- Christmas, Lent- Easter this second reading will be chosen to make a link with the message of the season and the other two readings. In Ordinary Time, the assigned text is often part of a semi-continuous reading of a particular book or letter of the New Testament over a series of weeks.
- \* **Gospel Acclamation:** We take a moment of **silence** to ready ourselves for the first highpoint of our Mass – the proclamation of the Gospel. Through a series of actions, we underscore the importance of the Gospel. We **stand** and **sing** an acclamation, joyfully welcoming the Gospel. We may also **see** a Gospel procession in which the Book of the Gospels is carried, accompanied by candles and incense.
- \* **Gospel:** A priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel, beginning with special words of introduction before incensing the book, if incense is being used. As he does so, we mark our foreheads, lips and heart with the Sign of the Cross – we pray that these words of faith that Christ proclaims to us will find a place in our thoughts, words and deeds. The Lectionary for Sundays is organised in a three-year cycle, with a particular Gospel taking precedence each year. Year A – Matthew; Year B – Mark; Year C – Luke. We hear from John's gospel every year during Lent and Easter and in part of Year B.
- \* **Homily:** We **sit** to listen to the priest-celebrant 'breaking open the word' that has been proclaimed into the very life of the community who have gathered. In the **silence** that follows we can each take a moment to claim these words for ourselves and our own life. *What difference will these words of faith make to me?*
- \* **Creed:** The Creed contains the central teachings of our faith, a faith that is nourished through our celebration of the Mass. We **stand** to personally affirm this faith.
- \* **Prayer of the Faithful:** As a community of faith we turn to our God praying for the needs of all humankind. In these petitions we hear the struggles and pain of our families, communities and world and we know that our God, the God of love and compassion, will listen to us and respond.

Sunday Mass



Digging Deeper

*We Come together...*

*(see [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) for more resources)*

March 10

March 17

March 24

March 31

April 7

April 15

April 18-21

• digging deeper: an Invitation

• to meet the Lord

• to listen to God speaking to us

• to share in Christ's Body and Blood

• to be sent to bring Christ to the world

• as a diocesan family for the Chrism Mass

• to celebrate the Easter Triduum



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## LAOIS TUTORIAL

### EASTER REVISION

Tues 16th April - LC MATHS (O)

Wed 17th April - LC MATHS (H)

Mon 22nd April - LC BIOLOGY

Tues 23rd April - LC CHEMISTRY

Thurs 25th April - LC IRISH (H)

Sat 27th April - LC FRENCH (H)

Time: 9.30am to 3pm

Cost: €100 per course

Email: [laois.tutorial@gmail.com](mailto:laois.tutorial@gmail.com)

Phone Zita on 087/9527673



## Dog Walk



This Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

At 2pm

In the People's Town Park

This is a free walk but there will be collection buckets on the day and all proceeds will go to Laois Guide Dogs.

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# LAOIS OPEN DOOR THEATRE

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Pictured Left (L/R) ;  
Meagan Donoghue, Lynda Murray  
Jackie McCloskey and Sean Conlon

At the Down Syndrome Centre Midlands Coffee Morning held in the Parish Centre on Thursday last to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. A very enjoyable morning was had by all.

Lots of people in our Parish "rocked their socks" on the day to help raise awareness for Down Syndrome Ireland. Well done to all for getting involved!



## PRESENTATION BY SR. HELEN CULHANE IN MOUNTMELICK

Laois Home School Community Liason (HSCL) co-ordinators are delighted to invite you to a presentation by  
**Sr. Helen Culhane.**

**25<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30am**

**In Mountmellick Community School  
Patrick St. Mountmellick, Co. Laois. R32A099**

Sr. Culhane was awarded Limerick Person of the Year 2017 for her dedication and commitment to supporting children affected by loss through death, separation or divorce. She is coming to Mountmellick to share her experiences and lessons learned through her inspirational work within the Children's Grief Centre which she established in Limerick in 2009. This talk will be of interest to anyone wishing to support a child or family affected by loss.

**Book your place by e-mail to: [hscl@stjosephsgns.ie](mailto:hscl@stjosephsgns.ie)  
or text 087-0984417 / 086-8739818**



Photo courtesy of Leinster Express

Members of the Down Syndrome Centre Midlands branch who hosted the Coffee morning.



Join us at Mountmellick  
on 25<sup>th</sup> March  
11:30am - 1pm  
Tickets @ €10



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in need.



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M: 087 254 6155



## St. Francis School is now taking Enrolments for September 2019

Enquiries can be made by post to;  
St. Francis SS, New Rd., Portlaoise,  
by phone to 057-8621847 or by e-mail  
to; [stfrancisportlaoise@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisportlaoise@gmail.com) on  
or before 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019



# *The Parish Shop*

**At the Parish Centre**

**Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

**WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF GIFTS FOR  
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**Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories**

**Communion and Confirmation Certificates**

*Communions in our Parish; 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May*





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



**Mary Daly**  
Marian Avenue



**Mary Fingleton**  
Park Upper



**Máire Hughes**  
(née Hegarty)  
Garrykennedy,  
Nenagh & formerly  
Borris Road.



**Una McGurk**  
Main Street

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me: your rod  
and your staff - they comfort me.*

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**  
**Our sympathy to their families.**

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to  
the death notice at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

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PAUL; 087-2562137  
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086-2770095



## **In Loving Memory of** **THOMAS BROPHY**

Late of Market Sq. Portlaoise.  
52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> March. Died 25/3/1967.



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

*Always remembered by his son John,  
daughter Phyllis and all their  
families.*

*May Thomas Rest in Peace*



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## **In Loving Memory of** **PADDY CONROY**

Mountrath Rd. Portlaoise.  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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



*He is gone no further than to God  
And God is very near.*

*Remembered always by all his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Paddy*



## In Loving Memory of **CHRISSIE GRAHAM**

*Ridge Road, Portlaoise.  
13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019*



No special day is needed,  
for us to think of you,  
For you were someone special,  
and we thought the world of you.

*Loved and remembered always by  
your husband Jim, son and  
daughters and grandchildren.*

## In Loving Memory of **JOHN O' BRIEN**

*Formerly St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. Died 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.*



We never need a special day to bring you  
to our mind,

For days without a thought of you are  
very hard to find.

*Sadly missed by your loving father Billy.*

*May John Rest in Peace*

*You are the*

**Light**  
*of the World*



## In Loving Memory of Our Dear Mother **HANNAH TUOHY**

*10 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019*



Put your arms around her Lord  
Don't leave her on her own  
For today's her anniversary and we  
know she can't come home  
But her resting place we'll visit  
And flowers we'll lay with care  
But it's hard to bear the heartache  
as we turn and leave her there.

*Sadly missed by your sons, daughters, sons-in-law,  
daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

Also a special thought and prayer for our dear brother Pa  
whose first birthday away from home occurred 17<sup>th</sup> March.

*We miss you both everyday - The Tuohy Family*

*May they both Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **CHRISSIE GRAHAM**

*(née Colbert) Late of Ridge Road, Portlaoise.  
13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Died 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006.*



Also remember our aunt  
**MARY CULBERT**

*Died 5<sup>th</sup> March 2006*

Late of Manchester and formerly  
Marian Avenue Portlaoise

Also remember our aunt  
**HANNAH TUOHY**

Late of Marian Avenue Portlaoise

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church this Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm

*Loved and remembered always from your brothers, sisters,  
nieces & nephews.*

*May Chrissie, Mary & Hannah Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **THERESA (Kathleen) FLANAGAN**

*2 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on this  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.**



A picture of you I carry in my heart, I close my  
eyes to see it when the world gets dark.

A memory of you I carry in my soul, I wrap it  
close around me when the nights get cold.

If you ask how I am, I'd say just fine, but the truth is, if you  
could read my mind, not a day goes by that I don't think of you.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by Tony, Elizabeth,  
Kim, grandchildren and great-granddaughters.*

*May Theresa Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN**

*5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019*



Craig, they say that time's a healer, but  
as time goes on, I seem to find it's just  
as hard to face the fact that you are  
gone, and today Craig is the anniversary  
of the day you went away.

As I stand here at your graveside, and  
believe me when I say, you'll never be  
forgotten, every year I'll shed a tear, but  
it's only because I love you and miss you and wish you  
were still here.

*Sadly missed and loved always, your broken hearted parents,  
brothers Aaron, Brandon, Noah and Junaid, sister Aisha,  
Chloe and Mudass and extended family.*

*May Craig Rest in Peace*





### 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":** Treo Nua (Knockmay Centre). Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

**Parish Bereavement Support:** If you have lost a loved one, there is a confidential one to one support service available (by appointment), call 087-9878300.

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

**An Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community:** Praise and Worship meeting for all Prayer Groups and Friends will be held in Portlaoise Parish Centre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, commencing at 10:40am immediately after 10am Mass and concluding at 12.15pm. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill. Contact Michael Nerney for details; 086-8157305.

### USEFUL SERVICES

**Accord:** Going through a difficult time in your marriage/relationship? Counselling Services available at Accord, Parish Centre, Portlaoise, call 057-8661581 or e-mail us at; accordportlaoise@hotmail.com

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Bowls:** In Timahoe Hall every Tuesday at 7.20pm. €5 per person. First night free. All are welcome.

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

**COPD Support Group Exercise classes** for people with COPD are held in the Parish Cathedral Centre, Carlow every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1pm. All are welcome.

### Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

**Bowls:** Every Monday at 3pm in St. Mary's Hall, regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part.

**Whist:** Play/learn Whist at Sue Ryder centre every Thursday 2.30-4pm. All are welcome.

### Upcoming Events;

**27<sup>th</sup> March:** Anne Maher will be on hand to provide some expert advice on the HSE Fair Deal Nursing Home scheme, as it applies to older persons in need of care, and their families. The Fair Deal scheme is a very confusing and complex area, so today is a golden opportunity to tease out all the queries and learn the facts first hand.

**Portlaoise Toastmasters:** Do you feel nervous talking in group situations or doing any kind of public speaking? Have you a presentation to give at work in the near future? Portlaoise Toastmasters is the perfect place to develop your skills and build confidence in a supportive and warm environment and have fun while doing it. Our next meeting will take place Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in the Killeslin Hotel, Portlaoise. New members are always welcome, first two sessions are free. Please look us up on Facebook.

**Laois PPN** invites all community groups from across the county to attend their Funding and Resources Workshop this Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise from 5pm to 9pm. Come and see what grants, funding, training and resources your groups can avail of. No registration required. Light food and refreshments will be served. For further information contact Suzanne O'Connor 057-8665661 or e-mail; ppn@laoiscoco.ie

### MINDFULNESS

### COURSE

### 6 WEEKS

Commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April

6.30pm-7.45pm

or Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

8:15pm-9.30pm

In Portlaoise Parish Centre

Cost €85. Contact Ger;

**087-6783310**

### 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. 28<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May (No booking required). New members always welcome.

Tel. 087-3761552

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

**Portlaoise Library News: Ireland, the EU and Brexit,** Daniel Keohane, Head of Policy and Advocacy at European Movement Ireland will join us at Portlaoise Library to discuss Brexit and it's impact on both Ireland and the EU. This talk is taking place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm at Portlaoise Library. Booking is advised.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm. Booking is advised.



### LAOIS ARCH CLUB MONTHLY DISCO

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 8-10pm  
In the Midlands Park Hotel,  
Portlaoise.**

The Arch Club is a social club for adults with an intellectual disability. Here our members meet in a safe, supportive environment.

Please note that everyone attending the disco must sign in at the door for insurance purposes.

This includes members, volunteers, staff and family members.

*Looking forward to seeing you all!*  
Admission €5.

For further information contact;  
Mary Heaney 087-2188794  
Órlagh McCrory 087 6836156  
Trish Carroll 087 6756955



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