

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
Up

2nd February 2020

The Presentation of the Lord

**World Day of Prayer
for Consecrated Life**

This image can be seen in our Parish Church

**World Day
of Prayer
for Consecrated Life
2nd February**

Sunday February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. On this day the Church thanks God for the gift of the different forms of consecrated life, and prays for an increase in vocations to the consecrated life, so that the life and witness of monks and nuns, religious brothers and sisters, will continue to enrich our Church.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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30th January 2020

Portlaoise Parish



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Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



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



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



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



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

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

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and in our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



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

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

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



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

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie
Advertising deadline: 12noon Wednesday
subject to availability of space

PARISH SHOP - 057 8621142

**Pope's Prayer Intention
for February 2020**

**Listen to the Migrants'
Cries**

People across the globe are on the move, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. It is a situation ripe for



exploitation by traffickers and people-smugglers whose callousness was illustrated last year in the case of the 39 Vietnamese people who died of suffocation in a refrigerated lorry heading for the UK.

Pope Francis has made the plight of refugees and migrants a central concern of his papacy. He challenges the Church and people of good will to listen to the cries of migrants and to find space for them in our hearts and our homelands.

This month we are asked to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention "....that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered."



What Are We Waiting For?

If you were told you were going to die tomorrow, would you be ready to go? Young and old alike, the answer to this question is probably "no"! Being ready to leave this world demands tremendous clarity, and whilst some of us have achieved clarity in our lives, the rest stumble around confused and overly burdened. We go through the motions of

living but all too easily we are living out a 'ground-hog-day' existence... running on the spot and repeating the same old mistakes, What we need is someone to tell us where we are going wrong, and gently put us on the right track. In short, what we need is someone to light our way.

In today's gospel reading, Mary and Joseph present the Baby Jesus at the temple as Jewish law required. Here they meet the elderly Simeon and Anna. Simeon and Anna have been waiting for the promise written in scripture that a Saviour would come to light the world and bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Despite their great age, Simeon and Anna were living and praying in hope that they would see the fulfilment of God's promise. When Simeon sees the Baby Jesus and recognises him as the Messiah he is ready to die in peace because the fulfilment of scripture was his own personal fulfilment too.

So what are we waiting for in our lives today? Are we able to recognise Jesus and the opportunities he gives us as Simeon did, or are we too busy running round like headless chickens looking for happiness and re-assurances in all the wrong places? How are we waiting? Are we waiting like the proverbial rabbit mesmerised by the fast approaching headlights, or are we waiting in constant preparation?

The time has come to stop flitting from one ambition to another and from one hollow goal to the next. The time has come to look for a genuinely important goal of God's floodlit making.

Candlemas Sunday 2nd February



The Feast of Purification is called 'Candlemas' because traditionally this is the day on which the year's supply of candles for the church is blessed. By the fifth century we were lighting candles on this day to symbolise that Jesus Christ was the light, the truth and the way.

Blessing of Candles at all Masses today (Sunday)

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday — Thursday

7.30am & 10am

Friday (First Friday)

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Ratheniska: 7pm

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am

& 6.30pm Masses.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Odin Anthony O'Connor Conroy
Berryridge Avenue

Ryan Bear, Blueberry Hill

Aurora Schoenstaedt, Bellingham

Jessica Rose Cullinan, Shaen

who was baptised last weekend

BLESSING OF THROATS



On Monday (3rd February)

is the Feast of St. Blaise.

Blessing of Throats will take

place after the 7.30am & 10am Masses

in the Parish Church.

Sunday 26th January 2020

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Laos Alzheimer's Society Resource Centre at 47 Main Street Portlaoise is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

Laos Alzheimer's are offering one weeks respite care to people who have a dementia diagnosis in Waterman's Lodge Care Centre, Ballina/Killaloe, Co Tipperary.

Their specialist overnight respite centre offers stimulation and activity to the person with dementia in a safe, friendly environment and respite from caring for the caregiver.

This centre provides overnight respite care seven days a week. During the day, residents have access to the Day Care Centre. *You do not have to be availing of homecare services to apply.*

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Pauline Flanagan



General Election
Candidate
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ELDERLY PEOPLE;

May benefit from Orthotics to support, comfort & Correct the Mechanics of the feet. Conditions such as arthritis and diabetes may require softer coverings.

SPORTS PEOPLE;

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

CHILDREN;

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

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- **Hospital**
- **Health (mental and physical)**
- **Housing**

For me the most important issue once again in this election is our health services. It is central to all our well-being and that of our families and loved ones. A serious threat remains to the status of our General Hospital in Portlaoise and our 24/7 A&E in particular. This is not acceptable.

Neither are the staff shortages, the lack of sufficient beds, the trolleys on corridors and the long waiting lists for so many treatments and especially for mental health supports.

There is a dire shortage of beds for our senior citizens in Mountmellick, Shaen and Abbeyleix and huge waiting lists for home care packages so as they can live at home.

Hundreds of beds and nurses were removed from the health service and have never been restored. **This** is why there is such chronic delays and difficulties in the health system as the staff of all grades do their best to cope.

The health service, housing, homelessness and high rents; the high cost of childcare, to stop the pension age being increased to age 67 and the challenges of climate change are my main issues. I am running a no poster campaign and I respectfully ask for your support and No 1 vote to help be address these concerns.

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The Presentation of the Lord



Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day.

Today we hear about Jesus and his family and a special trip they took to Jerusalem.

We hear about the special things that happened to Jesus there and all that was said about him.

Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple, to present him to God.

There were two other people in the story today too, who see the baby Jesus and recognise how important he is. Can you remember their names?



Simeon is an old man, who has been promised by God that he will see Christ – the Saviour of the world. When he sees the baby Jesus, Simeon knows that the child is the Son of God. Simeon tells everyone how special Jesus is.

Anna is also in the Temple. She has spent her whole life in the Temple serving God. She sees the baby Jesus and begins to praise God.

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt to hear Simeon and Anna talking like this about their son?

Even though he was just a baby, Simeon and Anna could see just how important Jesus was. They did not judge by what Jesus looked like. They were filled with faith and they knew in their hearts how special and important he was.

Have you had a time when you have judged someone because of what they look like? Or when you have been judged for what you look like?

What do you think this reading tells us about that?

Simeon and Anna see that Jesus is important. Even though he was just a baby, and probably looked like all other babies, they could see that he would grow up to be very special.

Our faith tells us that each person, no matter who they are, is made in the image of God. That means that we can see something special in each and every person.

Our Prayer

Father, as we celebrate The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. We are reminded of who is important and special in our life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





Catholic Schools Week 2020



26 January – 2 February 2020



RUAH - for Confirmation Candidates

Reminder

Tuesday 4th February, 7pm: Holy Family Snr School
Venue: Holy Family Snr. School.

Wednesday 5th February, 7pm: The Heath, Ratheniska and Other Schools
Venue: The Heath National School.

Thursday 6th February, 7pm: Scoil Bhride and the Gaelscoil
Venue: Scoil Bhride.

Each evening will last an hour.





TIME TO THINK!

IF PETER WERE TAOISEACH...

Prime Time Extra on RTE television invited Peter McVerry SJ to tell the nation what he would do in his first 100 days if he were elected Taoiseach of the country. The programme is part of a three-week sideways look at the upcoming election as the people of Ireland prepare to vote for a new government on Saturday 8th February. Peter McVerry has been working with and campaigning on behalf of the homeless for most of his adult life. If he was leader of the country we would soon have a very different Ireland. Read his manifesto below.

A hundred days in government

"Two years ago, the Taoiseach admitted that the housing crisis was an emergency. The Minister for Finance called it the greatest social issue this country has faced in over a generation. Yet, the problem not only persists but keeps getting worse.

The first thing I would do in government is to call a referendum to insert the "right to housing" into the constitution. What would that do? We have the right to education in the constitution and as a result, every young person in this country is entitled to an education and can go to court, if necessary, to have this right provided. If we put the "right to housing" into the constitution, it doesn't mean that the day after the referendum, everyone can demand the keys to a home. Of course not. But it would oblige the government to produce policies which would in time, perhaps in 10 or fifteen years, ensure that everyone has an appropriate and affordable house to live in.

The second thing I would do is to prepare legislation to implement the Kenny Report of 1973. Often, 40%, or even 50%, of the cost of a house is the cost of the land on which it is built. Many people have become millionaires by just looking out their window, watching the grass grow, waiting for their land to be rezoned for housing. The Kenny report recommended that building land should be compulsorily purchased by local authorities for 25% more than its agricultural value. This would dramatically lower the cost of housing.

The third thing I would do is to introduce a rent freeze and prepare legislation preventing banks, international investment funds or landlords from evicting people into homelessness, for a period of three years, except in exceptional circumstances such as anti-social behaviour. This would have some – mostly wealthy companies and individuals – screaming all the way to the Supreme Court complaining that their right to private property is being eroded. Let them. The majority of people becoming homeless today are being evicted from their private rented accommodation either because they can no longer afford to pay the increasingly outrageous rents or the landlord says they are selling the house and they must move out. We have a housing emergency, we need to take emergency action.

And finally, I have maintained for many years that the drug trade is a bigger threat to the stability of our society than the IRA ever were. A person could be convicted of IRA



membership on the word of a chief superintendent, along with one piece of corroborating evidence. I would lock the Attorney General in a room, without food or drink, until he produced some similar legislation with regard to drug gangs. I appreciate it is more difficult, as a drug gang is a looser collection of people than the IRA were, but it should not be beyond our legal experts to come up with some similar legislation. Peter McVerry SJ"

February is a most hopeful month. We have just celebrated St. Brigid's Day, a day which brings great hope. St. Brigid brings with her a story of compassion, generosity, healing and renewal. These early February days mark the beginning of Spring. Yes, it may still feel cold but already brighter evenings, emerging green shoots and snowdrops, announce a time for new beginnings. I'm glad the darkness of winter once again is being transformed by the light of our new spring. Spring is a season of hope and renewal. We are in the true sense of Scripture called out of darkness into God's wonderful light.



Prayer to St. Saint Brigid

You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence

all God has made.
Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Amen

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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

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33 Agh Na Hara,
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3 Beds / 3 Baths
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Remembering

The beauty of a memory
Is that it's always there,
Like a penny in your pocket,
You can take it anywhere.

And when your heart is heavy
And your eyes are filled with tears,
You can focus on a memory,
And travel through the years.

Your heart can visit happy times
When laughter filled the air,
And the presence of your loved one,
Will lessen your despair.

So as you travel on in life
Take comfort as you go,
For a lifetime of "sweet memories,"
Of one who loved you so!

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7 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2020.



*Sunshine passes and rainbows fall,
But love and memories out last
them all,*

*A prayer at night to keep in touch,
With the brother loved and missed
so much.*

*Always loved and never forgotten by all his
loving family.*

May Fintan Rest in Peace

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
EOIN FINGLETON

Sallins and formerly Ballytegan, Portlaoise.



The family of the late Eoin Fingleton and his fiancée Sarah, wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy shown to us following our recent sad loss.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to our neighbours in Ballytegan for their amazing thoughtfulness and kindness and to our relatives, many friends and well wishers who attended the wake, Mass and burial and to those who provided emotional and practical support. Our thanks to those who travelled long distances, sent cards and messages of condolences as well as those who made charitable donations.

Our sincere thanks to the Priests of the Parish especially Fr. David Vard who officiated at the Mass and burial and to the beautiful 12:30 choir.

Our thanks to the doctors and nurses at St. James hospital, Beaumont, The Hermitage, Naas hospital, Eoin's G.P. and pharmacy in Sallins and to the Cuisle Centre in Portlaoise for their care, kindness and support.

To Matthew Keegan and David Goode Undertakers who carried out the funeral arrangements with such care and dignity.

We would like to thank the three separate guards of honour provided by Portlaoise G.A.A., Réalt Dearg G.A.A. and the pupils of Drimnagh Castle where Eoin adored to teach.

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

Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Rest in Peace Eoin

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
NANCY CONROY

No.1 Maisonette, Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
 80th Birthday Remembrance; 31st January



*You left behind some aching hearts, that
 loved you most sincere,
 We never shall and never will, forget you,
 Nancy dear.*

Sadly missed by her loving family and friends.

May Nancy Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
EDWARD COOKE Rathevan.

Died 2nd Feb. 1982. 38th Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2020.



*If memories bring us closer,
 We will never be far apart,
 For you are always with us,
 In our thoughts and in our hearts.*

*Loved and remembered always by;
 Your loving daughter Bridie, son-in-law Stephen, grandchildren
 Deirdre, Karen and Eamonn and great-grandchildren;
 Ciara, Abbie, Oisín, Lily and Hayley xxxxx*

May Edward Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
EDWARD COOKE

Rathevan Portlaoise.

38th Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2020.



*The years are passing quietly,
 With pride we speak your name,
 Our lives go on without you,
 It's never been the same.*

*Loved and remembered always Dad
 From Margaret, Gerard, Edward & Gearóid, Katie, Rachel
 and great-granddaughter Madison.*

May Edward Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MARY DOOLEY

29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
 6th Anniversary occurs 9th February 2020



6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 8th February at 10am.

*Sadly missed along life's way,
 Quietly remembered everyday,
 No longer in our lives to share,
 But in our hearts, you're always there.*

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

No more tomorrows for us to share but yesterday's memories will always be there.

Always remembered by Jim and Maureen Lynch and family.

May Mary Rest in Peace



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**In Loving Memory of
PHILOMENA HIGGINS**

5 Newpark, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 7th February 2020

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



*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me,
I took His hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief,
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

Loved and remembered by her husband Christy, sons David and Matthew, grandchildren Jamie, Holly and Katelyn, daughter-in-law Shauna, extended family, relatives and friends especially the Lenehan family from Tralee and her colleagues in St. Vincent de Paul and friends in the Slieve Bloom Walking Club.

Rest in Peace Philomena

**In Loving Memory of
BRÍDÍN MULHALL**

Ballyroan, Laois and Rathmines, Dublin.
4th Anniversary occurred 28th January 2020.



Dearly loved daughter and sister - you are greatly missed and lovingly remembered today and everyday by Seamus, Ursula, John, James and Gerard.

The much loved niece of Sr. Gerard, Sr. Kay and Sr. Patricia, Frances and Michael, Evelyn (God Mother) and Eamon, Sean and Elizabeth. Sadly missed by all her cousins and extended family and forever in the mind and hearts of

her many friends.

The just will live in the company of the lord Psalm 37

As in June 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, Bridín's family will be hosting a Walk for Bridín' in the Slieve Bloom Mountains in June 2020. We thank everyone for their continued support and hope to see you in June this year.

Rest in Peace Bridín

**In Loving Memory of
ALICE McEVOY**

Late of 80 St. Brigid's Place. 28th Anniversary. Died 5/2/1992.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Saturday 1st February at 6.30pm

*A face that is always on our minds,
A smile we have seen a million times,
Two eyes that would light up the sky at night,
one last battle you could not fight.*

Sadly missed by all her loving family.

Also remembering her sisters Esther & Mary at this time.

May Alice Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

Our Mother

ANN DELANEY

Cappagh North, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 23rd February 2020.

And Our Father

JAMES DELANEY

4th Anniversary occurred January 2020.



Treasured thoughts of ones so dear,
Often bring a silent tear,
Thoughts of scenes long past,
Years roll on but memories last.

Sadly missed by your loving daughter Ruth, son Mark, and grandchildren Alannah, Elisha and Kody.

May They Rest in Peace

ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

**In Loving Memory of
ALICE NEVIN**

12 Mountain View Square, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary away from us.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 8th January at 10am.

God looked around his garden and
found an empty place,
He saw your tired face and put His arms
around you and lifted you to rest,
God's garden must be beautiful,
He only takes the best,

He knew that you were lonely and life was not the same,
God reunited you with ould Mommy once again,
He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard
to climb, so He closed your weary eyelids and whispered
"peace be thine",

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

Sadly missed and always remembered, love from Paddy, Kathleen and family and grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Alice

60TH BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of **EUGENE O'CONNOR**

*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
60th Birthday Remembrance; 5th February 2020.*



Thinking of the thoughtful things
That you have said and done
And loving you a little more
Dear Eugene, for every one.

*Sadly missed by your twin sister Lucy,
brothers, sisters, your son and
daughter and grandson Odin x
Rest in Peace Eugene*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of **MARY TYNAN** née Grant

Rathevan, Portlaoise. Died 9th January 2020.



Mary's husband Luke, sons John and Luke, together with her sister, brother and extended family, wish to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with them on their recent sad loss.

A very special thank you to Ann Burke for her professionalism and extraordinary care, and Ann's mother Mary who together showed incredible kindness to Mary and were a tremendous support to her family during this difficult time.

Our heartfelt thank you to all our neighbours and in particular the Molloy family whose support will never be forgotten. To the palliative care nurses who showed such compassion and care.

Thank you to Fr. Eddie Lalor for celebrating Mary's funeral Mass.

Our eternal gratitude to our extended family and friends whose visits and calls over this difficult period offered such support and comfort.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode Funeral Directors for their sensitive professionalism, kindness and support.

Thanks also to the Rock Inn and their staff who provided refreshments.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Mary's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 8th February at 6:30pm.

Rest in Peace Mary

In Loving Memory of **CHRISTY WHELAN**

*138 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurs 7th February 2020.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 9th February at 11:15am.

Thinking of you today and always

We miss your smile, your joking ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
And when old times we do recall,
Its then we miss you most of all.

Sadly missed by his loving wife Lily and all his family.

May Christy Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MADGE McEVOY**

*Capoley, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs Thursday 13th February 2020.
Much loved and cherished Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 8th February at 6:30pm.

*Just a prayer from the family who loved you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by:
Sarahann, Ailish, Mary, Joe, Breda and their families.*

May Madge Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **CARMEL FITZPATRICK** née Dunne

*Annefield Terrace, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.
Months Mind occurs 10th February 2020.*



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday 10th February at 10am.

*Sadly missed by her loving husband James,
daughters Lorraine and Tracey, sons
James and Barry, grandchildren and
extended family.*

Rest in Peace Carmel



The final deadline for receipt of all
Anniversaries and Acknowledgements
is 12 noon Wednesday.



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Contact Us

To discuss how we can help you grow your business

RELIGIOUS NOTICES

Adoration: Mon. to Fri. after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Saturday after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 6pm. Sunday at 2:30pm, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Sunday, 2:30-3:30pm - special time of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood.

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.

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

Legion of Mary: meeting every Wed. night at 8pm in the Prayer room of the Parish Church.

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

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

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

Divine Mercy Mass: Wednesday 5th February in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, rosary at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7:30pm and blessing with St. Faustina's relic. All are welcome. Celebrant: Fr. Jamie Twohig. Music: Margaret Brennan.

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

Bus to Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars at Emmanuel House, Clonfert: Starting Sun. 23rd February at 2:30pm for 7 consecutive Sundays to 5th April. Bishop Michael Duignan will be the chief celebrant. Advance booking for the bus is essential. Phone 059-9151245 / 087-2245193.

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

USEFUL SERVICES

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

COMMUNITY NOTES

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

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

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

Feb. 5th: It is time to get the brain cells active again and see what we can remember in this new year. Bernie is preparing a Quiz to test us all, which is guaranteed to generate enjoyment and a bit of friendly competition.

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

Laos/Offaly Branch of Retired Nurses Association will hold it's branch meeting in Portlaoise Parish Centre, this Monday 3rd February at 2:15pm, to discuss the agenda for this AGM and National Conference. New members welcome. Car parking available.

**St. Francis Special School
New Road, Portlaoise**



Enrolment for September 2020 will close at 3pm on Friday 13th March, 2020. Enquiries to 057-8621847

**THE HEATH HALL & CEMETERY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL WALK**



Sunday 23rd February
Proceeds in aid of the restoration of the Heath Church

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY

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

Dog Grooming



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Photo Frames - Gift Sets - Bookmarks

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Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories

Communion and Confirmation Certificates

Confirmation in our Parish; 28th/29th February

Communion in our Parish; 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd May



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CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

For two school going
children, 3 days per week.
Contact Catherine;
086-8866545

BALLYFIN GAA CLUB



**6K Fun Run/
Walk**

Sunday 2nd February
At GAA grounds, Ballyfin at
11:30am sharp.
Registration from 10am at the
community centre



FOR SALE

**Husqvarna
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For 7 month old girl, in the Portlaoise area. Monday to Friday 8.30am-3.30pm. (Primary school term). Call/Text:; **085-1180387**

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Oak Table and 6 chairs. Contact; **087-2445664**



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please note

We will be unable to celebrate Mass in Scoil Bhríde, Knockmay, **Saturday 8th February** due to election voting.

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on Friday, 21st February 2020

in St. Fintan's Parish Church, Mountrath

Featuring Pupils of Gaelscoil Thromaire & St. Fintan's Church Choirs

Tickets: €25 on sale in Portlaoise Parish Centre or contact; Geraldine Moore 086-1647304 | Fr. Joe 087-2411594

No Reserved Seating (Bring a Cushion)

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DEADLINE!

The deadline to place adverts, classified adverts and anniversaries is **12 noon Wednesday** subject to availability of space or 5pm Tuesday to guarantee inclusion.

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