

# The Presentation of the Lord

World Day of Payer 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.



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# 30th January 2020

# **Portlaoise Parish**











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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."

# **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



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722 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





## 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.

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.

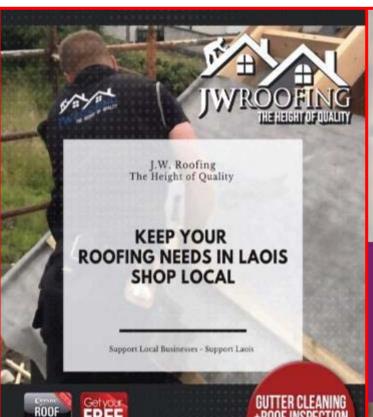
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jwroofing77@gmail.com www.jwroofing.ie







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

Laois 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. To access respite care please contact;

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Home-care
Coordinator;
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#### SPORTS PEOPLE;

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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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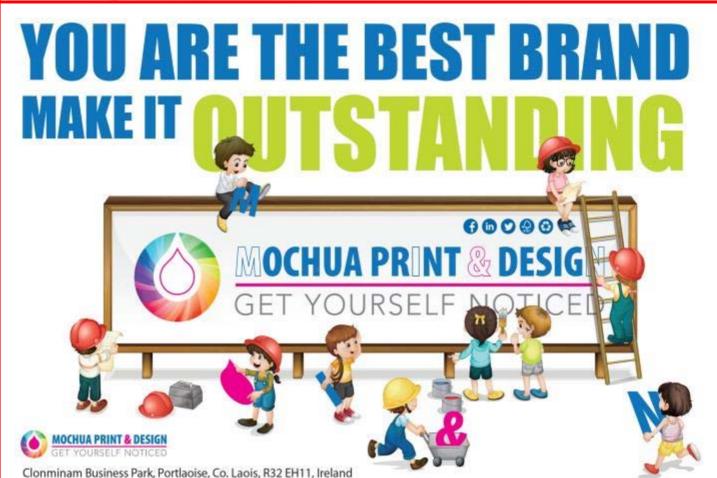
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# The Presentation of the Lord



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**

<u>Tuesday 4th February, 7pm</u>: Holy Family Snr School Venue: Holy Family Snr. School.

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

<u>Thursday 6th February, 7pm</u>: 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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# 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, Nou can focús on a memory, And travel through the years.

Mour 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 Cake comfort as you go, a lifetime of "sweet memories," Of one who loved you so!

# In Loving Memory of FINTAN DOOLEY

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 Sintan Rest in Reace

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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

We offer our heartfelt thanks to our neighbours in Ballytegan for their amazing thoughtfulness and kindness and

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 Kancy Rest in Reace



# 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, Oisin, Lily and Hayley xxxxx

May Edward Rest in Reace



# 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 Reace



# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

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 Reace



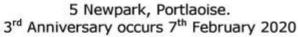
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# In Loving Memory of PHILOMENA HIGGINS

In Loving Memory of Our Mother



# *ANN DELANEY*

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

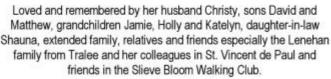
Cappagh North, Portlaoise. 3rd Anniversary occurs 23rd February 2020. And Our Father



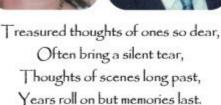
*JAMES DELANEY* 

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.

4th Anniversary occurred January 2020.





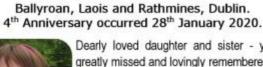


Rest in Reace Philomena

In Loving Memory of

BRÍDÍN MULHALL

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







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



# ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE In Loving Memory of ALICE NEVIN



12 Mountain View Square, Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary away from us.

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

As in June 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, Bridin's family will be hosting a Walk for Bridin' 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 Reace Bridin

In Loving Memory of

ALICE McEVOY



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

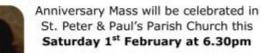
God looked around his garden and found an empty place, He saw your tired face and put His arms around you and lifted you to rest, God's garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best,

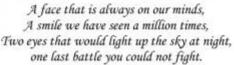
He knew that you were lonely and life was not the same, God reunited you with ould Mommy once again, He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb, so He closed your weary eyelids and whispered "peace be thine",

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.

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

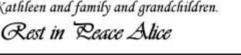




Sadly missed by all her loving family. Also remembering her sisters Esther & Mary at this time.

May Alice Rest in Reace







# 60<sup>™</sup> 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 Reace Eugene



# In Loving Memory of CHRISTY WHELAN

138 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Reace



# In Loving Memory of MADGE McEVOY

Capoley, Portlaoise. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Reace



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



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of MARY TYNAN néé 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 8<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm.

Rest in Peace Mary



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.

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

Rest in Reace Garmel



# **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.

<u>Legion of Mary</u>; 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.

<u>Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting:</u> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 2:30pm for 7 consecutive Sundays to 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup>: 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].

Laois/Offaly Branch of Retired Nurses Association will hold it's branch meeting in Portlaoise Parish Centre, this Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> February in the Parish Centre after 10am Mass. New members are always welcome.





# The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre
Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

# WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF GIFTS FOR COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Prayer Books - Rosary Beads - Rosettes
Personalised Cards and Candles
Photo Frames - Gift Sets - Bookmarks
Sterling Silver Necklets, Chains and Crosses
Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories
Communion and Confirmation Certificates

Confirmation in our Parish; 28th/29th February Communions in our Parish; 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd May



# **ACTIVE PLUMBER**

Central heating, showers, taps, blockages. New installation or repairs. Contact Fergus;

> 087-6542742 087-0959245

# HANDYMAN AVAILABLE

Tiling incl. Bathrooms,
Kitchens, Walls and Floors.
Timber floors, gardening incl.
hedge cutting & landscaping.
All jobs considered for a
reasonable price. Phone Jim;

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# Hugh Thompson MIDLAND HEATING SERVICES

For all your Heating & Plumbing needs Service and Repair of Oil Boilers, Oil Cookers & Gas Boilers

Plus Power Flushing of Heating Systems
Removing all the old sludge and water that has built up in
your radiators and boilers over the years with clean water
and Inhibitors to reduce fuel bills and save money.

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# MILLERS HOME & GARDEN

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Book in your walk behind lawnmower or ride on lawnmower now for servicing to beat the springtime rush!

Special early season rates now available!



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087-2619426 / 083-3742600

# **GRINDS**

Junior and Leaving Certificate Irish grinds available by fluent Irish speaker with 14 years experience. Contact;

085-2330937

# PAINTING AND DECORATING

Interior and Exterior
Powerwashing and Spray
Painting, inside and outside,
new houses etc. 12 years
experience. Contact;

089-4459958

# <u>PODIATRIST</u>

# MAY COLLINS

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2 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.

Tel.;

086-3785327

By Appointment only. VHI-Aviva-Laya approved

# CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

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

086-8866545

# PLUMBER AVAILABLE

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

085-1141395

# **TOTAL REFURB**

- Tiling Plastering
- Block laying Carpentry
   Metal Gates etc.

Contact Kevin; 083-3692759

# MIDLAND APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Quick, Cost Effective Domestic Appliance Repairs. Contact;

087-9080211

# BLOCK/BRICKLAYER AVAILABLE

Extensions, new builds, garden walls etc. Excellent work, reasonable rates.

Contact Paddy;

086-3144686

# 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



# Husqvarna Lawnmower

as new, only 2 years old. List price €2,950 will sell for €1,950. Contact;

086-2652947



# A1 CHIMNEY SWEEP & CAMERA SURVEYS

Brush & Vac, No messtotally clean job. Bird guards & cowls fitted. Contact Martin on

087-9616098

# CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

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

085-1180387

# ROOM TO RENT IN MOUNTRATH

4 bed semi-detached house, owner occupied, double bedroom ensuite, all amenities, only 10 minutes from Portlaoise train station. Ideal central location. €400 p.m. Contact;

087-1169966

# FOR SALE

Oak Table and 6 chairs. Contact;

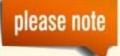
087-2445664



# SHOP UNIT FOR RENT

in Portlaoise. Tel.

087-7447060



We will be unable to celebrate

Mass in Scoil Bhríde, Knockmay, **Saturday** 8<sup>th</sup> **February** due to election voting.

# ST. FINTAN'S PARISH, MOUNTRATH

presents



Direct from the National Concert Hall; Kenneth O' Regan, Paul Feery and Kevin Fagan

# 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)

Doors open 7pm / Concert 8pm

Hear the Hits; Caledonia/Grace/My Way/O Sole Mio



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Access to the
Defibrillator may
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inputting the
Emergency
Services Number
112 into the
Keypad followed by
the letter X.



The deadline to place adverts, classified adverts and anniversaries is

# 12 noon Wednesday

subject to availability of space or 5pm Tuesday to guarantee inclusion.

# LAOIS HIRE PLANT & TOOL



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