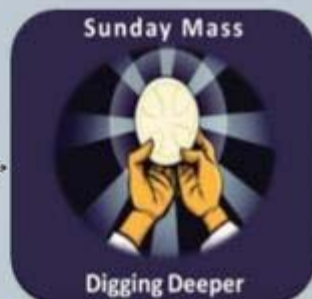


PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
up

7th April 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY
LENT



See inside Page 18 & 19

All Ireland Senior A Football Champions 2019!

Well done Scoil Chríost Rí

Scoil Chríost Rí 3 - 10 Loretto Clonmel 2 - 10

Congratulations to a fantastic team and their coaches, parents and all at Scoil Chríost Rí.

(Photo: team with Principal Ms. Helen O'Donnell and their coaches)



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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4th April 2019

Portlaoise Parish



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Agnes Deveny
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John Dillane
Noeleen Fitzpatrick
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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

**Pope Francis' Prayer
Intention April 2019**

This month we are asked to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention, **'...For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.'**

We are asked to pray for those medical professionals and humanitarian workers do, every day, in the words of this month's

Intention, "risk their lives to save the lives of others"; if they don't, who will? Our first prayer is in thanksgiving that there are heroic people prepared to do this. Mindful that our prayers must be more than mere empty words, we also look to what action we might take.

Chrism Mass

You are warmly invited to join with Bishop Denis and the priests of the diocese in the Cathedral, Carlow at 7:30pm on Monday, April 15th to celebrate the Chrism Mass - this is the largest diocesan celebration during the year!

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie 057-8692151

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

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



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

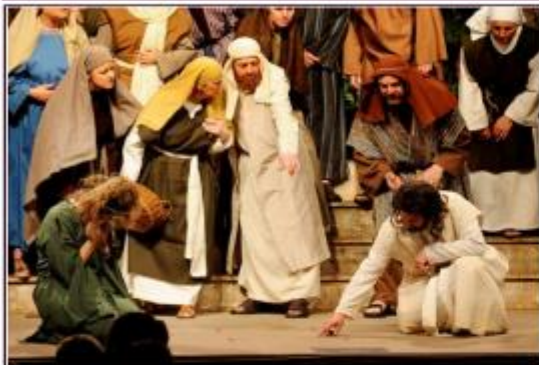
Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

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The First Stone

It's a sad fact of life, if you do something good, it isn't remembered for very long. You are only as good as your last good

deed. But if you do something bad, there will be those who insist on never forgetting it. There will always be those who mutter, "Oh that's 'so and so' the one who had the affair." "That Mr. Thingymajig, the one who embezzled the company funds." It's a very sad human failing. We are loathe to let the failings of others go.

In today's gospel reading the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. According to the Law of Moses such a woman should be stoned. What has Jesus to say on the matter? As ever, The Scribes and Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus into giving an answer that is unlawful. Jesus however is great at not falling into traps. "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone," he replies.

When we have made a mistake in life, the last thing we need is condemnation. Condemnation is rarely useful. Condemnation sends us to a dark place where we fester. Denied our second chance, our self esteem is eroded. We begin to see ourselves in a different light. Other people think we are bad or weak so perhaps we are. Our self image spirals downwards, we start to behave the way people expect us to behave.... badly! But the people, who have pointed the finger of blame; are they really in any position to judge?

We are extraordinarily quick to throw the first stone. Our powers of empathy are limited. Perhaps we enjoy moral outrage. Perhaps we enjoy gossiping at someone else's expense. Today we are challenged. The next time we open our mouths to condemn, we are asked to find mercy instead, the same mercy we expect when we have fallen from grace.



Penitential Service
Parish Church
Tuesday 16th April
7.30pm.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday—Friday

7.30am, 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.

Dawn Mass 6am

Easter Sunday



April 21st

The Heath



We welcome into our Parish Community

Theodora Theu, Borris Rd

Sophie Leahy, Rinnucini Court

Ollie Conor Brennan, The Hermitage

Norah Jim Behan, Dun Masc

Ben Tony Doyle, Clonroosk Abbey

were baptised last weekend

Sunday 31st March 2019

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Development Fund

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€6,628.00

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Fatima Candle

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am
Mass in the Parish Church on
Saturday 13th April in honour of
Our Lady of Fatima and for the
intentions of all parishioners.



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Proposed Cúil na Móna Renewable Gas Facility

Bord na Móna intend to hold a second series of Community Information Sessions regarding its plans to develop a Renewable Gas Facility on Cúil na Móna Bog, situated in the townland of Clonboyne in County Laois, located just off Junction 18 of the M7 motorway.

In order for members of the Community to be informed about the proposed development, Bord na Móna will be holding two Community Information Sessions in Portlaoise Rugby Club on the following dates:

Wednesday 10th April

Thursday 11th April

Both sessions will run from 3.00pm - 9.00pm.

Bord na Móna invites you to attend one of these sessions during the scheduled opening hours.

The site of the proposed development is located approx. 3 km north west of the Bord na Móna Cúil na Móna works which is located near Junction 17 on M7.

For further information please contact:

T: 087-3486624

E: cuilnamonaproject@bnm.ie



A Most Precious Gift

When I was a child and wanted to give my mother a really nice gift for her birthday, I would often go to chemist and look at all of the perfume. Some of the perfume came in very large bottles. They were usually very cheap. But, do you know what? They usually didn't smell very good. Some of the other bottles of perfume were very small and cost a lot more than the big bottles of perfume. Guess what? they smelled wonderful! I wanted to give my mother the very best,

so I always bought the most expensive perfume I could afford.

One day Jesus went to the city of Bethany. That was the city where a man named Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, lived with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. While Jesus was in Bethany, a dinner was given in his honour. Lazarus was eating at the table with Jesus, while Martha was serving the meal. Mary was just sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to him teach.

As she was sitting at the feet of Jesus, Mary did a very unusual thing. She took a bottle of very expensive perfume and began to wash the feet of Jesus with it. Then she dried his feet with her hair. The Bible tells us that the entire house was filled with the sweet smell of perfume.

One of Jesus' disciples, whose name was Judas, was very upset by what Mary did. He said, "What a waste! This perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. It was worth a year's wages." Judas wasn't really worried about the poor. The Bible tells us that he was worried about the money because he often stole money from the treasury for himself.

Jesus came to Mary's defence and answered Judas. "Leave her alone. She has kept this perfume for the day of my burial."

Jesus said that because he knew that it was only a few days before he would be crucified and buried. I don't know if Mary knew that or not, but I do think that Mary wanted to give Jesus the very best that she had to show her love for him. That perfume was the very best thing that Mary had to offer.

Jesus has given us the most wonderful gift imaginable – the gift of everlasting life. It is free, but it was a very costly gift. It cost Jesus his life.

What can we give to Jesus to show our love for him? I think he wants us to give him our very best. He wants us to give him our life!



Prayer

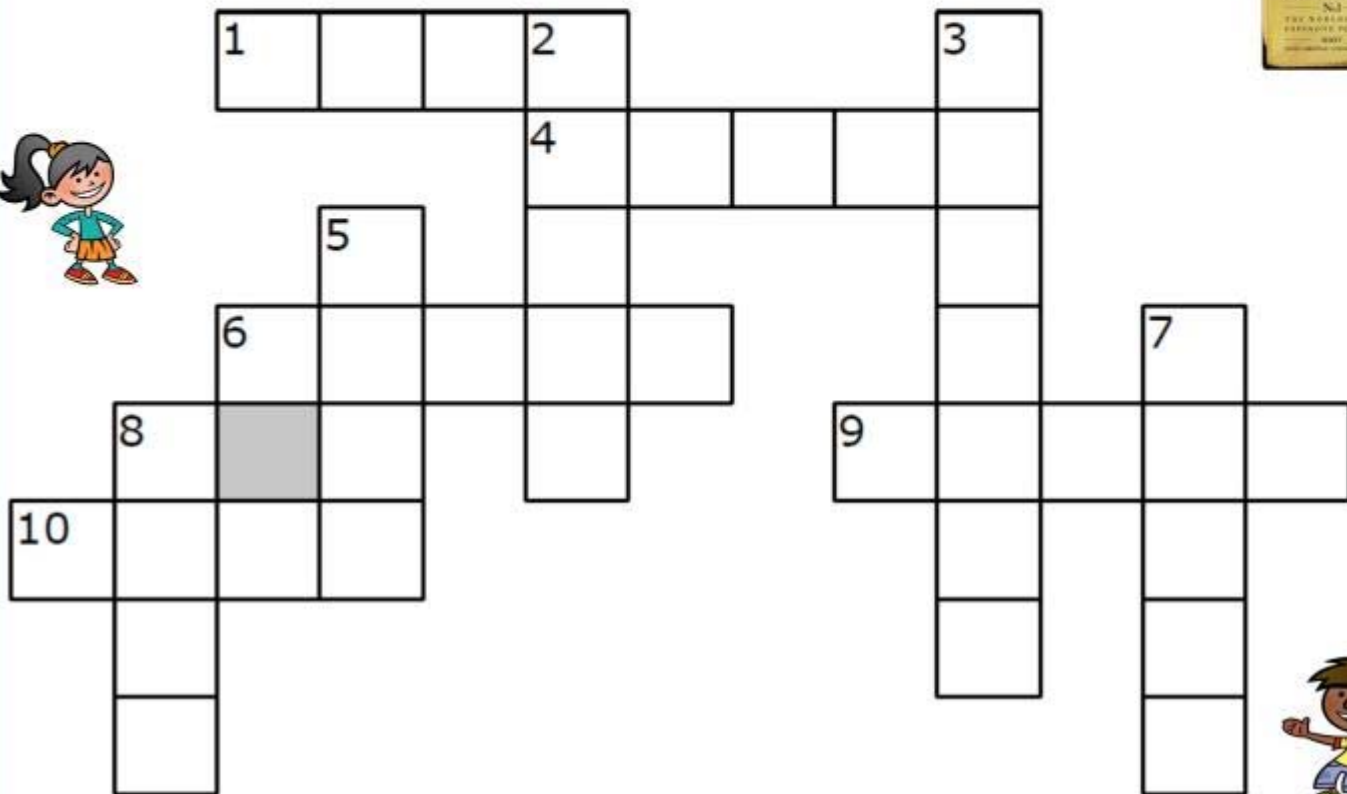


Heavenly Father, Jesus gave his life to show his love for us. May we also give our lives in service to him as an expression of our love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



A Most Precious Gift

Then Mary took a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' s feet and wiped his feet with her hair. John 12:3



ACROSS

1. The part of the body on which a person stands
4. The building in which a family lives
6. What we use to buy things
9. The disciples who betrayed Jesus
10. What grows on the head of a person

Down

2. A person who steals
3. A liquid produced and sold for its pleasant smell
5. The opposite of rich
7. Pay received for the labour of a worker.
8. The woman who poured perfume on the feet of Jesus.

JUDAS	HOUSE	FEET	MARY	MONEY
POOR	THIEF	PERFUME	WAGES	HAIR

**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

Confirmation Candidates are invited to Mass at 7.30pm on Holy Thursday.

First Holy Communion Candidates are invited to 11.15am Mass on Easter Sunday.



TIME TO THINK!

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON CHALLENGES US ALL

The story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32) has an extraordinary amount of wisdom and good advice packed into it. Indeed, the more you read the bible, both Old and New Testament, the more you realise how relevant its words are for contemporary times. The prodigal Son fits well into the Season of Lent. It's hard to believe, that next week we find ourselves in Holy week.

When we first read the story of the Prodigal Son we are charmed by how the wayward young man, after his years of wine, women and song, is welcomed back into his father's arms. The story is so well told you can actually see his father's jubilant excitement greeting his son as he makes his way home.

Instinctively we admire his dad. Our hearts go out to him for his spontaneous generosity in forgiving his errant son. If only more of us could find the heart and the courage to behave in such a manner. In many ways it's the perfect fairy-tale to read to children.

But then you realise that the parable has deeper layers of meaning. Did the Prodigal Son only return home because he had nowhere else to go? Did he cynically decide it was time to go home and enjoy his father's wealth once more? Perhaps he had no alternative but to come home if he wanted to save his own skin. Now the viewpoint changes and we see a clever opportunist and manipulative young man.

And then there's the dutiful stick-in-the-mud older son, who has spent his life doing all that has been asked of him. Doesn't he have a right to be annoyed when he sees his father giving all his attention to his younger brother and forgetting about his years of loyal service?

Worse still, the fatted calf, which the older brother had reared, is now to be hijacked and used for the feast to celebrate the homecoming of his wayward brother.

Do we react like this in the 21st century? For example, we say we "allow" foreigners into our country, and no sooner have they landed at the airport, they are off to the nearest social welfare office to draw the dole. We have been working hard all our lives, paying our taxes and these foreigners arrive and the fatted calf is wheeled out for them.

And on it goes. The story of the prodigal Son provides a multi-layered insight into the lives we live in the developed world today.

Of course, we can get sentimental and talk about how wonderful the father is to forgive his son. But shouldn't we also ask ourselves how can we go on living in a world that allows a seventh of the population to starve, where the few have vast resources?



The parable of the Prodigal Son is a clarion call to all of us to realise that we have clichéd the message of Jesus out of existence, that we run a real risk of turning it into a cosy fireside tale, keeping us all content and smug in our ways. It suits us all, church and state, me too, to praise the wonderful and forgiving father.

But there is so much more to it. When we read Jesus' life in the Gospel it's difficult to understand how some adherents to the Christian faith can be so smug. How can Christianity appeal in any way to people with far-right leanings? And yet the church attracts many such adherents, some of whom have yet to accept the true meaning of love, respect and humility. When critics presume to "correct" Pope Francis and accuse him of contradicting himself and preaching "heresy", are they really trying to make our faith, our religion, into a "comfort blanket" of simple, pious answers?

It's always dangerous to hijack one specific element of God's message at the expense of the overall picture. God's love, kindness and mercy are infinite. Once we try to find comfort in any one aspect of God's message at the expense of another, we risk losing the very meaning of God's perfect goodness.

This parable puts paid to the mushy sentimental ideas we have about forgiveness. Forgiveness makes demands of us which we - the faithful - may not ignore. Yes, the parable of the Prodigal Son is a delightful story but it is also a challenging reminder to us of the importance of embracing all the many aspects of our relationship with God.

Most importantly as we prepare to celebrate Holy Week we are called to build bridges not walls of prejudice and harsh judgements.

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

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

CLUB DALTAÍ LAOISE TEENAGE DISCO



FRIDAY 12TH APRIL AT
7:30PM - 10.30PM
IN PORTLAOISE RUGBY CLUB

€5 FOR MEMBERSHIP CARD
AND €10 ENTRY FEE
ENTRY FEE 1/2 PRICE FOR MEMBERS



Club Daltai Laoise is a Teenage Disco for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students.
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Health Service Executive

Food and Health Programme

TUTORS NEEDED FOR PART-TIME WORK



LAOIS
PARTNERSHIP
COMPANY

Tutors are required to deliver 'Healthy Food Made Easy' courses to local community groups in Laois and/or Offaly.

Food and Health is a nutrition programme. Tutors are trained to deliver short duration Healthy Food Made Easy courses to local community groups across Laois and Offaly. This project is a joint initiative between the HSE and Laois Partnership Company.

Details

- Food and Health tutors will receive certified training in nutrition and facilitation skills
- Training will enable tutors to deliver Healthy Food Made Easy courses
- Training will take place at the end of May

Requirements:

- Training / Facilitation skills
- An interest in healthy lifestyles particularly healthy eating
- Own transport as travel throughout Laois & Offaly area is required
- Flexibility – must be available to deliver courses during day and evening
- Must be available to attend full training sessions

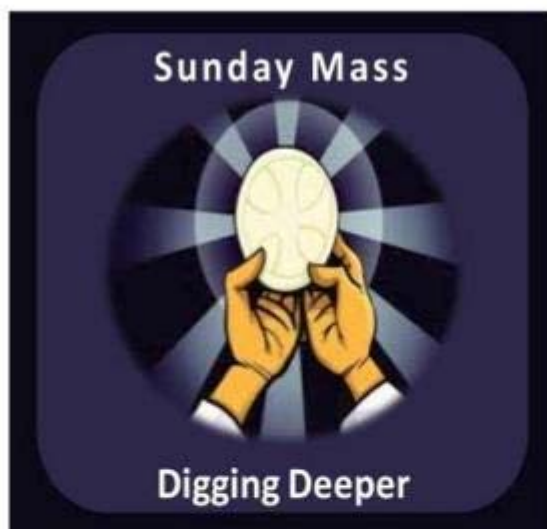
Location:

We are looking for applicants throughout Laois and Offaly. Previous tutors will be considered.

How to Apply:

For an application form and to find out more details, please call 087-7387611
or e-mail; foodandhealth@laoispartnership.ie

Closing date for applications: Friday 19th April at 5pm.



PART FOUR THE CONCLUDING RITES

WE COME TOGETHER TO BE SENT TO BRING CHRIST TO THE WORLD

(Contd. from Part Three) Breaking and Sharing: The Communion Rite

This is the final part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Within the Communion Rite we take part in the final two actions of **BREAKING** and **SHARING**.

At the beginning of the Rite, we **stand** with one another to pray the * **Our Father**. This is the prayer that unites all Christians. As children of God we can 'dare' to call on our God in an intimate term of relationship – Father. Within this prayer we ask for our daily bread. Jesus is the Bread of Life who feeds our real hungers in a way physical bread never can. And just as we ask God to forgive our sins, we declare in this prayer that we, too, will be people of forgiveness towards others.

Our care for others brings us to the * **Rite of Peace**. Here we actively pray for unity and the peace of Christ in our hearts, families, Church, community and the whole human family. We demonstrate the authenticity of our prayer by physically sharing a Sign of Peace with one another. Our prayer is not just lip service; it must find expression in actions that mean what we pray. This is a powerful reminder to us of the call to be at peace with one another as we receive Holy Communion – the sacrament of unity. **With whom do I need to make peace?**

The singing, or saying, of the * **Lamb of God** is accompanied by the action of **BREAKING** the consecrated Host so that it can be shared among us – just as Jesus did at the Last Supper. Jesus is our Lamb of God, the one who sacrificed himself for our salvation.

Before receiving Holy Communion, we **kneel** and * **Behold the Lamb of God**, acknowledging the greatness of the gift we are about to receive and our unworthiness to receive it.

In the * **Procession with reception of Holy Communion** we come forward, **walking** as people of faith. We underscore our unity with a shared **hymn**. We are a pilgrim people on our journey to God and this is a procession we do together. Here the ultimate nourishment for our journey is **SHARED** with us. The minister of Holy Communion makes a statement of faith to us: 'The Body of Christ / The Blood of Christ'. And we affirm this faith in our response of 'Amen'. We are called to receive so great a gift with **reverence** and respect, conscious of what it is we are saying 'Amen / yes' to and then spending time in quiet prayer. **How do I receive the Body of Christ at Mass?**

We **stand** and conclude this part of the Mass with a * **Prayer after Communion**, praying that this Communion will bear fruit in our daily lives.

"In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life - to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how he loves us. Then Jesus comes into our human life – as the hungry one, the Other – hoping to be fed with the bread of our life; our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving." (St Teresa of Calcutta)



"Nourished by the bread of life, we become a living Eucharist; in a word, we become what we receive." (Pope Francis)

THE SHAPE OF THE MASS

Introductory Rites

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Concluding Rites

The Concluding Rites: The End is just the Beginning!

The purpose of the Concluding Rites is to send us out to put into effect what we have just celebrated! They are necessarily brief!!

We have met Christ in one another; we have listened to God speaking to us today and we have received the Body of Christ into our very selves. Now we have to go from here and *be the Body of Christ*. Now we have to go and give witness in our lives to the faith we have expressed and deepened.

So, the end is truly the beginning – we are not just dismissed, we are sent! Each one of us is sent with a purpose, a mission. **Our mission is to be the face, heart and hands of Christ for others in the individual life we find ourselves.**

What we have celebrated in the Mass now must find an echo in how we are in our homes, workplaces, schools and community.

"Each of us is truly called, together with Jesus, to be bread broken for the life of the world."
(Pope Benedict)

Exploring the Concluding Rites

- * **Brief Announcements:** We begin to make our transition from this sacred place with *brief* notices, perhaps highlighting key events and opportunities in the parish in the week ahead.
- * **Greeting and blessing:** The greeting, 'The Lord be with you', is a timely reminder that, as we leave, we go with Christ – we are not alone in our endeavours. And we go with the blessing of God upon us. God continues to be our strength and source of life. Our last action is to mark ourselves with the **Sign of the Cross**, the sign of our faith. This is the faith we live not just for a few minutes on a Sunday but in every moment.
- * **Dismissal:** There is a choice of four alternative dismissals that can be used. Each of them is intended to express the missionary nature of what it is to be a member of the Church. *We go in order to do...*
- * **People's Response:** Our 'Thanks be to God' is a final statement of praise and thanks for meeting and being with Christ in this celebration of the Mass.
- * **Closing Procession:** The procession of priest and ministers serves to lead the assembly out of the worship space. While no music is prescribed, a hymn that speaks of mission and Christian action can help strengthen our sense of going out and living what we have celebrated.



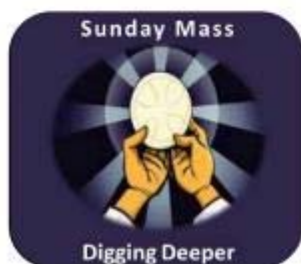
An Invitation to you from Bishop Denis

Having journeyed together, 'digging deeper' into our Sunday Mass this Lent, I warmly invite each of you to join me for our annual diocesan **Chrism Mass on Monday, April 15 at 7:30pm in Carlow Cathedral.**

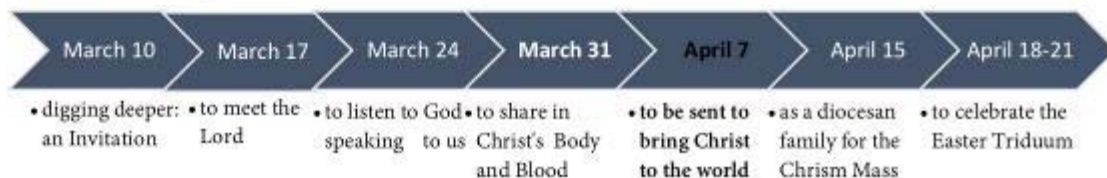
The diocese is a family of parishes and on this night, we get to gather as a family, priests and people from our 56 parishes. This is a wonderful celebration rich in music and ritual.



Come early to get a seat and stay for a cuppa afterwards!



We Come together...



(see kandle.ie for more resources)

Congratulations



James Coss and Sharon Conroy, who were married on Saturday 23rd March, in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.
Celebrant; Fr. Terence McGovern.



Above; Adrian McPherson and Katie Lynch, who were married on Friday 1st March, in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.
Celebrant; Fr. Paddy Byrne.

Weddings at Portlaoise Parish Shop.
Come see our personalised Wedding Stationery
(Premier Agent for LANTZ)



LANTZ

*Wedding Invitations, Evening Invitations,
Thank You Cards, R.S.V.P Cards, Save the
Date Cards and much more,*

We Also Do.....

*Wedding Booklets, Personalised
Candles and Holders, Wedding
Planners, Guest Books, Feather
Pens, Keepsake Boxes, Albums,
Frames, Ring Cushions*



We wish both couples every good wish and blessing for a happy future together.





HOLY WEEK

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

Mass: 7.30am, 10.00am & 7.30pm

CHRISM MASS IN CARLOW CATHEDRAL AT 7.30PM
ALL ARE MOST WELCOME.



PENITENTIAL SERVICE TUESDAY 7.30PM IN THE PARISH CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY

Morning Prayer	10.00am
Confessions	10.30am - 12noon and after 7.30pm Ceremony
Mass of the Lord's Supper:	
Parish Church	7.30pm
The Heath:	7.00pm
Ratheniska :	7.00pm

Quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament will follow the ceremony in the Parish Church and will conclude with Night Prayer at midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer	10.00am
Confessions	10.30am - 12noon and after 7.30pm Ceremony and also in Polish from 6.00pm
Stations of the Cross	1.00pm (Outdoor beginning in O'Moore Place) 3.00pm St. Fintan's
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion	
Parish Church:	3.00pm (led by Bishop Denis Nulty) and 7.30pm
The Heath:	7.00pm
Ratheniska:	7.00pm
Prayer around the Cross	
Parish Church	9.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer	10.00am
Confessions	10.30am - 12noon and 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Blessing of Food	12.30pm Fr. Marek (Polish Chaplain) will lead this ceremony

EASTER VIGIL 9PM IN THE PARISH CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

DAWN MASS 6.00AM IN THE HEATH

Polish Mass 5.00pm in the Parish Church

MASSSES AS USUAL IN THE PARISH CHURCH,
THE HEATH AND RATHENISKA





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KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS



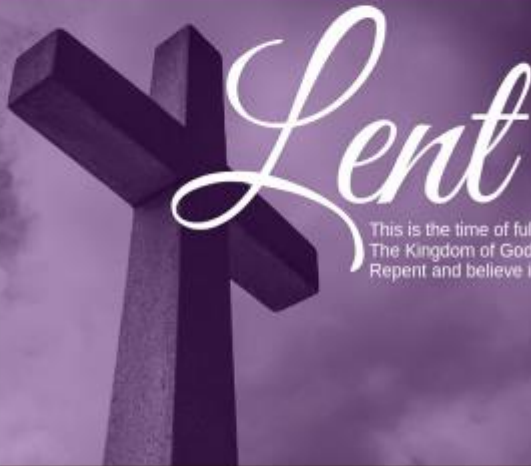
50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**



This is the time of fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent and believe in the Gospel.
MARK 1:15

HENRY RANKIN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We have opened a new office and show room on
Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.
(opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

Contact;

057-8620567

PAUL; 087-2562137

NIALL;

086-2770095



In Memory of a Special Little Girl



God knows how much we need
them and so He takes but few, to
make the land of Heaven, more
beautiful to view.

Believing this is difficult, still
somehow we must try, the
saddest word mankind knows
will always be "goodbye".

So when this little child departs, we who are left
behind, must realise God needed her because
precious angels are so hard to find.

Kayleigh - Asleep with the Angels

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

BREDA WALSH

(née Keogh)

*Whose 70th birthday occurs
7th April 2019*

Happy Birthday up in Heaven, from
your family here below.

We love you and miss you, and want
to let you know.

Happy Birthday Breda

From all your loving family



70th Birthday Remembrance



BREDA WALSH

(née Keogh)

*Late of Chelmsford, Essex and Ridge Road,
Portlaoise.*



Wishing you were here today for
even just a while, so we could say
Happy Birthday and see your
loving smile.

But we'll gaze upon your pictures
and think of you with love, and
hope you're celebrating in
Heaven up above.

Forever loved

*Never forgotten and always
missed*

*Matty, Jason, Helena, Emma,
Shane, Viola, Marley and all the
grandkids and extended family.*

May Breda Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of **JOHN GING**

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.



John Ging's wife Phyllis, his seven children, his brothers and sisters would like to express their sincere gratitude to all those who supported Daddy during his short illness. Sincere thanks for the beautiful Mass bouquets and prayers people offered up for him. He was so moved by them all.

We would sincerely like to thank Mr Justin Geoghan and the fantastic staff at St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Dr. Honan and staff, Róisín Adams and her staff. Thank you all for your dedication, loyalty and compassion when it came to looking after our beloved father.

We would like to offer a very special word of thanks to all those who travelled long distances to attend Daddy's funeral, and to all who queued in the cold, wind and rain to pay their respects at our home. To see such huge numbers was both humbling and poignant but it lifted our spirits. To all Daddy's colleagues and former colleagues from Laois County Council and Portlaoise Fire service; your beautiful tributes and guard of honour were appreciated beyond words. To our wonderful friends and neighbours to whom we are indebted, especially Sinead and Declan Leonard, Fergus and Margaret Dempsey, The McEvoy family and to the many generous people who provided food and provisions to the house. Thank you all so much.

To Mr. Shaw for allowing the use of Centrepont Car Park. It was much appreciated.

Thank you to Msgr. Byrne and the Priests of Portlaoise Parish for the beautiful, dignified Mass and comforting words, also to the choir who sang beautifully at the funeral Mass. To these who helped in anyway; sent flowers, Mass cards and letters, your contributions did not go unnoticed and will always be remembered.

Our sincere gratitude for the professional and compassionate guidance of Matthew Keegan funeral Directors and the grave diggers.

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

*"What wisdom can you find that
is greater than kindness"*

John's Months Mind Mass
will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise,
on Saturday 13th April at 10am.

Rest in Peace John



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First Anniversary of **ANNE MALONE**

Dublin Road, Portlaoise.
Anne died 4th April 2018

And Months Mind of her husband **WILLIAM MALONE**

Dublin Road, Portlaoise.
William died 13th February 2019



The family of Anne and William wish to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised and offered their support on their sad passing. To all those who called to the house, attended the rosary, funeral Mass, sent Mass and sympathy cards, and floral tributes, thank you.



To our relatives, neighbours, and friends who helped in any way, your kindness was much appreciated.

Thank you to all the Priests of the parish for their prayers and support, and for the beautiful funeral ceremonies. Thank you also to the parish team for their assistance and kindness.

Sincere gratitude to Maher Undertakers for their professionalism and compassion.

Heartfelt thanks to Anna Bergin and Julianne Woods for their beautiful music at the ceremonies.

Most especially, we offer our deepest gratitude to the management and staff of St. Brigid's Hospital, Shaen, who looked after Anne and William with such incredible dedication and kindness.

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

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

Anne's First Anniversary Mass, and William's Months Mind, will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 13th April at 6:30pm.

Rest in Peace Anne & William

You are the
Light
of the World



**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET SCULLY**

19 Millbrook, Portlaoise, whose 4th Anniversary occurs
9th April 2019



Sister: To a Special Sister

Sisters have such a special bond, it lasts a
whole life through,
And if sisters were flowers in the
garden of life, I know that we'd pick you.

*Loved and remembered by Catherine,
Bernie and families x*

May Margaret Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET SCULLY**

19 Millbrook, Portlaoise, who died 9th April 2015



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 7th April at 11.15am.

Four years have passed since that sad day when one we
loved was called away,
God took her home, it was His will, but in our hearts she
liveth still.

*Always remembered and loved by your husband Pat and
son Mark,*

Mam

There is a sad but sweet remembrance,
There is a memory fond and true,
There is a token of affection Mother and a heartache still
for you.

*Love you always, your daughter Sharon, Cliff and
grandchildren Ryan, Emma and Kate.*

May Margaret Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
EAMONN FARRELL**

115 Rossvale, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 7th April at 12:30pm.

Though your smile is gone forever, and
your hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories, of the ones we loved so
much,

Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part,
God has you in his keeping and we have you in our hearts.

*Loved and remembered by his loving wife Kim, daughters
Róisín, Rachel, Amy and Réilín.*

May Eamonn Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MYRA O' BRIEN**

Late of Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary occurs 13th April 2019



We often sit and reminisce and have a smile
or two,

Telling family stories of things we used to do,
They bring a laugh, sometimes a tear,
And we always wish that you were still here.

Loved and missed everyday by all your family.

May Myra Rest in Peace

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARY (Mollie)**

KEOGH

Ridge Road, Portlaoise,
whose anniversary
occurs at this time.



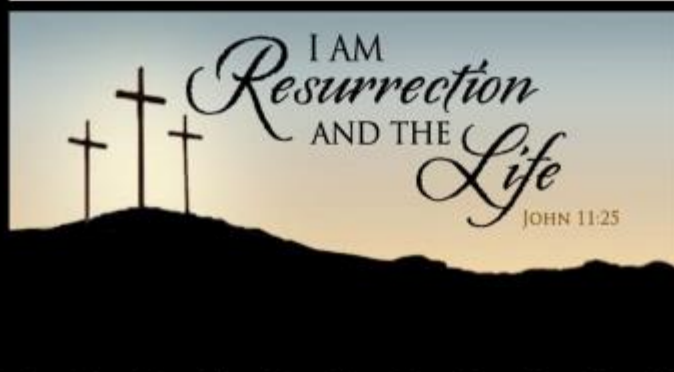
**ALSO HER SON
PAT KEOGH**

whose 25th anniversary occurs 21st April 2019

Deep are the memories
Precious they stay
No passing of time away
Can take them away.

*Loved and remembered everyday by all your loving
family.*

May Mary & Pat Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of JOSEPH COLBERT

*Formerly of 49 St Brigid's Place Portlaoise.
20th Anniversary occurs 9th April 2019*



In tears we saw you sinking,
and watched you pass away,
Our hearts were almost
broken, we wanted you to stay,
But when we saw you sleeping,
so peaceful, free from pain,
How could we wish you back
with us, to suffer that again?

It broke our hearts to lose you but you did not
go alone,
For part of us went with you, the day God took
you home.

*Always loved and remembered by you wife Marie,
sons, daughters, daughters in-law, son in-law,
grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

May Dad Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH (Nellie) BROPHY

*"Villino", Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.
Died 7th April, 2018.*



Peter, Marian and Paul would
like to extend their sincere
thanks to all those who
offered sympathy, sent Mass
cards, messages and letters of
condolence on the death of
their mother.

Special thanks to all who
attended or contributed to
mum's reposal, funeral Mass
and burial.

We would especially like to thank the management and
staff of Kilminchy Lodge Nursing Home, Portlaoise for
the exceptional love and care they gave to mum.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually
please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of
our sincere appreciation.

Mum's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated, Sunday
7th April at 11.15am in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Portlaoise.

May Elizabeth Rest in Peace



Author John Dunne presents a cheque for €1,300 - profit from the hardback edition of A Book About Portlaoise - to St. Vincent de Paul Society members; Teresa Phelan, Mary Cullen, Billy Fitzpatrick, and Mary O' Donovan.

John wishes to thank everyone who bought the book and made this donation possible. The paperback version will be out on 1st May. To ensure a copy, ALLBOOKS in Lyster Square are now taking pre-orders.



RELIGIOUS NOTICES

Adoration: Monday to Friday after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Saturday after 10am Mass concluding with Rosary 6pm. Sunday commencing at 2:30pm, concluding with Rosary 7pm. From 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Sunday will be a special time of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood.

Adoration in the Church of the Assumption the Heath Sundays from 2.50pm to 4pm.

Rosary: Please join the Prayer for Ireland team in praying the Rosary daily at 9.30pm on the Parish radio (106.5fm) or web cam.

Rosary at the Grotto: First Fridays and all Feast days to Our Lady, 8pm.

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

"Meditating... Being Mindful... Seeking God": 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.

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

Portlaoise Tidy Towns A.G.M.: Monday 15th April at 8.15pm in the Parish Centre. If you love where you live and feel you would like to be involved in improving our great town why not come along and join our group. All our welcome.

Coming Soon to the Dunamais Arts Centre: "Sive" by John B. Keane - 24th and 25th May, presented by Fourth Wall Laois Theatre. A play not to be missed, featuring an all star cast and crew.

Sue Ryder Charity Shop: Donations always welcome of ladies/gents good quality clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, jewellery, giftsets, curtains, household appliances, unwanted gifts, bed linen, blankets, furniture. Call Marguerite on 085-8662842.

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.

April 10th: An entertaining afternoon with our musical maestro Caroline. Exercise the vocal chords to reach the high notes and the low notes with songs that many will have come to know and love through the years.

Upcoming Event: On April 24th, Portlaoise ARA is celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the foundation of the club. This is a major milestone in our history, and promises to be a very entertaining and exciting day for all our members. It will feature live music, a DVD highlighting a 15 year story of achievement, followed by delicious afternoon tea, with catering by Café Latte. All members should collect their invitations, and ensure the 24th is printed in the diary. This is an event not to be missed.

Family Fun Day in Raheen: Sunday 5th May featuring a Fun Run 6K Walk or Jog. Bouncing castles, stalls and side shows, also a car and tractor run, modern and vintage vehicles. Music and entertainment on the field and a two band session that night in aid of the Lalor House Restoration Project. Enquiries to 087-9614235.

Thrombosis Ireland are hosting a free information morning in the Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise for anyone interested in learning more about blood clots, DVT, PE and AFib (Irregular Heart Beat). The Patient and Carer Information & Support Meeting will be held Monday 29th April from 10:30am to 12:30pm in the Seminar Room of Portlaoise Hospital. To book your free place contact Ann-Marie, 087-3634828 or e-mail info@thrombosisireland.ie

St. Vincent De Paul Hidden - But still among us: Prisoners are easy to forget. Locked in institutions, they seem to disappear from society's sight. But prisoners still belong to the society that incarcerates them. Most will eventually be released, and the experience they have in prison will greatly affect their ability to adjust to life 'outside' as law-abiding citizens. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul have a panel of people that visit inmates in Midlands and Portlaoise Prison. If you wish to be involved, please text 086-0462405.



PATH will be in Lyster Square every Wednesday evening between 7:30pm and 9pm. We will have tea/coffee/soup/fresh bread and other items available free of charge. Please call down and meet our committee members & volunteers. All welcome.

GROW Community Mental Health Support Group meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Why not come along and learn more about positive mental health, wellbeing, recovery and how GROW may help you achieve this. Free of charge. All welcome. Contact Michelle 086-4183805 or visit our website, www.grow.ie for further information. [GROW Promoting Positive Mental Health]

Laois Alzheimer's Society Resource Centre at 47 Main Street Portlaoise is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. We are back on tour this month; we are having our **Social Club** on 11th April 2.30-4pm in **Ballard Lodge Nursing Home, Borris Road, Portlaoise** for people with Dementia and their carers. This is a very relaxed informal event where activities, fun and chat can be shared over a cup of tea. If you are in the area please join us. All welcome.

Raheen Vintage Club will host a **Vintage Road Run on Sunday 14th April in aid of Laois Alzheimer's Society.** The run will commence from Colt GAA pitch, Raheen. Registration will start from 11am, departing at 12.30pm sharp. We are aiming to be back in Eamon A'Chnoic for 3pm. Registration Fee of €20 per vehicle and we will have donation buckets out on the day. We will also have a raffle on the day to raise more funds. For more information contact Chris 087-7691972 (Chairman) or Eddie 085-7648090 (Secretary) of Raheen Vintage Club.

Support Group will be on **Wed. 17th April, 7.30pm-9pm** in **Resource Centre, Portlaoise.** The support groups provide an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation, to access information and practical advice in supportive environment. Free to family members affected by dementia and memory issues. For any information on dementia contact Ann Munnally, Homecare Coordinator on 057-8663398 / 086-8372168 or e-mail laois.branch@alzheimer.ie

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