

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
up**

12th July 2020

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank You!

Our return to public worship has been made possible by our group of dedicated stewards and cleaners. (Some photographed here) Thank you very much!

We ask for your patience and understanding as we comply with the necessary regulations and guidelines.

Safety First



**The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie**

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fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

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



In One Ear

“In one ear and out of the other,” is an expression that could be applied to most of us, for at least some of the time. Today’s gospel is about the difference between simply hearing something and really listening. Jesus uses the parable of the sower and the seeds to illustrate the different ways in which God’s word can be received or not!



Firstly the sower drops seeds on a path only to be eaten by the birds. Jesus is describing those of us who hear the word but neither understands nor even tries to understand it. Next the sower drops seeds on rocky ground and the plants grow quickly but die off because the roots are not nourished. Jesus is describing those of us who receive the word without any real thought or commitment. Without foundation our faith can soon falter when put to the test. Then Jesus describes the seeds which fall among thorns. Sometimes we want to live by Jesus’ teachings but worldly demands and temptation choke our good intentions. Lastly Jesus praises the good soil which enables the seeds to grow and bear fruit.

The parable of the sower and the seeds is clearly challenging us to be better prepared to receive the seed of the gospel. It is all too easy for us to go through the motions of listening when really not much is going on between our ears at all. The Bible is a treasure trove of inspiration but because it was written such a long time ago in words that aren’t always easily understood we are often inclined to switch off. Do we come to church expecting to be bored by the readings or confused and indifferent before one word is even read? How different things might be if we allowed God’s Word to impact our lives.

Listening is more than just opening our ears. Listening is about studying, learning, understanding ...and most importantly, turning that understanding into action.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday—Friday

7.30am, 10am & 11am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigils)

4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm

Sunday

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

Welcome



We welcome Bishop Denis who will celebrate our 10am Mass on Sunday in the Parish Church.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Jana Anne O’Neill, Newpark

Adam Patrick Harkin, Boughlone Way

Violetta Golovcanska, Borris Road

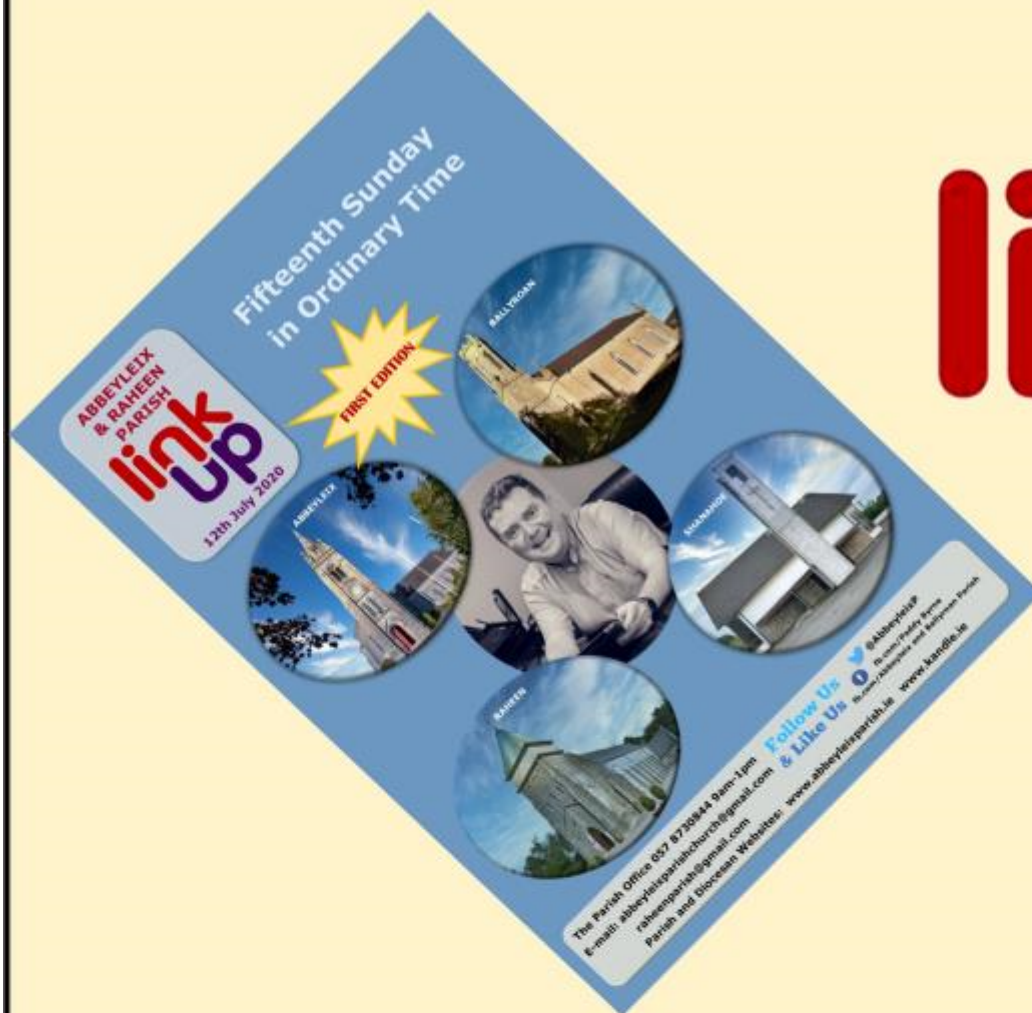
who were baptised last weekend.

Baptisms

If you wish to book a baptism, you can now do so with the Parish



Office, 057 862 1142. To cope with the backlog, Baptisms, for now, will be celebrated any day Monday to Saturday at 1.30pm in the Parish Church and each ceremony will be limited to 4 families, with ten people per family.



link Up

The Link UP breaks new ground this week with an Abbeyleix/Raheen edition, bringing parish news and services to your attention. We welcome new readers from our neighbouring Parishes. We hope the **Link Up** will serve these communities well, as it has Portlaoise parish over many years, and continues to do so. It will also facilitate memorials, anniversary notices etc. from these parishes along with those from Portlaoise.

The Abbeyleix/Raheen edition will have its own distinctive cover each week, their own Parish notices on page 2 and inside the back cover details of parish contact numbers and other information relevant to these parishes. Both editions will share the rest of the publication, death notices, memorials, anniversaries, advertisements, Fr. Paddy's blog, Cate Kids for our younger parishioners and the many other interesting articles.

Contact Details: The Parish Centre, Portlaoise, 057 869 2154

Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday: 11am-1pm & 2.15pm-5pm

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

(We request adverts for design to be submitted before 5pm Tuesday please)

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

link Up

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I hope you are all well and staying safe! We are delighted to inform patients the clinic is now open. While there may be an easing of restrictions based on the current pandemic, we are maintaining strict procedures at Taylor & Conroy Clinic.

We are continuing our Covid 19 clinic policy of pre-screening each patient and at present for the benefit of patients we are not treating patients that fall under the high risk groups.

Patients with appointments are required to wear a face mask and to remain in their vehicles until called by their practitioner.

Many thanks for your patience and understanding at this time.

For more information contact **Kellie or Darren 086-867 5060**



KELLIE TAYLOR BSC (Hons) Ost. M.O.C.I. and DARREN CONROY BSC (Hons) Ost. M.O.C.I.

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DELIGHTED TO BE OPEN AGAIN

We have resumed our printed magazine and it is great to be interacting with all our local advertisers once again.

In line with HSE guidelines, we have made some changes to how the office will operate;



1. Where possible we ask that you please submit your adverts and notices by e-mail to linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie.
2. If you do not have access to e-mail and are submitting your advert to the office, we ask that you please have your notices/adverts and memorials/acknowledgements written out before arriving to the office.
3. [Only 2 people in the office at any time](#) - we appreciate your patience and co-operation. If there are already two people in the office when you arrive, please take a seat outside the door.
4. If you are placing an Anniversary notice, please book your Mass at reception before arriving to the office.
5. We ask that you please use the hand sanitiser outside the office before entry and then take a seat in the office and observe social distancing.
6. We will be unable to design/edit adverts or memorials while advertisers are present as we have previously done, advertising will be proofed by e-mail if required.

We thank all our advertisers for their continued support to the linkup and we look forward to welcoming you back and working with you again.



The deadline to place adverts is 12 noon Wednesday.

(subject to availability of space)

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Best wishes to
Abbeyleix, Ballyroan,
Shanahoe and Raheen
Parish on the launch of
their new linkup magazine
this weekend.



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Best Of Luck

To Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Shanahoe and Raheen
Parish on the launch of their new **Link Up**
magazine this weekend.

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The Parable of the Sower



As Jesus travelled around the countryside with his disciples, large crowds often gathered around him to hear him teach. He often taught them by using parables. A parable is a story that Jesus made up to help people understand what he wanted to teach them. Our Gospel today is one of the parables of Jesus. It is called The Parable of the Sower. It was a story about a man who planted seeds in the field. Listen to the story that Jesus told.

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he scattered the seed, some fell on the hard path nearby and the birds came and ate it up.

As the farmer continued to plant the seeds, some of them fell on soil that was full of rocks. There was not much dirt around the

rocks so the seeds started to sprout and grow the very next day. The only problem was, there was little dirt, so the plants didn't put down roots which would help them become strong and healthy. In the afternoon, the sun was very hot so the plants that had started to grow in the rocky soil withered and died because they had no root in the ground.

Some of the other seeds fell on soil that had been taken over with weeds and thorns. The weeds and thorns grew faster and taller than the plants from the seeds, so they choked out the plants that the sower wanted to grow.

Finally, some seed fell on the good soil that had been ploughed, fertilised, and weeded to make a good place for the seed to grow. Those seeds made healthy plants and produced good fruit.

This is the lesson that Jesus wanted his disciples to learn, and it is also the lesson that he wants us to learn today. The seed that the sower was planting in the story represents the teachings of God's Word. Our heart represents the soil where the sower planted the seeds.

Sometimes the priest at Mass is trying plant the teaching of God's love in our heart. If our heart is hard and filled with anger and bitterness, the teaching falls on hard ground and never grows, just like the seed that fell on the hard ground in the parable that Jesus told.

There are other times when we hear the Word and we get excited about it, but then our excitement fades away because our understanding is too shallow. That's the way it was with the seed that fell on the rocky soil.

Sometimes we hear the Word and we believe what it says, but we want to keep on doing the same things we have been doing. That is like planting the seed in with a bunch of weeds. I'm sure you can guess what happens. The weeds will soon take over!

The last seed is the best, it fell on the good ground. If you learn from what you hear in Sunday School and church, the seed that Jesus plants in your heart will grow. Your life will produce good fruit just like Jesus intended. You will be helping others to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's love.

Our Prayer

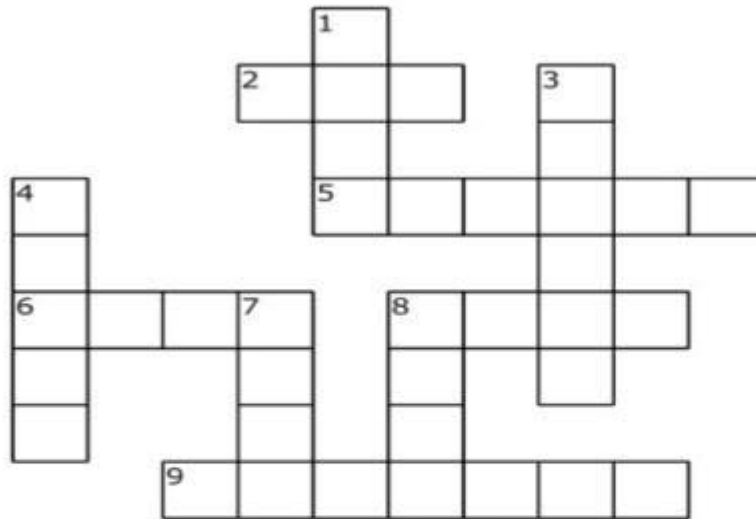
Our Father, help us to be like the good soil in our lesson today. Help us to listen to your Word and grow up to be the kind of boys and girls you want us to be.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



The Parable of the Sower

"But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it." **Matthew 13:23a**



ACROSS

- 2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow.
- 5. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant.
- 6. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers.
- 8. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow.
- 9. Not deep.

DOWN

- 1. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth.
- 3. A person who owns or takes care of a farm.
- 4. Covered with stones.
- 7. A way made by or for people walking on the ground.
- 8. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or ploughed and in which plants grow.

PATH

CROP

SOIL

THORNS

ROOT

SHALLOW

FARMER

SEED

SOW

ROCKY

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 Z E T H C G T L A C V O E L M
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PLANTS

SCORCH

FARMER

THORNS

CROP

WITHER

BIRDS

ROOT

SHALLOW

SOW

SOIL

FELL

PARABLE

CHOKER

SEED

GREW

ROCKY

GOOD

PATH

SCATTER





TIME TO THINK!

Suicide - A pandemic that continues to devastate

During the past ten days, five lives have been lost to suicide in Laois. Wonderful lives, abruptly ended, leaving behind families overwhelmed with grief and sadness. We live in most challenging times, I suggest all our vulnerabilities are exaggerated in a time of crisis. The Corona Virus, is not just a threat to our physical health, but also adds greatly to the strain of our mental health. Lockdown, has intensified fear and anxiety to many people who live with struggling mental health. By the end of this pandemic perhaps more people will have died in Laois as a result of suicide than the actual Corona Virus.

Suicide prevention remains a universal challenge. Every year, suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. It is responsible for over 800,000 deaths, which equates to one suicide every 40 seconds.

Every life lost represents someone's partner, child, parent, friend or colleague. For each suicide approximately 135 people suffer intense grief or are otherwise affected. This amounts to 108 million people per year who are profoundly impacted by suicidal behaviour. Suicidal behaviour includes suicide, and also encompasses suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. For every suicide, 25 people make a suicide attempt and many more have serious thoughts of suicide.

Suicide is the result of a convergence of genetic, psychological, social and cultural and other risk factors, sometimes combined with experiences of trauma and loss. People who take their own lives represent a heterogeneous group, with unique, complex and multifaceted causal influences preceding their final act. Such heterogeneity presents challenges for suicide prevention experts. These challenges can be overcome by adopting a multilevel and cohesive approach to suicide prevention.

Donal Walsh, before his death, pleaded earnestly to his young peers to value life. A message powerfully communicated to every Secondary School in this Country, in his DVD "Life is Gift". "I realised that I was fighting for my life for the third time in four years and this time I have no hope. Yet still I hear of young people committing suicide and I'm sorry but it makes me feel nothing but anger. I feel angry that these people choose to take their lives, to ruin their families and to leave behind a mess that no one can clean up." He pleaded, "Please, as a 16-year-old who has no say in his death sentence, who has no choice in the pain he is about to cause and who would take any chance at even a few more months on this planet: appreciate what you have, know that there are always other options and help is always there."

"Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem,". It's consequence leaves a permanent heartache in the lives of loved ones who are left behind wounded, bereaved, broken and so often void of the apparent answer to why a sibling, son or daughter, brother or sister, partner, neighbour or friend; should end their life in such a tragic manner. Of course the darkness and despair in those final moments when life is ended by suicide, in no way defines the totality of that person's life. In the same sense "Nothing can separate us from the love of God".

God's love is best summed up as our saviour dying out of love on the cross prayed aloud; "Today you will be with me in paradise". The frequency of suicide is an alarming reminder of how fragile and vulnerable the human mind is. I believe mental illness is the most difficult of any human cross to carry. When illness is physically manifested, it is tangible, acceptable and real. Illness of the mind is more subtle, and less apparent than a broken leg or physical illness. However, mental illness can be hidden, stigmatised and much more difficult to "fix".

Perhaps the greatest devastation that results from suicide is the unanswered questions that loved ones will forever struggle with. Why did this happen? Should I have recognised the signs? Why did they leave this pain on us? How did I not know that they were so unhappy? I believe the burden, anxiety and overwhelming despair that brings somebody to end their own life is itself the most lonely and vulnerable cross any human has to carry. I suggest that theirs surely is the Kingdom of Heaven - a kingdom that transforms despair into hope, darkness into light, and being lost into the joy of being found. Any individual whose life has ended in the darkness of suicide also has a life story filled with brightness, gentleness and tremendous actions of human love. In these dark days that are so uncertain and difficult for so many, please talk out your fear to somebody. Avail of so many listening ears in family and community who can offer support and help.

It's ok not to be ok.



There is a vaccine to this dreadful reality, which is to have the courage to seek help, to talk, to avail of so many services waiting for you to listen. If you need someone confidentially to listen

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Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,400 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movement for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on www.dfa.ie

All people are advised to:

- > **Reduce** social interactions
- > **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- > **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit hse.ie OR phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**

How to Prevent



Stop

shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people



Distance

yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Avoid

touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Symptoms

- > Fever (High Temperature)
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- > Shortness of Breath
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*Where I have gone I am not so small
My soul is as wide as the world is tall
I have gone to answer my call
The call of the one who takes care of us all
Wherever you look, you will find me there
In the heart of a rose,
In the heart of a prayer
On butterflies' wings, on wings of my own
To you, I'm gone, but I'm never alone
For I am happy and content that
I am finally home.*



The deadline for receipt
of Anniversaries and
Acknowledgments for
our next publication
(18th/19th July) is;

**12 noon Wednesday
15th July**

Where possible please e-mail your notice and
photo to linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

If you do not have access to e-mail and would
like to submit your notice in the office, we ask
that you please have your completed notice
written out before arriving to the office and also
please book your Mass at reception before
submitting your notice.

In line with HSE guidelines and to adhere to
social distancing, we are unable to design or edit
notices while advertisers are present.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

**In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE LEWIS**

The Heath, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 11th July 2020



**Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in the
Church of the Assumption, the
Heath, this Sunday 12th July
at 9:30am.**

Geraldine, we're missing you a
little more, each time we hear
your name,

We've cried so many tears, yet our hearts are
broken just the same,
We miss our times together, things in common we
could share, but nothing fills the emptiness now
you're no longer there,
We have so many precious memories, to last our
whole lives through and each one of them reminds
us of how much we're missing you.

*Your loving husband Derek, children Serena,
Rachel and Darragh and grandson Killian xxxxx*

Our hearts are filled with memories, we've gathered
through the years, all the happy times we shared are
treasured souvenirs,

Sweet is your memory, precious your name,
Deep in our hearts you will always remain.

Fondly remembered by Mammy and Daddy xx

Times may pass and fade away, but silent thoughts
and memories stay,

No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts
you're always there.

Sadly missed by Sean, Valerie, Edel & families xxxxx

Geraldine, we shared some laughs, we shared some
tears, but best of all Geraldine we shared great
years,

No more tomorrows for us to share, but yesterdays
memories will always be there.

*Always remembered by Ted, Tricia, brothers-in-law
and sisters-in-law xxx*

May Geraldine Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

My Precious Son

JAMIE-LEE MOORE

5th Anniversary occurred 10th July 2020.



Son my angel up in Heaven,
I wanted you to know,
I feel you watching over me,
everywhere I go.
I wish that you were here with me,
but that can never be,
Memories of you in my heart, that
only I can see.
My angel up in Heaven, I hope you
understand, that I would give up
anything, if I could hold your hand,
I'd hold you oh so tightly, and never let you go,
And all the love inside of me, to you I would show,
My angel up in Heaven, for now we are apart,
You'll always live inside of me, deep within my heart.

Jamie, love and missing you always, Mammy xxx

Our Darling Brother Jamie-Lee

We miss you in the morning, and when the sunset fades
away, the ache within our hearts, just will not go away,
Our hearts fill with love for you, when we think how much
you cared,

As we relive all the happiness, and the joy that we all
shared,

You're with us every moment, and in every move we make,
Lie the memories we have of you, that we never will
forsake.

*Love and miss you, every minute of every day Jamie-Lee;
Tanya, Tina, Jake, Taylor and Kyra-mae xxxxx*

My beautiful Nephew Jamie-Lee

Time slips by and life goes on, but from our hearts you're
never gone,

We think about you always, we talk about you too,
We have so many memories, but we wish we still had you.

Love always, your Aunty Sharon, James and family xxx

Rest in Peace Jamie-Lee

In Loving Memory of

JOE JACOB - Kyle

3rd Anniversary occurs at this time



*Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts*

Sadly missed, loved and always
remembered by all his loving family
and friends.

Rest in Peace Joe

In Loving Memory of
WILLIE KEANE



Late of Corrigeen Stradbally.
2nd Anniversary occurs 14th July 2020

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

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by all your loving family.*

May Willie Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance
MARGARET HOULIHAN

14 Oaklawn, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise
3rd Birthday away from home occurs 15th July 2020



Missing You on Your Birthday.

You were very kind and thoughtful with a warm and loving heart,

And when other people needed help you always played your part,

You're thought of every single day, whatever time of year, But somehow more than ever now your special day is here.

No present can be given and that's really very hard,

But there's a world of love inside all of our hearts,

Each memory is shining bright and treasured dearly too.

But memories can't take the place of someone dear, like you.

Sadly missed and always remembered by your husband James, sons & daughters and grandchildren.

May Margaret Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
SEAN FARRELL

Broomville and late of Rosenallis



Sean's wife Beth, sons John, Billy and Mark, daughter Catherine, son-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, would like to thank you most sincerely for your support on their recent sad loss of Sean.

Thank you to those who sent Mass and sympathy cards, floral tributes, messages of condolence, those who called in person and supported us in any way, it is greatly appreciated.

A special word of thanks to the Priests of the Parish, especially Fr. Ciprian for the lovely ceremony and Fr. Tom for all his extra calls and kindness to Sean over the last 6 years.

Thanks to Dr. White for his care of Sean and to the staff of Portlaoise and St. James hospitals for the care and kindness to Sean on his many visits.

Heartfelt thanks to his carers Anna, Grace and Larry and our good friend Catherine for all the early morning calls.

Our thanks to the staff of Hughes Pharmacy for all their help over the years.

Our sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for their professionalism, kindness and support, to Aishling for her beautiful singing and to the gravediggers for preparing Sean's final resting place with such care.

Thanks to his wonderful family and friends for all their visits and phone calls which meant so much to Sean.

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.

Rest in Peace Sean

In Loving Memory of
FRANCES CARROLL

72 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise
2nd Anniversary occurs 17th July 2020

Frances' Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 20th July at 6:00pm



God looked around his garden and found an empty place, He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you, and lifted you to rest, God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in pain,

He knew that you would never, get well on earth 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.

Loved and sadly missed by Maria, Dermot, Fiona, Aidan, Fergal and Christine, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchild.

May Frances Rest in Peace



Parish Lotto Returns on Thursday 23rd July

Our parish lotto draw will return on Thursday 23rd July at 5pm in the Parish Centre until the Bingo resumes. Tickets are available in the Parish Centre.

Jackpot is €20,000

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)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Thursday 16th July

The Carmelites were known from early on as "**Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.**" The title suggests that they saw Mary not only as "**mother,**" but also as "**sister.**" The word "**sister**" is a reminder that Mary is very close to us. Mary helps us grow in appreciation of being sisters and brothers to one another. She leads us to remember that we all belong to the family of God. When such a conviction grows, there is hope that the human race can find its way to peace.



"As the farmer sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path.....Some fell on rich soil and produced their crop,"

ON LINE DONATIONS

There has been a very generous response to our on-line donation facility. We are very grateful for your support at this time.

If you wish to contribute in this way you may do so by visiting our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie and follow the directions to donate. If you wish you may sign up to a regular subscription by this method. This may indeed be the way of the future as it is unlikely we will be back to passing 'the basket' any time soon, if ever. We will also make available Standing Order forms in the near future for parishioners who would like to support by this method.

We are very grateful for the support we receive.

Thank You.

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and 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

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Jooly

(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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Menus from **29.00**