

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
up

15th March 2020

Third Sunday of Lent



A Coronavirus Prayer

**Loving and healing God,
We, the people of Kildare and Leighlin turn to you in prayer,
confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment.**

**We stand before you as people of hope,
trusting in your care and protection.**

**May your faithful love support us
and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.**

**Generous God,
fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old,
that we may look after one another in these challenging days.**

**Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus
and be with their families.**

**Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick
and all who work in our medical facilities.**

**Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance
that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people.**

**We pray in gratitude for all those in our country
who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life
for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe.**

**O God of creation and life, We place ourselves in your protection.
May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.**

St Brigid, pray for us.

St Conleth, pray for us.

St Lazerian, pray for us.

May all the saints of God, pray for us. Amen.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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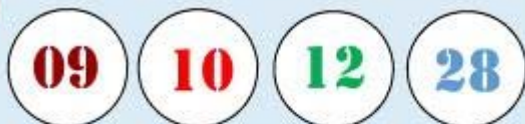
Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie

Portlaoise Parish



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12th March 2020

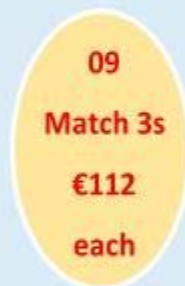


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Priests of the Parish



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



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



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



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



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

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

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can
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
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Saint Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

19th March

It is disappointing considering the importance of St. Joseph's role, that the gospels do not tell us more about him. All we really know of his character is that he was a 'holy and righteous man who generously cooperated with God's grace.' Early Christians must have been more interested in imitating Joseph's virtues than recording biographical details. So today, as the early Christians did, we honour Joseph for trusting in God's plan even though he had limited understanding of its reasons or consequences. We offer petitions to him as patron saint of fathers, guardians, workers and of the dying.



Arrangements due to the Coronavirus

The following instructions take into consideration the new norms issued by the Irish government which came into force at 18.00hrs on Thursday 12th and to last up to and including Sunday 29th March.

The restriction that indoor gatherings cannot exceed 100 people means that, with regret, we have to cancel our Sunday Masses. No public Sunday Mass will be celebrated in any of our Churches or at our Mass centre at Scoil Bhríde.

The motivation for these new restrictive measures is a sense of care for the common good and especially for those most vulnerable. Each Christian community should be acutely aware of the responsibility to care for those who are most at risk. For example, even where it may not be appropriate to visit the elderly, a simple telephone call to enquire about their needs could mean so much to them.

Daily Masses:

Mass will be celebrated in our Parish Church at 7.30am and 7.30pm each weekday (excluding Tuesday 17th March) in the hope that congregations are less than 100 people.

We invite you to join in worship via our Webcam accessible at www.portlaoiseparish.ie and Parish radio 106.5fm

The daily Masses (7.30am and 7.30pm) will be streamed live via our radio and webcam www.portlaoiseparish.ie. And behind closed doors at 10am.

Sunday: Mass will be celebrated behind closed doors in the Parish Church at 11am, streamed and broadcast, also on St. Patrick's Day.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You
as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to
You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

**We welcome into our
Parish Community**
Vada Patricia Greene Devitt, Coolnacba
Ruairí Gerard Hearn, The Grange
Grace Muldowney, DunMasc
Liliana Maria Ruth, Parnell Crescent
Willow Rose Hayden, Colliers Lane
Seán Jack Booth, Colliers Lane
Tadhg Joseph Quigley, Loughteague.
who were baptised last weekend



Stations of the Cross after
7.30pm Mass every Friday
during Lent.

Sunday 8th March 2020

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

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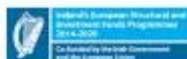
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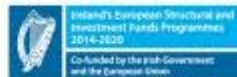
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The Woman at the Well

Most of you probably play some kind of sports. What kind of sports do you play?

Whether you play sports or just play hard, you know that when you're exercising, it's very important to take in plenty of liquids.

The question is: What kind of liquids should you drink?

Ordinary water, of course, is a good choice, but when you go to the shops, the shelves are full of all kinds of sports drinks, energy drinks, and flavoured water. It's hard to know what's best.

The advertisement for one popular brand of sports drink says, "It's better than water, juice, or any other drink. It gives your body what it is thirsty for! It gets you going and keeps you going."

Wow! They have me convinced, but one thing I've noticed: In all the claims made by sports drinks, not once have they ever claimed that if you would drink their product, you would *NEVER* be thirsty again. If somebody had something that would do that, they would really have something, wouldn't they? Well, Jesus claimed to have that very thing!

One day Jesus was walking through a town in Samaria. He was hot and tired so he sat down beside a well to rest. A woman came to the well to get some water and Jesus asked her if she would give him a drink. The woman was surprised that Jesus spoke to her because Jews would not usually speak to Samaritans.

Jesus told her that He could give her living water!

She didn't understand what He was talking about so she said, "You don't even have anything to get water in, how can you give me living water?"

Then Jesus said, "Whoever drinks from the water from this well will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst again."

Wow! Water that would satisfy your thirst so you would never be thirsty again! Jesus wasn't talking about our thirst for water from a well. He was talking about our thirst for God. The Bible teaches us that we have a thirst in our heart for the living God. And that is a thirst that only Jesus can satisfy. So when we have Jesus in our heart, He satisfies our thirst for God and we will never thirst again! Jesus is life! Drink it up!



My Prayer

Dear Lord, You have given us Jesus, the Living Water. May we drink of Your Living Water so we will never thirst again. In Jesus' name, Amen.



ST. PATRICK

As a teenager, Patrick was captured by Irish raiders and forced into slavery for six years. During this time he learned the language and customs of the Irish people. He also grew close to God. After the six years, he escaped and made his way back to his family. Then he decided that the people of Ireland needed him. So, he began to learn the Bible and train for mission work. Once he was ready, he returned to Ireland and preached to the people for 40 years before he died. As he converted the Irish, he made disciples out of them. Many of his followers went on to become renowned religious leaders as well.

Saint Patrick left behind a great example for us to follow. He could have hated the people who stole him from his family, but he knew that they needed God's love. He loved his enemies and wanted them to know God like he did. In addition to converting many, he spent time training them to lead others. We need to learn from his example of not only converting the lost but training them in God's Word after they convert. Patrick's love, forgiveness, service, and leadership provides us with an excellent example to emulate.



Saint Patrick



First Penance



All First Penance services will NOT take place until further notice due to recent HSE guidelines.

Feast of St. Joseph March 19th

Joseph looked after Jesus and helped Mary to mind him. That is why Saint Joseph is the patron saint of fathers. Say a prayer to Saint Joseph today.



Ask Saint Joseph to bless your Daddy, your granddad, Uncle, or whoever helps to mind you like Joseph helped Mary. Make sure to say thank you to that person today. Tell him that you asked Saint Joseph to bless him.



Extract from Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.





TIME TO THINK!

CASES OF CORONAVIRUS RISING DAILY - THE CHALLENGES.

With cases of coronavirus rising each day, the challenges posed to health services, workplaces, vital national infrastructure, and the social and communal fabric of our lives come to the forefront of our attention. It is already apparent that the economic impact of the virus as it spreads will be felt worldwide, with growth forecasts downgraded and travel and tourism industries braced for a significant hit. The full effect on human life, already significant, is yet unknown.

What is clear is that, as a society, we will likely experience significant upheaval as a result of this health crisis. In 2009/10 the swine flu pandemic (the last virus to be officially termed a pandemic by the World Health Organisation) was a very mild strain of flu and despite its global spread had low morbidity rates compared to seasonal flu. Early indications suggest that the novel coronavirus is significantly more dangerous, especially to those with underlying health conditions, and is spread more easily.

The idea of containing a disease in our major cities is certainly a challenge. The connections we have around the country and across the world make tackling the spread of the virus more difficult, especially if we are trying to mitigate the economic consequences.

Rodney Stark in his book *The Rise of Christianity* looked at how the response of the early church to the plagues in Rome was integral to the growth of the church. He quotes the early bishop Dionysius saying: "Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Headless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead..."

It's not that Christians should throw sense to the wind or ignore advice. It's certainly not that the communion cup contains special powers that prevent germs being transmitted. But it is a determination that in a world gripped by fear of what might be, the church should be the non-anxious presence that witnesses to the peace of Christ that lives in us.

Many communities will feel the impact if more stringent restrictions on travel and gathering are placed in coming weeks and months. Proposals to close schools will affect parents being able to work. If towns are put into lockdown as has occurred in Italy, panic buying and food shortages may occur. Let us be the non-anxious presence that speaks of the Prince of Peace and His wonderful coming kingdom.

As Christians we should be sensible, but we should continue meeting, we should continue serving our community, and we should continue to share the good news of Jesus with our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours.

Technology can be a useful tool to serve those who are unable or unwilling, or for whom it is inadvisable to be in contact with other people, but we shouldn't unnecessarily distance ourselves from those in greatest need.

In many communities the church is the first to arrive and the last to leave. It notices challenges before statutory services are mobilised and it remains committed when funding might dry up. The church is the embodied witness to the resurrected Christ, through the lives of men and women committed to following in His steps and living in His likeness.

I realise the irony of calls for isolation, or the novel idea of 'self-isolation'. In places with so many people around we can still be isolated, cut off from human connection and starved of relationship. We should not be careless or aid the spread of the virus, but we should think of our motivation. Are we formed by fear of what might be or fuelled by hope of who God is and what He can do? How can we speak peace to the panic buyers of anti-bacterial gel and the afraid-to get-on-the-train commuters?

And we must pray. Pray for medical professionals, and government decision makers, for those who are already isolated and concerned about cutting off vital connections. Pray for people who are at greater risk of more significant consequences of becoming infected. Pray for miracles. And pray for the witness of the church of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis prayer for Corona Virus



O Mary, you always shine on our path, as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



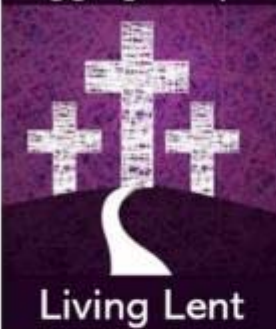
Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 2020



Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways to make our Annual Solemn Novena such a wonderful grace filled occasion. Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us. More photos on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie



A Weekly Bulletin for Lent

PART THREE

JESUS IS THE LIVING WATER WHO GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE

The celebration of baptism: Gathered around the font



Having welcomed the children and their families at the door of the church, listened to God's Word and anointed the children with the strengthening Oil of Catechumens, the children are brought to the font for baptism. This is what we are here to do, to baptise these children so that they may share in the faith of the Church and have new life with

Christ through water and the Holy Spirit. The font is only used to welcome new members. Just as Jesus went down into the waters of the Jordan and heard God say, 'This is my beloved on whom my favour rests', so every child brought to the font is a loved child of God.

Before baptism a **PRAYER OVER THE WATER** is said. This prayer draws us into the depth of God's power and love at work in our human story. It recalls the great moments of salvation history such as the water at the dawn of creation, the great flood, the exodus through the Red Sea, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the water that flowed from the side of the crucified Christ. Together, the water and the prayer, point to a God who calls us to be a new creation, calls us to a life of holiness, forgives our sins, frees us from the many 'slaveries' of the world, gifts us with the Holy Spirit, calls us to be generous in sharing this good news with others, who has created us in God's own likeness and who calls us to share in Christ's resurrection. From this it is clear that baptism is not a casual step on our life journey but is one that firmly sets us on a definite path in life to live in a particular way.



Sacraments are not magic! To reach their fullness, sacraments presume faith and faith presumes an ongoing and growing relationship with God. The *practice* of our faith that flows from baptism is a daily habit. Along the way it needs guidance and support to grow and flourish. This is what happens in the family - faith is nourished by prayer but also by the Christian values and beliefs that guide a family as they live and grow together. This is why the **PROFESSION OF FAITH** is a necessary step in the celebration of baptism. In the case of infant baptism,

parents and godparents make this profession as part of accepting the responsibility and the privilege of sharing their faith with these children. The profession of faith is two-fold, involving a **renunciation of sin** and a **profession of faith**. This highlights that when we turn towards God we also actively and consciously turn away from evil in our lives. The Profession of Faith contains the central elements of our Christian faith. It professes what we believe as an individual Christian and together as a Church. It is this faith that we renew our commitment to every Easter, having done our Lenten preparation.

Now we are ready for the **BAPTISM** of the children in water and in the name of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These children are now part of the family of God. This is the water of life that washes us clean from sin and the human condition; this is the water that leads us into a new life, a new relationship with God and with the Christian community.

THE SHAPE OF THE RITE OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Reception of the Children
Welcome; Naming of Child;
Sign of the Cross

The Liturgy of the Word
Scripture readings;
Intercessions; Litany of the Saints; Anointing with Oil of Catechumens

Baptism
Blessing of water;
Profession of faith; Baptism

Explanatory Rites
Anointing with Chrism; White Garment; Candle; Ephphetha

Concluding Rite
Our Father;
Blessing and Dismissal



Weekly Gospel Link



The Woman at the Well

This much loved Gospel is a pivotal reminder as we make our Lenten journey that Jesus is the source of our life. It is the first of three Gospels from John which we listen to in Lent that draw on central symbols in baptism – in this instance the symbol of water.

In the encounter between Jesus and the woman we see God's mercy in action. The woman is an outsider, left to draw water at the hottest part of the day, alone. Jesus actively reaches out to her, ignoring the social norms of the time that would keep her in isolation. And in doing so the woman, and us in turn, come to know Jesus as the source of our life, as the living water that dwells within us, as our saviour.

As we welcome this reading into our hearts this Lent, may we have the same experience as this woman. May we welcome Jesus into the very circumstances of our life to heal us and bless us, may we see Jesus as our saviour who brings us to eternal life, and may we bring this good news to others.

See kandle.ie for a weekly reflection on the Lenten Sunday readings.

Each one of us can identify with the Samaritan woman: Jesus is waiting for us, especially in this Season of Lent, to speak to our hearts, to my heart. Let us pause a moment in silence, in our room or in a church or in a separate place. Let us listen to his voice which tells us "If you knew the gift of God...". Pope Benedict XVI

Anyone who drinks the water I shall give will never be thirsty again. (John 4:14)



| March 1 | March 8 | March 15 | March 22 | March 29 | April 6 | April 9-12 |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Stepping into Lent Together | We are called to recognise, listen to and follow Jesus | Jesus is the living water who gives us eternal life | Jesus opens our eyes to the Good News of our faith | Jesus lifts us up to new life in him | Together as a diocesan family for the Chrism Mass | Celebrating the Easter Triduum, baptising and renewing our baptism |

Exploring a Practice for Lent:

The Works of Mercy

Pope Francis reminds us that the Christian life involves the practice of the traditional **seven corporal** and **seven spiritual works of mercy**. These works have a long history in the Church and find their origins in the words and actions of Jesus. If we look at the works of mercy as a whole, we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces. The catechism puts it succinctly when it says, 'The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbour in their spiritual and bodily necessities.' (Par 2447)

In Lent we are reconnecting once more with how to live our baptism. It is a great time, then, to look at these works as ways in which we can actively and practically respond to Jesus' invitation to us to love our neighbour. The **Corporal Works** are to: Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit those imprisoned; and bury the dead. The **Spiritual Works** are to: Counsel the doubtful; instruct those lacking knowledge of faith; correct sinners; comfort the sorrowful; forgive injuries; bear wrongs patiently; and pray for the living and the dead.



During the Year of Mercy in 2016, Pope Francis proposed **a new work: Care for our common home**. As a spiritual work it calls for a grateful contemplation of God's world and as a corporal work it requires simple daily gestures and actions

which break with the selfishness and exploitation of our world and seeks to build a better world.

See kandle.ie for a poster that explores the Works of Mercy.



Digging Deeper - Living Lent Some Suggestions for the Week



- + Persevere in your chosen resolutions for Lent and remember their purpose is to bring you closer to God
- + Get some holy water for your home and use it as you come and go to bless yourself
- + Reflect on the works of mercy and choose one or two to practice this week
- + Use the Trócaire prayer to pray for rain where there is drought in the world. See kandle.ie for the text of the prayer
- + Go for a walk, contemplate the beauty of God's creation
- + Do a Friday Penance
- + Find ways to conserve and reduce your use of water in the home. See water.ie/conservate for easy tips that go a long way!

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



Sean Miller
Derrygarron and formerly
Vicarstown



Patricia Mitchell
(née Bassett)
Rossvale and formerly
Ballyfermot



Sean Clancy
Old Knockmay Road

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
PATRICK RYAN

12 Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
90th Birthday occurs 16th March.

*Loved and sadly missed by all your loving
family.*

May Patrick Rest in Peace



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**In Loving Memory of
THOMAS HALPENNY**

*2 Craydon Court, Portlaoise.
18th Anniversary occurs 14th March 2020.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday
15th March at 11.15am

It's sad to walk the road alone, instead of side by
side,
But to all there comes a moment when the ways
of life divide,

You gave me years of happiness, then sorrow came with tears,
But you left me beautiful memories, I will treasure through the years.
Love and miss you so much.

Remembered always by all his loving family.

Rest in Peace Thomas

**Cherished Memories of
THE HOULIHAN FAMILY**

Late of St. John's Square, Portlaoise



In sad and loving memory of;

Our Dear Mam Elizabeth; *Died 7th March 1989*
Our Gran Ellen Neilus; *Died 10th March 1966*
Our Brother Eugene; *Died 12th March 2013*
Our Brother Mick; *Died 24th March 1970*
Kathleen Huber McEvoy; *Died 24th March 2018 and
whose 2nd Anniversary occurs at this time*

So Sadly Missed. ... So Very Loved

I'd been with you that very day,
Little did I know that hours later I'd receive this blow.
There are so many things I would have said, as you walked
away,

But how was I to know that we were sharing our last day.
Every time I come here, the thoughts run through my head,
I stand here with a broken heart and say the things I should
have said.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by your
sons, daughters, brothers and sisters.

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL (Mick) BURKE**

*Prague Ville, Stradbally Rd., Portlaoise.
10th Anniversary occurred 13th March 2020.*



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

*Very fondly remembered by all his
loving family.*

Rest in Peace Mick

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Bumper)
WHELAN**

*16 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
10th Anniversary away from home.*



Dad:

I am sending a dove from
Heaven with a parcel on its
wings;
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.

Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs;
To say how much I miss you,
And to send you all my love.

I hold you close within my heart, and there you will
remain;

To walk with me throughout my life,
Until I see you again.

*Love and miss you Dad, sadly missed by all your
loving family.*

May Patrick Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARY FINGLETON**

*Park, Stradbally.
1st Anniversary occurs 19th March 2020.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 21st March at 6:30pm.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered everyday.

*Sadly missed by all her loving family
and friends.*

Rest in Peace Mary

**In Loving Memory of
TOM WALL**

*23 Beladd, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 24th March 2020*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 22nd March at 12:30pm.

*Lonely is the home without you,
Life for us, is not the same.*

Sadly missed by his loving wife and family.

Rest in Peace Tom

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET (Peg) NOLAN**

26 Borris Rd. Portlaoise
19th Anniversary occurs 13th March 2020

*In loving care you rest above,
In our hearts you rest with love.*

Margaret's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 15th March at 12:30pm.

Always remembered and missed by your loving family.

May Margaret Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
MARIA GREENE**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 15th March 2020

Maria's 6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 15th March at 12:30pm.

*Sometimes when I first awake,
I think that you're still here,
And for a fleeting moment,
The clouds all disappear.*

*For you brought endless sunshine, until you went away,
And now I miss you desperately, each minute of the day.*

*You would not like to see me sad, so what I try to do,
Is live a bright and happy life, in memory of you.*

*For though I'll always miss you, and it's dreadful being apart,
I haven't really lost you, you are still here in my heart.*

*Forever in our hearts, from Daddy, Mommy, brother
Stephen, sister Natalie, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins
and friends xxx*

Maria, Away with the Angels



**In Loving Memory of
ORLA CONROY-KELLY**

25 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs 16th March 2020.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Monday 16th March at 7:30pm.

*Without your kind and gentle
smile and sweet familiar face,*

*A treasured life is missing,
And the world's a sadder place.*

You lived your life so graciously,

You always did your best,

*And now you're with the angels and it's time for
you to rest.*

*As peace surrounds you everywhere in Heavenly
skies above,*

*Here on earth you're deeply missed and thought
about with love.*

*We see the stars at night time, shining bright and
clear,*

*And as we say goodnight, God bless, we know
that you will hear.*

Loved and missed so much Orla, from your heartbroken children; Lydian, Paddy, son-in-law Sean, granddaughter Orla-Mae, Mammy & Daddy & Brendan, Sharon & Jim, Lorena & Shane, Lynda & Damien, Olivia & Brian, Geraldine & Rocky and your adored nieces & nephews who miss you so much.

May Orla Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA NORTON**

6th Anniversary occurs 19th March 2020

*Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you're always there,
Loved with a love beyond all telling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.*

Patricia's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 21st March at 6.30pm.

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

May Patricia Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
EILEEN ROCHFORD (née Farrell)**

Lakeglen and St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurs 17th March 2020

*Although we're sad without you and
wish that you were here,
Within our hearts your lovely smile still
shines bright and clear.*

*We treasure the memories growing up
with you, the secrets we could share,
And as the years pass quickly by we
wanted you to know, that on this day
thirteen years on, our hearts still miss
you so.*

Anniversary Mass for Eileen will be celebrated in Sts Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 15th March at 12:30pm.

*Sadly missed & always remembered by your sisters & brothers,
nephews and nieces.*

May Eileen Rest in Peace





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RELIGIOUS NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stations of the Cross: Each Sunday evening during Lent at 7pm in St. Josephs Church, Mountmellick. All are welcome to attend.

An Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community Praise and Worship Meeting will be held in Portlaoise Parish Centre, Saturday 28th March, starting at 10:40am immediately after 10am Mass. Holy Rosary, Praise and Worship with Music Ministry.

Teaching Topic: Praying for Healing
Spiritual Director; Fr. Ruairi O' Domhnaill

Contact Michael Nerney for details at 086-8157305. All are 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

Scrap Metal Collection for free: All types of scrap metal, old car batteries, also scrap cars removed. Contact Joe 083-8593296.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

Bowls: Every Monday in St. Mary's Hall at 3pm - regular & 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.

18th March: An afternoon of dancing with our expert teacher and creative artist Maureen, so it is time to don your favourite dancing shoes and imagine you are Ginger Rogers for a few hours. There is the added benefit of keeping fit, as well as having an enjoyable afternoon.

25th March: Just a reminder of the Fashion Show on the 25th when the ladies and gentlemen of the ARA will be striding the catwalk in their finery to demonstrate the many and varied new creations. More on this to follow.

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].

Portlaoise Tidy Towns AGM: Monday 6th April in Portlaoise Parish Centre at 7pm. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Probus Abbeyleix is organising a Day Outing to the Olympia Theatre, Dublin on Sat. 18th April, to see the play "The Three Hail Mary's", a hilarious comedy by Tommy Marren. Leaving Abbeyleix at 11am for show at 3pm and returning to Abbeyleix before 10pm. For further info. contact P.J. 087-8298856.

Sing for Joy Choir: In the interest of the good health and safety of our members, their carers, their families and indeed Siobhán, P.J and I, we made a collective decision today to suspend rehearsals until Wed. 22nd April. We will all miss this amazing social occasion each Wednesday but we look forward to getting back to business, better than ever on Wed. 22nd April at 11am in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Thanks for the JOY. Maureen.

Why Not Take The Short Term Pledge as your Lenten Sacrifice?

As part of its work in the promotion of temperance and sobriety, the Pioneer Association has a Short-Term Pledge section for adults over the age of eighteen years. This pledge enables a person who does not wish to make a life commitment to total abstinence to take a pledge for a limited period of time and make worthwhile sacrifice

If you feel that you can and would like to take the pledge for the six weeks of Lent, please go online at

www.pioneerassociation.ie and follow the links to join or contact your local representative on

087-2868092

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee

wish to advise that a box will be placed in the Parish Church for applications for sponsorship in full or part for our upcoming 2020 Pilgrimage. The box will remain in the Parish Church from 16th March to 14th April. All applications must include name, address and phone number, and if your application is for medical reasons, a letter from your GP with permission to travel.

All applicants must be willing to share with another person or be prepared to pay a single supplement for themselves. All applicants will be contacted following our meeting in April 2020 to advise of the outcome of their application.



Sunday 15th March
In Mountmellick Arts Centre at 8:30pm
Books; Single €10, Double €15.



Set of Hearing Aids
 found on the Timahoe Rd., Monday 9th March.
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on 22nd May 2020 for 6
nights. Selling price €400.

Contact James;
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CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

For 3 school going children in Portlaoise, 2-3 afternoons per week.

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Mile Fáilte to join us at
An Sean Chistin, Irey, Ballyfin

R32XSD6

Thursday 19th March, 8pm

An evening of caint, comhrá, ceol agus craic.
Maith sibh go léir. Máirin 087-6482038.



Portlaoise Bingo and Lotto

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions our Bingo will be suspended until after the prescribed period of 29th March.

The next Bingo scheduled for St. Mary's Hall will be held on Thursday 2nd April when we hope normal service will be resumed.

The Parish Lotto draws scheduled for 19th and 26th March will proceed.

The numbers will be drawn in the Parish Centre at 5:30pm on those days - Thursday 19th and 26th. The draw will be live on facebook and can be accessed via the Parish website.

Thank you for your co-operation at this time and as well as taking good care of yourselves, please keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours, relatives and friends.

Friday 20th March 2020

TREAT YOURSELF TO

COFFEE & CAKE

in celebration of
World Down Syndrome Day!!

Portlaoise Parish Centre after 10am Mass

Hosted by
The Down Syndrome Centre Midlands

Irish Cancer Society cancels Daffodil Day collections and events due to coronavirus

The Irish Cancer Society has taken the decision to cancel all Daffodil Day street collections and events that were scheduled for Friday, 27th March 2020 as a result of the coronavirus.

Coronavirus COVID-19

The HSE has issued guidelines in relation to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and issued the following advice to Parishes;

- Suspend the sign of peace with immediate effect.
- Holy water fonts should be emptied and not used.
- Holy Communion should be administered into the hand only, advise Mass goers of this before communion is distributed. Everyone administering Holy Communion should wash their hands or use alcohol based hand gel before beginning.
- The practice of shaking hands on greeting and departure should be suspended.

The Bishop has asked that in the present circumstances we follow this advice.



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HAPPY ST.PATRICK'S DAY

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