

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

22nd March 2020

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

(Laetare Sunday)



HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY

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



Results for

19th March 2020

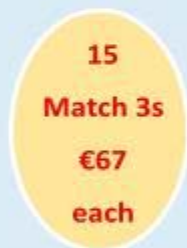


No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

John Hennessy
Mona Lisa Crabb
John Murphy
Gabriella Houlihan
Marian O'Connor
Kathleen Kane
Robert Stack
Maura Redmond
David Fitzpatrick
Frank Anthony Cullen
Bill Lawless
Betty O'Rourke
Pat Kirwan
Fran Feighery
Elizabeth & Jack Killeen

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Elizabeth Bartley
Chris Holohan
James Houlihan
Paddy O'Connor
Kathleen Kane
Browns Shop
Carmel Whelan
Tony Fitzpatrick
Frank Cullen
Betty McCarthy
Betty O'Rourke
Mary Haslam
Breda Conroy
Pam Killeen

When we reconvene the Jackpot will still be €20,000

In the meantime thank you for participating

Mind yourself

and let us take care of each other

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 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

PARISH SHOP
057 8621142

A PARISH INITIATIVE

DURING THIS CRISIS

Coronavirus COVID-19

For the Elderly and Vulnerable in our Parish

If you need any assistance during this time, to pick up prescriptions or to do some shopping, or would like to talk to someone we have a team of volunteers ready to help. Please call **085 2125978**.

Mothering Sunday



Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home... a day off to visit their mother and

family, usually taking gifts of cake or flowers. Nowadays it's a day to show our mothers that we appreciate and love them. Happy Mothering Sunday.



Seeing the Bigger Picture

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God.

Consequently they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject, teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works.

SERVICES VIA WEBCAM FROM OUR PARISH CHURCH

Monday—Saturday

Morning Prayer — 8am

Evening Prayer — 6.30pm (with Benediction on Saturday)

Stations of the Cross at 3pm

Rosary at 9.30am, 7pm and 9.30pm

THE PARISH OFFICE

Remains open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Insofar as possible please contact by phone or email only

Tel: 057 8621142 email: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

There will be a limited access to the public from 10.30am to 11.30 am for anniversary remembrances, Certificates, Mass cards etc.

THE PARISH CENTRE

Unfortunately will close for the duration of the present crisis.

THE Link Up

This will be the last print edition of the Link Up for some time. You will continue to be able to access the Link Up online on our website and our Facebook page.

We would love to be able to predict when normal service will resume but be assured 'this too will pass'! In the meantime keep in touch with the Parish please via our webcam and on Facebook and Twitter. You will be remembered each day in our prayer.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday—Sunday 10am

(behind closed doors)

We invite you to join in worship via our Webcam accessible at

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

and **Parish Radio 106.5fm**

shalomworld.org/live

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am Mass.

Annunciation of the Lord March 25th



Our Lenten practices are designed to make us more aware of the choices and direction in our lives.

The Angel Gabriel gave Mary a choice. It was God's plan to use her as the bearer of his Son, but she didn't have to say 'yes'. We pray that as Mary's 'yes' brought forth the Saviour of the world, so we too will have the courage and wisdom to say 'yes' to God's plan in our lives.

If all our faults were written on our forehead, we would sooner meet a blind man than a scholar!!

We welcome into our
Parish Community

Kevin William O'Brien
Colliers Wood

Leon Patrick Dunne-Nicholson
Buttercup Avenue

Joey Terence Powell-Doyle
Colliers Court

who were baptised last weekend



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to E.U. Standards providing dwelling is at least 7 years old.
(Not available to people on mains water supplies)

AQUA TREATMENT

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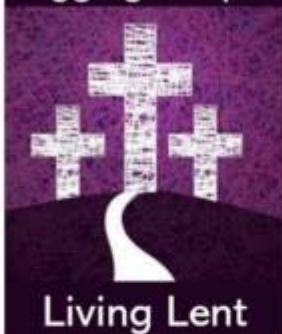
Mulhall's Butcher Counter is Open Every Sunday 9am - 5pm

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Let Us Reveal Your Business!



A Weekly Bulletin for Lent

PART FOUR

JESUS OPENS OUR EYES

TO THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR FAITH

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



Clothing with White Garment

In the early Church people took off their old clothes, entered the baptismal pool for baptism and were wrapped in new garments when they emerged – their old way of life was shed for a new way, a new life in Christ. The prayer in today's rite reminds us that through baptism we are a new creation, clothed in Christ. Through baptism we are invited to wrap ourselves in Christ and to live in dignity as children of God.

What is the meaning of the Explanatory Rites?

Baptism immerses us into a new life in Christ. Through our baptism we are made Christians and we spend the rest of our lives discovering the depth of this gift to us. In the Rite of Baptism for Children, following baptism we experience a series of rites that begin to unfold the meaning of what we have just done in baptism.

Each of these simple yet profound rites consist of a **symbol**, an **action** and a **prayer**. Together these three elements express something of the meaning of baptism and its implications for who we are as Christians.

Anointing After Baptism

After baptism the crown of the infant's head is anointed with **Chrism**. This is olive oil, perfumed with balsam. It was consecrated by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass. Perfumed oil was very precious in Old Testament times and was used on special occasions, such as the anointing of priests, prophets and kings, those chosen by God to lead God's people. The word 'Christ' means 'anointed one' and so when those who followed Jesus recognised him as the Messiah, the one sent from God, they began to call him 'Christ'.

This anointing confirms our baptism with water and signifies our sealing with the Holy Spirit. Through baptism each of us has been joined more closely with Jesus Christ and are called to share in his work as **priest** when we pray, **prophet** when we share the good news of the Gospel and **king** when we love and serve one another.

Just as the oil of Chrism is absorbed into our skin and becomes part of who we are, likewise through baptism we are absorbed into the Christian family and are members of the Body of Christ, the Church.

Lighted Candle

The Paschal candle stands as a sign that Jesus is the light of the world living among us. It was first lit from the fire at the Easter Vigil and is lit at our baptism and at our funeral, encompassing our earthly Christian journey. In baptism, it is used to light the baptismal candle, which is entrusted to parents, the first teachers of faith. As we grow and mature, our calling is to keep the light of faith burning brightly in our lives.

Ephphetha (*meaning 'be opened'*)

The blessing of the ears and mouth is a powerful reminder of the mission we each are given in baptism: to open our ears to receive God's word and to open our mouths to share it with others.

Weekly Gospel Link



The Curing of the Man Born Blind

This is the second of three Lenten gospels this year that draws on a symbol of baptism. In this Gospel we encounter the symbol of light and we are invited to recognise that Jesus is the light of the world.

In the curing of the man born blind we see Jesus sending the man to the pool of Siloam to wash. He comes away from the pool with his sight restored. Indeed, among all the people, including religious leaders, he ultimately is the only one who sees Jesus for who he really is.

On Ash Wednesday we were sent on a journey to renew our baptism at Easter. Along the way we can follow the example of the man in this gospel story.

This Lent we can ask ourselves: Where in my life is there shadow/darkness/blindness? What do I need to do to see and put Jesus as the light of my world?

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

Exploring a Practice for Lent:

Praying the Rosary

The Catechism reminds us that Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ (CCC 2708). The purpose of this meditation is to draw us deeper into union with Jesus.

The prayer we know as the Rosary offers us a special way of meditating on the Mysteries of Christ. It is a scripture based prayer, with the Our Father, Hail Mary (x10) and Glory Be forming the basis of each decade. Each decade draws us in, to meditate on one of 20 mysteries from the life of Christ.



In the 16th century Pope Pius established the standard fifteen mysteries of the Rosary which he grouped into three, the Joyful, the Sorrowful and the Glorious Mysteries. In 2002, Pope St John Paul II added a new set of five, known as the Mysteries of Light or Luminous Mysteries.

As we pray the 12 prayers in each decade we are called to meditate and reflect on the mystery associated with the decade.

*Against the background of the words **Ave Maria** the principal events of Jesus Christ pass before the eyes of the soul (Pope St John Paul II)*

As a personal devotion, people are free at any given time to pray whichever mystery they choose. A tradition has emerged where particular mysteries are associated with particular days of the week as follows: **Joyful** – Monday, Saturday, and the Sundays of Advent; **Sorrowful** – Tuesdays, Fridays and the Sundays of Lent; **Glorious** – Wednesdays, and the Sundays outside of Advent and Lent; **Luminous** – Thursdays.

The Lenten season is a most suitable opportunity to spend time, individually or as a family, meditating on the **Sorrowful Mysteries**: *The Agony in the Garden* (Matthew 26:36-46), *the Scourging* (Matt 27:26), *the Crowning with Thorns* (Matt 27:29), *the Carrying of the Cross* (John 19:17), and *the Crucifixion* (Luke 23:33-46).

See kandle.ie to download a Rosary Prayer Card and a card on the Mysteries of Light

The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the holy virgin. (St Therese of Lisieux)

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. (John 8:12)

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
- + Pray the Mysteries of Light and /or the Sorrowful Mysteries
- + Be kind to your mammy throughout the week!
- + Check the energy efficiency of your light bulbs and change them if necessary
- + Look out for someone who might need your help and offer it
- + Visit a church, light a candle and say a prayer
- + Turn off lights when not in use



Digging Deeper



March
1

Stepping into
Lent Together

March
8

We are called
to recognise,
listen to and
follow Jesus

March
15

Jesus is the
living water
who gives us
eternal life

March
22

Jesus opens our
eyes to the Good
News of our faith

March
29

Jesus lifts us
up to new
life in him

April 6

Together as a
diocesan family
for the Christm

April 9-
12

Celebrating the
Easter Triduum,
baptising and
renewing our
baptism



Here's Mud in Your Eye!

Jesus was walking with his disciples when they saw a man who had been blind since birth. The disciples thought that man was blind because he or his parents had sinned, but Jesus told them,

"It is not because of his sins or his parents' sins. This happened so that the power of God could be seen in his life."

Then Jesus knelt down, spit on the ground, and stirred up some mud. He took the mud and put it on the blind man's eyes.

He told him, **"Now, go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam."**

The man went and washed the mud from his eyes and when he came back, he could see! Now, you would think that everyone would think that it was wonderful that the blind man could see, but the Pharisees weren't. Do you know why? It was because Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees thought that was a sin to do anything on the Sabbath - even if it was to help someone in need. You see, they were more concerned with keeping their religious laws than they were with helping people. When the Pharisees asked the man how he had been healed, he told them that Jesus had healed him. They became angry and said to him, "God should get the glory for this - we know this man Jesus is a sinner."

"I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. **"But I do know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"**

I don't know what problems you may be facing in your life, but I know that if Jesus can heal a blind man with a little bit of mud, he can help you with anything you might be facing.



My Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are here today in need of the touch of Jesus. We pray that lives will be changed so that your name will be glorified. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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



First Penance



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Mother's Day used to be called Mothering Sunday and we have celebrated this special day in Ireland for hundreds of years. A long time ago children from poor families were sent to work as servants for rich families. They were allowed to go home every year on the fourth Sunday of Lent. The children were given a day off to visit the church in their home town. After visiting the church they went to visit their mothers and they brought flowers or baked a special cake for the occasion.

Our Prayer on Mother's Day

God our Father, today we thank You for one of your special gifts to us, our Mother. Thank You for the love she shares with us in so many ways. We thank her for the warmth she gives our home, for the cuts and bruises she makes well, for the ideas she gives us when we don't have anything to do, for the ways she makes peace when we are mean to each other. We thank her for seeing good in us that we don't see ourselves. Help us to love her as she loves us. And keep her close to You always. We ask this in the Name of Jesus your Beloved Son. Amen!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

'I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD' (Jn 9:5)

In today's Gospel we hear the parable of the blind man. Sometimes when we are angry or annoyed we are in a dark place which stops us from seeing clearly. Jesus tells us that he is the light of the world and that when we follow him, he will spread his light into a dark place to help us see.



I was blind



but now I see





TIME TO THINK!

SPIRITUAL NUGGETS OF HOPE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

This is a particularly tough time in human history where the new coronavirus has many people worried, unsure as to how to act and often undermined by fear. There can be for some a tendency to behave in a selfish or irrational way, where emotions can often override good decision making. Already we have seen examples of people behaving irresponsibly in panic buying or hoarding, ignoring social distancing or hand sanitising guidelines. Others dream up conspiracy theories and some even spiritualise the problem as a divinely sent plague, naively believing that religious faith alone will protect them from contracting the virus. However, we have also seen examples of great heroism (especially in front line staff), good will, human solidarity and courage. There is always a way through, people in darkness always find their way to the light.

St. Ignatius Loyola was a survivor, he survived a major life-threatening injury, convalescence, life begging on the road and times of great uncertainty. He developed an approach to 'living through difficulty' based on his experience and using certain rules of thumb. Based on these insights, I humbly offer some reflections and practical advice which may be of help.

Five Tips for Coping with Coronavirus:

1. Living in the Real; The first thing is to accept this new reality which has overtaken us. This is a painful transition as we try to hang on to the past, finding such radical change hard to accept. Things that we took for granted such as shaking hands, socialising and even going to school or work have radically altered. The Ignatian catchphrase 'Finding God in all things', challenges us to find peace in inhabiting this new, unasked for reality. The primary thing therefore is to accept the new reality or 'new normal'. Different rules apply and all of us are asked to change our behaviour to protect ourselves and crucially to protect others, especially those classed as vulnerable or with an underlying health condition. It's a no brainer that medical science has to dictate our approach, even given that the medical institutions are also scrambling to get a handle on this too. Now is not the time for private theories, alternative approaches or untested methods.

2. Face Your Fears; Though fear, anxiety and worry are normal responses to the current situation, it's important to not let them take over. Fear is not a good counsellor or guide, taken to its extreme it is crippling and immobilising. Ignatius recommends acting directly against unhelpful forces such as fear that can motivate us to make poor decisions. His term for this is 'agere contra', which means 'to act against'. The key thing to get here is that Ignatius is urging us to push back, to be proactive and not to give up. This could be summed up as: 'feel the fear and do the best thing anyway'. Contemplate your mortality and the fragility of life that this crisis points to. The paradox is that accepting this fact allows us to really live and to act appropriately. Everyday is a gift, a loan from the future. It's a miracle that we exist at all. Normally we are so busy 'living' that we take the gift of life for granted. We are held and loved by the divine. Take a moment to let this life-giving realisation sink in. There is nothing to be afraid of. In fact, we have a chance to put our affairs in order here, to take stock, to acknowledge failures and triumphs, and to see the hand of the Spirit here. Reflect on the question posed by poet Mary Oliver, "What will you do with your one wild & precious life?"

3. Avoiding Extremes; Extreme situations tend to bring out extreme reactions. One extreme is to be so overwhelmed that you are almost paralysed with fear and incapable of practising sensibly the recommended guidelines for dealing with this virus. The other extreme is the temptation to deny or to underestimate the risk involved. You can maybe feel 'bullet proof' as a young person or apathetic and demotivated as an older person. In both cases the unhelpful question, 'what do I care?' may be driving your actions. In between the two extremes is the space that most



of us are called to inhabit. There we can take all the precautions necessary and find a way of 'living within the limits' that has self-care balanced with concern for others. The goal is acceptance of the situation and taking reasonable responsive measures, hopefully being able to find meaning and purpose in this new reality. Ignatius uses the word 'discernment' to underline how to make good decisions. This involves taking time, being aware of the pull of the extremes and trying to find more reasonable options. It also includes carefully weighing choices, getting advice and evaluating outcomes.

4. Focus on the Light; One of the central Christian insights is that when darkness is all around, we are called to keep faithful and focus on the light, no matter how dim it seems. Remember the dynamic of the Cross. In moments of darkness and apparent abandonment, God works most powerfully. God is with us in the mess of things. The joy of the Resurrection always follows the anguish of the Cross. It's important to recognise we still have choices here and how we act is important. We need to take responsibility and act wisely, without being paralysed by fear or alternatively, driven by a rash impulsivity (panic buying for example). There are now new opportunities for solidarity, supporting others and building community. Ironically, smart phones and social networking present perfect solutions to 'distancing' while being able to communicate in a way that people feel your presence.

5. Keep Yourself in Balance; In times of crisis or storm it is really important to anchor yourself so that you don't get blown about by the winds. Ignatius recommends keeping your eyes on the path, one step at a time, moving steadily on. It's the image of a journey or pilgrimage where you attend to your feet and trust in the trail. This means getting all the basics right – rest, structure, diet, exercise, appropriate socialising and keeping oneself busy. The problem with this time of great social upheaval is that people can become scared, upset and irrational. We can get distracted from getting the basics right, taking our eyes off the road to look at the storm. It is understandable that this would happen, but we also have the power to take control of our own behaviour, and our physical and mental well-being. This means paying attention to our basic human needs and responding in a healthy way to them.

- Eat well, avoid snacks and junk food.
- Get some exercise, avoid long periods of sitting around.
- Stay connected with people, don't get too isolated.
- Try to make good use of your time by putting new structures and habits in place.

This is challenging but not impossible, normally it takes 6-7 weeks to set up a new routine. Setting up good habits will see us through. Take it gradually, walk one step at a time, but keep moving.

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

Some helpful information for our Elderly Parishioners

65+

TESCO

This is a time for help.

And at Tesco, thousands of our colleagues are working hard to help make sure that our communities have everything they need. From **Wednesday March 18th**, we will introduce dedicated time in-store for **over 65s and family carers**. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings up to 9am will now be a dedicated time for our senior citizens and family carers to have more space and a helping hand where needed.

Because now more than ever, every little helps. For details on opening hours for your nearest store see Tesco.ie.

Customer Notice

8am - 9am

**Dedicated to our
over 65's customers
from Wed 18th March onwards**

Iceland

clelands

Lower prices always

Due to the high level of risk to the elderly we are delivering groceries to their homes. Unlike other supermarkets we are not allocating shopping times for them as we believe this is only increasing the risk for the elderly to get the Coronavirus. Therefore we believe the safest method is home deliveries. We would ask that if you have elderly relatives or know of any elderly people that require our services to provide them with the following telephone numbers.

Clelands Abbeyleix	05787-30966
Clelands Kilminchy Portlaoise	05786-86083
Clelands Borrisokane	06756007

Please call between 10am and 4pm and our staff will be delighted to help.



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Elderly Shopping Hours 9-11am everyday.



SuperValu



Here at SuperValu Parkside, every morning where possible we will open the front doors at **7am-8am** to allow some of our elderly and more vulnerable people in our community come in and do their shopping.

With the help of our great colleagues in store, it will allow them get the few bits they need quickly and get back home safely. We ask the wider public to respect this time is for them and them only. Thank you

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



Angela (Jill) Keenan

née Callaghan
New Row, Green Rd. and formerly
Stradbally



Margaret Clarke-Kerry

New Road, Portlaoise and
Ballycommon, Co. Tipperary

Elizabeth Burke née Kavanagh

Dublin and Stradbally

Gerry Hayden

Glenbarrow, Ballyfin Rd. and formerly Co. Clare

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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Contact Matthew

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David **087-2369887**

HENRY RANKIN

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NIALL;
086-2770095



MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of our Mam

BRIGID (Cissy) MILLS

148 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
2nd Mother's Day away from home.



*To the world you were our Mother,
But to us you meant the World.*

*You are missed so much today Mammy.
Happy Mother's Day*

*With love, Gean, Cathy, Marie,
Patrick and Teresa xxxxxx*

Rest in Peace Mam

**In Loving Memory of
MARY FINGLETON**

Park, Stradbally.

1st Anniversary occurs 19th March 2020.



Mary's Anniversary will be remembered at
the 10am Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, this Sunday 22nd March.

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



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MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of our Mother

JANE SHIELS



We Miss You Mom

*If we could have one wish and our
wish would come true, it would be
to have you here with us, and
spend Mother's Day with you.*

*Happy Mother's Day Mam, with
love from all your loving family.*

Rest in Peace Mam

Mother's Day Remembrance
For The Loving Memory Of
ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY
 64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
 5th Mother's Day away from home

Mum in Heaven



Although you sleep in Heaven now,
 you are not that far away,
 My heart is full of memories, and
 you are with me everyday.
 You lived your life with meaning
 and with a smile upon your face,
 A world that was full of happiness
 is now an empty place.

People say that only time will heal a broken heart, but
 just like you and me Mum, it has been torn apart.
 I know you are at peace now and in a place where you
 are free, meet me at the pearly gates when Heaven
 calls for me.

To a much missed Mum on Mother's Day

A bouquet of beautiful memories, sprayed with a
 million tears,
 Wishing that God could have spared you, if just for a
 few more years.
 We cannot bring the old days back, when we were all
 together,
 The family chain is broken now, but memories live
 forever.
 Gone are the days we use to share, but in our hearts
 they are always there,
 The gates of memory will never close, I miss you more
 than anyone knows,
 With tender love and deep regret, I love you always
 and will never forget.
 My whole life through I'll treasure the happy times we
 shared, all the guidance that you gave and the way you
 always cared,
 Mum you were so gentle, so supportive and so kind,
 and how I cherish the memories that so softly lie
 behind.
 Amongst those treasured memories are all the lovely
 things you've done, and everyday my heart still aches
 for my one in a million Mum.

Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Thinking of you today Mum, but that is
 nothing new, for no day dawns and no
 day ends, without a thought of you.



With love on Mothers Day, James xxx
God Bless you Mother.

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

In Loving Memory of
My Wonderful Son
CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN
 6th Anniversary away from home



Of all the special gifts in life, however
 great or small,
 To have you as my son Craig, was the
 greatest gift of all.

A special time, a special face,
 A special son I cannot replace,
 With an aching heart I whisper low,
 I miss you Craig xxx and love you so.

*Sadly missed and loved always, your broken hearted Mother,
 Mudas, brothers Brandon, Noah, Junaid and sister Aisha.*

May Craig Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN
 105 Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.
 6th Anniversary occurs 26th March 2020.



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

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
 your loving father Michael, brother
 Brandon and sister Chloe, extended family
 and friends.*

May Craig Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL (Mickey) DOYLE
& JACK DOYLE

*Formerly 102 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise and
 Emmet Terrace, Mountmellick respectively.
 Mickey's 10th Anniversary occurs 30th March 2020.
 Jack's 12th Anniversary occurred 12th March 2020.*



Resting where no shadows fall,
 In peaceful sleep they await us
 all,

God will link the broken chain,
 When one by one we meet again.



*Also remembering their
 nephew Paul Doyle whose 10th Anniversary occurs in April
 Sadly missed and never forgotten by brother Joe and Kathleen.*

May They Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

BRIAN LARKIN

*Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
Whose birthday occurred 15th March*

And his Son

BRIAN LARKIN Jnr.

*Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.
Whose birthday occurs 21st March*



*We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories, and
your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit, and put
flowers there with care,*

*But no one knows the heartache, as we turn and
leave you there.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by Michael,
Samantha and Abbie xxx*

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

Our Wonderful Mother

HANNAH TUOHY

*10 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs 23rd March.
Also Our Dear Brother PA whose 2nd
birthday away from us occurred 17th March.*



*We miss you
both so much,
it hits us hard
each day not
having you
here with us.*



Loved and missed always - The Tuohy Family

May they both Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

FRANCES DOODY

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 26th March 2020.



*Death changes everything,
Time changes nothing,
We still miss the sound of your voice,
The wisdom in your advice,
The stories of your life and just being in
your presence,
We still miss you just as much today as we
did the day you died.*

*Always loved, never forgotten, Carol, Michael, Eimhin,
Aisling, Eoghan and Maria xxxxxx*

Rest in Peace Frances

IN LOVING MEMORY

Of our Daddy

KENNETH (Ken) CLEAR

*44 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary away from Home - 1st April 2020*



*As the sun has set upon your life and
your body was laid to rest,
We know you're up in Heaven
Daddy because God only takes the
best,
We know you are watching over us
and it takes away our pain,
We will carry you within our hearts,
until we meet again.*

*Our world is a little darker, now that we are apart,
But the memories are shining brightly within our broken hearts
You touched the lives of those you loved and we wanted you
to stay, but you were needed in Heaven and God whispered
"Come my way".*

*We know whenever we are lonely, and our smile becomes a
frown, we'll look up to the sky above and there will be an
Angel looking down,
Memories are a golden chain, death attempts to break but....
all in vain,*

*To have, to love and then to part, is the greatest sorrow of
ones heart,
The years may wipe out many things, but some they wipe out
never, like memories of those happy times, when we were all
together.*

Forever in our thoughts Daddy

We love and miss you everyday.

From Becky and Dylan xx

May Kenneth Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JERRY LODGE

*'Curradubh', Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 3rd April 2020*



*No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.*

*Jerry's Anniversary will be
remembered at the 10am Mass
on Saturday 4th April in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.*

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal

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CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

For 3 school going children in
Portlaoise, 2-3 afternoons per
week.
Children to be picked up from
school and minded in their own
home from 2.30-5.30pm approx.
Must have own car.
Phone; 086-0631998

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Portlaoise Active Retirement **Association (ARA)**

Meetings and Activities:

In line with recent Government
Recommendations, Portlaoise Active
Retirement Association have decided
to suspend all meetings, gatherings
and activities until further notice. We
recommend all our members and
friends to keep updated with the
frequent announcements from the
Government and the HSE, as they
are in the best position to offer
expert advice in this changing
environment. Keep in touch with each
other and stay safe.

Condolences: Is it with much regret
we learnt of the recent passing of our
dear friend and colleague Sean
Clancy. Sean was a long standing and
valued member of the ARA and will
be sorely missed. We offer our
sincere condolences to his wife
Kathleen, and his family, Caroline,
Martin, Maria, Colin and Patricia. May
he rest in peace.

Reunion Cancelled: The organisers
of the Brigidine Past Pupils Reunion
which was due to take place in the
Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge on Sunday
19th April, regret to announce that
due to Covid-19 Virus, we have had
to cancel the event in the interest of
health and safety.

IMPORTANT NOTICE **Portlaoise Parish Lourdes** **Pilgrimage Committee**

It is with sad regret that the
above committee wish to
inform the public that our 2020
Pilgrimage to Lourdes will not
be able to take place. This
difficult decision has been
reached by the committee on
the basis of the present
situation in Ireland and France
with the Covid-19 Virus. This
committee has a duty of care
to its pilgrims which mostly
have underlying health
conditions and for this reason
has cancelled the 2020
Pilgrimage. If you have been
availing of our saving scheme,
please contact Sean or Frances
for a full refund. We thank
you in advance for your
understanding and we look
forward to having you on our
2021 Pilgrimage with the
blessing of our Lady.

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.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older
People: ALONE has launched a
national support line and additional
supports for older people who have
concerns or are facing difficulties
relating to the outbreak of COVID-19
(Coronavirus). Professional staff are
available to answer queries and give
advice and reassurance where
necessary. The support line is open
Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by
calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be
extended to meet the demand.

STATEMENT BY LAOIS GPs IN RELATION TO COVID 19/CORONAVIRUS - 14/3/20

We understand that this is a time of uncertainty and worry for everyone. As GPs our response to COVID 19/Coronavirus is evolving daily. From the information we have available to us, the elderly, those with chronic disease and those with other co-morbid conditions are most vulnerable. We are making every effort to continue to provide safe services to our patients.

To do this we are asking for your help;

- Each practice will have different procedures in place for how they manage appointments, queries, paperwork and prescriptions. These may be different to usual. We ask that you be patient with our staff as they continue to do their best to help you. Please remember that they are also worried about their families and loved ones.
- The most important advice we can give, is that you wash your hands regularly, cover your coughs and maintain distance of 1-2 metres from other people. It is now necessary to reduce our social contact with others and therefore schools have closed. This will present challenges for us all, but it is an important measure in trying to slow transmission of the virus. Please remember to check in by phone on your vulnerable relatives to make sure they are well and have adequate provisions.
- We understand there has been much misinformation and rumours in relation to the management of COVID 19/coronavirus on social media including Whatsapp messages and Facebook posts. The HSE and Department of Health provide comprehensive information about the virus itself and the measures being taken to try and halt transmission. If you are worried about COVID 19/Coronavirus but you are well, rather than phoning your GP or MIDOC please use the following resources to get the most accurate up to date information; www.hse.ie | www.gov.ie
- Symptoms of COVID 19/Coronavirus include cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, fever or chills. If you have these symptoms the public health advice is to self-isolate for 14 days. More information regarding COVID 19/Coronavirus can be found on the HSE website; www.hse.ie, including information about when to seek help.
- There will be an increase in the number of people tested for COVID 19/Coronavirus in the coming weeks. If you have symptoms, please contact your GP by phone and testing will be arranged if indicated (Your GP does NOT test). Please update your contact number and Eircode with reception on calling. There may be delays in testing as our public health teams ramp up testing. Please be patient if you are referred for testing. While waiting for tests and/or test results patients will be required to self-isolate at home.
- It is important to remember that other illnesses will happen that are unrelated to COVID 19/Coronavirus. www.undertheweather.ie is an excellent resource for patients. It provides lots of clear information about looking after common illnesses at home. However more serious illnesses will also occur. Please contact your GP or MIDOC on 1850-302-702 if you have other concerns.
- All our phone lines continue to experience a high volume of calls and it may take time to get through. Again, please be patient. Your calls will be screened by staff and prioritised in order of importance. We ask that you provide staff with as much detail as possible about your concern so that we can triage the calls effectively.
- Please do not walk into your GP surgery, MIDOC or Emergency Department if you have symptoms of respiratory illness.
- We ask that you use the Emergency Department for emergencies only.
- To date the numbers of COVID 19/Coronavirus diagnoses are small but with increased testing we expect that we will see a significant increase in numbers. For most of us this will be a mild illness that we can self-manage at home but for some it will be a more serious illness. It is necessary that we protect our front-line staff in GP and in hospitals so that they can stay well to continue to provide the care and services that will be needed over the coming weeks and months.

We hope this information will help you access timely, accurate information and answer some of the questions that you may have.



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service