

PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
**link  
Up**

8th March 2020

# Second Sunday of Lent

Be sealed with the gift  
of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.  
Peace be with you.  
And with your Spirit.

**40  
Days**




Be Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit

Congratulations to each of the 353 boys and girls who were confirmed in the Parish Church last weekend. We hope the Holy Spirit with his gifts will enrich their lives and through them enrich their families and our Parish community.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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[fb.com/portlaoiselinkup](https://fb.com/portlaoiselinkup)

Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)



## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
5th March 2020

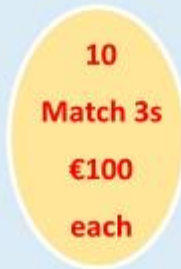


No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

Anne Brennan  
Marie Cowley  
Melissa Ryan  
Agnes Rowney  
Sharon Roche  
Mary Delaney  
Chloe & Amy Simms  
Sandra Moore  
Maura Byrne  
Jamie Conroy

MATCH 3s €1,000



### PROMOTER

Anne Brennan  
Mary Swayne  
Tanya Moore  
Paul Dooley  
On Line Lotto  
Mary Delaney  
Peter Ryan  
Eddie Phelan  
Mgt. Walsh  
Breda Conroy



[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

Next Week's Jackpot **€20,000**

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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](mailto:dlp@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142



## LENTEN STATIONS

### For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church  
porches for those who haven't got  
Development Boxes and wish to  
contribute to the Priests Collection.  
You can bring this envelope to Mass  
next Sunday or any Sunday during Lent.

### Lenten Reflection

Friday 10.30am

Parish Centre with Fr. Eddie Lalor

All are welcome.

Trócaire Boxes are  
available in the  
Church porches or you  
can pick up a box in  
the Parish Centre.

**TRÓCAIRE**

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# Lent



Pope for Lent: With God there is always a dialogue of the heart  
 In the Papal Message for Lent 2020, Pope Francis stresses the importance of prayer.

Pope Francis stresses the importance of prayer as a means of responding to God's love, "which always precedes and sustains us". We are also called to hear and respond to the Word of Jesus, in order to experience "the mercy He freely gives us".

God is always engaged in a "dialogue of salvation with us", despite our weaknesses and failings, the Pope says. This desire to save us "led the Father to burden His Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, 'turning of God against Himself' (Deus caritas est, 12)".



## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday—Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

### Saturday

10am

### SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### READINGS

Gn 12:1-4 Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

2Tm1:8-10 Mt 17:1-9

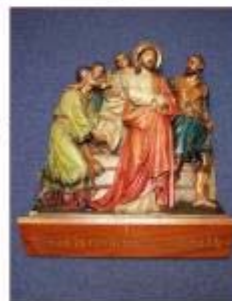
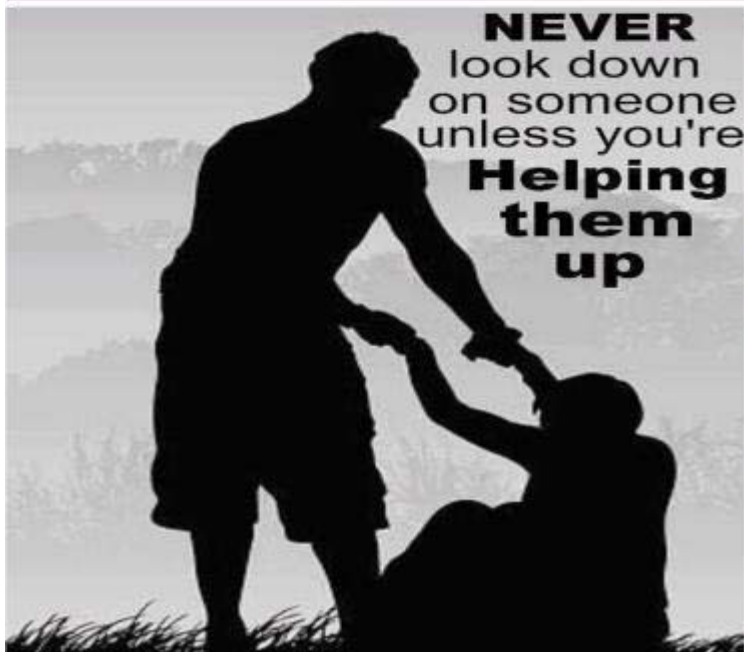
### Sunday 1st March 2020

Offertory Collection €2,518.00

Development Fund €3,641.00

€6,159.00

Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish.



## Stations of the Cross

after

7.30pm Mass

every Friday

during Lent.



## We welcome into our Parish Community

Chelsea Kylie Mushonga, Montague

Robina Reinika, Glenbarrow

Henry James Kerry, Hillview Drive

Abby Margaret Conroy, Rathevan View

who were baptised last weekend



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E-mail: [pkaudiology@gmail.com](mailto:pkaudiology@gmail.com)

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### Fatima Candle

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners.



## We may have the SOLUTION to;

Flat Feet | Heel Pain | Heel Spurs | Arch Pain | Plantar Fasciitis | Bunions | Metatarsalgia | Leg Fatigue | Diabetic Feet | Arthritic Feet | Shin Splints | Knee Pain | Achilles Tendonosis | Hallux Rigidus

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### Who may benefit from wearing Orthotics?

Orthotics are prescribed for a variety of conditions and as a prevention to further problems. They can be worn by **children and adults** and made to suit a range of footwear including daywear, dress wear and sportswear.

#### PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR FEET A LOT;

Prison Officers, Nurses, Shop Workers, Farmers etc. may require additional cushioning and correction.

#### ELDERLY PEOPLE;

May benefit from Orthotics to support, comfort & Correct the Mechanics of the feet. Conditions such as arthritis and diabetes may require softer coverings.

#### SPORTS PEOPLE;

May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.

#### CHILDREN;

Who are in toeing, out toeing, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.

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

086-8675060

Unit 10 Kilminchy Court, Kilminchy, Portlaoise, Laois



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OR

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33 Agh Na Hara,  
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Friday 20th March 2020

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Portlaoise  
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after  
10am Mass

Hosted by  
**The Down Syndrome  
Centre Midlands**



[www.worlddownsyndromeday.org](http://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org)



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## EASTER REVISION

Sat 28th March - LC ACCOUNTANCY

Tues 7th April - LC FRENCH

Wed 8th April - LC CHEMISTRY

Thurs 9th April - LC BIOLOGY

Fri 10th April - LC MATHS (H)

Sat 11th April - LC AG SCIENCE

Mon 13th April - LC ENGLISH (H)

Wed 15th April - LC IRISH (H)

**FURTHER INFORMATION ON**

**[www.laoistutorial.ie](http://www.laoistutorial.ie)**

Phone  
**083/3802294**



### **Book club**

*Mondays during lent*

*(Beginning on 9<sup>th</sup> March)*

*After 10am Mass in the Parish Centre*

*Further information and to register*

*Call Christina Malone 085 7578 432*

*Return to Me with All your Heart. Daily Reflection for Lent.*

*By Gerard Gallagher*

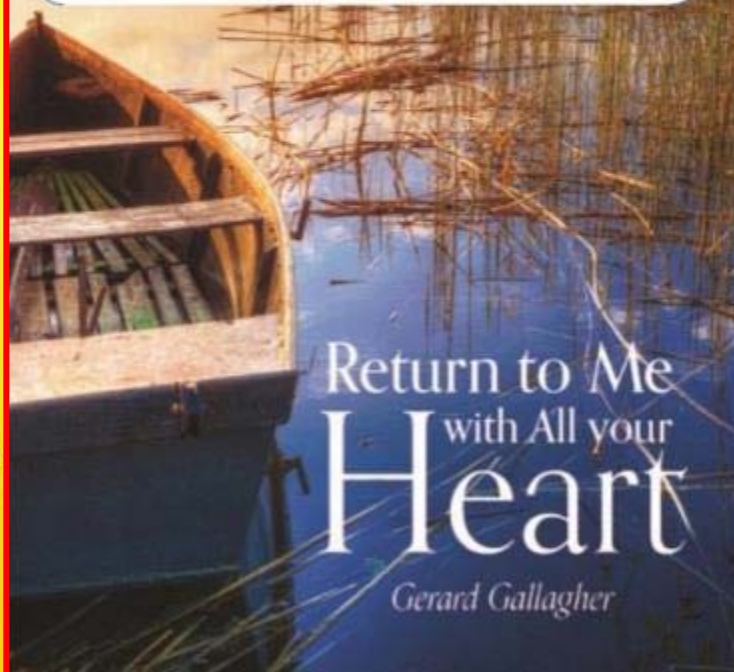
*The book will be available on registration or at first meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March*

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Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April starting at 8pm**



Catherine Fulvio, day-time Emmy nominee, TV Chef and presenter is an award-winning food writer and owner of Ballyknocken House and Cookery School.

With her effervescent charm and personality, Catherine is an ardent supporter of fresh local produce and one of Ireland's top culinary stars and most celebrated female chefs.

Catherine's ability to make the ordinary extraordinary is evidenced in her recipes and her cookery demonstrations which she hosts all over the country. Put this date in your diary, and anticipate a wonderful evening of Taste and Delight!

**Tickets €25 available from;**

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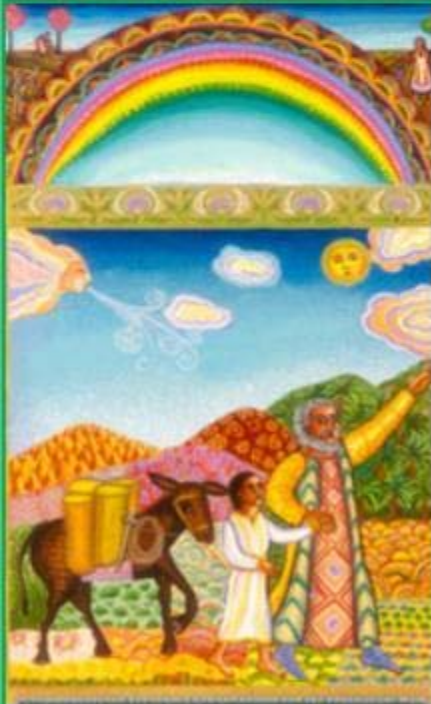
STARTING  
THURSDAY  
5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



# CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## Faith for the Journey

When we do something for the very first time it can be a little bit scary. Do you remember your very first day at school? Your mother probably went in with you to help you find your room and meet your teacher. When you got on a bicycle for the first time, someone probably walked along beside you and helped hold you up at the very beginning. That gave you confidence and soon you were riding on your own. When you went swimming for the first time, you didn't just go out and jump in the pool, did you? No, there was someone with you to hold you up until you could swim on your own. It really helps if we have someone we trust to be with us when we are about to do something we have never done before.

In the first reading today, Abram was a bit scared, when God told him to leave everything behind and to move to a new country. He didn't even tell him where this country was. He just said, "Go to the land that I will show you." They didn't know where they were going or what they would

find when they got there. They trusted God - like we trust our parents to help us do new things. So, even though they were a bit scared, they left everything and set out on the journey to the place that God showed them. It took many years, but God was with them and he led them to their new home. How about you, do you ever take a journey into the unknown? Sure you do. Just about every day we face things which we have never done before. They may be a bit scary, but we know that God is with us, just as he was with Abram. We just have to trust him to lead the way.



**Father, sometimes we are afraid to go where we have not gone before. Help us to remember that you are with us wherever we go. Amen.**



## First Penance



First Penance for **The Heath N.S.** and **Scoil Bhríde** will take place in the **Parish Church on Saturday 14th March at 11am.**

First Penance for **Ratheniska N.S.** will take place in **Ratheniska Church on Saturday 14th March at 1pm.**

**These children are then invited to the 11.15am Mass in the Parish Church on Sunday morning 15th March.**





# *Congratulations to the 353 boys and girls who received the Sacrament of*



*Confirmation last weekend in*

*St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise*



Now that we have received the Sacrament of Confirmation we are now full members of the Church.

Any other Sacrament you might receive - even Holy Order - does not make you any more a member of the Church than those who have received the sacraments of initiation. To be a member of the Church means to be part of Christ's Body.



## *Anointing with Chrism:*

Each person that was confirmed is anointed with Chrism. This anointing shows that the Holy Spirit is strengthening them to work for Jesus Christ. Being confirmed means being strengthened. The chrisam is preserved in a small silver vessel. The Bishop or Priest dips his thumb into the chrisam. He then traces the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the person being confirmed while he says the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit".



*In Confirmation, God's sign or mark of love is imprinted or sealed on the person being confirmed. God's sign can never be removed.*

*We say that in Confirmation we are sealed or marked forever when we are given the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*



We hope you and your family had a great day last weekend!





# TIME TO THINK!

## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS... PATRON OF THE INTERNET

I am greatly taken by the life story of Carlo Acutis, a young, talented and deeply spiritual teenager whose life story is a real example of Christian Hope. Carlo was born in London May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1991, to Italian parents who soon returned to Milan. He was a pious child, attending daily Mass, frequently praying the rosary, and making weekly confessions.

Exceptionally gifted in working with computers, Carlo Acutis, developed a website which catalogued Eucharistic miracles. This website was the genesis of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, an international exhibition which highlights such occurrences.

Acutis stated that "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan. I'm happy to die because I've lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God."

Carlo Acutis died at the age of 15 in Monza, near Milan, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, of a galloping leukaemia, leaving in the memory of all those who knew him a great feeling of emptiness and great admiration for his brief but intense testimony of authentic Christian life.

From the day he received his First Communion at the age of 7, he never missed an appointment with daily Holy Mass. He always tried, either before or after the Eucharistic celebration, to pause before the Tabernacle to adore the Lord, always truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lady was his great confidant and he never failed to honour her by reciting the Holy Rosary every day. Carlo's modern and up-to-date ways combined perfectly with his profound Eucharistic life and Marian devotion, which helped to make him that very special boy who everyone admires and loves.

To quote Carlo's own words: "Our goal must be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinity is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven". Another phrase of his was: "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies". To move towards this goal and not "die as photocopies" Carlo said that our compass must be the Word of God, that we have to measure up to constantly. But to reach such a lofty goal very special measures are necessary: the Sacraments and prayer. In particular, Carlo placed the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the centre of his life and he called it "my highway to Heaven".

Carlo was very gifted with everything related to the world of computers so that both his friends and adults with computer engineering degrees considered him a genius. Everyone was amazed at his ability to understand the secrets of computers that are normally only accessible to those who have specialised university degrees. Carlo's interests involved computer programming, film editing, website creation, editing and laying out small publications, to helping those most in need especially children and the elderly.

This young believer of the Diocese of Milan was a mystery, who before he died was able to offer his suffering up for the Pope and the Church.

"To be always united with Jesus, this is my plan of life". These few words Carlo Acutis, the boy who died of leukaemia, said outline the distinctive feature of his short life: living with Jesus, for Jesus, in Jesus. (...) "I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything displeasing to God". And Carlo asks of us the same thing: he asks us to spread the Gospel through our lives, so that each of us can be a beacon to light the journey of others.

Carlo, like many adolescents of our time was busy at school, with his friends, and for his young age was an expert in computers. In the midst of all his commitments he encountered Jesus Christ.

Carlo Acutis became a witness to the Risen Christ, he entrusted himself to the Virgin Mary.

Carlo lived a life of grace sharing his overwhelming experience of God with his peers.

He received the Eucharist every day, he attended Holy Mass devoutly daily and would pause for hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

His experience and Christian maturity testify to the truth of Benedict XVI's words in the Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*: the sacrifice of the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration strengthen, support, develop love of Jesus and the availability to ecclesial service.

Carlo also nourished a special devotion to Our Lady, to whom he faithfully recited the Rosary, and feeling her motherly love, he offered her acts of mortification.

This teenager sociologically similar to his school mates, was an authentic witness that the Gospel can be lived fully even by a teenager.

In his short life, oriented to that encounter with Jesus, was like a light not only to shine on the path of those who knew him, but also of those who will come to know his story. I am sure that this first biography of Carlo Acutis, edited by Nicola Gori, with his well known ability to involve the reader, will help today's adolescents, so problematic and so conditioned by the Mass Media, to reflect on the meaning of life and on the Gospel values to realise it fully.

Looking at this teenager as their peers, who felt attracted by Christ's friendship, and for this very reason experienced a truer joy, our children will be put in touch with a life experience that has not taken anything away from the wealth of young teenage years, but has enhanced them even more.

Carlo's witness to the Gospel is not only an incentive for today's adolescents, but it also helps parish priests and teachers to question themselves about the value of the formation they give to young people of our parish communities and how to make this formation effective and incisive.



### *Prayer to Blessed Carlo*



Oh Father, who has given us the ardent testimony, of the young Blessed Carlo Acutis, who made the Eucharist the core of his life, and the strength of his daily commitments, so that everybody may love You above all else.

Let him soon be counted among the Saints in Your Church.  
Confirm my faith, nurture my hope, strengthen my charity,  
in the image of young Carlo  
May all young people be blessed with courage and hope.

**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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)**

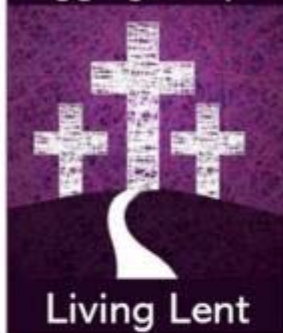
**Fr. Paddy's book "All will be well" on sale in the Parish Shop or online at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)**



# Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 2020





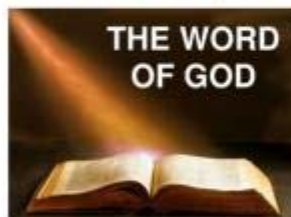


# A Weekly Bulletin for Lent

## PART TWO

### WE ARE CALLED TO RECOGNISE, LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW JESUS

#### The Liturgy of the Word and Anointing with Oil of Catechumens: What do they tell us about baptism and our faith?



THE WORD  
OF GOD

As we make our journey to renew our baptism at Easter, in these bulletins we are reflecting on the celebration of baptism itself and what it tells us about our faith. Let's take a look now at the Liturgy of the Word.

There can be no celebration of the sacraments without the proclamation of the Word of God. This suggests that scripture is central to our faith. And this is true. For through the texts of scripture God speaks to us today. To listen to God means turning to the whole of the bible and reading it in a spirit of prayer and openness to God's voice. Then we will hear God's message to us personally and as a Church.

St Jerome wrote that ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ while the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that to be a Christian means to unite oneself ever more deeply with the life of Christ. If we want to do that, if we want to come to know and be followers of Christ, then we have to read and live the Gospels. In them we get to meet Christ, the Word of God, who has come to speak with us, in his own words and by his own life. 'Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is...There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ.' (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

So, when we gather to welcome a new member of the Church through baptism, one of the first essential steps is for us to listen once more to the Living Word of God amongst us, a word that instructs, inspires and nourishes us in the ways of Christian life, a word in which we meet the God who saves us and calls us to life with Him.

#### 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

"Each day let us read a verse or two of the Bible. Let us begin with the Gospel, let us keep it open on our table, carry it in our pocket, read it on our cell phones, and allow it to inspire us daily. We will discover that God is close to us, that he dispels our darkness and, with great love, leads our lives into deep waters."  
Pope Francis



#### *What about the Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens?*

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with our **intercessions** to God and a **litany of the saints** – reminding us that God will continually listen to our prayers and that on our Christian journey we have the witness and support of the saints who have gone before us, having lived lives of faith. Before baptism a child is **anointed with the Oil of Catechumens** (the name for those preparing for baptism). This is olive oil blessed by the Bishop. The prayer that precedes the anointing reminds us that the world we are born into is one where the condition of sin and its consequences exist. The Church calls this Original Sin and we see its presence in our world every day in terrible events. But through the love and grace of God, we are freed from the reality of that condition. The prayer and the anointing express this truth and God's care and protection of us at every step in life's journey. From our baptism onwards we are strengthened to live as God wants us to through the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit.





## Weekly Gospel Link



In the Transfiguration we see the three disciples with Jesus on a high mountain – often a place in scriptures where God makes a special revelation to people. Here they have a moment of insight into the reality of who Jesus is and they experience both joy and fear, though Jesus tells them not to be afraid.

This Gospel reading comes to us near the beginning of Lent. It puts Jesus at the centre of our Lenten journey.

Lent is our opportunity to experience the joy of discovering again who Jesus is, to listen to him and to follow him. And we do not need to be afraid.

*See [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) for weekly reflections on the Lenten Sunday readings for group, family or individual use.*

## Exploring a Practice for Lent:

### Stations of the Cross

What we know as the Stations of the Cross (or the Way of the Cross) has its origins in the practice in the early church of pilgrims walking in the footsteps of Jesus' passion in Jerusalem. Along the way they would stop to pray at places where a significant event is believed to have occurred. It is thought that in the Middle Ages the Franciscans brought this tradition to Europe. This made it possible for the faithful who could not travel to Jerusalem to experience in a virtual way the Stations of the Cross by following a signposted path around the inside and/or outside of the church.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century all Catholic churches were permitted to erect the Stations of the Cross within the church building or in the grounds of the church. This led to the visual depictions we see in our churches today, with the number of stations fixed at 14. Of these, only 8 are explicitly mentioned in the gospels. In 1991, Pope John Paul II introduced a new form of this devotion, called the Scriptural Way of the Cross, in which all stations are taken from the gospels.

There are many popular versions of the stations available and people can pray them in a church or at home, privately or with a group. A typical pattern for the 14 stations might look like the following: **Naming of the station** ( E.g. Jesus is condemned to die); **Response** (We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world); **Reflecting /meditating on the particular station**; and **Prayer** (E.g. Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)

**While available to us as a prayer at any time, Lent is a particularly appropriate time to pray the Stations of the Cross.**



THERE ARE PLENTY OF VERSIONS OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS TO CHOOSE FROM,

WHY NOT SEE [Kandle.ie](http://Kandle.ie) TO DOWNLOAD: **STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR OUR TIME** BY FDS OR **THIS YEAR'S TRÓCAIRE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

## 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
- + Check that you have a copy of a Catholic edition of the bible in your home and take some time to read from it
- + Have a proper chat! Reconnect with someone you haven't spoken to in a while
- + Pick up at least 5 pieces of litter from the road/countryside
- + Pray the Stations of the Cross
- + Find out how you can help a local charity
- + Cut down on screen time and pay attention to the people around you



*'The cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of humanity, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: 'Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life.' Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 26, 2013*

*'No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord...whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.' Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel*



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 Chrism

April 9-  
12

Celebrating the  
Easter Triduum,  
baptising and  
renewing our  
baptism



Confirmation Ceremonies 2020



Holy Family Senior School



The Heath NS, Ratheniska NS and other schools



Gaelscoil and Scoil Bhríde





DVD with the ceremony including photos available in the Parish Centre (on request only, €10).

Photos courtesy of Agnieszka Kaczmarek

More photos on our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)



OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR  
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



*William (Billy)  
Aird*

Broomville  
Dublin Road



*Denzil Mills*

Colliers Lane

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**  
*Our sympathy to their families.*

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to the death notice at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

† **KEEGAN'S** †  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

**HENRY RANKIN**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

Contact;  
057-8620567  
PAUL; 087-2562137  
NIALL;  
086-2770095



Anniversary Mass for Jim Delaney,  
Borris Rd., will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.

*Rest in Peace Jim*



**MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN**  
THE MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

*For the perfect tribute card for your loved one  
- our bespoke memorial cards.  
Create a collage of images illustrating  
the life of your loved one with our  
expert Design Team.  
All our Cards are individually designed  
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The final deadline for receipt of all  
Anniversaries and  
Acknowledgements is  
**12 noon Wednesday**  
(Subject to availability of space)



*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOHN (Jack) DEMPSEY**

70 Main St. Portlaoise. Died 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017.



3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm.

Never more than a thought away,  
Deep in our hearts you will always stay,  
Loved and remembered everyday.

Sadly missed by all his loving family; Ann Marie, Gérard, Mary,  
nieces and nephews.

*May John Rest in Peace*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**DAN DUNNE**

St. Judes, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.



7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am.

Dan, deep in our hearts your memory  
is kept,

To love and to cherish and never forget.  
*Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife  
Maureen and family.*

*May Dan Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of

**WILLIAM (Billy) O' SULLIVAN**

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020



*Will those who think of him today,  
A little prayer to Jesus say.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 8:30am.  
Sadly missed by all his loving family.*

*May William Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of

**JANINE BROOMFIELD**

Broomville, Dublin Road, Portlaoise  
17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020



*Janine, 17 years have passed since that  
sad day, you closed your eyes and  
slipped away.  
You left so quietly without a fuss,  
And broke the hearts of all of us.  
A special person, a special face,  
A wonderful daughter, and sister, we  
can never replace.*

*Missing you so much, lots of love Dad, Mam, Leonie & Danielle*

Also Remembering

Janine's Grandparents

**PATRICK (Paddy) and  
MARGARET (Greta) DOLLARD**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Whose Anniversaries occur at this time.



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday  
evening, 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of

**NANCY (Johanna) HORAN**

Late of 23 Grattan Street, Portlaoise.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020



**Mammy**

*They say that time's a healer  
But as the time goes on  
I seem to find it just as hard  
To face the fact you're gone  
You'll never be forgotten  
And everyday I shed a tear  
But it's only because I love you  
And wish you were still here.*

*Missing you Always,*

*Hannah, Andy, Cian, Pat, Fiona, Jason & Rachel*

*Also remembering Sheila Horan, late of 9 Grattan  
Street whose anniversary occurs on 9<sup>th</sup> March*

*Anniversary Mass for Nancy and Sheila will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish  
Church this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15 am*

*May Nancy and Sheila Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of

**JACK DEMPSEY**

70 Main Street, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary away from home occurs 12<sup>th</sup> March '20.



*March is here with sad regret, the day,  
the month I won't forget,  
No matter how long, no matter how  
short, its never lost to those we  
remember.*

*The anniversary of a loss is of course a  
special time to remember and thereby  
further the healing,*

*It's a time to take stock of the lessons  
learned and the hardships endured,*

*The small victories won, small as they may be.*

*A time to take account of what you have, the people in your  
life, the kindness shown to you namely JJ & Una Tynan and of  
course Martin Maher, two of Jacks long standing friends.*

*A time to remember the talks and experiences you still  
treasure, this will help offset the burden of loss, that will  
always be part of what you carry.*

*Meet you at the Moon*

*Sadly missed by your loving and loyal partner, Uná xxx*

*May Jack Rest in Peace*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam*

## In Loving Memory of

**BRIGID O'BRIEN, Ridge Road, Portlaoise**  
Died 10<sup>th</sup> March 1968. (52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)



*Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently we gather and treasure  
them all,  
Unseen, unheard, you are always  
near,  
So missed, so loved, so very dear.*

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

*May Brigid Rest in Peace*



# Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus  
COVID-19  
Public Health  
Advice

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.

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

As our solemn novena to Our Lady of perpetual help comes to a close, let us hold her hands to meet Jesus in our everyday lives. We see our blessed mother on only a few occasions in the bible. One is in Upper room after the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Acts 1:14 "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers". This prayer meeting occurs just after the events of Good Friday. The most painful moment in the life of a mother, her only son Jesus, the fruit of the promise, the Messiah was condemned to death, walked the way to Calvary like a criminal, beaten and tortured, spit upon and wounded. The suffering servant we read in prophet Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth". It is indeed heart breaking for a mother to witness and ponder all these things in her heart on her journey with her son. The most broken heart of Mary gathers the disciples in prayer thereby leading them into the experience of Pentecost. Even today our Blessed Mother gathers us with all our brokenness under her mantle. In her safe hands we place our trust that she will surely lead us to the peace and joy of life which her son has promised for us.

Rosary is one of the powerful weapons to fight against the evils of life. On his election, Pope John Paul II declared the Rosary to be "my favorite prayer." His closeness to the Blessed Mother was signaled in his motto "Totus Tuus" ("Totally Yours") describing his complete devotion to Mary and his desire to be closer to her and her Son. There is no safer place in the world than to be in the hands of our Blessed Mother and to be under her mantle. She knows the struggles of life. The whole world may say you cannot change, there is no hope, there is no cure but we Christians have a mother who says "Do whatever he tells you." John 2:5.

As our annual novena to Our Lady of Perpetual help comes to a close, let us hold the hand of our blessed mother, sure refuge for all who run to her. May she guide us to Jesus her son. And at this time may her assistance protect our country and the whole world from the corona virus. Amen.

(A reflection from the Ursuline Sisters at Parnell Crescent)

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother  
Hold me firmly 'lest I fall  
I grow nervous while I'm walking  
And on Thee I humbly call.

Guide me over every crossing  
Watch me when I am on the stairs  
Let me know that you're beside me  
Listen to my fervent plea  
Bless my every undertaking  
And my duties for the day

And when evening creeps upon me  
I'll never fear to be alone  
Once again, O Blessed Mother  
Take my hand and lead me home



**An Tobar Nua  
Presents**

**Sat April  
25th**

# Teen Fun Day



**GLADIATOR Challenge**



**GAMES/MUSIC**



**INSPIRATIONAL TALKS**



**BASKETBALL BUNGEE  
RUN**



**SUMO SUITS**

**WHO: 6th Class & Secondary School Students**

**WHERE: Holy Family Senior School Portlaoise**

**WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 25TH: 10:30AM - 4:30PM**

**COST: €5**

**Contact: Michelle Ward: [michelle.ward@antobarnua.com](mailto:michelle.ward@antobarnua.com)**

**Sign Up & return registration forms & €5 to **Portlaoise Parish Centre** by:**

**March 9th. Limited spaces available**





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@portlaoiselinkup



Contact Us

To discuss how we can help you grow your business

### RELIGIOUS NOTICES

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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.

**POP UP Gaeltacht**

Míle Fáilte to join us at  
An Sean Chistin, Ire, Ballyfin R32X5D6  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm

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

### COMMUNITY NOTES

**Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)**

**Bowls:**

Every Monday in St. Mary's Hall at 3pm - regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part and become a member of the ARA Bowls team.

**Whist:**

Play or learn Whist at Sue Ryder Centre every Thursday from 2.30pm to 4pm. All are welcome. Absolute beginners and improvers are catered for. Learn an enjoyable past-time and meet new friends.

**11<sup>th</sup> March:** An afternoon of fun and music with maestro Caroline and trusty guitar. None of us need reminding that we all go home in a happier mood with melodies in our mind and songs on our lips. What better way to spend an afternoon.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> April in Portlaoise Parish Centre at 7pm. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

**"Meet the Neighbours":** Call in to the Methodist Church Hall (opp. Portlaoise train station) and say hello over a cup of coffee. No catches or money needed, be our guest. Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month between 4-5pm. Everyone very welcome.

**Pioneer News:** A reminder to the confirmation class; If you have not yet returned your Pioneer application forms, please do so before the weekend. Forms are to be left into the Parish Centre for Fr. David.

Daffodil Day 2020 will be held on **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March**. This annual fundraiser for local Irish Cancer support services depends on a lot of help from volunteers. If you can commit to an hour or two, please **text Cathy, 086-879-7907** or message the Facebook page; Portlaoise Daffodil Day, with your name and availability.



### Enrolment for St. Francis School

**Closing Date; 13<sup>th</sup> March**

We have a high level of interest, therefore please make enquiries by phone to

**057-8621847**

or by email to

**office@stfrancisschoolportlaoise.ie**

### 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**



*(Supporting the Suicide Bereaved)*

Tea/Coffee Morning in Portlaoise Parish Centre on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 10am-12 noon. All welcome.



**MONSTER BINGO**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**In Mountmellick Arts Centre at 8:30pm**

**Books; Single €10, Double €15.**

**Portlaoise Tidy Towns TABLE QUIZ**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**In Casey's Pub, 8:30pm.**

**Table of 4 €40.**





## ACTIVE PLUMBER

Central heating, showers,  
taps, blockages.  
New installation or repairs.  
Contact Fergus;  
**087-6542742**  
**087-0959245**

## LAOIS TV SERVICES

Repairs to TV and home  
entertainment equipment.  
Also we supply and fit and  
repair Saorview, Aerial and  
Satellite systems. Contact;  
**057-8732998**  
**087-2619426 / 083-3742600**

## PLUMBER AVAILABLE

All domestic, solid fuel,  
oil servicing, water  
softener installation.  
Contact Alan;  
**085-1141395**

## HANDYMAN AVAILABLE

Tiling incl. Bathrooms,  
Kitchens, Walls and Floors.  
Timber floors, gardening incl.  
hedge cutting & landscaping.  
All jobs considered for a  
reasonable price. Phone Jim;  
**087-6885017**



## ALFIES POOCH PARLOUR

**Professional Dog  
Grooming Service**  
Experienced and qualified  
groomers  
*Let us pamper your pooch!*  
**Peppers Lane Portlaoise**  
**086-1037352**

## A1 CHIMNEY SWEEP & CAMERA SURVEYS

Brush & Vac, No mess-  
totally clean job. Bird  
guards & cowls fitted.  
Contact Martin on  
**087-9616098**

## **Hugh Thompson** MIDLAND HEATING SERVICES

*For all your Heating & Plumbing needs*  
Service and Repair of Oil Boilers,  
Oil Cookers & Gas Boilers  
Plus Power Flushing of Heating Systems  
Removing all the old sludge and water that has built up in  
your radiators and boilers over the years with clean water  
and Inhibitors to reduce fuel bills and save money.  
**Ballyfin, Portlaoise. Call:**  
**086-3758503**

## PAINTING AND DECORATING

**Interior and Exterior**  
Powerwashing and Spray  
Painting, inside and outside,  
new houses etc. 12 years  
experience. Contact;  
**089-4459958**

## MIDLAND APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Quick, Cost Effective  
Domestic Appliance  
Repairs. Contact;  
**087-9080211**

## WINDOWS & DOOR REPAIRS

- Hinges/Handles
- Letterboxes
- Slide Patio Doors Rollers
- Window & Door draught  
proofing

**083-3153211**

## A CONVERSATION WITH CAROL NOLAN T.D.

*Plus other speakers;*  
Vicky Wall and Michael Dwyer  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
In Portlaoise Parish Centre  
at 7:30pm  
*All are welcome*

## FOR SALE

New Exercise Bike with  
very advanced fitness  
settings to record pulse,  
heart rate etc.  
€450 o.n.o. Contact;  
**089-4182811**

SCOIL BHRÍDE GIRLS N.S.,  
MOUNTRATH

## **ASD UNIT**

**WE ARE ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS  
FOR OUR ASD CLASS WHICH WE  
INTEND TO OPEN FOR THE COMING  
SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21**

Call in to our school for an  
Enrolment Pack or contact;

**057-8732423**

E-mail; [bridnaofa@eircom.net](mailto:bridnaofa@eircom.net)

Further info. available on;  
[www.scoilbhridemountrath.weebly.com](http://www.scoilbhridemountrath.weebly.com)

## 3-BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT - BALLYFIN AREA

Suitable for family or professionals  
shared accomodation, separate  
entrance. €900 per calendar  
month incl. electric and heating.  
Minimum 6 month term to be  
reviewed after that time. Tel.  
**083-3679436**

## ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be  
held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March  
in the Parish Centre after  
10am Mass. New members  
are always welcome.

## 3 TONNE DIGGER AND LORRY FOR HIRE WITH DRIVER



Wide range of attachments available  
(Hedge cutter, rake bucket for destoning  
lawns, log and rubbish grab etc.)

No job too big or too small!

**Call Sean 087-3445670**





# Wedding Showcase

## March 15<sup>th</sup>

### 12 - 4pm

[www.midlandsparkhotel.com](http://www.midlandsparkhotel.com)

