

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

6th September 2020

**Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Fr. Eddie Lalor

Ordained Priest 1964

Ministering in

our Parish since 2013

Fr. Tom O'Connor

Ordained Priest 1959

Ministering in

our Parish since 2009

'To lose one good Priest may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness'

(To paraphrase Oscar Wilde) That is how the Parish feel this weekend with the news that both Frs. Tom O'Connor and Eddie Lalor are to retire. Both members of St. Patrick's Missionary Society will now reside at the Society's mother house at Kiltegan. Rather than concentrating on the sad news this is we should count our blessings in having had such good and dedicated priests among us for so long. Fr. Tom for 11 years and Fr. Eddie for 7. They each endeared themselves to their brother Priests and the Parish community with loyal and committed service. Service above and beyond the call of duty; may God bless them and give them health, peace and contentment as they begin to take it easy.

Thank you Fr. Tom and Fr. Eddie.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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



Let's Face It.

A dog is left barking in a very small yard whilst the owners are out at work all day. A small boy spends his afternoons kicking a ball against an

end terrace whilst the owners sit inside with gritted teeth. A new person joins a busy workplace but spends most of his or her time checking out Facebook on the company computer. What do we do about it? Perhaps we stay quiet hoping the problem will go away. Perhaps we tell ourselves that it's none of our business and turn a blind eye. At best we might contact someone in authority and make an anonymous complaint. Speaking face to face with the person that has offended us is probably the most difficult option.

We can often fight shy of confrontation. We do this for all sorts of reasons. Perhaps we want to stay popular and would prefer to preserve an outward show of friendship even though we are seething inside. Perhaps we dodge confrontation because we are afraid of having a row, or worse, afraid of losing a row. Our fears and insecurities lead us to behave less than honestly. Instead of confronting someone who has offended us directly, we procrastinate, beat about the bush, pretend it isn't really a problem, complain bitterly to anyone who will listen, or worse, we erupt with sudden frustration and anger out of all proportion to the original offence.

In Matthew's gospel we are given some straightforward advice on handling a grievance. Firstly, we should approach the person who has offended us in private and voice our concerns. In this way the dispute may be very quickly and very happily sorted out. But if the dispute cannot be sorted out in this way, then we should call on the help of a third party. A third party can often shed light where there was none before. A third party can see or suggest things that haven't previously been considered. A third party usually has the benefit of lending an opinion without anger or bias. It might seem like a lot of trouble to go to, to resolve a grievance, but sometimes a 'nipping it in the bud' approach can save a much greater grievance somewhere further down the line. How many people have allowed abuse, deception, injustice and even holocaust because they have kept quiet and avoided confrontation?

Saint Paul lends us some sound advice. "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour." If we approach conflict with love and a genuine desire to put something right we have nothing to fear. To do nothing in the face of wrongdoing is not an option.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday—Friday

7.30am, 10am & 11am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigils)

4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm

Sunday

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

We welcome into our Parish Community

Ada Teresa McEvoy, London

Billy James Phelan, Cappagh North

Eliza Rita Greaney, The Beeches

who were baptised last weekend.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September 2020

Respect for the Planet's Resources

The prayer intention for this month ties in with our 'Season of Creation'. September 1st to October 4th is a time set aside to focus on God's creation and our stewardship of it. Pope Francis asks us to join in this month's prayer intention to pray "... **that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.**"

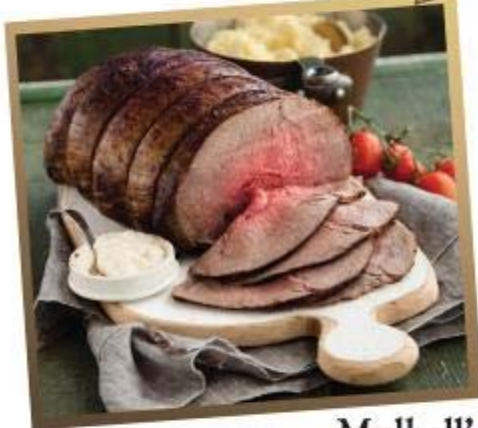
'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.'

Today's Gospel Matthew 18:15-20



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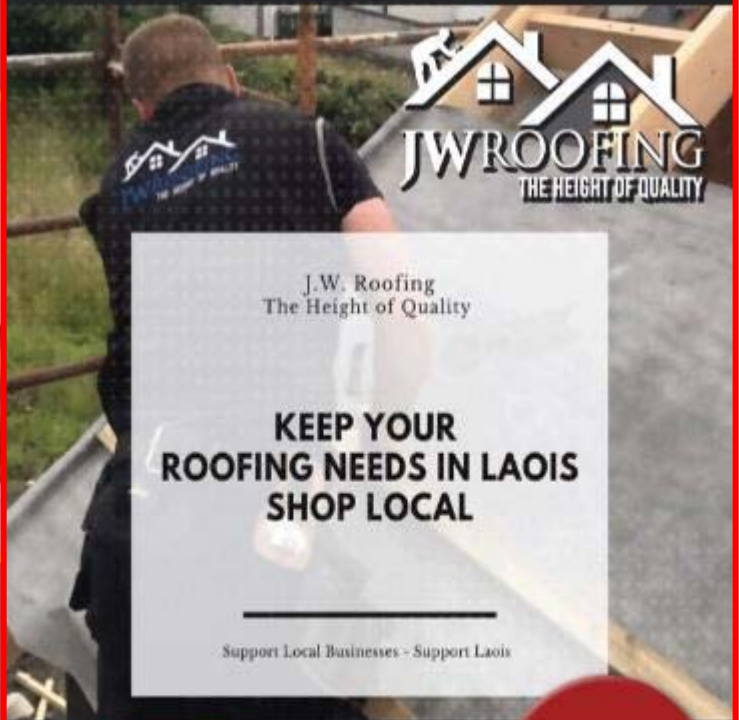
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We are continuing our Covid 19 clinic policy of pre-screening each patient and at present for the benefit of patients we are not treating patients that fall under the high risk groups.

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

Many thanks for your patience and understanding at this time.

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



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

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Don't get Even

Has anyone ever said something that hurt your feelings? Sure they have! Perhaps you were playing with a friend and he or she called you a name. What did that make you want to do? Did it make you want to want to get even by calling your friend a name? Do you know what? That is

just like trying to balance a scales - you never get even! He calls you a name and so you call him a name. He doesn't like that so he calls you another name and on and on the name-calling goes. You never get even!

I have heard people say, "Don't get mad; get even." Think about the balance scale. We saw how hard it is to get even, so here's a better idea, "Don't get even; get ahead." How do you do that? Well, let me explain. In the Gospel today, Jesus says, "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him - work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend." Now that's what I call "getting ahead." If we try to get even, we will lose a friend, but if we forgive someone, we will make a friend!



Jesus did not call us to be his disciples to make other people pay for their sins by hurting them back. Instead, he told us to do what he did - love them and forgive them. Sometimes that is very hard to do, but we can do it if we ask Jesus to help us.

Dear Father,

when someone hurts us, give us a forgiving spirit to talk to them and try to resolve the conflict rather than to try get even by hurting them back.



Help us to love and forgive others as you have loved and forgiven us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

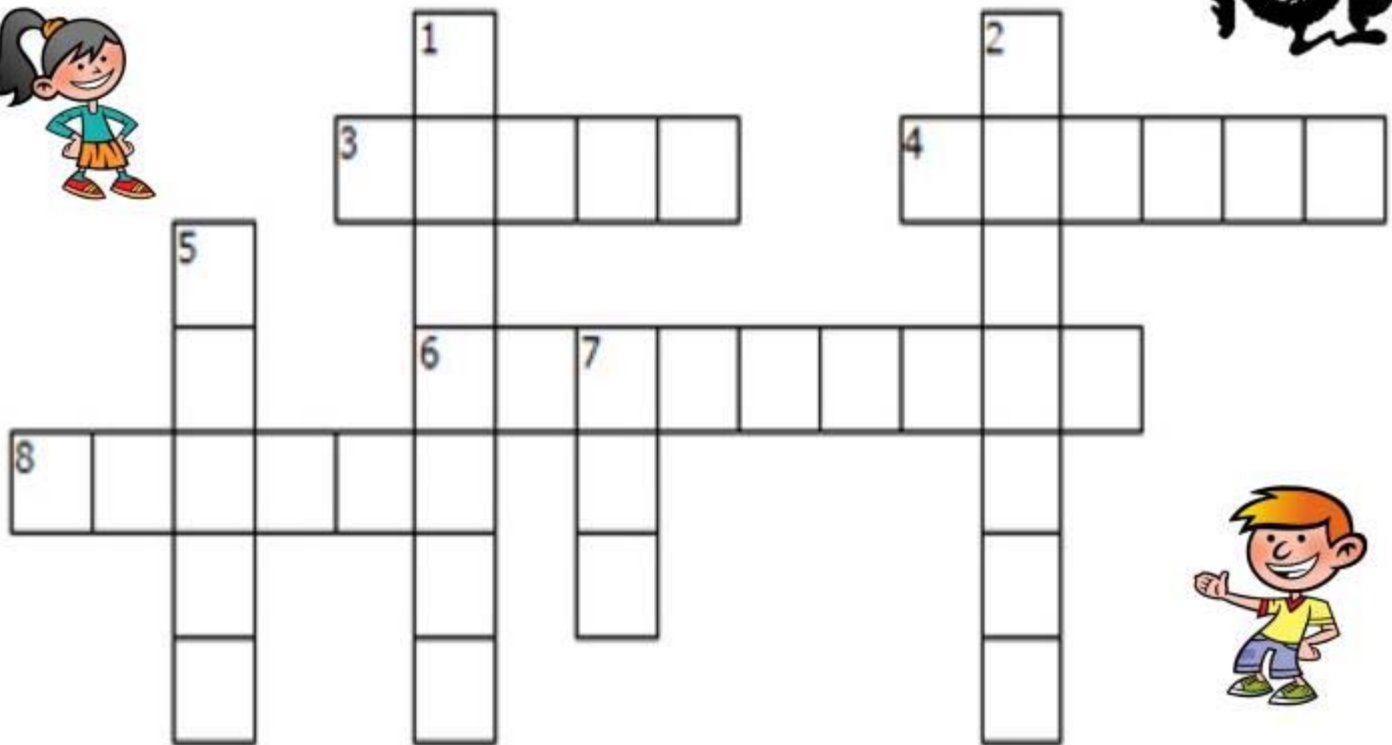


Prayer for Young People

Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that You and I together can't handle.

When Someone Hurts You

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you". Matthew 18:15



ACROSS

3. A statement proven to be accurate
4. To pay attention; to make an effort to hear something.
6. A spoken or written statement that something is true
8. All followers of Christ as a group

DOWN

1. A member of the same race, church, religious group or organisation.
2. A person who sees an event happen
5. A quality in a person that shows that they are not perfect.
7. Breaking a religious law



BROTHER	TESTIMONY	SIN	LISTEN
WITNESS	FAULT	CHURCH	TRUTH

Next weekend Our First Holy communion ceremonies begins in Portlaoise Parish. We continue our prayers as the children take the next steps in their faith.



CHILDREN'S PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, come to me.

Lord Jesus, give me your love.

Lord Jesus, come to me and give me yourself.

Lord Jesus, friend of children come to me.

Lord Jesus, you are my Lord and my God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



TIME TO THINK!

STUDENTS ARE MORE THAN POINTS...

I have a recurring dream, it centres itself around my leaving cert. I find myself sitting my history exam and not having a clue of any of the answers. I wake up anxious but with a great sense of relief. The Leaving Cert is never easy, but this year, it has been most challenging.

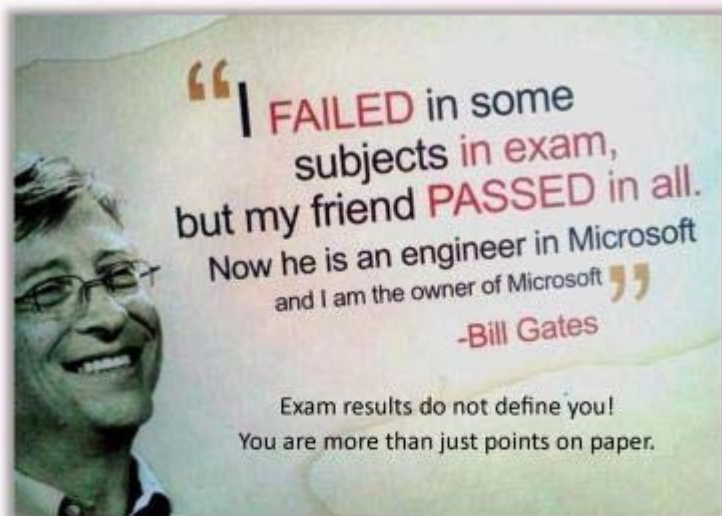
The celebrated adventurer and chief scout Bear Grylls was asked in an interview where did he find the courage, strength, resilience to survive in inhospitable deserts, mountains and castaway islands. His response was simple *"Any strength I have comes from when I am on my own, on my knees, it comes from taking time to be still with God"*.

This week over 60,000 students will receive their leaving certificate results. I suggest that no results, on a piece of paper, can ever determine or define the fantastic unique gifts and talents that every young person has in abundance. To measure kindness, compassion, optimism, energy, humour, is far more important. Humbly I find young people fantastic and in living with this pandemic, life has been really challenging for them.

This year's leaving cert students have navigated a very different last term, with its palpable loss of iconic moments that can never be restored or regained. Let no one ever say *"sure you're the class of 2020, you've had it easy"* because they haven't. So much, too much has been asked of them in recent months as they were summer-saulted from one possible scenario to another.

There were strong voices on either side of the argument. Sitting 'State Exams' versus being awarded 'Predictive Grades'. These students were the ones caught up in the middle. Now a little distance from that decision, made in the best interests of public safety, still carry your worries, your losses, your concerns.

The Leaving Cert is a Rite of Passage. It's more than a school, it's the spirit. It's more than a class, it's the memories. It's more than a team, it's the bonding. As the children's author Lorraine Marwood, Australian author and poet, describes it so beautifully in her novel 'Leave Taking'. It tells the story of a family who have decided to leave their farm after the death of their little daughter Leah from cancer. Her older brother Toby knows nowhere else to call his home; he spends the day with his dog Trigger saying goodbye to all the



places, all the things, all the little memories that has made the farm his home. No matter what age we are, endings are as important as beginnings.

This generation is more conscious and environmentally attuned to climate change and climate justice than any previous one. I think of the Friday School Strike for Climate initiative and its founder Greta Thunberg, the same age as yourselves. You must now be the leaders in this movement and the prophet Micah reminds us how we protect our environment and how we care for one another by acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with your God.

During his papacy Pope Francis has demonstrated his capacity to engage with young people. He clearly understands the pressures young people are under today, the challenges they experience, and their fears. At the Vigil of World Youth Day in Krakow in 2016 the Pope explained how fear leads to "the feeling of being closed in on oneself, trapped". He challenged the 1.6 million young pilgrims present there to go back home and make a difference, remarking that "Jesus is inviting you, calling you, to leave your mark on life, to leave a mark on history, your own and that of many others as well." Recently Pope Francis speaking about our faith said, "Jesus keeps knocking on our doors, the doors of our lives. He doesn't do this by magic, with special effects, with flashing lights and fireworks. Jesus keeps knocking on our door in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbours, in the faces of those at our side." May the good Lord bless all our young people at this time, especially those receiving their leaving Cert results this week.

ABBEYLEIX/RAHEEN NOTES

Adoration;

Ballinakill every Friday, 3pm to 6pm.
Shanahoe every Thursday 10-11am and Sunday 2.55-4pm. Divine Mercy recited on the hour and Holy Rosary on the 1/2 hour.

Divine Mercy and Holy Rosary is recited daily in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, on the Parish webcam at 3pm.

Raheen Parish Bicentenary (1820-2020) Miscellany: On the roadside across from Raheen Church stands the Mass Rock which reminds us of penal times when priests ministered and parishioners hung steadfast to their faith at the peril of their lives.

Abbeyleix Juvenile Soccer Club are looking for lady soccer coaches for the coming season starting in September. We hope to have U-10 & U-12 teams. If interested please email; mickmoranabbeyleix@gmail.com



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We welcome baby Rian, baby Odhrán and baby Julia into our Church.



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The support helpline will assist at-risk members of the public with non-emergency supports.



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 Emma Maher
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Congratulations to Fr. Paddy's niece, Jasmine, who after years of practice, discipline and resilience, was awarded her black belt in Karate last weekend. Well done Jasmine, a great achievement.



E-mail all community notices and advertisements for **BOTH** the Portlaoise Linkup and the Abbeyleix/Raheen Linkup to linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

(Only e-mails sent to this address will be guaranteed inclusion)

Deadline for receipt; 12 noon Wednesday





PORTLAOISE NOTES

USEFUL SERVICES

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Facebook; seandoylelightengineering

COMMUNITY NOTES

St. Joseph's Portlaoise/ Mountmellick Embroidery Group will re-commence Mon. 7th September in the Parish Centre, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. All are welcome.

Laois School of Music are delighted to announce that they will be opening the doors to Laois Music Centre from Monday 21st September alongside Music Generation Laois and are now enrolling for a wide number of instruments and programmes. In the meantime if you have any queries about our classes you can contact us via our Facebook page or e-mail; jritchie@loetb.ie.



Congratulations

Nikola Cenvenakova and Milan Corokske who were married in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Friday 28th August. Celebrant; Fr. Ciprian.

We wish them every happiness in their future together.

COVID 19 - During this unprecedented time the office of South Leinster



MABS - Laois office is available to you for limited face-to-face meetings. We can still contact you by phone, mobile, text, whatsapp, e-mail, zoom. We request that where possible, communications are sent to us electronically, or by phone, so that we will be in a position to respond to you in a timely manner.

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Portlaoise Parish; 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th September & 3rd October
Abbeyleix/Raheen Parish; 19th, 20th & 26th September



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Tullyroe, Abbeyleix

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A Treasured Uncle
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5th Anniversary occurs 9th September 2020



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
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Loving memories of Bill so dear,
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In Loving Memory of PHILIP T. MEAGHER

Larchgrove, Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 6th September 2020



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

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at a
later stage.

Also remembering his wife Noreen and
daughter June at this time.

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

May Dad Rest In Peace.

In Loving Memory of LIAM HENNESSY

Ballymaddock, Stradbally. 8th Anniversary away from home.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
the Church of the Assumption, the Heath
this Sunday 6th September at 9.30am.

*Our family chain is broken, and nothing
seems the same,*

*But as God calls us one by one, the links
shall join again.*

Sadly missed by his loving wife, family and friends.

May Liam Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of PETER O'BRIEN

Ridge Road, Portlaoise, who died 12th September 1980.
40th Anniversary occurs at this time.



*God saw the road was getting rough,
The hill too hard to climb,
He gently closed your weary eyes,
And whispered 'Peace Be Thine'.*

Sadly missed and always remembered
by your loving family.

May Peter Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of KATHLEEN (Brigid) DEEVY

Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

Whose 4th Anniversary occurs 12th September 2020



God knew that she was suffering,
That the hills were hard to climb,
So He closed her weary eyelids,
And whispered, Peace be thine.
Away in the beautiful hills of God,
By the valley of rest so fair,
Some day, we know not when,
We will meet our loved one there.

*Will those who think of Mam today,
A prayer to our Blessed Mother say.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, on Sunday 13th September at 12.30pm.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by her daughter Marie,
son-in-law Seamus, grandchildren Blaine, Evan, Aoife,
Clodagh and partners and great-grandchildren Ellie-Mae,
Heidi-Marie, Leah, and Molly, extended family and friends.*

May Brigid Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of LARRY HEARNS

Churchview, Abbeyleix.

Whose birthday occurred 3rd September 2020.



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

*Loved and remembered always by his loving
wife Mary and family.*

Rest in Peace Larry

In Loving Memory of TOMMY BREEN

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

22nd Anniversary occurs 7th September 2020



*Will those who think of
Tommy today,*

A little prayer to Jesus say.

Sadly missed & remembered by
his sons, daughters & families

*Also remember his son Nevin on his third birthday
away from home.*

Always in our Thoughts, Forever in our Hearts.

May Tommy and Nevin Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH DOWLING**

Dublin Rd. Portlaoise. 21st Anniversary occurs 7th September.



Somewhere beyond the sunset where loved ones never die, she rests in a beautiful garden beneath God's golden sky, So fly to her little robin and whisper to her that we love her.

God grant her eternal rest

Love Martin, Martina, Mary, Anna, Claire & families.

May Elizabeth Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**In Loving Memory of
RAY BERGIN**

14 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
2nd Birthday away from home occurs 8th Sept.



Missing you always especially today on your birthday.

Love you, Mossie, Martina, Lisa, Sandra and grandkids xxxxx

Rest in Peace Ray

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
ANGELA LARKIN**

176 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.



On this, the first anniversary of the late Angela Larkin; 6th September 2019. We the family, wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy shown to us on our great loss. To the many relatives, friends & neighbours, heartfelt thanks. Thanks also to those who travelled long distances, sent Mass and sympathy cards, floral tributes and

messages of condolences.

Sincere thanks to Msgr. John Byrne and all the Priests of the Parish, also to the choir and those who took part in the funeral Mass.

A special word of thanks to the doctors and nurses of Portlaoise and Tullamore hospitals and Maeve, home help and to the Cedar Clinic and Hughes Pharmacy.

Our thanks to Rankins Undertakers for the professional manner in which they carried out Angela's funeral arrangements and to the grave diggers for preparing Angela's final resting place with such care and respect.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere gratitude. *The holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.*

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

Rest in Peace Angela

**In Loving Memory of
MICK KAVANAGH**

Ballydavis, The Heath.

2nd Anniversary occurs 8th September 2020.



When I come to the end of my journey and I travel my last weary mile,
Just forget, if you can, that I ever frowned and remember only my smile.
Forget unkind words I have spoken, remember some good I have done,
Forget that I ever had a heartache, and remember I've had lots of fun.

Forget that I've stumbled and blundered and sometimes fell by the way, remember I have fought some hard battles and won ere the close of the day.

Then forget to grieve for my going, I would not have you sad for a day, But in summer just gather some flowers and remember the place where I lay.

And come in the evening when the sun paints the sky in the west, Stand for a few moments beside me and remember only my best.

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

May Mick Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
DOLORES FAHY**

55 Beladd, Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise.

16th Anniversary occurs 17th September 2020



Mam, Those special memories of you will always bring a smile, if only we could have you back, for just a little while. Then we could sit and talk again, just like we use to do. You always meant so very much and always will do too.

The fact that you're no longer here will always cause us pain, but you're forever in our hearts, until we meet again.

Love you always Mam, from James, Ber, Sharon, Elaine, Dor, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren & great-grandchildren xxx

JAMES McEVOY

32 Upper Beladd, Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurred 6th September 2020



James, we hold you close in memory, even though we are apart, your spirit will live forever, within our broken hearts. Our hearts still ache in sadness and secret tears still flow, for what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. In Heaven we shall meet again, where farewell is never spoken, we shall clasp each other hand in hand, and the clasp shall never be broken.

Love and miss you so much and forever, Mam, Dad, Keith, Eve, your niece Aoife, aunts, uncles and cousins xx

Anniversary Mass for Dolores and James will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 13th September at 12:30pm.

May Dolores & James Rest in Peace

Portlaoise Parish



Results for 3rd September 2020

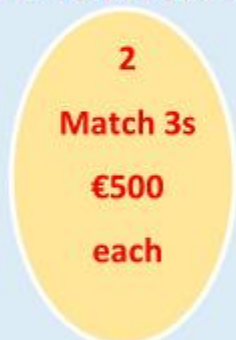


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Mary Collins

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Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8th date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (nine months earlier).



Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth....the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

ON LINE DONATIONS

There has been a very generous response to our on-line donation facility. We are very grateful for your support at this time. If you wish to contribute in this way you may do so by visiting our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie and follow the directions to donate. If you wish you may sign up to a regular subscription by this method. This may indeed be the way of the future as it is unlikely we will be back to passing 'the basket' any time soon, if ever. Standing Order forms are available in the Parish Centre for parishioners who would like to support by this method.

We are very grateful for the support we receive. Thank You.

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

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Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

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



Secretary: Julie Conroy
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