

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

24th January 2021

**Third Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
Sunday of the Word of God**



**'All are welcome in this place'**

11 different countries were represented in our prayer requests at last Sunday's Mass. This has become a regular feature of our Masses celebrated during lockdown. Between our webcam, Facebook live and Shalom World TV, and our Parish Radio, we have built up quite a 'virtual congregation' who join us daily, with many more on Sundays. One of our opening hymns, which we also quote on our website says it well 'All are welcome in this place'.

Pictured is Bonnie Mando participating in Mass from our Parish in her home at Chenango Bridge, New York State. She says in an article in a local newspaper, Binghamton Press and Sun - Bulletin. *"But when I heard the priests and the musicians at this parish in Ireland, Saints Peter and Paul, located in the midlands of Ireland, I was immediately drawn in."* The full article with some statistics is inside on pages 12 and 13.



**The Parish Centre 057 8621142**  
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## Wanted: Something More Important



**“Wanted:- Men and women willing to leave behind their old way of life and become fishers men.”**

There aren't many of us who would jump at this job application. It isn't that we don't want to

become fishers of men, its leaving behind our old way of life that we're not too keen on. It seems that there is very little that would persuade us to abandon our own self-interest.

In today's gospel one of the most impressive elements is that the early disciples accept the call to repent, abandon their fishing nets and follow Jesus. That they turn away from a successful business in order to become 'fishers of men' is a measure of their commitment.

Today there are still those who accept the challenge to abandon everything and become fishers of men. Each year, thousands of men and women give their lives to God and join religious orders. How do the rest of us answer to call to become 'fishers of men'? We can't all join religious orders; we have to find a way of answering the call in our own situation, and we might have lots of questions to ask first. What would being a disciple involve? Would we be up to the job? What would we have to leave behind? What would we have to give up? Would part time discipleship be okay ... after all we've got lots else to do!

There would be lots of questions we would ask, but sadly no easy answers. There is no one answer that is right for everybody. But the one important message for us today is that discipleship usually means a major shift in direction; a change that involves leaving behind things that get in the way of our relationship with God. It is left to each of us to decide what our particular mode of discipleship might be, and what stands in the path of our new direction. Our new direction has to start with some good hard soul searching, and a real desire to do something more important with our lives.



**Fáilte**

**We welcome into our Parish Community**

**Ifechukwu Ugonnaya Enendu  
The Hermitage  
baptised last weekend**

## Conversion of St Paul

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

When we are struggling to find change in our lives, we could hardly do better than look to the story of Saul, the great persecutor of Christians, who saw the light on the road to Damascus. The story of the conversion of Saul, from the persecutor of Christians to the zealous and holy instrument of evangelisation, Paul, shows the strength of God's power in our lives, and how He can change anything. Although misguided, Saul had always been sincere and committed. In him God saw a tremendous instrument for all that he wanted to accomplish. The lesson here is to remember that for God, nothing is impossible.



## A bit of History!

**This day 82 years ago!**

In 1939 An earthquake of 8.3 magnitude, devastated Chillan, Chile, killing 30,000 people.

## Thought for today!

Your belief determines your action and your action determines your results, but first you have to believe!



**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Jon3:1-5, 10; Ps 24:4-9**

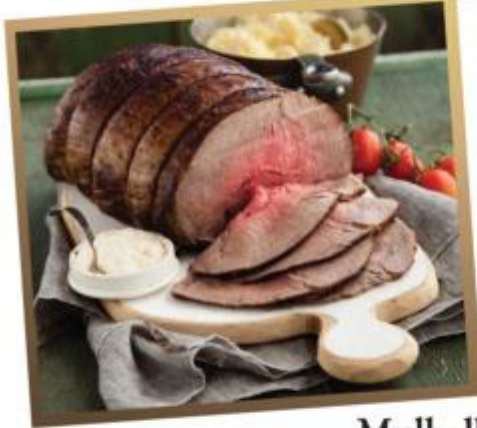
**1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20**





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

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*Tuesday 5.15pm to 6.15pm*

*Wednesday 10am to 11am*

*Thursday morning (time to be confirmed)*

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- Daily Rosary at 9.30am, 7pm and 9pm
- Daily Mass at 10am
- Our Church is open every day after the 10am Mass until 9pm for anyone who wishes to come and say a private prayer or to light a candle.
- Our Parish Office is open and it is best to contact us by phone, 057 8621142 or by email [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)
- Mass cards are available in the Parish Centre from 9am -5pm Monday to Friday. Please observe all safety measure currently in place.
- Our Link Up is still published weekly and is available in all our Church porches every weekend, but also online. The Link Up office is working remotely at the moment so we ask that all Anniversaries, adverts, and notices are submitted via email [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie) or phone 057 8692154 before 12noon on Wednesdays.



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## **PLEASE NOTE**

We are continuing the printing of our weekly linkup magazine over the coming weeks, working remotely. We ask that all Anniversaries/ adverts/notices are submitted via e-mail to;

**[linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)**

or phone to 057-8692154

before 12 noon Wednesday. If you are phoning, please leave a voicemail with your phone number, as this phone will not be attended on a full time basis and we will return your call.

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**"TúsMaith"**

## **Tobar an Léinn Raheen National School are now accepting registration for pupils for September 2021-2022**

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Also ASD class is open for registration for 2021-2022

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# TIME TO THINK!

## IT'S NEARLY SPRING... A TIME OF HOPE

As the evenings lengthen and new signs of life appear in our gardens, we welcome a new Spring. The following ancient story tells how the simple Spring air can refresh and indeed heal;

"The King needs daintier food," said the Court Cook, so he served broiled peacock on toast, and pomegranates and cream, and wild honey, and cheese-cakes as light as feathers, and a sponge cake made with the eggs of a bantam hen. But the King would eat none of them.

"The King needs medicine," said the Court Physician, so he searched the countryside for growing things and he brewed rose-leaf tea, and he made a potion of everlasting flowers mixed with rosemary, and he distilled wild honeysuckle with dew gathered at sunrise, but the King would drink none of these.

"Perhaps music would divert the King," suggested the Court Wise Man. "It might make him forget whatever is troubling him." Immediately the palace was filled with music, some of it very beautiful and all of it played by very famous people. But at the end the King was still weak and sorrowful. A harpist from a far country came and played music that sounded like the mighty wind on high mountain tops and the rushing flow of great mountain streams. But the King only thanked the harpist and requested that he be paid for his pains and his journey and go back to his home. Later, there came a trumpeter who gave great battle calls on his trumpet, but the King covered his ears to shut out the sound and looked more sad than ever because the sound of the trumpet gave him a headache. So it seemed as if not even music would make the King well, and no one knew what to do.

Gladheart was the little boy who tended sheep in the valley. He was the youngest of five brothers, and there was little room and less food for them in their father's house. But Gladheart had been given his name because he always smiled over a crust of bread, even when he was a baby. Now that he was a little lad of ten with a great flock of ewes and lambs to tend and drive through sun and storm, he had smiles and kind words for all, and he played his fiddle all day long until its sweet tunes filled the valley. "I must go and play before the King," Gladheart said one day.

"They will only laugh at your small fiddle," said his brothers, but the eldest said he would tend the sheep for a day, and Gladheart set out for the palace.

"The King will have naught to do with a shepherd lad dressed in goatskin and bearing an old fiddle," the guards at the door said. But Gladheart touched the strings with the bow and such a blithe tune came forth that the guards opened the door, and Gladheart went inside to play before the King. At first the sight of the King sitting so bent and sorrowful on the throne with a face as frowning and sad as a storm frightened Gladheart. But he took courage and stood as straight as he could in front of the throne, and began to play on the fiddle a tune that he had learned while he was in the fields with his sheep. It was a lovable tune, like a dozen birds and a little wandering wind and the voice of a rippling brook all joined with the sounds of the little earth singers, the bees, the katydid, and the crickets.

As the King listened, his bent shoulders straightened and his face became bright with smiles. He reached out his hands to Gladheart. "I heard that tune once before when I was a boy," he said. "It makes me well to hear it now. What is it about, lad?"

"It is about the spring, your majesty," said Gladheart. "It is the song that I learned from the fields

when winter was over. If your majesty will come with me to my sheep pasture, you may hear it there every day."

No one could understand why the King was suddenly so well or why he went often to sit with Gladheart and the sheep, but they were all very happy over it. And they gave Gladheart the riches and the honour that they had promised whoever could heal their King."

It was a joy recently to welcome the first snowdrops, soaking up the light and calling out to its fellow flowers to join in the celebration of life once again. I know that soon it will be joined by other Blue Bonnets, Buttercups, Tulips, Daffodils, and Dandelions. I know that soon the air will be full of Butterflies dancing above them all. I know that soon the meadows will be full of growing grass and the forested hills will be awash in bright, green leaves. I know that soon our gardens and pathways will once again be alive with the glory of God's creation. I know that soon we will be unlocked, freed from pandemic and in time much brighter days ahead to once again embrace and so appreciate the things we once took for granted.

We too are a part of that creation, but unlike the flowers in the field we have the ability to bloom even when the world around us is cold, dark, and harsh. We have the ability to share our beauty in the face of ugliness, our joy in the face of fear, and our love in the face of hate. We have the ability to make every day feel like the first day of Spring.

May you bloom well then today and always. May you shine your light. May you share your love. May you be truly alive in the glory of God's creation. And may you forever make your Heavenly Father smile.

Louise Glück - Snowdrops

Do you know what I was, how I lived?

You know what despair is;

Then winter should have meaning for you.

I did not expect to survive, earth suppressing me.

I didn't expect to waken again,

To feel in damp earth, my body able to respond again,

Remembering after so long how to open again

in the cold light of earliest spring

afraid, yes, but among you again

crying yes, risk joy

in the raw wind of the new world.







## Answering the Call

What do you do when there is an emergency? Let's say, for example, that someone has a serious injury or illness, and if they don't get help right away, they might die. What would you do? Right! You'd pick up the phone and call 9-9-9!

When you call 9-9-9 and tell the person who answers that you need help right away, it is their job to see that you get help. That person would never say something like, "I'm sorry, we are really busy right now, maybe some other time." No way! They drop whatever they are doing and make sure that you get the help you need.



In our Gospel today, Jesus was walking along beside the sea of Galilee preaching the good news of God when he made a call for help. He saw Peter and Andrew throwing a net into the water, because they were fishermen. He called out to them, "Come, follow me and I will teach you how to fish for people." You see, Jesus wanted Peter and Andrew to help him teach people about God's love for them. When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, they didn't say, "Not right now, we are busy fishing. Maybe some other time." No way! The Gospel tells us that they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus, Peter, and Andrew had gone a little farther when they saw James and John sitting in a boat mending their nets. When Jesus saw them, he called to them, "Follow me." They didn't say, "Not right now, we're busy mending our nets. Perhaps some other time." No, the Gospel says that they left their father sitting in the boat with the hired hands and followed Jesus.

Jesus is still calling for help today. He has called you and me to help him to bring others into God's Kingdom. Is it an emergency? It sure is! It's a matter of life and death! The Bible says, "Unless you repent, you will all perish." (Luke 13:3) Jesus has called us, what will we say? What will we do? I hope and pray that we will drop whatever we are doing and answer the call.

Dear Jesus,

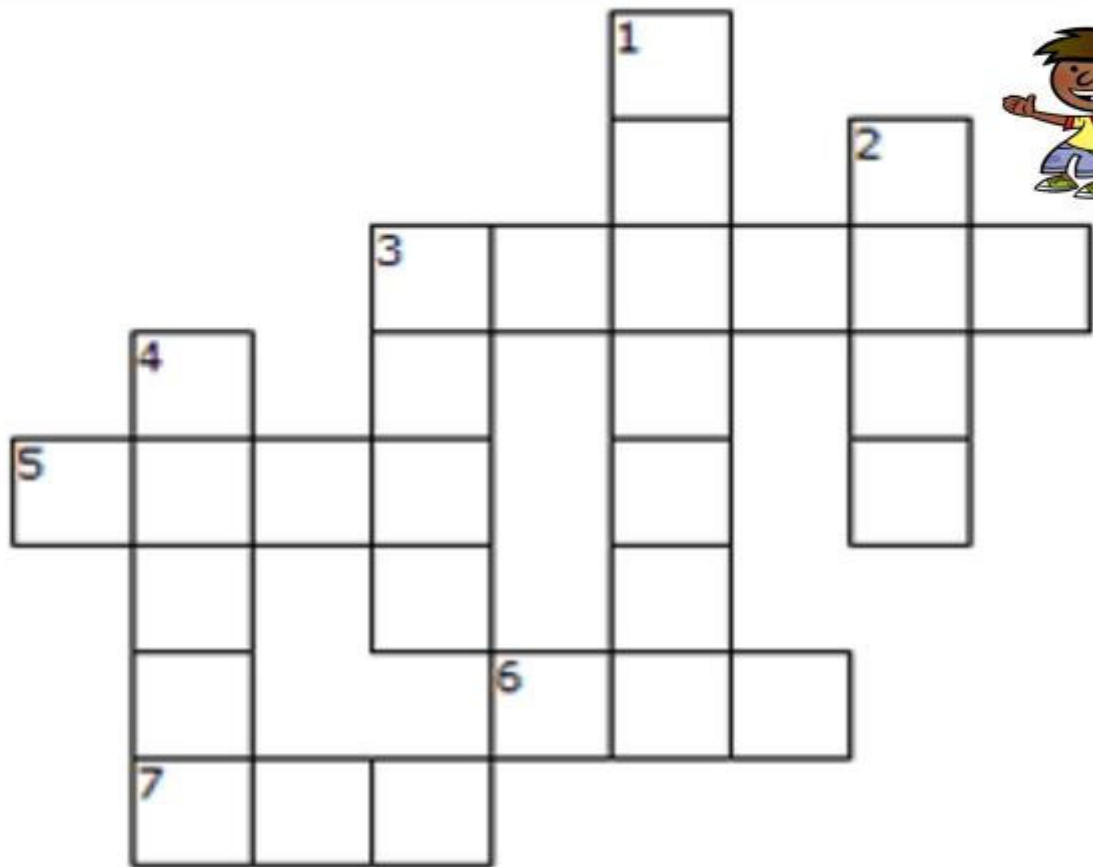
Heavenly Father, we want to be faithful in answering the call to discipleship. We want to fish for people - just like Peter, Andrew, James, and John. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





# Fishing for People

"Come, follow me," Jesus said,  
"and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 14:17  
The Puzzle is based on Mark 1:14-20



## ACROSS

3. To get behind someone and go where they go
5. A report of recent occurrences
6. An openwork fabric of cords used to catch fish.
7. A large area of salty water, smaller than an ocean.

## DOWN

1. To area of Israel; the place of Jesus' ministry.
2. A small vehicle for travelling on water.
3. An animal which lives in water and is covered with scales.
4. The Son of God.

**GALILEE**  
**FOLLOW**

**NEWS**  
**SEA**

**JESUS**  
**BOAT**

**FISH**  
**NET**





Bonnie Mando was frustrated when COVID-19 forced the shutdown of in-person worship at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Binghamton back in March. She had to get used to a new language with words like "YouTube," "livestream" and "subscribe."

Her search for faith brought her first to the parish's Sunday Mass on YouTube.

"Unlike some of the other liturgies that I was encouraged to 'attend' by friends, access to the weekly Mass at St. Francis was simple," she said. "I didn't have to tune in at any specific time — that was a big plus for me."

Mando checked out other parish Masses but noticed new technology left some struggling with poor audio or video. She was "saddened" by coverage of overcrowded hospitals and many deaths in Italy due to the virus. That's when Mando learned Pope Francis' daily Mass was being live-streamed. She connected through ShalomWorld.org.

"I was really drawn in by Francis' particularly relevant intention of the day," she said. "I honestly was also attracted by the technology that made it seem as if he were really close to me, not at a distance and in a place that was not distracting."

The Pope's Mass was over early one morning, and shortly after, another started on the website.

"The celebrant seemed to be speaking with a slight accent; I was interested when I discovered that I was actually in Ireland — Portlaoise, to be exact. A guitarist sang a wonderful opening hymn that I didn't recognize, and there were at least three or four other priests concelebrating," she said.

Mando's ethnic background is Irish "through and through," though she hadn't ever taken a lot of interest in the country.

"I never have been to Ireland, never had a pen pal — something very common when I was growing up," she said.

"But when I heard the priests and the musicians at this parish in Ireland, Saints Peter and Paul, located in the midlands of Ireland," Mando said, "I was immediately drawn in."

Though the church is more than 3,000 miles from her home in Chenango Bridge, Mando speaks of the priests there like she met them in person. There's the pastor, Msgr. John Byrne, who often compliments the TV crew. Father David Vard, ordained just three years ago. Father Ciprian Matei is a missionary from Romania.



Mando has also taken a virtual tour of the church. She's enjoyed liturgical music that she calls "familiar and different."

"Once you've 'attended,' you get daily notifications of the services. It has been easy to share with others, including technically challenged seniors like myself," Mando said. "The parish has its own webcam and parish radio, and a very informative webpage.

"I feel I'm involved in parish partnership around the world. You just have to listen to the prayer requests at my Irish parish," she said. "Canada, Australia, Pennsylvania, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka."

Mando discovered that others in Broome County are "attending" the church, too. That's after she asked for an intention for a friend who had died. "A woman from Endwell, someone I do not know, called the man's widow to say that she had heard Bob's name mentioned during the Irish Mass," she said. There are other local connections as well. After corresponding with one of the priests in Ireland, Mando found he'd served in Kenya and knew a nun now in Endicott.

"I called Sister Anisia Muthoni, a friend stationed at St. Anthony of Padua," she said. "I told her that I had 'met' Father Eddie. Amazingly, she told me that she knew him well."

Mando says participating with people of faith all over the world has helped her "hear the word of God more clearly." While being interconnected has excited her, she'll be "thrilled to rejoin" her local parish at worship services again.

But she "may always continue to join others virtually for the new eyes and ears and heart which this has given me." "I've always said I was a universal Catholic by virtue of my physically moving to many places and being privileged to have found wonderful extended families there," Mando said.

### Statistics

These are the figures for our Webcam so far this month.

Nearly 6 thousand viewers.

ShalomWorld TV also broadcast our Mass every day all over the World and tell us we have over 40,000 viewers of our Sunday Masses. So it is no wonder that we are receiving emails and messages from all over the globe. As we say:

*'All are welcome  
in this place'.*

		Total	
	Country	Users	↓
1.	 Ireland	4,009	
2.	 United Kingdom	915	
3.	 United States	615	
4.	 Canada	101	
5.	 India	70	
6.	(not set)	44	
7.	 Australia	43	
8.	 Malaysia	28	
9.	 Philippines	18	
10.	 South Africa	17	



OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR  
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



*John Dollard*

St. John's Sq. Portlaoise



*Donal (Dan) Graham*

The Green, Stradbally and  
formerly Lakeglen and  
Ballydavis

*Andrew Hyland*

Morette, Emo

*Joan McEvoy*

née Cole  
Ballyroan

*Brendan Dunne*

Abbeyleix

*Come to me, all you who are weary and  
burdened, and I will give you rest.*

**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)



We remember Fr. John Cummins on  
his second anniversary which will be  
celebrated in the Church of the  
Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, on  
Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

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

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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



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☎ Des 087-2794532  
☎ [moranundertakerslaois@gmail.com](mailto:moranundertakerslaois@gmail.com)

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Main  
Street  
Abbeyleix





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*In Loving Memory of*  
*A Dear Husband, Father and*  
*Grandfather*

**WILLIAM (Willie) O' REILLY**  
 28 Lakeglen, Mountmellick Rd. Portlaoise.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021



God looked around his garden and  
 found an empty place,  
 He then looked down upon the Earth and  
 saw your tired face,  
 He put his arms around you and lifted  
 you to rest,

God's garden must be beautiful,  
 He always takes the best.  
 He knew that you were suffering,  
 He knew that you would not get well,  
 He saw the road was getting rough,  
 And the hills were hard to climb,  
 So He closed your weary eyes,  
 And whispered "peace be thine".  
 It broke our hearts to lose you,  
 But you did not go alone,  
 For part of us went with you,  
 The day God called you home.



Sadly missed along life's way, your wife  
 Anne, sons and daughters, son-in-law,  
 daughters-in-law and all your  
 grandchildren xxx

*Rest in Peace William*

*In Loving Memory of*  
 A loving Husband, Father, Grandfather & Brother  
**SEAMUS (Seamie) PHELAN**

*Derrykearn, Abbeyleix.*  
 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021



*Memories are precious, they never fade away,  
 We think of you always, in our own special way.*

*Sadly missed, never forgotten by your  
 wife Breda and family.*

*Also remembering Seamus's parents Tom and Julia Phelan.*

*Rest in Peace Seamus*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**ANNE GING**

*70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.*  
 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



*Missing you is a heartache that will never  
 go away, you are always in our thoughts  
 and live forever in our hearts.*

*Loved and remembered today and  
 everyday, your loving son Liam,  
 daughter Helena and families.*

*May Anne Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of **EOIN DOOLEY**

Brittas Mountmellick. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.



We thought of you today, but that is nothing new, we thought of you yesterday and will tomorrow too, We think of you in silence and make no outward show, for what it meant to lose you, only those who love you know, Remembering you is easy, We do it every day, It's the heartache of losing you, that never goes away.

*Treasured memories of a loving son, brother and father, missing you always, love Mam, Dad, Diarmaid, Grainne, Sarah, Eileen, daughter Molly and your extended family.*

Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Mountmellick, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> at 11am, and in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise at 10am on Sunday 31st.

*May Eoin Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **ANGELA DUNNE** née Carey Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.



3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

Within our store of memories,  
She holds a place apart,  
For no one else can ever be,  
More cherished in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by her loving son John and grandchildren.*

*May Angela Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of  
**FRANCES REDDIN**  
4 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.



The family of the late Frances Reddin would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised, sent Mass cards and left such lovely messages on RIP on the sad loss of Frances.

A special word of thanks to all the carers and health care professionals including The Ambulance Service, Naas and

Beaumont Hospitals, The HSE, Connected Health, The Cedar Clinic, Midoc and Breslin's Pharmacy, who attended or helped care for Frances, during the last year in particular.

Thanks to all our wonderful neighbours and friends for their kindness and support at this time.

A special thank you to Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.

We would like to sincerely thank Msgr. John Byrne and Fr. David Vard C.C. for the beautiful ceremony that was celebrated and streamed via the Parish Webcam and to Aishling Rohan for the wonderful music and singing.

Thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for their support, compassion and professionalism in organising the funeral.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation.

Frances Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10am.

*Rest in Peace Mammy*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of  
**Martin (Bunny) Carroll**  
Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.



The family of the late Martin Carroll wish to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with us on our heart-breaking loss.

Our heartfelt thanks to Portlaoise GAA Club, Portlaoise AFC, Mountrath Golf Club and Town Celtic for their guards of honour, it was a fitting tribute to Martin.

Also to Msgr. Byrne and Fr. David for his service. To Sarah Troy for her beautiful singing and also Martin's nephew Alain for his beautiful music of the uilleann pipes.

A sincere thank you to Dr. White and staff, Deirdre and staff in Laois Pharmacy, the Palliative Care team and public health nurses, especially Phyllis and Joanne.

To Portlaoise Regional Hospital and to Martin's team of doctors in Tallaght Hospital for their kindness and professionalism over the years.

To Eamonn Kelly Undertakers for their kindness and professionalism and to the gravediggers who prepared Martin's final resting place.

Finally to Martin's many friends and neighbours in Marian Avenue and to all who sent Mass cards, letters, floral arrangements and refreshments to the house, you will never know how thankful we are to you all. At a later date we will have a memorial Mass to celebrate Martin's life. Please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

We also remember Martin on Monday as his first birthday away from home occurs 25<sup>th</sup> January.

*Rest in Peace Martin*



## In Loving Memory of NEVIN BREEN

Formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise and Galway  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurred 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021



*Will those who think of Nevin today  
a little prayer to Jesus say*

*Nevin, we miss you more than words could say*

*Sadly missed by his brothers and sisters  
and families*

*May Nevin Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of VERA BREEN

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.  
9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021



9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on Wednesday  
27<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

*Missing you is a heartache that will  
never go away, you are always in our  
thoughts and live forever in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed by all her loving family, children, grandchildren  
and great-grandchildren and her many friends.*

*May Vera Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of MARY M'EVROY

Late of St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



*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 by all her loving family and friends.*

We also remember Mary's husband Alo, her two  
sisters, Alice and Esther whose anniversaries  
occur around this time and Mary's grandson  
Daryl Dargan.

*Rest in Peace Mam*

## In Loving Memory of PATRICK (Paddy) CONNELL

Late of 57 Marian Place, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
this Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

*The rolling stream of life goes on,  
But still the vacant chair,  
Recalls the voice, the smile, the love,  
Of a Dad who once sat there,  
Loved and missed beyond compare.*

*Missed and loved everyday by your sons Richard, Pat and  
Kieran, daughters Geraldine, Philomena, Bernadette,  
Nora and Teresa, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*Thinking of our dear Mam, Mary at this time.*

*May Paddy Rest in Peace*

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

JULIA MARGARET "BELL" DOHENY

23 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise, whose birthday occurs 24<sup>th</sup> January.



*Mother: A mother like ours is more than a memory,  
She is a living presence. Our mother is always with us.  
She's the whisper of the leaves as we walk down the  
road; she's the smell of bleach in our freshly  
laundered socks; she's the cold hand on our brow  
when we're not well.*

*Our mother lives inside our laughter and she is  
crystallised in every tear drop.*

*She's the place we came from - our first home, and  
she's the map we follow with every step we take.*

*She's our first love and our first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can  
separate us....not time, not space - not even death.*

*Always remembered and never forgotten.*

*From her daughters, sons, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren  
and great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.*

*Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at this time.*

*May Julia Rest in Peace*



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Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

# Coronavirus **COVID-19 UPDATE**

## Statement from Laois GPs 20/1/21

Ireland is operating a containment strategy  
in line with **WHO** and **ECDC** advice



Riadas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

### Statement from Laois GPs 20/1/21

We are heartened to see the day-on-day reduction in case numbers and expect hospital admission to reduce shortly. We would like to thank everyone in our community for their efforts which has most certainly contributed to this reduction.

However, it is important that we all continue in our efforts to suppress this virus so that we may see a return to normal life in the not-too-distant future. It is vital that we continue to keep our contacts to a minimum and stay at home except for non-essential purposes. The arrival of several vaccines has added to our armoury in the fight against COVID-19.

Laois GPs are looking forward to assisting in the roll out of the vaccination programme in our community in the coming weeks.

The 1<sup>st</sup> roll out of the vaccination programme will involve GPs and their teams vaccinating those patients that are over 70. It is expected that we shall commence with those over 85 in the first instance and then over 80 and so on. Each practice will have different arrangements in place to roll this out and will advise their patients accordingly.

We are receiving a large volume of calls in relation to vaccine queries. Each practice will adhere to the recommended roll out as advised by the HSE and the National Immunisation Committee. The large volume of vaccine related queries via phone and e-mail to surgeries is placing additional strain on the administration system of GP practices locally. We ask that you avoid contacting your GP surgery to be put on a list as there are no lists. If you have concerns or are seeking advice in relation to the vaccine, please find below a list of recommended sites where you may find the answer to your query.

The HSE site contains information about who should receive the vaccine, its safety, immunity, and side effects. There are also patient information leaflets found on this site. <https://www2.hse.ie/covid-19-vaccine/>

I am pregnant, should I have the vaccine? The final decision rests with the individual. The following link contains the most up to date information;

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/qaiogniac.pdf>

The following link has a decision-making aid for pregnant women offered the vaccine;

<https://rcpi-live-cdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/IMPS-IOG-COVID-Vaccine-Infographic-V130121.pdf>



## Portlaoise Parish



## Results for

21st January 2021

16

17

19

20

**No €19,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Kieva Reidy  
Dooley Family  
Henry Hewitt  
Kathleen Byrne

MATCH 3s €1,000

04  
Match 3s  
€250  
each

### PROMOTER

Richard Phelan  
Paul Dooley  
Nora Walsh  
Catherine Byrne

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**Next Week's Jackpot €20,000**

*Jesus said: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand.  
Repent, and believe the Good News'.*

Today's Gospel Mark 1:15

## Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of the collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support. *Thank you* to the many who have found new ways of continuing to support the Parish during this time of Lockdown. The generosity of so many means we continue to be well supported and can pay our way at this time.

### Ways to contribute to our Parish

Envelope boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre

Direct payment by cheque or cash

Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church

Donation facility on our website

Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre

Or Transfer directly to our Account

**Portlaoise Parish Account:**

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

**Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:**

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

**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. Theodore Tomasik SVD  
Tel: 057 8661605

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](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. Julie

All Masses and services from the Parish Church are live streamed [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)  
(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times  
057 8600119)



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 - Claire Scully



**The following Parish Schools are currently accepting applications for enrolment for the academic year 2021/22**

All enrolment forms can be downloaded from their website.

**Holy Family Junior School (Closes 28/01)**  
[www.holyfamilyjs.ie](http://www.holyfamilyjs.ie)

**The Heath National School (Closes 29/01)**  
[www.heathns.ie](http://www.heathns.ie)

**Scoil Bhríde (Closes 04/02)**  
[www.scoil-bhríde.com](http://www.scoil-bhríde.com)

**Please see the school websites for further details.**

