

Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Catholic Schools Week 24th - 31st January

February 1st - Feast of St. Brigid, Patron of our Diocese



Image from the Irish College in Rome

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

COMMUNITIES OF ...

Oh Brigid, Mary of the Gael, May your protection never fail. Spread your mantle over me, where'ere I am, where'ere I be. Cover me with God's joy and peace, Let my faith and hope never cease. Shine your light where there is darkness, strengthen me in any weakness. Heal all within that may be ill, Give me the desire each day to do God's will. 'Till I rest, my journey o'er, With God and you forever more. St. Brigid, patron of Kildare and Leighlin, Pray for us. Amen.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142 E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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True Authority

Today Mark tells us how Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. He tells us how amazed the people were at how he taught and at the authority in his teachings. His



authority was powerful enough to expel demons even. You'll notice that Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus taught but only how he taught and the impression he made. So why did people sense authority in Jesus' presence, and why was it so compelling?

When we think of authority we tend to think of bosses, leaders or the legal profession. We think of rules, laws and boundaries. We equate authority with enforcement and for the most part we don't like it very much. Perhaps Jesus' brand of authority was compelling because it wasn't any of these things. Jesus' brand of authority wasn't about the exclusion that the scribes and Pharisees were so fond of but of total inclusion. Jesus' authority was routed in the value of every man woman and child over any out-dated rule or redundant tradition.

We do not have the benefit of listening first hand to Jesus' teaching, but it is testament to his authority that we still read his words twenty centuries after he spoke them. There are still lessons to be learned for those who believe Jesus can add something to our world and change us forever. There are still demons in our lives, and Jesus' teaching still has the authority to drive them out.



St. Brigid of Kildare

Monday 1st February Patroness of our Diocese

She was born in 451 or 452 at Faughart, near Dundalk. Her name is that of the pagan goddess of fire. She converted to Christianity, inspired by the preaching of

St Patrick. She founded a double monastery, of monks and nuns, at Kildare, the first women's monastic community in Ireland, and she died there in 525. For more on St. Brigid, see inside pages 8 & 9.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Fiadh Anne Hurley, Broomville baptised last weekend

Presentation of the Lord February 2nd

Simeon had waited all his life to see Jesus. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would live long enough. When Mary and Joseph presented the baby at the temple, Simeon said,



This image can be seen in our Parish Church

"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."

Seeing Jesus satisfied Simon's life. We are prompted to ask what would satisfy us in our lives. Are the goals we set worth a lifetime of wanting, as Simeon's was?

Blessing of Candles will take place after Mass on Tuesday and will be available afterwards at the Parish Office.

Thought for today!

Every problem has in it the seeds of its own solution. If you don't have any problems, you don't get any seeds.

A bit of History!

On 30th January 1607

Massive flooding in England destroyed around 200square miles of coastline.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Dest18:15-20; Ps 94:1-2,6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28

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. We are very appreciative of the continued support of so many during this difficult time



New Envelope Boxes covering the coming year - up to the end of January 2022 - are now available in our Church porches and Parish Centre. The boxes contain envelopes for each week and also for the Priests collections and other special collections during the year. We don't know when we will be able to gather safely in Church for Mass again and even then it is highly unlikely that we will be passing

collection baskets. So we have to find a new way of supporting our Parish. One excellent way is to take a box of envelopes and make your contribution by placing the envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre. By writing your name and address on your first envelope contribution we can assign that number to you and record your contributions which will enable us to take advantage of the 'Revenue Tax Back ' facility. We would recommend this method of contributing but there are of course other ways of supporting.

Some other ways to contribute to our Parish

Direct payment by cheque or cash

Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church

Donation facility on our website (you can set up a regular payment via this facility also)
Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre (or see below)

Or Transfer directly to our Account

If you make a direct transfer to
one of our accounts or submit a
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057 862 1142

or email info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Portlaoise Parish Account:

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

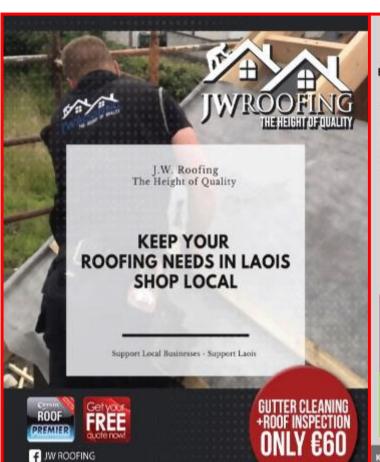
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ELDERLY PEOPLE:

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

CHILDREN;

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

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Please phone/text the clinic on 087-9945057 if you are interested and we will arrange to book you into a class.

Current planned class times are as follows;

Tuesday 5.15pm to 6.15pm Wednesday 10am to 11am Thursday morning (time to be confirmed)

The clinic is currently fully operational and open with all necessary Covid-19 measures in place. This is being reviewed on a daily basis.

Bookings can be taken for both in clinic sessions as well as online consultations where needed.

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St. Brigid - Monday 1st February Born: 453 Died: 523

St Brigid is the Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. A few years after St. Patrick arrived, a little girl named Brigid was born at Faughart, County Louth, in Ireland. Her father was an Irish Lord named Dubtach and her mother was a Christian slave named Brocca. As Brigid grew up, her love for Jesus grew deep. She once heard St. Patrick preach and never forgot his teaching for the rest of her life. She looked for Jesus in the poor and often brought food and clothing to them. One day



she gave away a whole pail of milk and then she began to worry about what her mother would say. She prayed to the Lord to make up for what she had given away. When she got home, her pail was full again. Another day Brigid gave away her fathers precious sword to a poor man so he could sell it to buy food. She was always helping the poor. Brigid's father wanted her to marry but Brigid had decided in her heart to give herself entirely to God. She did not want to marry anyone. Brigid finally got her wish and her father let her enter a convent. Brigid became a nun under Saint Mel and shortly afterwards she founded a monastery on land given to her by the King of Leinster. The land was called *Cill Dara* (Kildare) or the "the church of the oak".

Prayer to St. Brigid

You were a woman of Peace, you brought harmony where there was conflict,

You brought light to the darkness, You brought hope to the downcast,
May the mantle of your Peace cover those who are troubled and anxious
and may Peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.
Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

Amen.

Making a St Brigid's Cross is a custom in Ireland. The St Brigid's Cross is made out of plants called rushes (Juncus effusus) for hanging above the entrances to dwellings to invoke the help of St Brigid in warding off disease. St Brigid's Day is celebrated on the 1st February each year and the crosses are made at that time. Rushes were traditionally used to make the St Brigid's Cross. These were collected from wetlands

traditionally used to make the St Brigid's Cross. These were collected from wetlands and cut into pieces, 8-12 inches long. Rushes can be hard to get for city dwellers so ordinary drinking straws are a good substitute. Use rubber bands to tie up the ends.

You Will Need

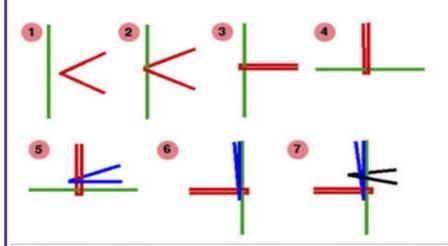
9 drinking straws & 4 small rubber bands

What to Do

- 1. Hold one of the straws vertically. Fold a second straw in half as in the diagram.
- 2. Place the first vertical straw in the centre of the folded second straw.
- 3. Hold the centre overlap tightly between thumb and forefinger.
- Turn the two straws held together 90 degrees counter clockwise so that the open ends of the second straw are projecting vertically upwards.
- 5. Fold a third straw in half and over both parts of the second straw to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Hold tight.
- 6. Holding the centre tightly, turn the three straws 90 degrees counter clockwise so that the open ends of the third straw are pointing upwards.
- 7. Fold a new straw in half over and across all the staws pointing upwards.
- 8. Repeat the process of rotating all the straws 90 degrees counter clockwise, adding a new folded straw each time until all nine straws have been used up to make the cross.

Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length.

The St. Brigid's Cross is now ready to hang.





The Presentation of the Lord

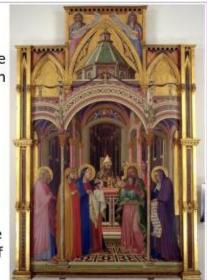
On Tuesday the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day.

On Tuesday we hear about Jesus and his family and a special trip they took to Jerusalem.

We hear about the special things that happened to Jesus there and all that was said about him.

Our Prayer

Father, as we celebrate The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. We are reminded of who is important and special in our life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



TIME TO THINK!

THE HILL WE CLIMB

Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in US history, has become an international voice of hope. She is a hugely inspirational woman. Her voice is prophetic, in a time we long for hope and light. She is also rich in faith and an active member in her catholic parish. Gorman, who was named the first US national youth poet laureate in 2017, recited "The Hill We Climb", a poem she had written, in part, on the day of the US Capitol riots on January 6th, at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. Slowly read and be inspired......

"The Hill We Climb,"

When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.

We braved the belly of the beast.

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what "just" is, isn't always justice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow we do it.

Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colours, characters and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.

That even as we grieved, we grew.

That even as we hurt, we hoped.

That even as we tired, we tried.

That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit. It's the past we step into and how we repair it.

We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can If only we're brave enough to be it. never be permanently defeated.



In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption. We feared at its inception. We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.

But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

So, while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.

because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.

Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain.

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birth

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.

Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.

We will rise from the golden hills of the West.

We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realised revolution.

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern

We will rise from the sun-baked South.

We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.

And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.

The new dawn balloons as we free it.

For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,700 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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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. Thank you for your

co-operation and stay safe.

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Also ASD class is open for registration for 2021-2022 Please feel free to contact the school for more information.

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY;



Mary Lalor Ballycarroll



Tommy Glennon Rathleague



Susan Greene 74 O' Moore Place. Portlaoise



Michael Dunne Clonreher



Thomas English Cherrygarth



Liz Farrell née Bonham Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise



Fiona Murphy née Dunne Mayo and Portlaoise



Christopher Francis McGlinn

Dublin and Portlaoise

Mary Jane Mahony née Mallon Boley, Abbeyleix

Esther Dooley - Ballyroan

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



In Loving Memory of MICHAEL DEMPSEY



3 Roselawn, Portlaoise and late of Rathdowney. 6th Anniversary occurs 1st February 2021



6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday 1st February at 10am.

Looking back on all our years and things that we've been through, of all

the choices that I made, I'm glad I married you.

Sadly missed by your loving wife Marie.

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

Lots of love Dad, from Joe, Patricia, Mickey, Helena and Aine, daughters-in-law, son-in-law and grandchildren.

May Michael Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH 'Liz' FARRELL



née Molloy



Formerly The Heath, Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary occurs 4th February. May the winds of Heaven blow softly and

whisper in your ear. How much we love and miss you and wish that you were here. Loved and remembered always by your sister Georgina, brother Sean and sister-in-law Ann.

Rest in Reace Elizabeth



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In Loving Memory of DAN COLLIER

Highfield Meadows, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary Mass occurs 1st February 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday 1st February at 10am.

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

Loved and remembered always by his loving wife Freda and family.

May Dan Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of KATHLEEN BRENNAN

Rathleague, Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary occurred 26th January 2021



Think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched, For nothing loved is ever lost, and she was loved so very much.

Sadly missed and always remembered by her loving children, grandchildren, family and friends.

May Kathleen Rest in Reace



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In Sad & Loving Memory of Our dear brother JOHN HOULIHAN

Late of Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
14th Anniversary occurs 31st January 2021. Mass offered.



From where we sit we shed a tear,
Wishing somehow you were near,
So we close our eyes and think of you
and just for one moment,
you step into view.
Beautiful memories wrapped in gold,
These of you John are ours to own.

Loved and always missed by your sisters, Tina, Catherine, Ann, Liz, Mary and brothers Paddy and Con.

May John Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of ESTHER SZWAGLIS



Late of 170 St. Brigid's Place. Died 29th January 1999. 22nd Anniversary away from home.



"From sunrise to sunset, every moment would have been more wonderful if you were with us today. Your memories will never be forgotten".

Missing you every day from your loving husband Les and family.

Also remembering her sisters Alice and Mary and her son-in-law David around this time.

May Esther Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of *FINTAN DOOLEY*

7 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise. 8th Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2021.



As each day dawns and starts anew, As each day ends, we think of you, And in between, no matter where, Deep in our hearts, you are always

We do not need a special day, to bring you back to mind, For days without a thought of you, are very hard to find.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by all his loving family.

May Sintan Rest in Reace



+++++

In Loving Memory of MARY (May) CONNELL

31 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. 16th Anniversary occurred 28th January 2021



January comes with sad regret, the day, the month we'll never forget, In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered forever each day.

Sadly missed by your loving family and friends.

Rest in Reace Mary



In Loving Memory of BRÍDÍN MULHALL

Ballyroan, Laois and Rathmines, Dublin. 5th Anniversary; 28th January 2021.



Dearly loved daughter and sister - you are greatly missed and lovingly remembered today and everyday by Seamus, Ursula, John, James and Gerard.

The much loved niece of Sr. Gerard, Sr. Kay and Sr. Patricia, Frances and Michael, Evelyn (God Mother) and Eamon, Sean and Elizabeth. Sadly missed by all her cousins and extended family and forever in the mind and hearts of

her many friends.

The just will live in the company of the lord' Psalm 37

Bridin's family would like to thank the community for their continued support over the years.

Rest in Reace Bridin

You are the Of the World

KEEGAN'S AL 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

DES & CARMEL MORAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Main St., Ballyroan, Co. Laois

24 hour service and personalised attention

057-8731115

Carmel 087-6144280

Des 087-2794532

moranundertakerslaois@gmail.com

Kelly's Funeral Services

Since the 1940's the Kelly family have been providing Funeral Services in the Abbeyleix area.

We offer a 24 hour personal and professional funeral service.

057-8731048 087-2535866

www.kellysfuneralservice E-mail: info@kellysfuneralservices.in

Main Street

Abbeyleix

Portlaoise Parish

Results for 28th January 2021



07

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS Francis McEvov **Chris Coss** Peggy Kelly **Pauline Gannon** Michael Ryan **David Murphy Caroline Lantry Tom Lantry**

Karen & Paul Dunne **Clooney Family** Martina O'Brien

Colm Doheny **Keith Lawless** Sean Whelan

Noelle Fitzpatrick Peter Killeen

MATCH 3s €1,000

16 Match 3s €63 each



Play PARISH



PROMOTER

Theresa Kelly Stefan Crabb **Peggy Kelly Parish Centre Parish Centre** Lynda Campbell **Lotto Gift Lotto Gift Kathleen Dunne** Kathleen Dunne Billy O'Brien **Parish Centre** Nicola Byrne **Carmel Whelan** Jerry Dooley Pam Killeen

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Next Week's Jackpot €20,000



Portlaoise Parish Lotto

1/2 year (26 DRAWS) for only €50

Full Year (52 DRAWS) for only €100

Other Lotto voucher denominations also available.

You may also play our Lotto on line at

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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 viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722 E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

All Masses and services from the Parish Church are live streamed 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

> **PARISH SHOP** 057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Ways to Stay Connected With Our Parish During This Time

- Daily Rosary at 9.30am, 7pm and 9.30pm
- Daily Mass at 10am
- Our Church is open every day after the 10am Daily Mass until
 9pm for anyone who wish to come and say a private prayer
 before the Blessed Sacrament 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
- 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 and in some local shops. It is also available on our website. The Link Up office is currently working remotely at the moment so we ask that all Anniversaries, adverts and notices be submitted via email linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie or by phone 057 8692154 before 12noon on Wednesdays.



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www.portlaoiseparish.ie



106.5FM