

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**
2nd May 2021

**Fifth Sunday
of Easter**



May is the
Month of
Mary



Well done girls! A great achievement!

Congratulations to Sadhbh Dunne and Cara Phelan who raised over €2,000 with their 'Walk to Lourdes' initiative, supported by the Pope John Paul II Award students. Seen here presenting their cheque to **PATH** Portlaoise Action To Homelessness representatives Sheila Lutrell and Catherine Brennan. A fantastic achievement! Many thanks to all who walked with them and donated to such a worthy cause.



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Branching Out

There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of

atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principal. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome ... the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone; we branch out as a team.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Dáithí Cathal Keogh, Loughiehoe

Charlie Cahillane, Summerhill

Joe James O'Grady, Lynden Court

Who were baptised last weekend.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for May

Poverty, mathematician Eli Khamarov said, is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit. Dictatorial and corrupt governments can make what could be a very rich nation into a poor one. And so does a history of exploitative colonization, weak rule of law, war and social unrest, severe climate conditions or hostile, aggressive neighbours. It is often hard to pinpoint a single cause of long-term poverty, hence why economists often refer to "cycles" of poverty. For example, a country in debt will not be able to afford good schools, and a poorly educated workforce will be less capable of fixing problems and creating conditions that will attract foreign investment.

This month we are invited to share in Pope Francis's prayer intention "...that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers."

Global Prayer Marathon for the Month of May



Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic.

"The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families and

communities all take part in reciting the rosary.

It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God.' The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.





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Talking Buddies - Speech & Language Therapists, Katie and Maria will give a zoom talk and demonstrate how to use books and reading, to encourage young children to talk and add to the words they already know. This event will take place on Wednesday, 5th May at 11am.

For further details about our events or to register your interest please tel. **057-8622333** or e-mail: portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie

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The True Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

In today's Gospel, Jesus told his disciples a story to teach them the importance of staying connected to him. Jesus used the example of a vine. A vine is a plant with

a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches should have grapes on them. Have you ever seen a branch that has been broken off a tree or a vine? What happens to it? It withers up and dies. It can never have any fruit on it again.

Jesus said, **"I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will have much fruit, but apart from me, you can do nothing."**

Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit like being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, he wants us to love others as he has loved us. To do this you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us.



Dear Father, help us to remember that we need to stay plugged in to Jesus if we are going to produce the kind of fruit you expect. Amen

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Gifts: The first part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is about preparing the gifts that we bring to the altar.

The most important gifts that we bring are the **bread and wine**.

The other gift that you will notice being prepared is money. People put money in baskets and this money is used to run the parish.



The Priest offers the gifts to God.

The Priest holds up the bread and says a prayer of blessing. Next the Priest pours wine into a chalice and adds a drop of blessing to God again.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Amen



May is the month of Mary.

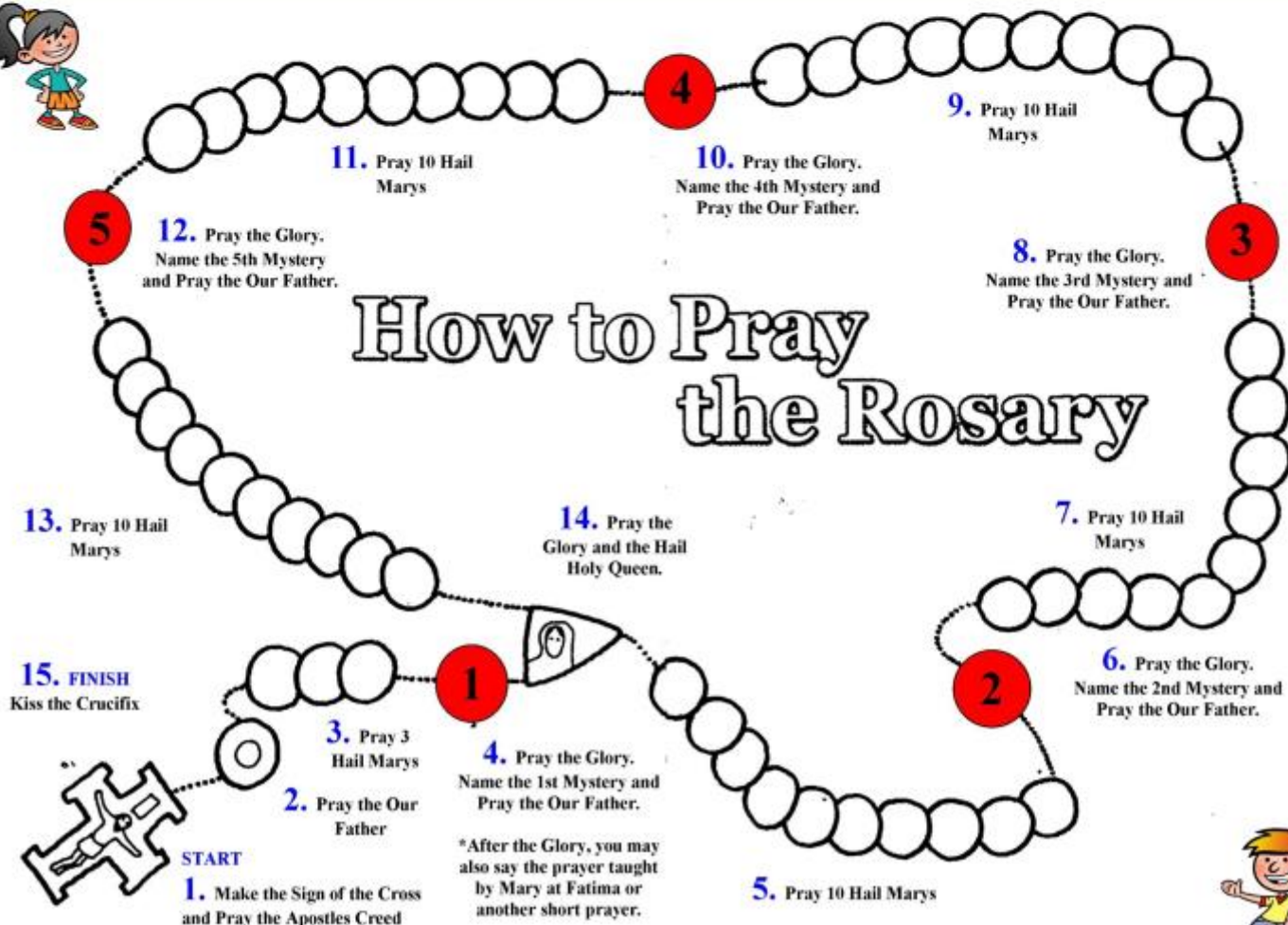


To celebrate the month of May you can make a May altar in your home and pray the Hail Mary.

While watching their sheep, Lucia (age 10) and her cousins Francisco (age 9) and Jacinta (age 7) saw our Lady of the Rosary.



The Rosary is a prayer that we often associate with Mary. The Rosary is divided into 5 decades (sets of ten). Each decade represents an event in Jesus life.





TIME TO THINK!

A much brighter Tomorrow

Mary Robinson has joined more than 150 former heads of state and Nobel laureates in signing an open letter to US president Joe Biden calling for a "people's vaccine" to end the pandemic. India and South Africa have led the campaign, which calls for intellectual property rights on Covid-19 vaccines to be waived so that production can be ramped up globally. The Biden Administration is said to be considering a temporary waiver of World Trade Organisation (WTO) intellectual property rules during the pandemic. Former president Dr Robinson has supported the campaign, and has also called on EU leaders to "put the collective right to safety for all ahead of everything else - and come together to end this pandemic." The letter to Mr Biden says the waiver will "save lives and advance us towards global herd immunity." It states: "These actions would expand global manufacturing capacity, unhindered by industry monopolies that are driving the dire supply shortages blocking vaccine access. "Nine in 10 people in most poor countries may well go without a vaccine this year. "At this pace, many nations will be left waiting until at least 2024 to achieve mass Covid-19 immunisation." The poor suffer most in this pandemic, that's why a just and equitable distribution of vaccines is so important.

Nationally over the last year the news has developed its own irreversible template:

(i) Government and NPHEP representatives are invariably asked - *When will X, Y or Z be happening?*

(ii) The response is usually - *We can't be specific because we don't know what the science will be telling us at that point.*

(iii) *But people need clarity and there's a breakdown in communication because they are not getting clarity.*

And

(iv) *We can't be specific because we don't know what the science will be telling us at that point.*

Acres of print and forests of trees have been sacrificed repeating that same inter-change in different ways. Exactly the same template is followed by politicians - those interested in getting into power but haven't the responsibility of high office at present and those who don't want to get into office and have the added luxury of building even bigger castles in the air. For both, it's about getting on television and invariably the sequence follows the above (i), (ii) (iii) and (iv).

For the first lockdown, there was a certain novelty. We started baking, painting or testing out our green fingers in the garden. Then the flour and the paint ran out. Or we started walking. Or phoning relatives and friends exchanging experiences and worries about adjusting to the 5K limit. After a while we realised that no one had any news because no one was going anywhere, no one was doing anything or meeting anyone. And if we happened to meet someone, that person had no news because they were going nowhere and meeting nobody.

So the same stilted conversation was about wondering



how long the lockdown would last, when a vaccine would be available, when schools would open, when essential services like barbers would be back. And the unchanging response was (ii) (above) *We can't be specific because we don't know what the science will be telling us at that point.* Even planning for the future became a nightmare. Almost everything had to be cancelled or postponed - holidays, weddings, Christmas, evenings out, weekends away - and even if they hadn't, COVID-19 became the unquestioned excuse to put anything vaguely uncomfortable on the long finger. All that was reasonably possible was to grow hair and to expand the figure as the high-points of the day became breakfast, dinner and tea and even passing the fridge seemed beyond what the human condition could reasonably expect. A second lockdown came and went as did Christmas and, as I write, a third lockdown is still in place. See (i), (ii) (iii) above.

But it's different now. The sky is clear and the sun is shining. Numbers contracting the virus are steadily going down, deaths are decreasing, numbers in hospital and in intensive care have declined, vaccines, despite the ups and downs of distribution, are being rolled out in huge numbers and their effect will soon be felt. Suddenly, we have so much to look forward to. Visiting family members. Meeting friends for a coffee. Going out for the day. Soon the GAA football championship will be underway. Golf courses are open. Hairdressers will clip away to their hearts' content. The breeze will carry the hum of children playing in a distant school-yard. Simple, everyday activities and pleasures that took COVID-19 to remind us about how pivotal to our happiness the ordinary bits of life can be.

And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time.

(T.S. Eliot)

So, greet the morning with a smile and enjoy whatever the day offers. Take the crest of whatever wave is available and go the extra mile. Don't heed the begrudgers and the nay-sayers, with their own agendas of misery and gloom.....*Soon, all will be well and all manner of things will be well.* (Julian of Norwich)

Bicentenary of the Birth of John Canon O'Hanlon

This weekend marks a significant event for Co. Laois – the bicentenary of the birth of John Canon O'Hanlon in Stradbally on 30 April, 1821 – a man who stands out as one of the greatest achievers that this county has ever produced. Not only was he an outstanding priest who was elevated to the status of Canon in the Archdiocese of Dublin, but he was a noted writer, historian, folklorist and promoter of the Irish language.

His most famous work, *Lives of the Irish Saints*, was published in ten volumes between 1873 and 1905. This painstaking work involved in-depth research of the lives of Ireland's saints. It opened a unique window on Christianity in Ireland and on the people who shaped it. For example, in Volume 2 concerning the month of February, we see twenty-five pages dedicated to the life of St. Fintan of Clonenagh and Cromogue. Not only do these pages contain a comprehensive account of St. Fintan's life but O'Hanlon also produced sketches of places of local interest in the story of St. Fintan's life such as the site of Churchfield Cemetery at Clonkeen, the ruined church of Clonenagh, the old church at Cromogue, and the then 'new' Catholic Church of St. Fintan at Mountrath – many of which were drawn by O'Hanlon himself in the 1850s and 1870s. Some of the most fascinating aspects of O'Hanlon's accounts of the lives of the saints can be found in the footnotes such as his description of the well that sprung from what is known locally at the 'money tree' in Clonenagh: "*Many of the peasantry, to the present day, when passing the well of St. Fintan at Clonenagh, take off their hats, and make a sign of the cross on their forehead – the women also make a curtesy – customs which the writer had opportunities for witnessing (in August 1856).*"

Amongst the other published works of O'Hanlon (twenty-eight in total, three of which were published after his death), were several other works with a religious theme such as "*The Life of St. Brigid*," "*The Life of Saint David (chief patron of Wales)*," "*The Life of St. Laurence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin*," and "*The Life of St. Aengus the Culdee, bishop and abbot at Clonenagh and Dysartenos*."

Here in Co. Laois O'Hanlon is renowned for his "*History of the Queen's County*" which was published in two volumes in 1907 and 1914, both after his death. These are important and significant reference books for those interested in the history of this county from earliest times up to the end of the nineteenth century. Another important work from a local perspective was O'Hanlon's research, in the latter part of his life, of the writings of the writer and poet, John Keegan of Killeaney near Shanahoe. This culminated in the publication in 1907 of "*Legends and Poems by John Keegan*" – a work that was finalised two years after O'Hanlon's death by D.J. O'Donoghue. A letter from O'Hanlon to O'Donoghue in September 1901 gives an interesting account of his ongoing work on the Keegan project: "*I hope to go down for a few days before winter sets in to Abbeyleix, and see some of the Champions living there.... A young gentleman, Hibernian Bank clerk, a Mr. O'Toole and a good amateur photographer, has promised to take photographs for me of the site of the house in which his uncle Maloney and he first taught school, afterwards transferred to Shanahoe Chapel, of Killeaney Castle, of Gortnaclea Castle, of Poor Man's Bridge, and other places alluded to by him. Several are yet living that remember him and loved him in life, but they are old like myself, and therefore no time ought to be lost, as my friend Mr. Edward Morrissey is most anxious to aid my investigations and drive me out to the scenes so familiar to poor Keegan.*"

The Morrissey name is, of course, synonymous with Abbeyleix and they were part of O'Hanlon's extended family. As well as regular visits by O'Hanlon to Abbeyleix, letter-writing between them was frequent such as a letter addressed by O'Hanlon from Star of the Sea Church, Irishtown, Dublin to "Mrs. Mary Morrissey, Hotel, Abbeyleix" on December 21st 1901 which opened with the following lines: "*I have to thank you very cordially for the Christmas presents of the fine turkey and brace of partridges that arrived this evening, and to wish Mr. Morrissey, yourself and numerous family a very happy meeting around the festive board. I have specially to request you will allow Teresa to come up to Dublin on Monday week for her holydays, especially as I shall have a small party of young people to have an early lunch on New Year's Day, Wednesday, so that we may adjourn to our school-house at 8 o'clock, where we are to have a very enjoyable scóraíocht, Irish songs, Irish music, Union Pipers, Violin and Irish lecture, combined, first rate talented ladies and gentlemen to take part. Then she is to remain at least into the month of February when I promise to return with her to Abbeyleix for a couple of days when I hope to trespass on Mr. Morrissey's valuable time to glean more particulars of John Keegan as I hope to do....For the last week I have not been in bed before one o'clock – once before three o'clock – in the morning, working on the Index of my Irish American History of the United States.*"

When John Canon O'Hanlon, Parish Priest of the parish of Sandymount in Dublin died in May 1905 his funeral to Glasnevin Cemetery was attended by many from Co. Laois (then Queen's County) and they included James A. Mulhall of Pass House, Ballyroan, E.J. Morrissey of Abbeyleix as well as P.A. Meehan Chairman of Queen's County Council and Mark Walsh, Chairman Maryborough Town Commissioners.

This weekend, we spare a thought for the life of John Canon O'Hanlon and for his enduring works that place him among the greats of Irish historians and writers of the nineteenth century and which have also earned him the distinction of being one of the most famous priests this county has ever produced.

By: Tony Delaney

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

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née Corcoran

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MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to their families.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



In Loving Memory of

PAT (Paddy) LILLIS

"Arbutus" Kilminchey, Portlaoise, Co. Laois and
Doonbeg, Co. Clare.



As we lovingly remember Pat, on the first anniversary of his death, his wife Mary, son Patrick and extended Lillis family, wish to thank all those who sympathised with them on the very sad loss of our darling Pat. Sincere thanks to Msgr. John Byrne and Fr. David Vard for celebrating Pat's funeral Mass.

Our thanks to Matthew Keegan for his kindness and support and to the gravediggers for preparing Pat's final resting place.

We will be forever grateful to the wonderful doctors, nurses and staff at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise who cared for Pat during his final weeks.

Thank you all so much for the many letters, Mass and sympathy cards, phone calls, messages of condolence and flowers.

As manager of A.C.C. Bank Portlaoise, Pat would wish to remember with gratitude all his colleagues and staff throughout the country. Likewise his former colleagues in the Agricultural Advisory Service and later as an auctioneer in Portlaoise.

We thank Portlaoise Lions Club, the Heath Golf Club and Portlaoise Toastmasters, where Pat was a long time member in each one.

A special mention to our wonderful neighbours, relatives and friends, some of whom travelled long distances from Claire and Tipperary. We also acknowledge the many people who lined the roadside on Pat's final Journey to the cemetery.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere thanks. The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Pat's first Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, 2nd May at 10am in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise and can be viewed via the Parish Webcam.

Rest in Peace Pat



In Loving Memory of

JOHN WHELAN

Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix.

1st Anniversary occurs 8th May.



No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye, you were gone before we knew it and only God knows why.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by Dolly, Willie, Mary, Ned & Anthony.*

Rest in Peace John



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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of **MARY McEVOY**

St. Martin's, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
Birthday Remembrance; 28th April



For many years we shared our lives,
One roof we once lived under,
Sometimes we laughed,
Sometimes we cried,
Through winter storms and thunder.
The younger years have faded fast,
We went our separate ways,
All through that time, our friendship
lasted, our bond in life remained.

No matter where life leads us, Dear Mary know it's true,
It has been a joy to travel down the road of life with you.

*Always loved and remembered by Tina x
Rest in Peace Mary*

In Loving Memory of **JOHN EGAN**

Caragh House, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurred 30th April 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Monday 3rd May at 10am.

*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 by his loving wife Anne, daughters
Jennifer, Deborah, and Stella, grandkids and all
your loving family and friends.*

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **PATRICK CARRIGAN**

Capoley, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 9th May at 10am.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by his loving wife Elizabeth, sons
Denis, Pat, James and Brendan,
daughters Joan, Elaine, Ailish and Ann-marie,
sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren,
extended family & friends.

Rest in Peace Patrick

In Loving Memory of **MICHAEL O' REILLY**

Liogard, Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary occurs 2nd May.



*Along the road of suffering, you found a
little lane, that took you up to
Heaven and ended all your pain.
You may be out of sight,
We may be worlds apart,
But you are always in our prayers,
and forever in our hearts.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter
& Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 2nd May at 10am.

Sadly missed by his loving wife and family.

Please also remember his father Thomas and his sister
Marie whose anniversaries occur at this time.

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **LIAM CONROY**

10 New Row, Green Rd. Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 5th May 2021.

Also remembering Liam's birthday - 18th May.



*Daily thoughts and silent tears,
Always wishing you were here,
Life goes on, we know that's true,
But never the same since losing you.*

Liam's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Sunday 2nd May at 10am.

Sadly missed by your loving wife Mary and son Brian.

*Silently we grieve and brush away our tears,
The memories he left behind, will last throughout the years.
From his daughter Shirley, son-in-law John and grandson
Conor, extended family and friends.*

May Liam Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **DECLAN DOOCEY**

Formerly of Castletown, Colt and Abbeyleix
1st Anniversary occurs 5th May 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're always
there.

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 by
Helen, Mark, Paul, Conor, Doireann, Éadaoin &
Grandchildren Ella, Mia, Noah and Ceol x
Also remembered by his extended family & friends.*

Rest in Peace Declan

**ANNIVERSARY AND BIRTHDAY
REMEMBRANCE**

*Of our daughter
AGNES MILLIS GLEESON
23rd Anniversary and Birthday away
from home.*

Late of O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.



*Deep in the heart lies a
picture,
Of a loved one laid to rest,
In memories frame we
keep it, because she was
one of the best.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday 3rd May at 10am.

*Also remember our brother Joe Kerry
Late of 148 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise
3rd Birthday away from home.*

*Love and miss you always, from all your
loving family.*

May Agnes and Joe Rest in Peace



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Portlaoise Parish



Results for

29th April 2021



ONE €11,000 Jackpot Winner

Lynda Campbell

WINNERS

Winnie Moore
Jack Kelly
Mary Moran
Mazz Gavin
Breda Kennedy
Aine Maher
Simon McElroy

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Tanya Moore
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Geraldine Greene
Parish Centre
Paul Dooley
Pacelli Walsh
Mary Arthur

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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 8600122



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8600121



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

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. 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

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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)

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