

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
Up**

30th January 2022

**Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time**



Tuesday 1st February

The feast of St. Brigid

Co-Patron of our
Country and of our
Diocese of Kildare and
Leighlin.



Photo: Mary Lewis SNA, with
pupils of Scoil Bhríde making
St. Brigid's Crosses.

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.

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**St. Brigid Tuesday 1st February
Patroness of our
Diocese**



St. Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care for the sick. She was born c.454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her life to God. She received the veil

and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524. The St. Brigid's Cross was used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith. Along with Saints Conleth and Lazarian, Brigid is Paton of our Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

Mass times for the coming week
ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday - Thursday: 7.30am & 10am

Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigils 5pm & 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.

**BLESSING OF
THROATS**



Next Thursday (3rd Feb) is the Feast of St. Blaise. Blessing of Throats will take place after all Masses in the Parish Church.

**The Presentation
of the Lord**

Wednesday 2nd February



Simeon had waited all his life to see Jesus. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would live long enough. Seeing Jesus satisfied Simeon'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?

Candlemas Day occurs 40 days after Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas cycle. **Blessing of Candles at all Masses in the Parish Church next Wednesday.**



**World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
2nd February**

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is normally attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

Today the Universal Church unites in prayer for all men and women in consecrated life and asks the Lord of the harvest to inspire and call our present generation of young Catholics to follow Jesus in religious life. Today you are invited to pray for someone you know who is living the consecrated life or presently discerning a vocation as a religious brother, sister or priest. Keep them in your prayers.



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Saorlaith Carmel Minjo Ní Ghallchobhair, Foxburrow

Setanta Cian Ní Ghallchobhair, Foxburrow.

Who were baptised last weekend

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Psalms 70:1-6, 15, 17 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Luke 4:21-30



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together we learn



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Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **Friday 4th February.**

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

St James Church
Way of the Cross
Meeting with the visionaries
Climb the hill of Apparitions
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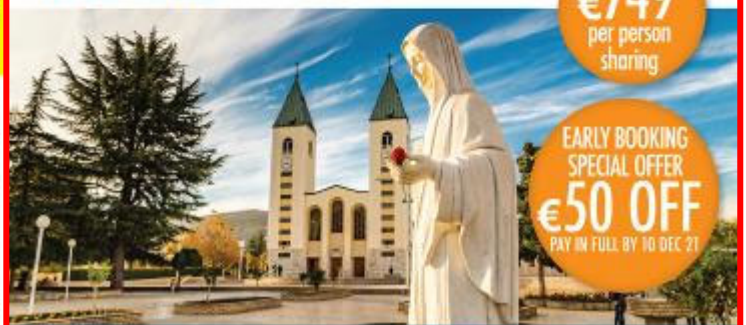
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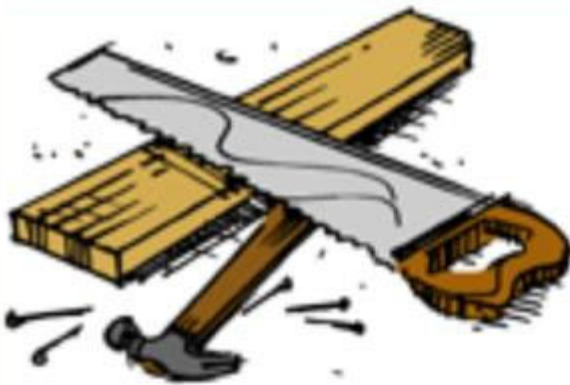


Only a Carpenter's Son

I am going to tell you some things about my young friend, his name is John, things about him and you tell me whether you believe.

John likes the colour red, Do you think that could be true? We may not know what his favourite colour is, but it is certainly possible that he likes the colour red.

John likes ice cream. Do you think that could be true?



Sure, what kid doesn't like ice cream?

John likes to play sports. Could that be true? Sure it could. Many boys and girls like to play sports so it is quite possible that John does too.

Here is something you probably didn't know. John has the power to heal the sick of all their diseases. Do you think that could be true? You don't? Why not? Well, you know John and he is just an ordinary kid like you. He lives right here in the same town, you go to the same school, and play on the same soccer team. There is no way he has the power to heal sick, is there?

In the day that Jesus lived, many people had a hard time believing some of the things that they heard about him. This was especially true of the people in his home town of Nazareth. People had heard about the miracles that Jesus had done in Capernaum and they just didn't know how they could be true. After all, wasn't he Joseph's son? How could the son of a carpenter do all of the things that they had heard about?

Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

The people in the synagogue became furious. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him up on the hill on which the town was built, because they wanted to throw him off of a cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

What a way to treat a hometown boy! It seems that no matter what Jesus did, he just couldn't seem to please the people in his own hometown. I wonder, if you and I had lived in Nazareth during Jesus' day, would we have treated him any better, or would we have gone along with the crowd?

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, even when others refuse to believe that Jesus has the power to heal and forgive, help us to remain faithful and true.

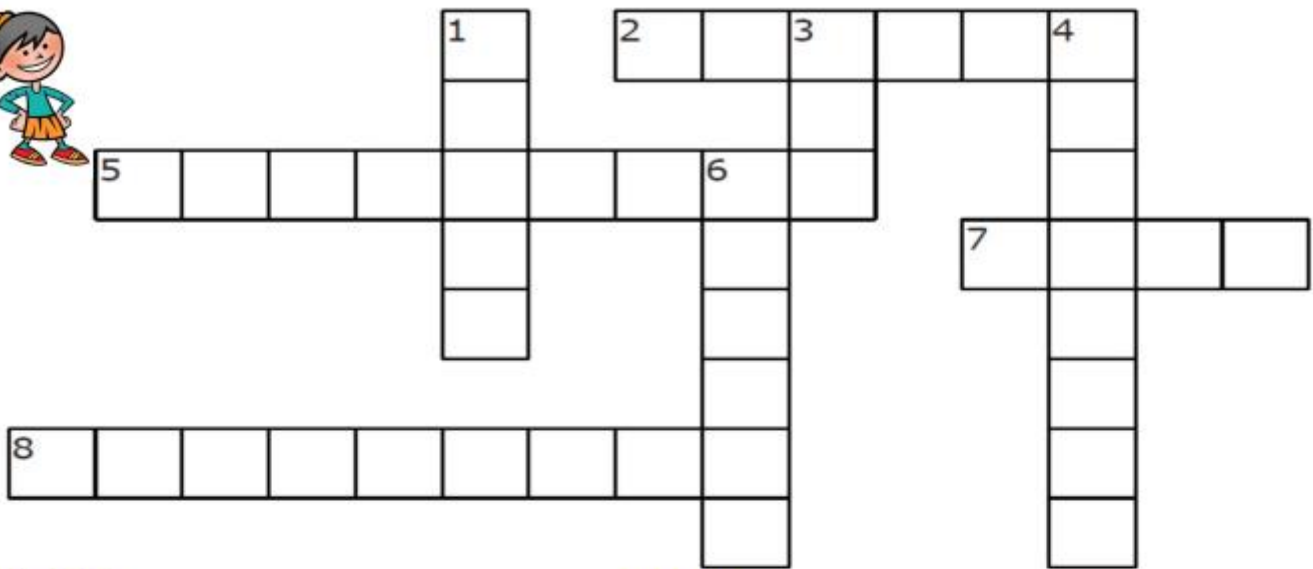
In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen



Only a Carpenter's Son

"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown."



ACROSS

2. The earthly father of Jesus
5. Another word for a doctor
7. To make or become healthy again
8. The sacred writings of the Bible

DOWN

1. The area of high, steep rocks beside the sea
3. A person's male child
4. The town where you grew up
6. To be very surprised.

HEAL
JOSEPH

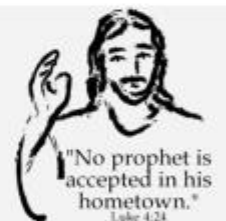
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Time to Think!

A Springtime of Hope

There was a great sense of relief and unburdening when An Taoiseach Micheal Martin, announced the ending of most of the restrictions, regarding COVID-19. We were all invited whilst keeping safe, to embrace this new beginning, after two years of great darkness and anxiety. Never before, have we all looked forward so much to the brightness of a new and healthy springtime, a time when we can truly with confidence begin again.

We are about to begin a new season of promised hope and light. February is a most hopeful month. This week we celebrate St. Brigid's Day, a day which brings great hope. St. Brigid brings with her a story of compassion, generosity, healing and renewal. These early February days mark the beginning of Spring, yes, it may still feel cold but already brighter evenings, emerging green shoots and snowdrops, announce a time for new beginnings. I'm glad the darkness of winter once again is being transformed by the light of our new spring. Spring is a season of hope and renewal. We are in the true sense of Scripture called out of darkness into God's wonderful light.

Over the past few weeks I have celebrated a number of funerals. What struck me most about these celebrations was the power of the positive, unique and talented spirit that is contained within us all. Lives that greatly enhanced not just their immediate families, but also a wider community. People who were sincere, genuine and energetic in sharing life freely with others. I was greatly inspired also by the wonderful sense of community expressed by the kindness and compassion of good neighbours and friends. We must never take for granted the wonderful gift that is community. We are very fortunate to live with people who care for one another, who support, encourage and facilitate many good things to happen every day.

The truth of the matter is that all of us carry with us a sense of winter and spring. Winter is often felt in the pain, anxiety and burden that is part of our human story. So too, it is experienced in our falls and struggles, our losses and human frailty. However, this fragile truth does not truly define who we are. All of us have a beautiful spring, constantly being renewed in all our hearts.

The spring tells the story of our resilience, courage, determination and imagination.



The spring in our story is about being able to begin again. Spring-time embraces the possible.

This is a time when for many people real questions are being asked regarding, where as a nation do we go from here. I suggest that part of this discernment is about tapping into the spring of giftedness, talent and abundance, found within the depths of all our being. Surely the wonderful neighbours and good people that are the living fabric of every community, reminds us that people are more important than policy and community is far more powerful than an economy.

The spring marks a significant change in the year. I am grateful for the powerful gift of hope, given to me recently by many good people who have gone from this life marked with the sign of faith.

I am deeply confident that as we emerge from this pandemic, gifts of integrity, renewal and opportunity will be its fruit. Spring is in the air, may we take time to breathe in its hope and light.

St. Bridget's Well (A poem from the point of view of a pilgrim to the shrine)

"We set out this night toward the well of St. Brigid, sailing from the island of Innis Oirr, Then by foot on through Doolin to follow that trail, that skirts the sheer drop off the Cliffs of Mohar. Then we scabble the Burren over rock walls and pastures, to a foothill of magic in the County of Clare, where a spring of cold water runs through a cold cave, and the water is wishes from the wells of our hearts, that the ones that we love might be plucked from their sickness, or freed from despair so the healing might start".

Gabrielle Jin will make her First Profession at 10am Mass on Tuesday 1st February – The Feast of St. Brigid.

Hello, my name is Gabrielle Jin. I am from a city along the Southeast coast of China, and have been living in Ireland for ten years now. I grew up in a traditional Catholic family. In my grandparents' generation, faith was something they would die for and was the greatest legacy to pass on to us. Their witness of faith never stops to influence my vocation to this day.

My vocation journey in Ireland started with a general conversation with a friend. She shared a thought on abortion saying "a woman's body is no longer her own when she conceives, but is shared with her baby." That line just didn't go away from my mind and I went to pray on it. I felt so overwhelmed by it as if the Lord is saying to me, "Gabrielle, you receive me in the Blessed Sacrament everyday, but do you really let me share your heart and your body?" The effect of that prayer was beyond words. It awakened in me the desire to be a Christ bearer.

I've been with the Presentation Congregation for three years now, and currently a Novice with the Presentation Sisters in Ashbrook Gardens on the Mountrath road. I feel quite at home among the sisters, maybe in part I see in our elder sisters the spirit of joy and love I was so acquainted with in the life of my grandma. I know I owe my vocation to her prayers in Heaven too.

Today, we live in a time where religious communities are aging and vocations are few. I've been asked by many, "what is it like for you to join a congregation where the majority of the Sisters are retired and in a culture so different from your own?" Well, it's like everyone else might have experienced when making a big transition in life. There are moments of loneliness, doubts and despondency, and of course feelings of homesickness at times! Those moments could be hard but meanwhile are great opportunities to grow--grow in understanding, grow in wisdom, grow in mutual respect and in compassion, and above all, to grow deeper in union with God.

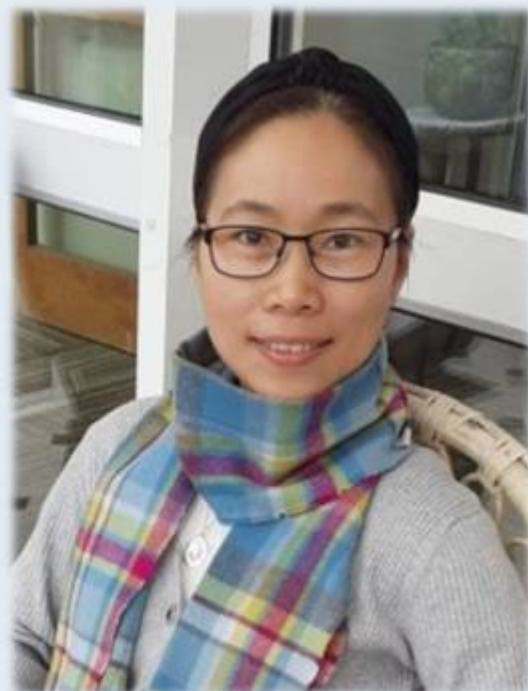
I think the biggest challenge for Christian life is self-emptying, so also for religious life. The more we allow ourselves to be led and the more we fix our eyes on God, the happier we become, the freer we are to love, and the more capable we are to serve. That's more or less what I have been doing as a novice Sister--setting aside everything, to listen, to reflect and to respond to this loving God.

I look upon the religious vows as a confirmation of this inner development. Making it in public is a witness to God's love and glory. This is strengthened by living in community, sharing a common spirit of service and prayer. We take the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, each instructs a way of life. By living in chastity, we live in a loving and joyful way; by living in poverty, we strive to live our lives in a trusting and compassionate way; by the vow of obedience, we are to live in a listening and searching way.

Vocation is a gift from God, but "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."(2Cor 4:7). Truly I know how unworthy I am, and can do nothing without the grace of our Lord.

Please remember and support me with your prayers along my vocational journey.

God bless you all.





Bingo in St. Mary's Hall

Resuming Thursday 3rd February at 8pm

Buses collecting from their usual pick-up points in the Portlaoise area at 7:30pm.

UNITING IN PRAYER AS A DIOCESAN FAMILY

TOGETHER WE JOIN IN PRAYER AS A DIOCESAN FAMILY AND AS
AN IRISH CHURCH, AS WE PREPARE TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the
wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal
life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Synodal Pathway
of the Catholic Church in Ireland



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SYNOD PLEASE SEE THE BACK COVER

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



Phyllis Monaghan
(née Harrington)
Portlaoise and Drimnagh.



Patrick Keenan
Raheen



Maria Brodowska
Grandmother to Fr. Theo
whose Requiem Mass took
place during the week.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
P.J. SWAYNE

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. Died 28th December 2021.



The family of the late P.J. Swayne would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who sympathised with them on their sad loss, sent Mass and sympathy cards, floral tributes, phone calls and online messages of support on RIP, and to those who attended the rosary and requiem Mass in person or via the webcam.

Heartfelt thanks to Msgr. John and the Priests of the Parish, especially Fr. Ciprian for the beautiful requiem Mass and to Vivienne Graham, Georgina Cathcart and Mary Wisely for the beautiful music which enriched the ceremony.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode, funeral directors, for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out P.J.'s funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing his final resting place with such care.

Our thanks to all our neighbours, friends and family for providing refreshments and for their care and support, especially Adrian Swayne and family in England and P.J.'s friends in Cork. Your kindness to us all during this difficult time will never be forgotten. Thanks also to the doctors, nurses and staff in Cork University Hospital for the care shown to P.J. in his final hours.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to you all.

P.J.'s Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday
29th January at 6:30pm.

Rest in Peace P.J.

**In Loving Memory of
CHRISTY WHELAN**

138 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
15th Anniversary occurs 7th February 2022.



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

*Thinking of you today and always
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

*Always loved and sadly missed by your loving wife
Lily and family.*

May Christy Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
FINTAN DOOLEY**

7 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2022.



*Deep in our hearts you will always
stay,
Loved and remembered everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.*

Lovingly remembered by all his family.

Rest in Peace Fintan

In Loving Memory of
ANNE GING

70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
15th Anniversary occurred 25th January 2022.



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, by your loving son Liam, daughter Helena and families.

May Anne Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MARY (May) CONNELL

31 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
17th Anniversary occurred 28th January 2022



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 Peace Mary

In Loving Memory of
ESTHER SZWAGLIS

Late of 170 St. Brigid's Place. Died 29th January 1999.
23rd 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, your children, grandchildren and
great-grandchildren .*

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

May Esther Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
JOHN (Ulick) CONROY

Beladd, Portlaoise. Died 31st January 2021.



The family of the late John Conroy (Ulick), would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all who supported us through the most difficult time.

While John's passing occurred in the strangest and darkest of times, we felt so much love, comfort and support from family, our wonderful friends and great neighbours.

We would like to thank the ICU staff in Portlaoise, and St. James's hospitals for the love and care that they gave to John, and the support that they provided to us during these dark days. Thank you to the ambulance personnel for their care in transporting John to Dublin.

A very special thank you to Monsignor Byrne who was in touch with us during John's illness, and for giving us the opportunity to honour his life during his requiem Mass. A special thank you is also offered to Fr. Paddy Byrne and Fr. Liam Merrigan who have also been a great support, and for joining us at the requiem Mass, and to our Priests in the Parish who also were present. Thank you to Sarah Troy for the wonderful music that enriched the ceremony.

A sincere thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Goode funeral directors, for their professionalism and sensitivity in organising John's funeral, and to the gravediggers who prepared his final resting place with great care.

Thank you to John's work colleagues and friends from both Portlaoise Prison and Kolbe Special School for your presence, your care and your friendship. A sincere thank you to friends and neighbours who lined the Stradbally Road as we brought John to his final resting place. To the staff and students of Kolbe Special School; it meant so much to us to see you lined up outside the school, and we know that John would have been so proud.

Thank you also to family, friends and neighbours who brought food to the house, who sent condolences, Mass cards and wrote letters. This meant so much to us and we will be forever grateful for the support and kindness that you have shown us.

A sincere thank you to all who supported the fundraiser that was organised for John's birthday. Thank you to everyone who donated, and to those who ran with Audrey on the day of John's birthday and all who came out to support the run on the day. A total of €11,316.54 was raised and divided between Kolbe Special School, Portlaoise ICU, and St. James's ICU.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

John's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, on
Monday 31st January at 10am.

Rest in Peace John

In Loving Memory of MICHAEL DEMPSEY

3 Roselawn, Portlaoise and late of Rathdowney.
7th Anniversary occurs 1st February 2022



7th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 5th February at 6:30pm.

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 Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

JANE BYRNE née Dempsey

Old Knockmay Rd. Portlaoise. Died 8th January 2022.



The family of the late Jane Byrne would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who sympathised with them, sent Mass and sympathy cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, and online messages on RIP. Our sincere appreciation to all those who travelled and attended Jane's Requiem Mass in person and to those who joined with us via the parish webcam.

Our sincere gratitude to Fr. David who visited Jane in her final hours and also for the support he gave the family in the days following Jane's passing. Our thanks to Msgr. John and Fr. David for the beautiful requiem Mass and to Nuala Kelly for the beautiful music which enriched the ceremony.

Thanks to Sonia Brennan, Palliative care for all the support; to Dr. Naseem, Marie and Darina in oncology for all the kindness and compassion shown to Jane over the last few years. Thanks to Dr. Burke, Dr. Booth and the staff of the Cedar Clinic and to Hughes Pharmacy for their assistance and kindness.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode, funeral directors, for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out Jane's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing her final resting place with such care.

Heartfelt thanks to our families, friends and neighbours for their support which was so greatly appreciated.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude to you all.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Jane's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Sunday 6th February at 12.30pm.

Rest in Peace Jane

In Loving Memory of MARY DUNNE

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. 5th Anniversary occurs 26th January.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Saturday 29th January at 5pm.

*Your life was full of kindly deeds,
A helping hand for others needs,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories left behind.*

*Each time we look at your picture, you seem to smile and say;
"Don't be sad but courage take, and love each other for my sake".*

Sadly missed by your loving husband Frank and daughters Rhona & Janet and grandchildren Mia, Sam and James xxx

Rest in Peace Mary

In Loving Memory of STEPHEN DWANE

11 Mill Court, Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 30th January 2022



*It is sad to walk the road alone
instead of side by side,
But to all there comes a moment
when the ways of life divide.
You gave me years of happiness,
then came sorrow and tears,
But you left me beautiful memories,
I will treasure through the years.*

8th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Saturday 29th January at 5pm.

Sadly missed by your loving wife Phil and family

May Stephen Rest in Peace



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IT'S NOT THE END OF THE TRAIL

IT'S NOT THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR ME:
 I'VE JUST TRAVELED ON, YOU SEE,
 UP AHEAD WHERE GREENER PASTURES GROW
 AND COOL WATER STREAMS DANCE AS THEY FLOW.

FLOWERS BLOOM OF EVERY SORT AND KIND,
 COLORS MORE VIVID THAN ANY I LEFT BEHIND,
 FAMILY AND FRIENDS I HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS,
 HUGS AND HANDSHAKES AND NO MORE TEARS.

THEY'VE WELCOMED ME HOME HERE TODAY,
 A PLACE OF PEACE FOR ME TO STAY,
 THEY SAY IT'S MY HOME FOR ETERNITY:
 NO, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR ME.

- ROBERT DAWSON

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Main
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 Abbeyleix

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
27th January 2022

05

13

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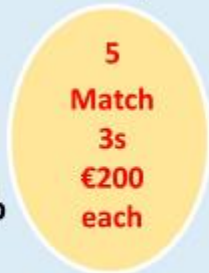
31

No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

John Kelly
Carmel Whelan
Ciss Dunne
Mary Kelly
Ally & Finn Russell Jacob

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Peggy Kelly
Carmel Whelan
Mary J Dunne
Paul Dooley
Heather Mortimer

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Next Weeks Jackpot €13,000

Clergy 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 8622301



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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 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
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

Development Fund Envelope Boxes Available at the Church Porches



We invite you to take a box for your Weekly contribution to the Parish Development Fund. The boxes also contain envelopes for the other collections during the year.

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



The Synodal Pathway

of the Catholic Church in Ireland

What is a Synod?

The word “synod” evokes the image of “walking together on the way”. For the Church it is a time-honoured way of working out together the “navigation map” for the Church at particular times. Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Pope Francis emphasises that this is not simply a matter of discussion as in a parliamentary debate. Rather it is primarily a prayerful spiritual time of communitarian discernment. It is about finding the best ways for every baptised person to fulfil the Church’s mission of proclaiming to the world, God’s love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis has emphasised that “It is precisely this path of Synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium”. Synodality is at the heart of the pastoral conversion that Pope Francis emphasises in the *Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*.

When will the Synodal Assembly take place?

The journey towards a more Synodal Irish Church begins now, but preparing ourselves to think and act Synodally cannot happen overnight. A Synod without a Synodal preparation risks being merely a parliament of competing voices.

Can Synodal Assemblies change Church teaching?

Pope Benedict XVI, in an address to Pastoral Leaders in 2009, said that “They must no longer be viewed as “collaborators” of the clergy but truly recognised as “co-responsible” for the Church’s being and action...” This model of “co-responsibility” has continued under the leadership of Pope Francis where he has encouraged the Church to be Synodal in its approach.

Much has been said of the model of Synodality being that of a “walking together” in a process of discernment, reflection and prayer trying to discover what God wants of the Church at this time. However, the question arises as to whether a Synodal Assembly can actually change Church teaching? Pope Francis has been clear that Synods are not instruments to change Church teaching but rather help to apply Church teaching more pastorally.

For more information see the official website of
the Irish Synod

Synod.ie