

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

13th March 2022

Second Sunday
of Lent

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Msgr. John welcoming Oksana, and her daughters, Maria, Solomia and Anna to Portlaoise. They left their home in Ukraine and arrived in Ireland via Warsaw. They are very grateful to be among us while being very worried about their homeland. We are welcoming another family this weekend. Very grateful to those who made the accommodation available to the Parish.

See page 18 for notice about national Church collection for Ukraine.

WE STAND WITH

UKRAINE



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Saint Patrick

St. Patrick was born very probably in the early years of the fifth century in Roman colony of Britain. He was taken captive at the age of sixteen and brought to Ireland where he was sold as a slave. He tended herds on Slemish Mountain for six years. His captivity had a very positive effect on his spiritual life. He prayed many times each day, his faith growing stronger and his love and reverence for God increasing. He escaped back home at the age of twenty-two. It was obvious to him that God was calling him to return to convert the Irish. The voice of the Irish was calling him to come and walk among them once more. He studied probably in France, returned to Ireland as a bishop 457-61, or as early as 432 according to another tradition. His mission was not immediately greatly successful but eventually he would make a tremendous number of converts. Two writings survive: the Letter to Coroticus, a protest to the soldiers of a British prince who had killed some converts and sold others as slaves, and his Confession written near the end of his life, showing him as one living by the faith he preached and allowing Christ to direct his whole life. He died 491, though again other dates have been suggested, 480 or as early as 461.



Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday—Wednesday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Wednesday 7.30pm (Vigil for St. Patrick's Day)

Thursday St. Patrick's Day

8.30am, 10am, 12.30pm (As Gaeilge) and 7.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

Friday (Bank Holiday)

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.

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday 17th March

To mark the celebration of the feast of our National Patron, the 12.30pm Mass on Thursday will be celebrated 'as Gaeilge'



Saint Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

19th March

It is disappointing considering the importance of St. Joseph's role, that the gospels do not tell us more about him. All we really know of his character is that he was a 'holy and righteous man who generously co-operated with God's grace.' Early Christians must have been more interested in imitating Joseph's

virtues than recording biographical details. So today, as the early Christians did, we honour Joseph for trusting in God's plan even though he had limited understanding of its reasons or consequences. We offer petitions to him as patron saint of fathers, guardians, workers and of the dying.

This weekend we welcome the Divine Word Missionary to our parish.

They will speak at all Masses.

Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.



LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.



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Wednesday 23rd March 2022

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PORTLAOISE LITERATURE STUDIES GROUP



We have resumed our group every Wednesday, 10.45am-12.45pm in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise, where we are very well looked after. Don't let the fancy title put you off! We are just an ordinary group of people who love a good book and enjoy lively discussion. We have read everything from Dickens to Sally Rooney and are currently reading Kim by Rudyard Kipling. If this is your cup of tea, which we also enjoy, come along and join us. You won't be disappointed.
Contact Ann 086-0678828 or Helen 085-1529558

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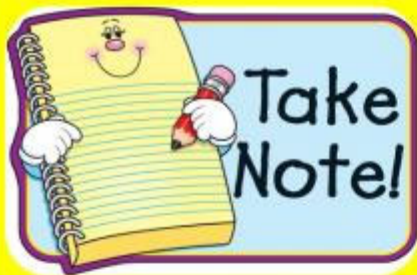
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**Deadline for
next week's
publication**
(19th/20th March)

12 noon Tuesday 15th March

To facilitate earlier print deadlines
owing to St. Patrick's Day

**RAHEEN COMMUNITY
ALERT AGM;**

**Monday 14th March at 8pm in
Doogues Bar & Restaurant,
Raheen.**

Guest speaker; Garda Liam
Martyn, community liaison
officer. All members and new
members welcome.

**STS. PETER &
PAUL'S CEMETERY
COMMITTEE
Church Gate
Collection
Sat. 12th March
Sun. 13th March
*Please support***

Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group proudly present
"The Field" by John B. Keane, Saturday 26th March
in Mountmellick Community Arts Centre, 8pm. Adm.
€12 adults, €10 concessions. *Come early to get the
best seats.* No bookings. Enquiries 087-9614235.

Portlaoise Active Age Group; Every Wednesday
at 3pm in the Parish Centre, we have a full fun filled
programme planned for this year. New members
welcome. (Members must be fully vaccinated including
booster).

Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club; Auto-jumble,
Sunday 20th March, from 8am in the Community
Hall, Ballyfin. Strictly vintage, veteran and artisanal
related stalls & traders. Pre-registration and
approval for stalls required. Proceeds in support of
local charities. For queries or information on the
Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club, please message,
text or call Pat O'Connor at 087-7824481.

Volunteers Required; Jack and Jill are looking for
volunteers in their warehouse and online store.
If you could give your time, please contact Julie on
087-2589730.

A box will be placed in
the Parish Church beside
Our Lady for the month
of March, for anyone
wishing to make an
application for full or
part sponsorship on the
**2022 Parish
Pilgrimage to Lourdes**
*Please include your
name, address and
contact details.*



*Join with us to pray the
Rosary via the Parish
webcam daily at
9:30am, 7pm, 9:30pm.*

*Rosary will be prayed at
the Grotto after evening
Mass on the First Friday
of every month.*



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The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in
the Parish Church, **Sunday 13th March** in
honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the
intentions of all parishioners. Rosary will be
prayed at the Grotto at 8pm. All are welcome.

ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

♪♪ **Sts. Peter & Paul's Children's Choir** ♪♪

We are accepting new enrolments for 2022

Rehearsals take place every Friday in the Parish
Centre and the choir sing at 10am Mass on Sundays.

Please contact: troymusic5@gmail.com





Time to Think!

St. Patrick...Icon of Solidarity

After two long years of lockdowns and living with the reality of pandemic, it is with a great sense of joy that we can celebrate our national feast day together again. Yet, after taking a deep breath from Covid, we seem to be plunged into the horrors of war in Europe. The brutal invasion of the people of Ukraine is an attack on the democracy we all enjoy. Their deep resilience, courage and fortitude is an inspiration to us all. There is a deep sense of solidarity to an oppressed people who in many ways mirror our own historical context over 100 years ago. Images on our social media networks seem more akin to the 1940s as opposed to our present reality. Never before has our island's rich hospitality, our infamous Céad Míle Fáilte Romhat been more evident. We will not be found wanting in how we welcome our brothers and sisters of Ukraine who seek refuge and shelter at this time. It is great that the Portlaoise Parish was indeed first to house a Ukrainian family seeking shelter some days ago.

On St. Patrick's Day we celebrate our Irishness and our faith. For so long in our history they have been intertwined, perhaps at times identified. As a result, we may have been tempted to take our faith for granted. Admittedly we did not have to fight for it or die for it as our ancestors did. They were challenged by their faith and responded generously to that challenge. Today, Irish people all over the world and we here at home rejoice in the new opportunities which are available in our country, for education, employment and a good quality of life. Indeed, many of our exiles will tell you that they regret the fact that these opportunities were not available to them before they emigrated. In the past the challenge to our faith came from outside of ourselves - from Penal Laws and from oppressive regimes. Today the challenge is not so obvious, and it comes from within ourselves. Faith is not something that has myths of compartmentalisation; rather it impinges on all areas of human living. Today there is probably no area of life in which faith is not being challenged and in which it does not have a significant contribution to make.

As individuals and families, whether in our work, socialising, education or whatever, our faith impinges, or we can refuse to allow it to do so. At times we misinterpret and misunderstand the nature of faith. Great faith is not a faith that walks in the light and knows no darkness. Real faith perseveres in spite of God's seeming silence. When one considers the obstacles with which Patrick contended - taken captive from his own people and his home, slavery on Slieve Mish, eventual escape and yet prepared to return as a missionary and preach Christ's gospel to those who had held him captive. The wholeheartedness and single mindedness of Patrick are clear pointers to his faith. He is a man of flesh and blood whose whole life was fed on faith in God's love. Faith must have been a struggle for him, as it is for you and me. In the experience of slavery, it must have been tempting for him to abandon faith and yield to despair. Yet he recognised his real helplessness and turned to God as a helper and a true friend. Slavery in the 21st century takes on a more sinister and subtle form. Work, pleasure, comfort, the celebrity status.

Almost unnoticed God can be excluded and pushed out to the margins of life in a busy competitive world. With so many voices clamoring for our attention we have to make an effort to keep the lines of communication open with God in prayer and in our participation at Mass and the sacraments.



In a confused and complex culture, we need a compass to provide us with a sense of direction, enabling us to cope with and respond to the various challenges which meet us every day. I am convinced that faith, properly understood and genuinely lived can provide us with such a compass. Faith can enable us to see beneath and beyond the situations in which we find ourselves. Just as in Patrick's life, faith made it possible for God to enter, so in our lives, faith makes it possible for God to become involved in our busy world and our hectic activity. As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy celebration and pray that the faith that Patrick brought to our shores will sustain all of us in challenging times.

If St. Patrick were looking at the 6.1 News this evening, he would undoubtedly be surprised to find that his name was associated with the greening of the Great Wall of China and of the Pyramids in Egypt. The marketing people have been very clever in turning our national feast day into an opportunity to promote tourism and to seek opportunities for overseas trade. Fair play to them. If these things help to rebuild our economy and to ensure that all our people can live with dignity and enjoy the fruits of citizenship, then there is nothing wrong with that. But we who believe in Jesus need to be doing a bit of marketing ourselves. In our second reading today, St. Paul reminds us that the time will come when many people will not want to hear the message of the Gospel. The image of the weeds and the wheat growing together, which we heard in the Gospel, is a reminder that faith and disbelief exist side by side in our society. It is not the responsibility of politicians, economists or entrepreneurs as such to promote faith. It is our task as Christians, together with Christians of other religious traditions throughout Ireland, to ensure that the primary focus of St. Patrick's Day remains the reception of the Gospel and that the values of the Gospel permeate our civil society.

St. Patrick's Breastplate is a popular prayer attributed to one of Ireland's most beloved patron saints. According to tradition, St. Patrick wrote it in 433 A.D. for divine protection before successfully converting the Irish King Leoghaire and his subjects from paganism to Christianity. (The term breastplate refers to a piece of Armor worn in battle.)

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

Confirmation in our Parish last weekend





ST. PATRICK

As a teenager, Patrick was captured by Irish raiders and forced into slavery for six years. During this time he learned the language and customs of the Irish people. He also grew close to God. After the six years, he escaped and made his way back to his family. Then he decided that the people of Ireland needed him. So, he began to learn the Bible and train for mission work. Once he was ready, he returned to Ireland and preached to the people for 40 years before he died. As he converted the Irish, he made disciples out of them. Many of his followers went on to become renowned religious leaders as well.

Saint Patrick left behind a great example for us to follow. He could have hated the people who stole him from his family, but he knew that they needed God's love. He loved his enemies and wanted them to know God like he did. In addition to converting many, he spent time training them to lead others. We need to learn from his example of not only converting the lost but training them in God's Word after they convert. Patrick's love, forgiveness, service, and leadership provides us with an excellent example to emulate.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Next Saturday is the Feast of St. Joseph.
Do you know who St. Joseph is?**

Prayer to St. Joseph

St. Joseph, watch over me and care for me just as you cared for the child Jesus; and by your help, may I come to know your Son, and so grow in strength and wisdom and the favour of God.

Amen.



Feast of St. Joseph March 19th

Joseph looked after Jesus and helped Mary to mind him. That is why Saint Joseph is the patron saint of fathers. Say a prayer to Saint Joseph today. Ask Saint Joseph to bless your Daddy, your granddad, Uncle, or whoever helps to mind you like Joseph helped Mary.



Make sure to say thank you to that person today. Tell him that you asked Saint Joseph to bless him.



Congratulations to the 339 boys and girls who received the Sacrament of



Confirmation last weekend in

St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise



Now that we have received the Sacrament of Confirmation we are now full members of the Church.

Any other Sacrament you might receive - even Holy Order - does not make you any more a member of the Church than those who have received the sacraments of initiation. To be a member of the Church means to be part of Christ's Body.



Anointing with Chrism:

Each person that was confirmed is anointed with Chrism. This anointing shows that the Holy Spirit is strengthening them to work for Jesus Christ. Being confirmed means being strengthened. The chrisam is preserved in a small silver vessel. The Bishop or Priest dips his thumb into the chrisam. He then traces the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the person being confirmed while he says the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit".



In Confirmation, God's sign or mark of love is imprinted or sealed on the person being confirmed. God's sign can never be removed.

We say that in Confirmation we are sealed or marked forever when we are given the Gift of the Holy Spirit.



We hope you and your family had a great day last weekend!

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



Sharon Tobin

Elmlawn
Mountmellick Road
Portlaoise



Patricia (Patty) Holohan

née Cullen
Liogard, Portlaoise



Billy Gorman

Ballinakill

Alice Lalor - Boley, Abbeyleix

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 (Mick) KELLY**

Clonagown, Ballyfin, Portlaoise.

Died 1st March 2022

Interred in Ballyfin Cemetery

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

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

Rest in Peace Michael



**In Loving Memory of
MARY McEVOY**

*"St. Martin's", Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 14th March 2022*



If tears could build a stairway
and memories a lane,
I would walk right up to Heaven
and bring you home again.
From your loving husband Joe x

You were there for my first breath
and I was there for your last.
Rest easy.

From Mary and Liam x

A Wonderful Grandmother

We had a wonderful grandmother,
One who never really grew old,
Her smile was made of sunshine,
And her heart was solid gold,
Her eyes were bright as shining stars,
And in her cheeks fair roses you see,
We had a wonderful grandmother,
And that's the way it will always be,
So take heed, because she's still keeping an eye on all
of us so let's make sure she will like what she sees.

*From Derek and Sara, Sarah and Shane, Jenah and
your great-grandchildren x*

*1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Saturday 12th March at 5pm.*

Rest in Peace Mary

**We remember John today on his
3rd Anniversary**

**A fantastic Husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother
JOHN GING**

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurred 11th March 2022.



If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died,
If all the world was ours to give,
We would give it, yes, and more,
To see you coming in the gate and
walking through the door.

*Loved, cherished and missed so
much by all your loving family.*

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
DAN and MAUREEN DUNNE**

*St. Jude's, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.
Dan's 9th Anniversary occurs 14th March 2022
Maureen's 1st Anniversary occurs 18th March 2022*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 20th March at 12:30pm.



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

Sadly missed and always remembered by their loving family.

May Dan & Maureen Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARIA GREENE**

*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 15th March 2022*



Maria's 8th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Tuesday 15th March at 7:30pm.

*Sometimes when I first awake,
I think that you're still here,
And for a fleeting moment,
The clouds all disappear.*

*For you brought endless sunshine, until you went away,
And now I miss you desperately, each minute of the day.*

You would not like to see me sad, so what I try to do,

Is live a bright and happy life, in memory of you.

*For though I'll always miss you, and it's dreadful being apart,
I haven't really lost you, you are still here in my heart.*

*Forever in our hearts, from Daddy, Mommy, brothers
Stephen and Denis, sister Natalie, grandparents, aunts,
uncles, cousins and friends xxx*

Maria, Away with the Angels

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN (Jack) DEMPSEY**

70 Main St. Portlaoise. Died 12th March 2017.



5th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 13th March at 10am.

*Never more than a thought away,
Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered everyday.*

*Sadly missed by all his loving family;
Ann Marie, Gérard, Mary, nieces and nephews.*

May John Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
MAUREEN DUNNE**
St. Jude's, Ballyfin Rd., Portlaoise.
Died 18th March 2021.



Maureen's son Donal, daughters Betty, Marie and Patricia together with her sister Pauline and brother Gus and extended family greatly appreciate the support and expressions of sympathy extended to us in our sad loss.

Our sincere thanks to those who sent messages of condolence,

attended her funeral Mass either in person or via the Parish webcam and those who attended Maureen's burial. We greatly appreciate the Mass cards, sympathy cards, online messages, letters and floral tributes. So many people took the time to contact us and we were heartened by your thoughtfulness.

Thank you to Msgr. John Byrne PP Portlaoise, Fr. Paddy Byrne PP Abbeyleix and the Priests of the Parish who concelebrated the Requiem Mass and for the kind words spoken about Maureen. Thank you also to the Eucharistic ministers and Sister Sacristans.

Thank you to the gravediggers and Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors for the professional and dignified manner in which they attended to Maureen's final requests.

We cannot emphasise enough how grateful we are to all the staff at the Dialysis Unit in Tullamore Regional Hospital, for the wonderful kindness and care they gave to Mammy during her 16 years on Dialysis and to the staff on Medical Ward 1 Tullamore Regional Hospital for their care, especially during her final days.

Heartfelt thanks to Maureen's taxi drivers who brought her to Dialysis every week and to her carers who looked after her during her last few years. Words cannot express our gratitude for the support we have received from our family, friends, colleagues and all the people Maureen knew. We were blessed to have had her in our lives.

As it would be impossible for us to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation to you all. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Maureen's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 20th March at 12:30pm.

Rest in Peace Maureen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
PEGGY KELLY
1 Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.



Peggy's family would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with them, sent Mass Cards, phoned and uploaded messages online. We would like to thank all who attended the funeral home and requiem Mass in person

or via the Parish Webcam.

A special thank you to Fr. David Vard for celebrating the requiem Mass and to Msgr. John Byrne and all the Priests of the Parish for their support at this difficult time. Thank you to Sarah Troy for such wonderful music at the Mass.

Thank you to all who cared for Peggy so well during her last days in Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise. Thanks to the Cedar Clinic, Chemco Pharmacy Portlaoise, the Public Health Nurses, Ambulance Staff, all in Portlaoise A&E and all the staff in Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise for all their care over the last number of years.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out Peggy's funeral arrangements and also to the gravediggers who prepared her final resting place.

Heartfelt thanks to all our family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for all their kindness and support at this time.

Please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation. Thanksgiving Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Peggy's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on Sunday 20th March at 10am.

Rest in Peace Peggy

In Loving Memory of **SEAN CLANCY**

Old Knockmay Road, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurred 11th March 2022.



No farewell was spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew,
and only God knows why.
We will always love you.
Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,
Missing you is the heartache,
That will never go away.

*Lovingly remembered by his wife Kathleen, children,
Caroline, Martin, Mariea, Colin and Patricia and
extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Sean

In Loving Memory of **EILEEN ROCHFORD (née Farrell)**

Lakeglen and St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
15th Anniversary occurs 17th March 2022



*Although we're sad without you and
wish that you were here,
Within our hearts your lovely smile
still shines bright and clear.
We treasure the memories growing up
with you, the secrets we could share,
And as the years pass quickly by we
wanted you to know, that on this day
fifteen years on,
Our hearts still miss you so.*

*Anniversary Mass for Eileen will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 13th March at 12:30pm.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your sisters and
brothers, nephews and nieces.*

Rest in Peace Eileen

In Loving Memory of **THOMAS HALPENNY**

Late of Ardee and Portlaoise.
20th Anniversary occurs 14th March 2022.



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

*Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,*

*When kindness glows and music echoes eternal tones.
Forever loved and missed by your daughter Jeanette and
granddaughter Lana x*

*May you continue to inspire us:
To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again.
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.
Always missed and forever loved, your daughters Alison,
Laura & Trudy and your son Martin xxx*

*Treasured Memories of a Loving Husband
Now I am contented, that my life it was worthwhile,
Knowing as I passed along the way, I made somebody smile.
When you are walking down the street,
And you've got me on your mind,
I'm walking in your footsteps, only half a step behind.
And when you feel the gentle breeze,
Or the wind upon your face,
That's me giving you a great big hug, or just a soft embrace.
So please don't be unhappy, just because I am out of sight,
Remember that I am with you, every morning, noon and night.*

All my love always, Anne xxx

Rest in Peace Thomas

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL LALOR**

*Ballycarnan, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurred 10th March.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 13th March at 11:15am.

Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day, no longer in our lives to
share, but in our hearts you're always there.

Sadly missed by his wife Peg and family.

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
JOSS ROBINSON**

*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
Months Mind occurs 12th March 2022*



Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this Saturday
12th March at 6:30pm.

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

Sadly missed by his loving family.

Rest in Peace Joss

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Bumper)
WHELAN**

*16 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary away from home.*



Dad

I am sending a dove from Heaven
with a parcel on its wings;
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs;
To say how much I miss you,
And to send you all my love.

I hold you close within my heart, and there you will
remain; to walk with me throughout my life,
Until I see you again.

*Love and miss you Dad, sadly missed by all
your loving family.*

May Patrick Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ORLA CONROY-KELLY**

*25 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 16th March 2022.*



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on **Wednesday
16th March at 10am.**

Without your kind and gentle
smile and sweet familiar face,
A treasured life is missing,
And the world's a sadder place.

You lived your life so graciously,
You always did your best,
And now you're with the angels and it's time
for you to rest.

As peace surrounds you everywhere in Heavenly
skies above, here on earth you're deeply missed
and thought about with love.

We see the stars at night time, shining bright
and clear, and as we say goodnight, God bless,
we know that you will hear.

Loved and missed so much Orla

From your heartbroken children; Lydian, Paddy,
son-in-law Sean, granddaughter Orla-Mae,
Mammy & Daddy & Brendan, Sharon & Jim,
Lorena & Shane, Lynda & Damien, Olivia & Brian,
Geraldine & Rocky and your adored nieces and
nephews who miss you so much.

May Orla Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
THOMAS DOHENY**

St. John's Sq., Portlaoise. 25th Anniversary occurred 9th March.



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,

You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you, you are
always by our side.

*Sadly missed by your sons, sons-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren, great grandchildren and all your family and friends.
Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at this time.*

May Thomas Rest in Peace

**20TH ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
DANIEL DUNNE**

Ballymacken, Portlaoise. Died 21st March 2002.



Dad, your physical presence is dearly missed in our lives, but your spiritual presence and guidance is with us always.

Loved and missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Dad

**In Loving Memory of
MARY McEVOY (Houlihan)**

*"St. Martin's", Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 14th March 2022*



To lose someone I loved so much brings pain beyond belief, There are no words to ease my pain, my sadness and my grief, I'm grateful for the years we've had and the closeness that we shared, With a heart so kind and thoughtful you always showed you cared.

You were always there when I needed you, No task too great or small, with a loving heart and willing hands, for me you did it all. The bond we shared will never end even though we are apart, I find comfort in your memories deep within my heart. They say that memories are golden, well maybe that is true, but I never needed memories, I only needed you.

Love always Tina x

Rest in Peace Mary

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA NORTON**

8th Anniversary occurs 19th March 2022



*Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you're always there,
Loved with a love beyond all telling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.*

*Patricia's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 19th March at 5pm.*

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

May Patricia Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ANNIE (Na) CARROLL**

25 Dr. Murphy's Place, Portlaoise.

Birthday and Anniversary Remembrance

102nd birthday occurred 10th March 2022

23rd Anniversary occurs 27th March 2022



*Just close your eyes and you will see,
All the memories that you have
of me,
Just sit and relax and you will find,
I'm really still there inside your mind.*

*Don't cry for me now I'm gone,
For I am in the land of song,
There is no pain, there is no fear,
So dry away that silent tear.*

*Don't think of me in the dark and cold,
For here I am, no longer old,
I'm in that place that's filled with love,
Known to you all as "up above".*

*From her loving family Mickey, Tommy, Ann, P.J., Eileen,
John, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

May Annie Rest in Peace

**Stations
of the
Cross
for Peace**

**Every
Friday Evening
during Lent
at 6pm
in the Parish Church**

 Portlaoise
PARISH

 PRAY
FOR
UKRAINE



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Lent

A Time For Giving & Forgiving



Prayer for Peace for Ukraine

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom
to guide their choices.

We pray for the world,
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity,
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways,
so that peace and justice,
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

Collection for Ukraine

**A special collection will take place at all
Masses on the weekend of
Sunday 27th March.**

This special collection will be taken up nationally at all Masses on the weekend of Sat/Sun 26th/27th. We will have envelopes available at the Churches and Parish Centre from this weekend.

The Parish has welcomed a family of four (a mother and three daughters) to Portlaoise. Another family of 3 (a mother and a son and daughter) joins us this weekend. We have been able to look after them through the generosity of the owners of the accommodation who have made them freely available.

We are looking after utilities etc. at this time. Thanks to parishioners who are supporting these families at this time and helping us in their care.



**Inviting all to a Listening Lent Session in
Portlaoise Parish Centre**

**Tuesday 22nd
March 2022 at 8pm**

**Synod
2021
2023**

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)

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
10th March 2022

10

18

25

31

No €13,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Claire Bryan
P L & C
Stephen Dwane
Mary Dwane
Sarah Fleming
Ava Kingston
Lil Scully
Davy Colohan
Scott Lawless
Joe Doyle

MATCH 3s €1,000

10
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€100
each

Next
Week's
Jackpot
is
€14,000

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Anne Ging
Anne Ging
Kathleen Brown
Peter Ryan
Mary Flanagan
Tom Colohan
J Lawless Jnr
Joe Doyle

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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
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Secretary: Julie Conroy
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**PLEASE
NOTE**



Our Parish lotto draw scheduled to take place Thursday 17th March (St. Patrick's Day) will take place on

**Wednesday 16th March at 5.30pm
in the Parish Centre**

Please ensure all tickets for inclusion in this draw are returned to the Parish Centre before

Wednesday evening at 4pm.

Join us live on Facebook at 5.30pm for the draw.

St. Patrick's Day

Main Street Portlaoise
 March 17th & 18th
 1 to 6 pm

Come down and enjoy
 St. Patrick's Day
 with all your Friends & Family



Featuring
The Valves

And special request appearance by
 the "Real St. Patrick"

This may in fact be a lie

Winners of the
 "Laois' New Superstars"
 Competition
Dopamine



Also on stage:

The Round Tower Ramblers

Brinda Irani

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**And a World Premiere of Portlaoise
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featuring many well known faces!

And Lots, Lots More...

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- Have-A-Go with Laois Archery Club
- Everyone's favourite- Jeka the Clown
- Irish Dancing Displays with a GIANT Siege of Ennis
- Indian Cultural Association
- Street Games for all, Amusements and excitement for all the family
- Arts, Crafts, and Food stalls

Perennial crowd pleasers
 James O'Connor & Alan Smyth



The AJ's



Solidarity will be shown for
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 Area for flowers, notes or electric candles.



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