

**Twenty Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

**Day for Life
Caring for the
Older Generation**



'The alliance between generations, which restores all ages of life to the human, is our lost gift and we have to get it back. It must be found, in this throwaway culture and in the culture of productivity.' Pope Francis

**The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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Caring for the Older Person

The focus of the Day for Life this year is older persons. The COVID pandemic highlighted the desperate plight of many older people, especially those in care homes and those struggling with long-term chronic conditions such as dementia. They carried the highest burden which included prolonged isolation, the distress for families being unable to visit, delayed medical interventions and tragic, isolated, deaths followed by shortened, minimal, funeral rites. Many family members and friends continue to bear the wound of deep grief which hurts and is still in need of healing.

There are many challenges which we face; the way in which we provide care for older persons, its cost and the means of payment, the shortage of staff in care homes, the time and energy needed to help older people feel valued and wanted. Many feel they have become a burden or can feel treated as a burden, a 'bed-blocker', or a nuisance because they move more slowly, struggle with more physical challenges and live a different rhythm of life. They often feel vulnerable and worry, when they hear talk about and even concrete proposals for the legalisation of assisted suicide and euthanasia. We share their concerns. In better valuing older persons, we need to find new ways of building bridges by our actions.

Pope Francis has recently offered a very different and more positive perspective. In his *Catechesis on Old Age*, he writes, 'The alliance between generations, which restores all ages of life to the human, is our lost gift and we have to get it back. It must be found, in this throwaway culture and in the culture of productivity.' [1] He invites us to listen to the dreams of older women and men and to learn from their wisdom (Joel 2:28). Older persons have a different rhythm to life from which we can learn. He continues, 'The arrogance of the time on the clock must be converted into the beauty of the rhythms of life.' [2]

We invite people to think again about the value and worth of older persons in families and in society, and to make practical choices to build bridges between the generations. We call for people and parishes to devote quality time, energy and creativity in caring for the older persons in our communities.

We invite engagement in political debate on providing adequately resourced care of older persons so that no-one feels like a burden in our society.

We challenge our politicians and healthcare system to provide accessible palliative care for all the dying.

We encourage people to learn from a closer accompaniment of the elderly that there is a real richness in the journey through old age, which offers a deeper meaning and a new rhythm to the whole of life; something which can be celebrated and lived with hope in eternal life.

Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, pray for us.

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

Monday - Friday : 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.

FIRST FRIDAY COMMUNION ROUNDS

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds on Friday.

Month of the Rosary



The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.

This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

October Collection for the Priests of the Parish

Envelopes for the October Collection for the priests of the parish are in the Development Boxes or in the Church porches.

Thank You for your support.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Calum Anthony Pajestka, Blueberry Hill

Luke Michal Pajestka, Blueberry Hill

Fionn Adhamh, Borris Little

Who were baptised recently.



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Medjugorje September '22: Mary's Hands Medjugorje run by Jacov the youngest Visionary, would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Poor in Medjugorje (money raised through end of year Rosary donations). €1,500 was given to Mary's Hands and €1,600 was given directly to families for firewood and utility bills, total €3,100. Holy Mass was offered for the people of Portlaoise on 21st September by Fr. Martin Shanahan.

Thank you to Clonad Community Centre, Portlaoise for their kind donation to PATH.



Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal Annual Meeting:

Tuesday 4th October at 7pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre. All volunteers and new members welcome.

Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal Table Quiz: Friday 14th October at 8pm in the Deadman's, Ballyfin. Fun night guaranteed - all are welcome.

Found: Navy Jacket left in the Heath hall after the coffee morning. It can be collected in the vestry after 9:30am Mass on Sunday.

Healing through Scripture: Understand and unlock the treasures of God's Holy Word With Catholic lay preacher Brother Johnson on Monday October 3rd from 6.30pm to 9.30pm at Dalton's, Colt, Portlaoise, R32W14F.

Anam Cara Midlands the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its first monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 12th October at 7:15pm in the Mullingar Park Hotel. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378.

St Mary's CBS Portlaoise: Application forms are now available for 1st year for the 2023/2024 school year.

The closing date for applications is Friday 19th November at 1pm. Applications are available to download from our school website (portlaoiseCBS.com), our school App, or by e-mailing stmarys@portlaoiseCBS.com and from the school office. They will be distributed in the primary schools also.

Our **OPEN NIGHT** is on Thursday 6th October from 6-9pm and all 5th and 6th classes are invited.

Counselling: Accord Portlaoise are open for Relationship Counselling at The Parish Centre, Portlaoise. Counselling is completely confidential, all counsellors are fully trained. For further info. please contact Mary at 086-4149034 or e-mail accordportlaoise@gmail.com

GROW weekly meetings take place on Thursdays at 7pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre. For details contact Michelle 086-4183805.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 27th September:

Top score: Mary Delaney

1st Lady: Betty Murphy

2nd Lady: Bob

1st Gent: Tom Kearns

2nd Gent: Frank Keenan

1st Half: W. Connell

2nd Half: Maureen Fitzpatrick

Raffle: 1st B. Kennedy

3rd Norah Delaney

5th Liam McCartney

2nd M.J. Dunne

4th Bob



Thanks to everyone for their support. Whist continues every Tuesday in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Portlaoise Active Retirement

Wednesday 5th October; Singing with Caroline

No bowls in St. Mary's hall until further notice. Cards at 3pm every Thursday in Sue Ryder foundation, Kilminchy. All are welcome to play and learn and chat. Outstanding money for holiday will be taken. For more information please contact P.R.O Sheila 087-6204617.

Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club: Following the tremendous success of the Field & Threshing Day held on 7th August, Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club in support of local needs and charities, will host a presentation evening on Saturday 22nd October at 9pm in The Deadmans Inn, Ballyfin. All are welcome.

The Celtic Tenors will perform in St. Peter and Paul's Church, Monasterevin on Friday 21st October at 8pm, featuring Monasterevin Gospel Choir. Tickets are available from Monasterevin Parish Office 045-525346 or Earley's Fashion Shop 045-525395.

Volunteers needed at Parents First, 1-2 hours weekly: We are looking for parents or grandparents to pass on their valuable knowledge and experience in bringing up children. Contact Dolores or Attracta on 057-9322996 / 086-1959221.

Join with us to pray the Rosary via Portlaoise 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.



ROSARY AT THE SHRINE

Market Square, Portlaoise
First Sunday, every month
This Sunday
2nd October
at 2:30pm



A Mustard Seed Faith

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? The mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds. The mustard seed is so small that you can hardly even see it. Some people wear a necklace that has one of these tiny mustard seeds inside of a piece of glass. They wear this necklace as a symbol of their faith in God. Do you know why the mustard seed is considered a symbol of faith?



One day, Jesus was talking to his disciples when one of them turned to him and said, "Lord, increase our faith." Jesus answered and said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Can you imagine what it would be like to have that kind of faith?

I heard a story about a man who read this verse in the Bible and decided to put it to the test. There was a large tree in his front yard, so he went out to that tree and said, "In the morning when I wake up from my sleep, I want you to be gone." That night the man went to bed. When he woke up the next morning, he went to front door, opened it, and looked out into his front yard. "Just as I thought!" the man said. "It's still there."

Well, first of all, the man didn't have mustard seed sized faith, did he? In fact, he didn't have any faith at all. When he told the tree to be moved, he never expected it to happen. In the second place, I think that the man misunderstood what Jesus was trying to teach his disciples.

Jesus was not suggesting that you and I go around trying to move trees just to prove that we have faith. What Jesus was trying to teach his disciples - and what he wants you and me to learn - is that it doesn't take a great faith to produce great results. Why? Because the results don't depend on us, they depend on God. If the results depended on the size of our faith, I have no doubt that we would probably go around bragging about our great faith.

What have we learned about faith today? This is what I hope we have learned: Don't ask for a great faith so that we can do great things — ask for faith the size of a mustard seed so that we can see God do great things!

My Prayer

Dear Father, we ask for a mustard seed sized faith. Help us to believe and never doubt your mighty power. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





Time to Think!

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Steve Montgomery was headed home from a painting job when something crazy happened. As he drove down the interstate, he noticed what looked like a pipe rolling around in the road. A tow truck drove over the pipe, sending it flying straight through the windshield of Steve's truck. It should have hit him in the face, but somehow missed him. He then couldn't see where he was driving, but somehow still managed to pull over to the side safely. "I think an angel was driving the truck," Steve said. "When I was down and I couldn't see the highway to keep it in the road, somebody else was driving that truck." Steve was even surer of the angelic presence when he snapped some photos following the accident. In one, a "V" shaped cloud formation represents angel wings to Steve. Our guardian angels are around us, ready to help out in any way that they can. They are here; sent from God, ready to help us when things are looking bleak. When we choose to trust in them and God, we allow them into our lives so that they can help us. Thank your guardian angel for all the help they have given you throughout your life.

Here is a riddle for you: I am always with you, but you never see me. I am not God, but I was created by God. I protect and guide you. Who am I? Sunday October 2nd is the feast of our Guardian Angels. God gave us guardian angels to protect and guide us. Saint Jerome wrote that the human soul is so valuable in Heaven that every human person has a guardian angel from the moment the person comes into being. These pure spirits, which we can neither see nor feel, play an important role in our lives. Jesus refers to them when he says, "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in Heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in Heaven". (Matthew 18:10).

Angels are messengers from God. The word angel comes from the Greek word for "messenger." In a very real way, these powerful spirits point out to us the ways of God. Guardian angels assist us in work or study. In times of temptation, these spiritual beings direct us to do good. Thomas Aquinas said that angels are the most excellent of creatures because they have the greatest intelligence next to God. Perhaps the guardian angels are best known for protecting us from physical danger, but their main role is to care for



the salvation of our souls. It is wonderful to know that God has promised to love, protect, and be with us always. One way he does this is through the care of the angels.

Whenever you meet with discouragement or danger your guardian angel is your personal, Heavenly bodyguard. The angels also offer prayers to God for us. Because angels always see and hear God, they can intercede for us. We should love our guardian angels, respect them, and pray to them. In early Christianity there was no feast for the guardian angels, just one for the archangels. But in the 15th and 16th centuries, the feast of the Guardian Angels was unofficially celebrated in Austria, Spain, and Portugal. In 1608 Pope Paul V made it a universal feast. In doing so, he helped to make us aware of the guardian angels, not just one day in October, but every day of our lives.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.

Angels

You might see an angel anytime and anywhere. Of course you have to open your eyes to a kind of second level, but it's not really hard. The whole business of what's reality and what isn't has never been solved and probably never will be. So I don't care to be too definite about anything. I have a lot of edges called Perhaps and almost nothing you can call Certainty. For myself, but not for other people. That's a place you just can't get into, not entirely anyway, other people's heads. I'll just leave you with this. I don't care how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. It's enough to know that for some people they exist, and that they dance.

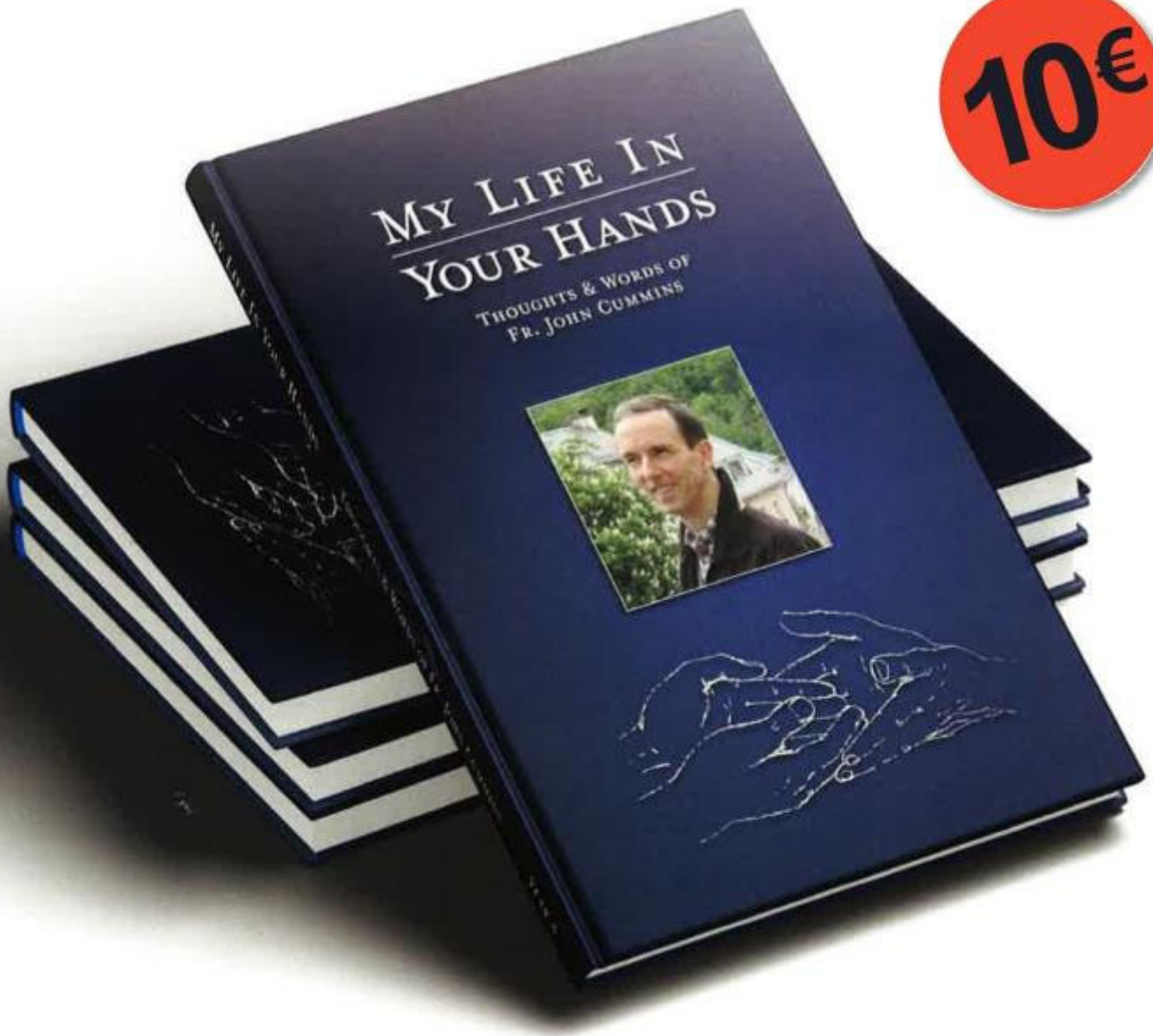
{Mary Oliver (1935 - 2019)}

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 26,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
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A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to
the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

Speak, *Lord*, your
servant is listening

1 Samuel 3:9

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Joe) FITZPATRICK

The Hermitage, Borris Rd. Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary away from home - 2nd October 2022

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this Sunday 2nd October at 12.30pm.



*We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again xxx*

*Sadly missed so much by his wife Mary,
sons Mark and William, daughter
Julie, grandsons Colin and Craig,
granddaughters Emma and Amy and
daughters-in-law Elaine and Mary.*

May Joe Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
BERNADETTE KELLY

*Parkside Apartments and formerly Capoley.
4th Anniversary occurs 5th October 2022*



*God saw you getting tired and a cure
was not to be, so He put His arms around
you, and whispered; "Come to me".
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away,
And although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us, that
He only takes the best.*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on Saturday 8th October at 6.30pm.*

*Sadly missed by her loving daughters Joan and Thelma,
son-in-law, grandchildren and all her loving family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Bernadette

In Loving Memory of
KEVIN CULLETON

*Brittas Lodge, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 10th October 2022*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Sunday 9th October at 12:30pm.



*We carry you with us everyday,
Remembering you in a special way.*

Loved and missed by Gemma, daughters
Ailbhe and Eve, sons Kevin and John,
granddaughter Aoife, sons-in-law Gearóid and
Keith, sisters Mary, Ber and Monica,
brother Mike, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law,
extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Kevin

In Loving Memory of
MARGARET GING *née Houlihan*

Borris Road, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurred 30th September 2022

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



*Wonderful memories woven in gold,
This is a picture we tenderly hold
Deep in our hearts a memory is kept
To love, to cherish, never to forget.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
her husband Tommy, sons Damien and
Dermot, granddaughter Leah and all her
loving family and many friends.*

Rest in Peace Margaret

**In Loving Memory of
BRENDAN BOWE**

77 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. 9th Anniversary occurs 5th October.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 8th October at 6:30pm.



*Never more than a thought away,
And those who have loved you dearly
are thinking of you today, and always.*

*Love from your wife Eilish, sons Gary
and Shane, grandchildren, brother, sisters
and extended family.*

May Brendan Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN GORMAN**

59th Anniversary, 3rd October, 2022



*Along the road to yesterday,
That leads us straight to you,
Are memories of happy days,
Together once we knew.*

*Sadly missed by your loving family
and extended family.*

May Martin Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JOE LAFFAN**

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

23rd Anniversary occurs Monday 4th October 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this Sunday 2nd October at 11.15am

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

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Kitty
and family.*

May Joe Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
DOLORES GRENNAN**

Woodgrove, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary away from home.



*Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the
next room.*

*I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.*

*Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.*

Put no difference into your tone.

Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we
enjoyed together.*

Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.

*Let my name be ever the household word that it always
was. Let it be spoken without effect.*

Without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same that it ever was.

There is absolute unbroken continuity,

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you. For an interval. Somewhere.

Very near. Just around the corner. All is well.

*Loved and missed everyday by Aisling, John, Liam,
Jason, Clodagh, Tommy and Jay xxx*

Rest in Peace Dolores

**In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN DEEVY**

24 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

Whose 10th Anniversary occurs 6th October 2022.



*It's an everlasting sadness, that
you're no longer here,
But every year on this day, we like
to think you're near.*

*Your love for us was constant,
Your devotion had no end,
You filled our lives with sunshine,
as a Mother and a friend.*

*So may you know forever, that to us you were the best,
And may you find a gentle peace in sweet eternal rest.*

In our hearts you will live forever.

Because we thought the world of you.

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

Sadly missed by her sons Pat and Brendan, daughter

Hannah, daughters-in-law Sylvia and Maura,
son-in-law Paddy and grandchildren Craig, Rebecca
and Paddy.

Also remembering her dearly departed husband Patsy at this time.

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
Elizabeth (LIL) DOYLE**

Green Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 4th October 2022



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this Saturday 1st October at 6.30pm.

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

*Sadly missed by her loving husband
William, sons and extended family.*

May Lil Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM MARUM**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 3rd October 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday, 1st October at 6:30pm.

*Look around your garden
Lord, and when he turns and
smiles,*

*Put your arms around him,
and hold him for a while.*

*We cannot bring the old days back, when we were
all together,*

*The family chain is broken now,
But memories live forever.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your
wife Phyllis, daughters Susan, Samantha,
Sawnya, Sabrina, son William and extended
family, relatives and friends.*

Rest in Peace William

**In Loving Memory of
Our Brother**

WILLIAM (Billy) MARUM

171 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 3rd October 2022.



*Along the road to yesterday,
That leads us straight to you,
Are memories of the happy
days, together we once knew.
And always every evening,
We seem to have a way,
Of wandering back to meet
you, on the road to yesterday.*

*He left us quietly, his thoughts unknown,
But left us a memory, we are proud to own,
So treasure him Lord in your garden of rest,
For when on earth, He was one of the best.*

*Truly missed by your loving brothers Danny
and Richard, sisters Catherine, Breeda, Tina
and Mary.*

Rest in Peace William

**In Loving Memory of
PADDY BYRNE**

113 St. Brigids Place, Portlaoise.

32nd Anniversary occurred 30th September 2022.



If we could write a story, it would be the greatest ever told, of a kind and loving husband and father, who had a heart of gold.

Always loved and remembered by your loving wife Mary, sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren xx

Rest in Peace Paddy

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*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of
His hand.*

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
29th September 2022

02

13

23

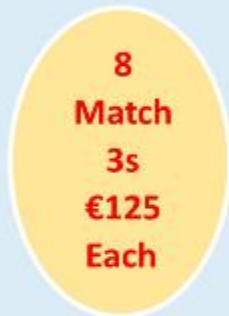
27

No €14,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

David Birchall
Alena Groarke
Tom O Donoghue
Lily & Sadie Cahill
Miriam Bergin
Lil Gleeson
Ciss & Cathal O'Neill
Catherine Cahill

MATCH 3s €1,000



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Paul Dooley
Lil Gleeson
Cathal O'Neill
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Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 | Psalm 94:1-2. 6-9
2 Timothy 6:6-8. 13-14 | Luke 17:5-10

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

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



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
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Kathleen Sherry safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



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

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 and
the Heath Church are live streamed
www.portlaoiseparish.ie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times
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Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
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