

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**



**link
up**

15th January 2023

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessing of babies
ceremony last Sunday
the feast of the
Baptism of Our Lord.
More photos inside.

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

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Any Witnesses?

There are those in our society who stand head and shoulders above the rest of us ... great entrepreneurs,

politicians, writers, scientists and humanitarians. We look up to these people and wish that we were more like them. When interviewed, these great people might pass some of the credit for their success on to a teacher who has made a big impression on them, an influential mentor, or a family member.

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Without John the Baptist, without the disciples, without the writers of the gospels, we would not have Jesus' teachings today. Without our parents and teachers, we would never have learned our first bible stories. Yet there are plenty of people in our world that would still benefit from Jesus' philosophy for living. There are plenty of people still consumed by greed, hate, crime obsession and misery. There are plenty of people who could still benefit from Jesus' teaching if only we as Jesus' witnesses could bring it about.

So why do we hesitate to bear witness? Well, first of all there's something about bearing witness that makes us feel uncomfortable. No one wants to be the man in the city centre wearing the biblical billboards. No one wants to be the woman with her foot wedged in the front door predicting the end of the world. Yet all these people are well meaning and trying to get God's message across in the best way they know how. If these aren't the ways that we would choose then perhaps we can find other more imaginative ways, rather than do nothing at all. The challenge we are offered today is to reach those people who remain unaffected by God in ever new and more imaginative ways.

'Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.'" (Today's Gospel)

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 5pm & 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 5pm Masses.

Landed on Top of a Lamb



A tourist visited a church in Germany and was surprised to see the carved figure of a lamb near the top of the church's tower. He asked why it was there and was told that when the church was being built, a workman fell from a high scaffold.

His co-workers rushed down, expecting to find him dead. But to their surprise and joy, he was alive and only slightly injured. How did he survive? A flock of sheep was passing beneath the tower at the time, and he landed on top of a lamb. The lamb broke his fall and was crushed to death, but the man was saved.

To commemorate that miraculous escape, someone carved a lamb on the tower at the exact height from which the workman fell.



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To book by phone: 087 666 4808

Exercise Classes January 2023

New Block Beginning 16th January 2023

Location: Portlaoise Parish Centre

Osteoporosis Classes:

Monday 9:30am to 10:30am

Pilates Classes:

Intermediate – Monday 6pm to 7pm

Beginners – Monday 7pm to 8pm

Mixed Level – Tuesday 12:30pm to 13.30pm

Online Class – Mixed level – Tuesday 10am to 11am

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Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

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The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre is operating as normal – we are currently following National Cancer Control Programme guidelines. Facemasks are required to be worn for all attendees. The welfare & care of those attending & working in the centre as always is our priority.



Mondays

WALKING GROUP

Our walking group brings participants through a walking programme gradually increasing fitness over time.

The walking group helps people diagnosed with cancer take positive steps towards better health. Exercise has been shown to help with fatigue for cancer survivors.

Mondays at 2pm

Starting 13th February

THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME

This is a self-management programme for cancer survivors with the aim of improving their quality of life to better manage daily health. (Developed by Stanford University)

Monday at 10am

**Booking Essential
February 2023**

THRIVE & SURVIVE MEDITATION

12.30pm - 1.30pm

**Booking Essential
February 2023**

ENTITLEMENTS

A Citizens Information Adviser will give you advice about the financial help you may be entitled to and will help you to navigate the process. e.g., medical card application etc

CANCER SUPPORT NURSE

Our cancer care nurse will provide you with information to help you with the emotional and psychological impact of your cancer diagnosis.

Tuesdays

MEN'S GROUP

1st Tuesday of each month

from 10am-11am

Next Group 7th Feb.

MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

11am-12noon

7th February

PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY

14th February

Spaces Available.

Booking Essential

MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

11am-12noon

6 Week Course

Booking Essential

7th February

PILATES

12.45pm-1.30pm

Places Limited

6 Week Course

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Wednesdays

Next

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REFLEXOLOGY REIKI

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ART

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17th February

CHAIR YOGA

10am-11am Booking

Essential

18th January

Thursdays

MINDFULNESS FOR

MENOPAUSE

10am-11.15am

Booking Essential

12th January

CLIMB PROGRAMME

Helping Children Understand Cancer. This programme is fun and creative, using drama, arts and play and aims to help children cope with a cancer diagnosis in the family

February 2023

WORK & CANCER PROGRAMME

This is a 6-week programme which will equip you with strategies and skills to help manage everyday symptoms which can impact on work. This programme was developed by TCD and is supported by

TCD & NCCP.

Booking Essential

Starting February 2023

COUNSELLING

By appointment only

NEW – AQUA AEROBICS

EVERY THURSDAY

from 1.45-2.30pm

IN PORTLAOISE LEISURE CENTRE



This class is ideal for all cancer patients especially patients who suffer with lymphoedema. Aqua aerobics or exercising in water can really help improve lymphoedema and quality of life, as well as helping you keep fit, healthy and happy.

Please give the centre a call if you would like to attend this class on 057 8681492

THIS CLASS IS FREE OF CHARGE AS IS ALL OUR SERVICES

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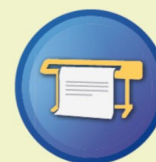
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Catherine Fitzgerald 087 681 4018 - cfcathfitz5@gmail.com

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Teresa O Reilly 087 620 4432 - teresaors@hotmail.com

Eamon Fennelly 087 614 0640 - eamonfennelly@hotmail.com

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Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat: Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise, Saturday 28th January from 10am to 1.30pm. Holy Mass at 10am - Confessions available. Retreat continues in the Parish Centre from 10.45am to 1.30pm. Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry. For info. Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O' Domhnaill P.P. All are welcome.

Lean In Meditation Space; 4 consecutive Tuesday mornings, January 17th, 24th, 31st and February 7th from 10.30am to 11am. 4 consecutive Thursday evenings, January 19th, 26th and February 2nd, 9th, from 7.45pm to 8:15pm. Investment in your wellbeing €20 non-refundable per block of 4 sessions, payable at the time of booking your place. Contact Michéle Sinnott on 087-2374143.



The school is now accepting applications for Junior Infant enrolment for the school year 2023-2024. Application forms are available from the school website www.heathns.ie or the school office. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 3rd February 2023. For any further information you may require please contact the school Principal Mr. David O'Brien on 057-8646658 or office@theheathns.com



Applications for Admission 2023-2024 - Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix:

The school is now accepting applications for admission to Junior Infants and to our Sonas ASD Class for the school year 2023-2024 from now until Thursday, 26th January 2023.

All Information including our 'Annual Admissions Notice' & 'Application for Admission Forms' can be found on the 'Parents' tab of the school website; www.shanahoens.weebly.com

Alternatively, 'Application for Admission Forms' can be sought by e-mailing the school office at shanahoens@gmail.com or by phoning 057-8739715. Follow us on Facebook at 'Shanahoe National School', Instagram 'shanahoe_ns', or Twitter @shanahoeNs

School Motto: 'Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí'

Scoil Mhuire, Ballyroan Road, Abbeyleix is now accepting Enrolment Applications for Junior Infant classes from now until Friday 27th January 2023. Parents who wish to enrol their children for Junior Infants beginning Sept. 2023 are invited to submit applications for enrolment during this period. We recommend pupils are at least 4.5 years old by September 2023. Enrolment Forms are available from the school secretary 057-8731051 or e-mail scoilmhuireabbeyleix@gmail.com, from Merry Mornings Preschool, Gort na nÓir, Jelly Tots Playschool, CYMS Hall and The Childrens' House, The Fairways. All completed enrolment forms must be returned to the school by Friday 27th January 2023. Those accepted for enrolment will be notified by post by Friday February 3rd 2023.

St. Francis School Admissions: We are currently accepting applications until 7th February 2023. We cater for children with special educational needs between the ages of 5 and 18 years. We offer both a primary and second level programme within a holistic, caring, child-centred environment.

Mary's Meals Monthly Online Quiz: Mary's Meals is a global movement that sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education. Our Monthly Online Quiz is just €5 to enter and you can participate from the comfort of your sitting room! The next quiz will take place on Friday 27th January 8-9pm. For info. contact Martin Colfer 087-2596159. To join online visit <https://bit.ly/MonthlyQuizforMM>

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 8th. Find out more on our website; www.prioryinstitute.com

AFCM Lenten Retreat: February 16th 9am to 18th 4pm in St. Flannan's College, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95X0FN, led by Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil. For further information and to register, please visit our website, www.afcmireland.ie or telephone 087-9316316 / 087-7740812



Congratulations to Louise Allen, who celebrated her 101st birthday last Sunday. Pictured here with her daughters Anne and Deirdre and Fr. David Vard at a special Mass in Ballard Nursing Home during the week.

What an achievement and an inspiration!



God's Eyewitnesses



It is important for us to keep up with what is happening in the world, isn't it? One of the best ways to keep up is by watching the news. A typical news broadcast may have several live, on-the-scene reports. The announcer might say something like, "Fire destroyed a building today in Tralee. RTE Eyewitness News reporter, Paschal Sheehy, is at the scene. Paschal?"

Paschal would say, "Thank you, Eileen. I am talking to Maeve Mullally who witnessed the fire. Maeve, can you tell us exactly what you saw?" The eyewitness would then tell everyone what she saw. It really helps us to understand what happened when we have an eyewitness report, doesn't it?

Even though there was no TV during the time that Jesus lived, eyewitness reports were still very important. One day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him. He said to the people with him, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one I told you about. I didn't know he was the Messiah, but when I baptised him, I saw the Holy Spirit coming down from the heavens like a dove. It came down and landed right on his shoulder. I saw it with my own two eyes and I tell you, this is the Son of God." When the people heard John's eyewitness report, it helped them understand and believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

Most people come to know about Jesus because someone else tells them about him. Perhaps it's their parents, a school teacher, a pastor, or a good friend. Who is someone who has told you about Jesus? Maybe your parent, a friend or a teacher.

These people whom you named have given an eyewitness account of how Jesus changed their life. God wants all of us to be a part of his "Eyewitness News Team."

What would you tell someone about what Jesus means to you? Whatever Jesus has done for you, tell others so they can know Him too.

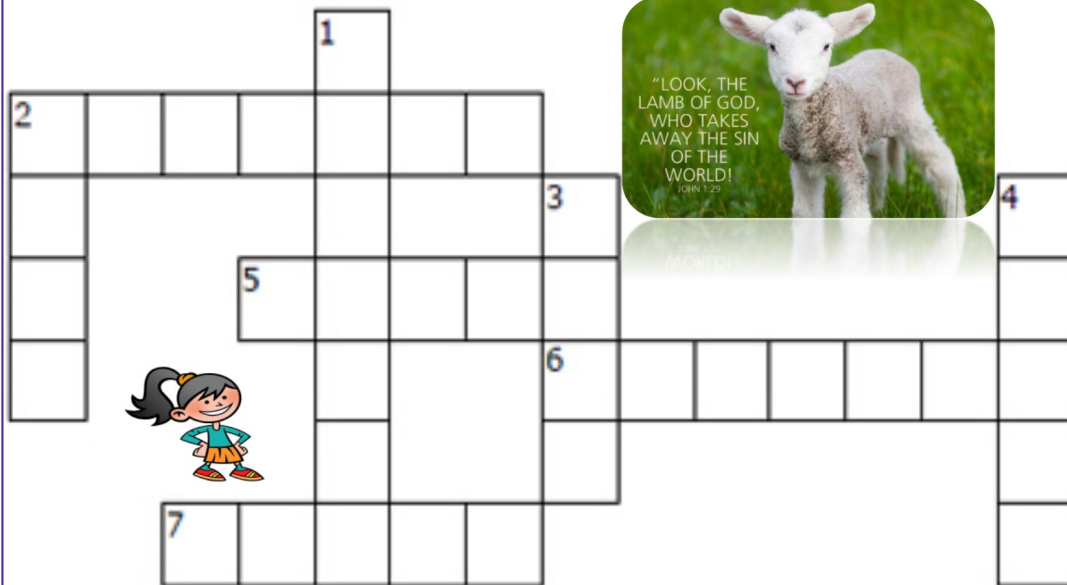
OUR PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son. Help us be witnesses so that others will come to know Your love as we do. Amen.



God's Eyewitness News

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I have seen and I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." **John 1:32-34**



ACROSS

1. The man who baptised Jesus
4. A clear, colourless, odourless and tasteless liquid; H₂O
7. A young sheep
8. A bird that is a symbol of peace
9. A male descendant
10. To break one of God's commands

DOWN

2. The place where God is
3. The earth and everything on it
5. The creator of heaven and earth
6. To make a statement based on personal knowledge



**SIN
GOD**

**HEAVEN
DOVE**

**LAMB
TESTIFY**

**JOHN
WORLD**

**WATER
SON**

A Prayer for Students and Teachers

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding.

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students. Amen.

Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between 18th January and 25th January. It is an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days.



Catholic Schools Week begins next Sunday (22nd January). Why not come along to the 12.30pm Mass next Sunday in the Parish Church for a special celebration.



Time to Think!

Blue Monday

The third Monday of January 2023 has been branded Blue Monday. It begins what many describe as the most depressing week of the year. It is a gloomy time for a number of reasons including a dip in mood after Christmas, the harsh winter conditions and financial debt. People also tend to lack motivation after attempting to implement their new year's resolutions. The following suggestions may serve as guidelines to help us get through Blue Monday and to get back on track with the divine.

1) Pray

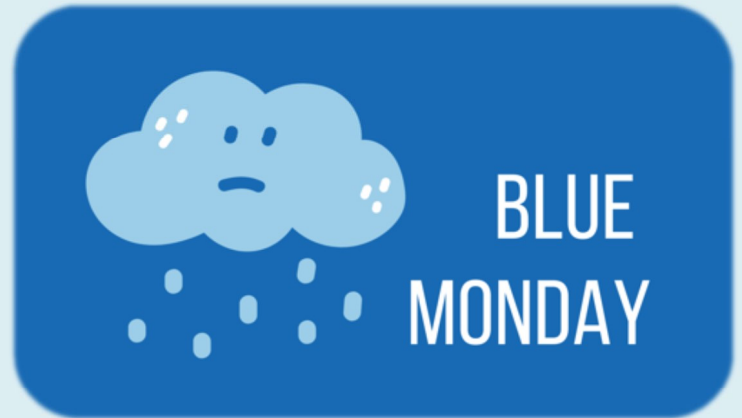
It is a wonderful opportunity to pray when we may be in low mood or depressed. We can speak 'heart unto heart' with rawness, pouring out my despair and inner turmoil to God. We may not sense a divine presence at all, but praying acknowledges that we are rightly dependent on God who we need more than ever during this time. We can join with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when he prayed: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done". Similarly, we can pray: "Father, let this darkness pass me by, but if I must endure it, your will be done, not mine". We may feel some consolation from this self-emptying and, like Jesus, be comforted by an angel.

2) Share my desolation with support persons

This step is often a top priority when I am out of sorts and need to draw on the strength of those I trust. But, I am often, for instance, not quick enough to contact my loved ones which leads to further desolation in the form of loneliness and despair. I may be plodding through my day with a lack of awareness over my vulnerable mood. When I try to anchor myself for a moment or two, e.g., through deep breathing, an honest answer may surface which then calls me into action. I have different words of expression: "I feel low", "I'm down in the dumps", "I'm stressed out", "I'm disconnected", "I feel like blah". My pain lessens a little bit when I share my desolation with others, and a supportive response can make all the difference.

3) Keep to my routine and appointments

I need to draw on every ounce of inner strength to continue with my daily tasks. Every step may feel like a hike up the mountain - getting out of bed, brushing my teeth, arriving to work, attending meetings, completing a project. I may feel like nothing is getting done, but I can rest assured that the only way out of a problem is through it. I can give myself permission to let go of the normal pace of life: going for a slow walk in the daylight instead of a faster one is absolutely fine. Ignatius's concept of *agere contra* ('act against'), meaning to do the opposite of my natural inclinations, comes to mind during this time. Knowing that my feelings cannot be trusted can actually empower me to dig deep and persevere.



4) Be with others: a) Push myself to talk, or b) Express my desolation and be myself

Like keeping to my routine and appointments, it is also good to be with others during this time. Withdrawing into isolation or getting lost in distractions will get me nowhere. A further bit of discernment may be involved as I sit down next to people. I may, for example, need to force myself to contribute to a conversation with colleagues. Talking about the weather, news or celebrity gossip may be more manageable than talking about my real life. On the other hand, I may find that sharing my desolation with certain colleagues is helpful, enabling me to show my vulnerable side and remaining quiet if I wish. I may feel safe in the company of others, as if held by the goodness of the love of God.

5) Have a cup of tea

Having a cup of tea or other soothing drink can create a homely atmosphere to wherever I may be. It is an opportunity to be mindful: to notice the taste, the temperature of the drink, the colour of the mug. A snack may complement my drink and again it is a chance to be mindful. Tea drinking is an Irish tradition in which many good conversations take place. It may stimulate the other person to open up and share something of themselves. I may connect with their humanity and transcend my pain or suffering for a moment or two. The tediousness or drudgery of my tasks may disappear in the midst of a heart-warming and inclusive conversation, reminding me of the divine presence. I drink decaffeinated tea after dinner time.

6) Do something creative (note a point on good decision-making)

Writing or engaging in another creative activity can do the world of good for my soul. Writing words on a page can validate my thoughts and feelings in a concrete way. "I feel like a mess at the moment", I may write, "but I know something or someone is there. God, give me the power to do what is needed, to wait for the rising sun." My words can speak to the longings in my heart. They have the power to anchor me because they give expression to my true self.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 28,100 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

JBR ART HAUS

Upcoming workshops

BATH & FUN Primary School Workshop



Soap



Bath Bomb



Thursday February 16
10.30Am to 12.30
Euro 20.00 per child
@jbrarhaus
@mysoapbubbles

BATH & FUN Adults Workshop



Soap



Body Peeling



Face Wash



Salt Baths

Thursday February 16
6.00pm to 8.00pm
Euro 30.00 per adult
@jbrarhaus
@mysoapbubbles

BATH & FUN Secondary School Workshop



Soap



Bath Salts



Face Wash



Thursday February 16
2.00pm to 4.00pm
Euro 25.00 per child
@jbrarhaus
@mysoapbubbles

Valentines Wood Slice

FEBRUARY 4TH 12 TO 2PM
Create Valentine wood slice with our
artist Milda from Dream Vessel Art
Studio

From age 16 and Adults
25 Euro per person

@jbrarhaus
dreamvesselartstudio



6 Week Teen's Crochet Workshop

Learn a new skill and crochet a wall art
in our workshop for teenagers starting January 25th each
Wednesday from 5PM to 7PM
Euro 120 Booking Essential
(supplies provided)



CREATE UNIQUE GIFTS

TRASH TO TREASURE UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS @JBRARTHAUS



UPCYCLE FREQUENTLY
RECYCLED MATERIALS



UPCYCLE OLD HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS WITH SOME DIY



LEARN NEW SKILL

Crochet Beginners workshop

6 week adults crochet workshop
Tuesdays 6PM to 8PM
Starting January 24
EURO 120
(supplies included)



MORE INFORMATION YOU
CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.YARNHAUS.IE

JBR ART HAUS
32 Main Street, Portlaoise
089-958-0696

Blessing of Babies Ceremony in our Church last Sunday





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



Kevin O'Brien

Colliers Lane
Portlaoise



Declan Bracken

Block Road, Portlaoise
and London



Mary Maher

née Allen
Borris Rd. Portlaoise



Christine Conroy

Hillview Drive
Portlaoise



Mary Murphy

née Delaney
Ridge Rd. Portlaoise / Dublin



Moira Mullen

née Furlong
Shanahoe



Margaret (Peig) Bergin

née Fitzpatrick
Ballyroan

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to their families.

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



**In Loving Memory of
PADDY "Patrick" McEVOY**
Capoley, Portlaoise. 14th Anniversary.



14th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 14th January at 6:30pm.

Also remembering Paddy's sister Niamh,
whose birthday occurs at this time.

*Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends
May Paddy Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of
FRANCES DUNNE**



*Late of Silverdale, Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2023.*



Mammy

*You cared for us when we were small,
Watched over us as we grew tall,
You shared our joys, and dried our
tears,*

Thank you for those precious years.

Missed by her loving family xx

May Frances Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**



*Ballyduff House, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurs 17th January 2023*



*Those we love remain with us,
For love itself lives on,
Cherished memories never fade,
Because one loved is gone,
Those we love can never be,
More than a thought apart,
For as long as there is a memory,
They live on in our hearts.*

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

May Michael Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
PADDY O' BRIEN THE PROPHET**



2 Millview, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary occurs 20th January.



*No words can tell, no tears express,
The love, the loss, the emptiness,
You are not just a memory or part of
the past,*

*You are ours to remember as long as
life lasts.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving family and friends.

May Paddy Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **DAVID RAFTER**

*Glenside, Abbyleix Rd., Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 15th January.*



Although you sleep in Heaven
now, you're not that far away,
My heart is full of memories
and you're with me everyday,
You lived your life with
meaning and with a smile upon
your face, a world that was full
of happiness, is now an empty
place,

I know you are at peace now, and in a place where
you are free, meet me at the pearly gates,
When Heaven calls for me.

Always remembered, never forgotten.
Love always, Vanda and your kids Stefan & Amy xx

Fondest Memories Of My Loving Son

The happy days we once enjoyed,
How sweet their memory still,
But losing you David has left a space,
This world can never fill.

Always loved, forever missed, your loving Mam xx
*Remembering David's Dad at this time.
"Together Again"*

Remembering my darling brother David

We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories and your picture in a
frame.

Your resting place we visit and flowers we place with
care, but no one knows the heartache as we turn
and leave you there.

Never more than a thought away, loved beyond
words Daithí, Martina, John and Craig xxx

Remembering David on his 4th Anniversary

You will never be forgotten.
Sadly missed by the Szwaglis family.

David, life has shown us again it's hurtful side,
by taking you away from us when we didn't see it
coming.

There's no way to make up for time lost and now
gone, but we hope that wherever you are, you know
that you are truly loved and we hope you have
found peace and joy.

Loved and missed dearly, from Jimmy, Claire,
Aaron, Rachel and Jonathan xx

Rest in Peace David

In Loving Memory of **DAVID RAFTER**

*'Ardville' Glenside, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 15th January 2023*



*It's been the hardest thing to
lose you,
You meant so much to me,
But you are in my heart
Brother, and that's where
you'll always be.
I know that Heaven called
you, but I wish you could
have stayed,
At least the memories I have
of you, they will never fade.*

*I did not want to lose you, but you did not go alone,
Because a part of me went with you,
When Heaven called you home.*

*So just remember one thing, we are not apart,
You're with me in my memories,
And in my broken heart.*

***Loved and missed always bro,
Jack, Jenni, Cian & Hollie***

*It seems to me the day you left, the sun forgot to
shine,*

*Because it feels as though the lights gone out,
within this heart of mine.*

*My body feels so broken, because we had to say
goodbye, and my tears they fall like raindrops
every time I cry.*

*The pain that I am feeling, is like a storm inside my
heart, and it only grows much stronger, every day
that we're apart.*

*It's hard to see the future, and to make it through
the day, but I know you will be with me, and will
help to light my way.*

*When the light goes out for me, I know what I shall
do, I'll close my eyes one final time,
And I will be with you.*

Love always, Adrian, Leonie & Anna

Rest in Peace David

In Loving Memory of **STEPHEN CONROY**

*34 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary occurred 9th January 2023.*



*Memories of you we will keep and
treasure,
In our hearts they will live forever.
Sadly missed today and always by his
loving wife Pauline, sons, daughters,
sons-in-law, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren & great-grandchildren.*

May Stephen Rest in Peace

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

Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise, whose Anniversary occurred 13th January.



A sudden call from God on high,
We had no chance to say goodbye,
Without farewell you fell asleep, but
memories of you we will always keep.

From your sons Martin and Jas, daughter Eileen,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May Josephine Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PADDY RANKIN**

Kiloughan, Stradbally, Laois.

3rd Anniversary occurs Sunday 15th January 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Holy Cross Church, Ratheniska,
this Sunday 15th January at 10am.

Thinking of you today and always.

Sadly missed by his loving family
and friends.

Rest in Peace Paddy

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH FARRELL**

"Chestnut Drive", Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
3rd Birthday away from home occurs 13th January.



To a loving Mam/Wife
on your Birthday

We may not be able to spend time
with each other anymore,
But we want you to know that you
are always in our minds.

We hope that this special day in
Heaven is truly incredible,
Because we are sending to you lots
of love & hugs from here on earth.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Mam/Lizzie.

Sadly missed always by your loving husband Frank,
sons Michael, David, Kenneth, daughter Regina and
extended family

Miss you Gran

Thousands of bright suns cannot compare to the light
you provided for us all.

We miss having you around so much.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Gran x

Forever missed by your loving granddaughter
Jennifer, Stephen, Ava, Saoirse, Leon & Jaxon.

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN (Murt) KIRWAN**

Anngrove, Kilbricken, Mountrath.
1st Anniversary occurs 17th January 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, this
Sunday January 15th, at 12 noon.

God saw you were getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
He closed his arms around you,
And whispered "Come to Me".

In tears we watched you sinking,
We watched you fade away;
And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go, God only takes the best.

No matter how life changes, no matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts, is always kept for you.

Also remembering Murt's son John Paul at this time.

Just a prayer from the family who loved you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.

Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered
by his loving wife Ann and his sons Martin, Anthony,
James, daughters Mary, Martha, Noirin, his adoring
grandchildren and extended family.

Rest in Peace Martin

**In Loving Memory of
ROSANNA KERRY née Phillips**

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary away from home occurred
12th January 2023



We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.

Sadly missed by your sons, daughters, grandchildren,
great grandchildren & extended family xx

May Rosanna Rest in Peace

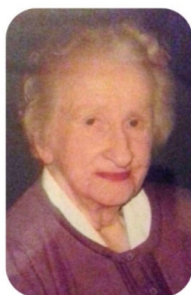
*The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us*

John 1:14

**In Loving Memory of
BRIDIE DOODY**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 15th January 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 15th January at 11:15am.

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

*Sadly missed by her nieces and
nephews.*

Rest in Peace Bridie

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK & ELLEN MAHER**

Grange, Stradbally whose anniversaries occur at this time.
Also remembering Eileen, MaryAnn, John
and Margaret.



*May the winds of Heaven
blow softly, and whisper
in your ear,
How much we love and
miss you, and wish that
you were here.*

Lovingly remembered by all your family.

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
CARMEL FITZPATRICK**

née Dunne

Annefield Terrace, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurred 10th January 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 15th January at 10am.

*Sadly missed by all the
Fitzpatrick and Dunne families.*

Rest in Peace Carmel

**In Loving Memory of
ANN LAWLOR née Jordan**

Derryguile, Mountmellick.



Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in the Church of the
Assumption, the Heath, on
Sunday 22nd January at 9.30am.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by her husband Fintan, sons Michael
and Ronan, daughter-in-law Laura,
granddaughters Eve and Tess, sisters,
brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and
extended family.

Rest in Peace Ann

**In Loving Memory of
FRANK WHITE**

Late of 26 Newpark, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 16th January 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 15th January at 10am.

*We miss you in so many ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
And when past times we do recall,
It is then we miss you most of all.*

*Loved and remembered by May, Tomás, Timothy,
Declan, Sinead, grandchildren and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Frank

**In Loving Memory of
FRANK WHITE**

Late of 26 Newpark, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 16th January 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 15th January at 10am.

*A whisper on a January morn,
You heard a gentle call,
You took the hand of Jesus,
And quietly left us all.*

*Your memories are so precious, your presence missed
so much. Forever remembered and missed by all of us.*

Never forgotten by your sister Mary.

Rest in Peace Frank

**In Loving Memory of
FRANCES DUNNE**

Late of Silverdale, Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise who died on
14th January 2010. 13th Anniversary of a dear sister and best friend.



*To hear your voice, to see your smile,
To sit and talk to you a while,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.*

*Loved and remembered always Chrissie,
Yvonne, Trevor, Jack & Aine xxxxx*

May Frances Rest in Peace

*You are the
Light
of the World*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of MICHAEL KERRY

7 Cois Na Habhainn, Greenmill Lane, Portlaoise.
Months Mind occurs at this time.



The family of the late Michael Kerry would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with them, sent Mass Cards and flowers, telephoned and uploaded messages online and to those who attended Michael's Requiem Mass either in person or via the Parish Webcam.

Our thanks to the Priests of the Parish for their support, and also to our wonderful friends and neighbours, your kindness will not be forgotten. A special thank you to Dr. White and also to the staff of Tallaght hospital for caring for Michael. Sincere thanks to Rankin's Funeral Directors for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out Michael's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing his final resting place with such care. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

Rest in Peace Michael



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THE MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

*For the perfect tribute card for your loved one
- our bespoke memorial cards.*

*Create a collage of images illustrating
the life of your loved one with our
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for additional photos or images.*

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Portlaoise, Co. Laois
☎ 057 86 34050
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A light *shines* in the dark

John 1:3



KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We have opened a new office and show room on
Abbeylex Road, Portlaoise.
(opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

Contact;
057-8620567
PAUL; 087-2562137
NIALL;
086-2770095



Portlaoise Stone Centre

- ♦ We supply an extensive range of headstones and plaques in granite, marble and limestone, any design made to order.
- ♦ We also supply bronze eternal lamps, statues etc.
- ♦ Sandblasting cleaning carried out.
- ♦ Inscriptions added and old headstones renovated.
- ♦ Cement top and wide range of chippings available.
- ♦ We also supply and fit artificial grass.
- ♦ We supply ceramic photos - single and double.
- ♦ All grave work carried out to a high standard.

Please visit our new website www.portlaoisestone.ie

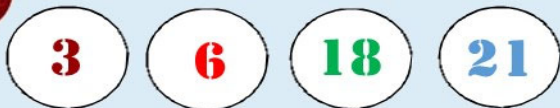


Unit 3b Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Laois.
Tel: (057) 8660258 | Mobile: (087) 2538930
Email: info@portlaoisestone.ie

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
12th January 2023



No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

John & Mairead McGranaghan
Michael Dowling
Nora Keegan
Mary McLoughlin
Margaret Scully
ACD
Monica Smith
Linda Thomson
Mary Kerry
Kathleen Clancy
Karen Smith
Noel & Kathleen
Mick Dempsey
Paul O'Loughlin
Michael Coalon
G & A & O & T
Lauren Duggan
Emma Dollard
Joe Lyons

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Lotto Gift
Tom Fenlon
Rose Walsh
Online Lotto
Parish Centre
Parish Centre
Monica Smith
Mary O'Connell
Lucy Kelly
Lucy Kelly
Lucy Kelly
Lotto Gift
Kathleen Dunne
John Loughlin
Kathleen Brown
Parish Centre
Frank Cullen
Parish Centre
Paul Dooley

Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000

**Join us live on Facebook every Thursday evening
at 5pm for our parish lotto draw**

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. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



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: @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 and
the Heath 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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 | Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10
1 Corinthians 1:1-3 | John 1:29-34

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

Join the
- 6.30pm Saturday -

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH CHOIR

Where?
**Saint Peter
& Paul's
Church**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME
TO JOIN**

When?
**First
Saturday
of the Month**

**{ THE FIRST PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE
THURSDAY, THE 19TH OF JANUARY
AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH GALLERY }**

MORE INFORMATION IN THE PARISH CENTRE