

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

26th February 2023

First Sunday of Lent



'Come back to me with all your heart'

The call of Lent and the opening line of the Readings
for Mass on Ash Wednesday.

It was very encouraging to have such huge congregations at our Masses on Ash Wednesday. Thousands turned out to begin the Holy Season by being marked by the blessed Ashes - please God the graces of this time will be with us, as we do our best to *'turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel'*.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie



Daily Choices



Famous artists depict Satan as a winged demon with goat horns and cloven hooves. If the devil really presented temptation to us in this obvious guise, we would easily be able to recognise and resist it. Sadly that is not the case. We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. Temptation does not come with all the easily recognisable trappings of Satan. More often or not temptation comes as an attractive choice. Satan presents for us easy ways out of our problems. Satan dresses up poor decisions as sensible options. Worse, the devil will help us to justify our poor decision making until we reach a point where we really cannot tell right from wrong.

Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self interest. Self interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Thursday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

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.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

There has been a very generous response to our Turkey-Syria Appeal.

€24,000

Has been forwarded to Trócaire during the week. Later payments will be forwarded this week.

Thank you

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.



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or in the Parish Centre.

Thank You!



We welcome into our Parish Community

Amy Gaynor, Rockdale

Liliana Elora O'Reilly - Pita, Fairgreen

Greyson Martin Bland, Parnell Crescent

Orlaith Kate McManus, Aghnaharna

Niamh Anne McManus, Aghnaharna

Who was baptised last weekend.

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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.

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)

10am-12 noon
Booking Essential

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 March

MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

11am-12noon

PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY

28th March

Spaces Available.
Booking Essential

MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

11am-12noon
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PILATES

12.45pm-1.30pm
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Wednesdays

Next

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Essential

Thursdays

MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE

10am-11.15am
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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
April 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

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Saturday 4th March

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by David Auburn

Wednesday 8th March

Ballyduff Drama Group

THE WELKIN

by Lucy Kirkwood

Sunday 5th March

The Ray Leonard Players

THE KINGS OF THE KILBURN HIGH ROAD

by Jimmy Murphy

Thursday 9th March

Enniscorthy Drama Group

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by Fintan Kelly

Monday 6th March

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Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla; 087-2068972 | [seandoylelightengineering](https://www.seandoylelightengineering.com)

Clothes line poles, covered clotheslines, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle stands.

Portlaoise Active Retirement Club meet every Wednesday in the Parish Centre at 3pm for activities, fun and friendship, new members always welcome.

Monday 27th Feb.; Bowls in St. Mary's hall at 3pm. **Tuesday 28th Feb.;** Rehearsals for show at 2pm, Parish Centre.

Wednesday 1st March; Singing with Caroline. **Thursday 2nd March;** Cards in Sue Ryder Centre at 3pm.

A few seats available for holiday in Killarney 24th April. Any further information call Sheila 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 21st February:

Top score: Theresa Mulhare | **1st Lady:** Norah Delaney | **2nd Lady:** Veronica Kearns

1st Gent: Mary Delaney | **2nd Gent:** Tom Kearns | **1st Half:** Mary Downey | **2nd Half:** A.M. Farrell

13 Tricks: A.M. Farrell & Kit Farrell

Raffle: 1st Betty Murphy | 2nd F. Gleeson | 3rd N. Delaney | 4th M. Downey | 5th Maureen Fitzpatrick

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

Anyone interested in learning to play, contact Breda Cooley.

Portlaoise Toastmasters; Do you need to gain more confidence speaking in front of an audience? Whether in work or your personal life, Portlaoise Toastmasters can help you become a competent communicator. Join us at our next meeting upstairs in Kavanagh's Pub, Main Street, Portlaoise, Monday 27th February at 8pm to find out more. Guests are always welcome and first two meetings are free for guests. What do you need to do? Just turn up! Follow us on Facebook for further updates.

The Irish Cancer Daffodil Day street collection coming soon! Daffodil Day is Friday, 24th March 2023. We need volunteers to collect at various locations in Portlaoise. Please text Cathy on 086-879-7907 or message the Facebook Page Portlaoise Daffodil Day. Give your name, mobile number and time available.

Brigidine Reunion; Reaching out to all Brigidine Past Pupils and inviting you to our annual lunch gathering on Sunday 26th March at 1pm in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. As this is our first reunion in four years, we are looking forward to a great day out. If you are interested you can contact Maeve 087-6569975.

Are you, or someone you know living with a long term Health Condition? If so, then you may be interested in the 'Living Well Programme'. Living Well is a Free ONLINE, 6 week group self-management programme for adults living with long term health conditions, such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart conditions, stroke and others to name but a few. The Living Well Programme supports people to develop the skills and confidence to live with their health condition. There are spaces available on our March 2023 Programmes. To book your place please contact Aine (041) 6850676 / (087) 1140371 or Joanne (041) 6860710 / (087) 4308735 or www.hse.ie/livingwell

RELIGIOUS NOTES

The Legion of Mary will pray for the intentions of all Confirmation children.

Rosary will be prayed for Lent in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, Monday-Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 3pm.

Gospel Readings; Fr. Eddie guided a group every Friday to reflect on the Sunday readings. This group has now recommenced and all are welcome, Friday after 10am Mass. Contact Angela 086-0683085.

Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 7 Night Package July 5th to 12th; Costs €745 p.p.s. Flight Dublin to Split. Spiritual Director: Fr. Sean Hyland C.C. For bookings contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305.

Online Lenten Retreat; The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a FREE online retreat 'Reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent as Stepping Stones on our Journey to East'. Visit our website www.prioryinstitute.com to register or find out more.

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee; We are placing a box for anyone wishing to apply for sponsorship in full or part fare, in the Parish Church beside the statue of Our Lady. The box will be there until 22nd March, Anyone wishing to make an application, please include your name, address and telephone number. If you are nominating another person, please ensure that they know you are nominating them and agree to travel. Thank you.





Resisting Temptation

There was a bowl of sweets sitting on the coffee table in the living room of Mary's house. Mary's mother noticed that she was looking at the sweets and said, "Now, don't you eat any sweets until after dinner or you will spoil your appetite." The sweets looked so good and the temptation was so great. "Surely just one little piece won't hurt - and mother will never know the difference," Mary thought to herself.

Have any of you ever had an experience like that? Here is another story which might sound familiar.



"Put away your books and take out one sheet of paper and a pencil," the teacher said. "We are going to take our weekly spelling test." Johnny had an empty feeling in the pit of his stomach. He knew that they were going to have a spelling test today, but he watched TV last night instead of studying for the spelling test and he wasn't ready for the test. As the test began, Johnny looked around the room and realised that he had a clear view of Sally's paper. "It won't hurt if I look at Sally's paper just this once," Johnny thought to himself. "I promise — I'll never do it again and nobody will ever know."

All of us have faced temptations such as these, haven't we? Did you know that Jesus was tempted just as we are? The Gospel tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with Scripture!

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days. He was hungry, and Satan knew he was hungry, so he said to him, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread." Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but he didn't. Instead, he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took Jesus up to a high place and showed him the worldly kingdoms below. "All of this belongs to me," he said. "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give it to you." Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and led him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angels to rescue you."

Again, Jesus quoted the Scripture, "'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

Satan tempted Jesus just as he tempts you and me. Jesus resisted Satan's temptation, and we can too, by answering him with Scripture.

My Prayer

Dear Father, help us to learn what the Bible teaches us to do so that when the devil tempts us, we can do what Jesus did — answer him with Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



We know that Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and praying. During Lent we try to follow Jesus' example by doing something special to show how much we love him and want to be like him. This is not easy and sometimes it is difficult to decide what we want to do and even more difficult to keep doing it for forty days.

There are three things that we are asked to focus on during Lent.



PRAYING: Spend a little more time with God.

SACRIFICING: Giving up something that you really like.

ALMSGIVING: Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.

They are:

SOME OF THESE SUGGESTIONS MIGHT HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO:

I will share a smile



I will help my mammy

I will write a letter to my nana

I won't eat sweets

I will play with my little brother/sister

I will share my lunch with my friend

I will be patient

I will make a card for my mammy

I will eat my dinner

I will help clean the kitchen

I will say thank you to Jesus

I will do what my teacher asked

I will forgive someone who hurt me

I will give my daddy a hug

I will read a story to my sister

I will share my toys

I won't watch television



I'm sooooo
sorry...



I will pray for those who are hungry

I will put some money in the Trócaire Box

I will pray for those who have died

I will make a card for my granddad

I will help my teacher

I will clean my room without complaining

I will be kind to someone

I will pray for those who are sick

I will share my pencils with my friends

I will put my litter in the bin

I will help mind the baby

I will go to Mass

I will call my grandparents

I will pray for peace

I will say 'sorry'

I will make my bed

I will give away something that I like.





Time to Think!

Early Spring - A Time of Hope

As the evenings lengthen and new signs of life appear in our gardens we welcome a new Spring. The following ancient story tells how the simple spring air can refresh and indeed heal.

"The King needs daintier food," said the Court Cook, so he served broiled peacock on toast, and pomegranates and cream, and wild honey, and cheese-cakes as light as feathers, and a sponge cake made with the eggs of a bantam hen. But the King would eat none of them. "The King needs medicine," said the Court Physician, so he searched the countryside for growing things and he brewed rose-leaf tea, and he made a potion of everlasting flowers mixed with rosemary, and he distilled wild honeysuckle with dew gathered at sunrise, but the King would drink none of these.

"Perhaps music would divert the King," suggested the Court Wise Man. "It might make him forget whatever is troubling him." Immediately the palace was filled with music, some of it very beautiful and all of it played by very famous people. But at the end the King was still weak and sorrowful. A harpist from a far country came and played music that sounded like the mighty wind on high mountain tops and the rushing flow of great mountain streams. But the King only thanked the harpist and requested that he be paid for his pains and his journey and go back to his home. Later, there came a trumpeter who gave great battle calls on his trumpet, but the King covered his ears to shut out the sound and looked sadder than ever because the sound of the trumpet gave him a headache. So it seemed as if not even music would make the King well, and no one knew what to do.

Gladheart was the little boy who tended sheep in the valley. He was the youngest of five brothers, and there was little room and less food for them in their father's house. But Gladheart had been given his name because he always smiled over a crust of bread, even when he was a baby. Now that he was a little lad of ten with a great flock of ewes and lambs to tend and drive through sun and storm, he had smiles and kind words for all, and he played his fiddle all day long until its sweet tunes filled the valley. "I must go and play before the King," Gladheart said one day. "They will only laugh at your small fiddle," said his brothers, but the eldest said he would tend the sheep for a day, and Gladheart set out for the palace.

"The King will have naught to do with a shepherd lad dressed in goatskin and bearing an old fiddle," the guards at the door said. But Gladheart touched the strings with the bow and such a blithe tune came



forth that the guards opened the door, and Gladheart went inside to play before the King.

At first the sight of the King sitting so bent and sorrowful on the throne with a face as frowning and sad as a storm frightened Gladheart. But he took courage and stood as straight as he could in front of the throne, and began to play on the fiddle a tune that he had learned while he was in the fields with his sheep. It was a lovable tune, like a dozen birds and a little wandering wind and the voice of a rippling brook all joined with the sounds of the little earth singers, the bees, the katydids, and the crickets.

As the King listened, his bent shoulders straightened and his face became bright with smiles. He reached out his hands to Gladheart. "I heard that tune once before when I was a boy," he said. "It makes me well to hear it now. What is it about, lad?" "It is about the spring, your majesty," said Gladheart. "It is the song that I learned from the fields when winter was over. If your majesty will come with me to my sheep pasture, you may hear it there every day."

No one could understand why the King was suddenly so well or why he went often sit with Gladheart and the sheep, but they were all very happy over it.

And they gave Gladheart the riches and the honour that they had promised whoever could heal their King."

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 28,900 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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Today!**

UNISLIM

*Portlaoise Parish Centre
Every Tuesday
7am-1:30pm
5pm-6pm*

*Call in and chat to Breda
If not now - when?*



SCOIL FIONNTÁIN NAOFA

'Tracing our Past-Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe'

Tracing Our Past



Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe

"Local History and Heritage themed novel created by 5th & 6th Class 2021-2022 under the guidance of their teacher Mr. Barry Whelan (Principal) and artist Mary Sheehan, as part of the Blue Artist in Residence"



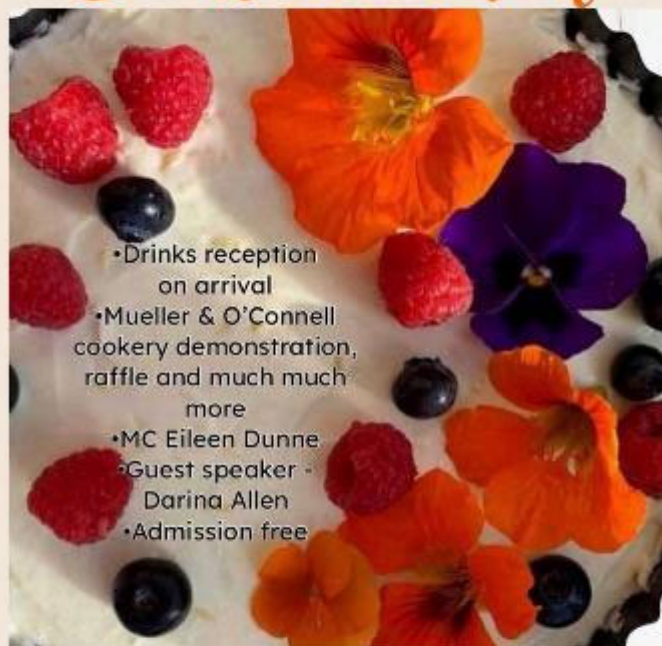
Tracing Our Past-Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe is a children's collection compiled by the pupils of Junior Infants to 6th Class in the school year 2021-2022

The school's local history and folklore collection 'Tracing our Past-Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe' that was compiled by the pupils in the school year 2021/22 and which was officially launched at the end of December 2022 by former Principal (1979-2011) and local historian Mr. David Brickley, is available to purchase in 'AllBooks' Portlaoise and in 'Anthology' Abbeylax. It can also be sourced directly from the school by e-mailing shanahoens@gmail.com. The cost is €20. Your support for our publication would be very much appreciated.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE **8th-15th June 2023**

Owing to cancellation, 2 seats available. We will be in Fatima for the anniversary on 13th. Contact Maura 087-1210263 or any committee member.

Book Launch



- Drinks reception on arrival
- Mueller & O'Connell cookery demonstration, raffle and much much more
- MC Eileen Dunne
- Guest speaker - Darina Allen
- Admission free

*Thurs March 2nd in
the Killeslin hotel @ 7:30pm*

COOK BOOK ON SALE ON THE NIGHT €15
ALL PROCEEDS TO EMD NATIONAL SCHOOL
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

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Closing date for applications (CV & letter of application);
Monday March 13th at 9am

For information about the Centre
visit our website;
www.mountstannes.com

Mount St Anne's is an equal opportunities employer.



BALLYFIN GAA GK RUN/WALK



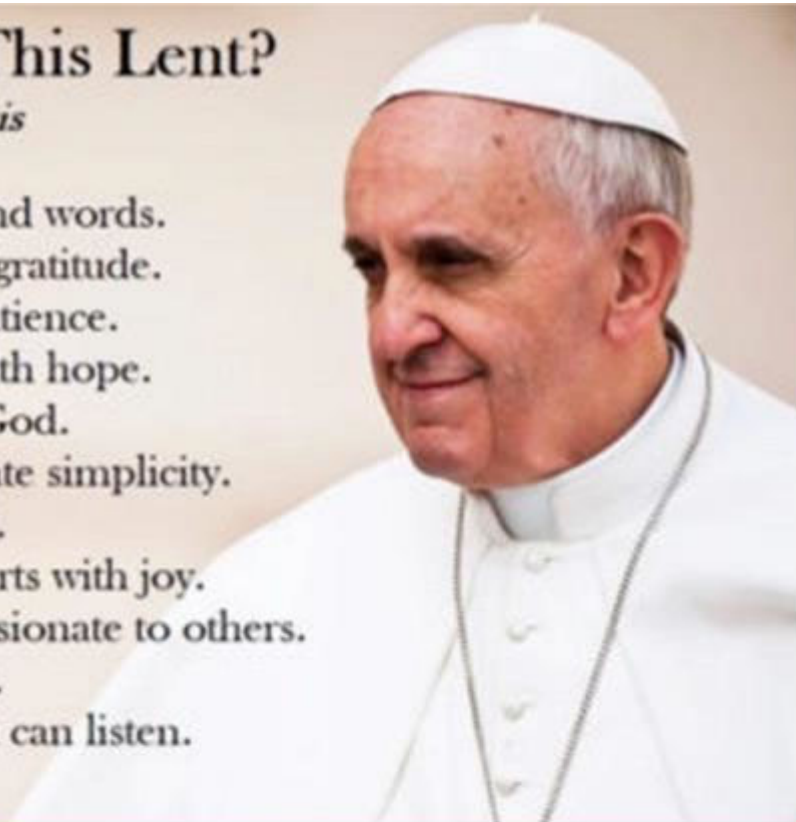
BALLYFIN

**THRU THE
EXCLUSIVE
GROUNDS
OF
BALLYFIN
DEMESNE
SUNDAY
26TH FEB
AT 11.30AM**

Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words - and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Visitors *Welcome*

This week we welcomed some visitors to our Parish



Colin & Maureen Isaac and Jeffery & Myatsu Aung from Cheshunt, Herts, UK and Dublin, who visited our Parish Centre on Friday 17th February, pictured with Fr. Ciprian Matei



Thomas and Varsha Joseph from Albany, New York, USA, who visited our Parish Centre on Ash Wednesday 22nd February, pictured with Msgr. John Byrne.

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



PAT HOOBAN
Cherrygarth, Portlaoise



WILLIAM LYONS
Borris Little, Portlaoise



SUSAN BRENNAN
Greenview,
Mountmellick Road,
Portlaoise



NATALIA PILCH
Rathevan Heights,
Portlaoise



PADDY CLOONEY
Ballytarsna,
Abbeyleix



**BREDA (Birdie)
LANGTON**
née Lalor
Stradbally/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
CONCEPTA PHELAN**

née Breen

*Attanagh, formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary and Birthday away from home;
28th February 2023*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Tuesday 28th February at 10am.



... Until We Meet Again

Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile,
If only I could have you back,
For just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again
just like we used to do –
You always meant so very much
And always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer
here, will always cause me pain,
But you're forever in my heart,
Until we meet again.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by Moira,
Vera, Liam and Tom, nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law,
sisters-in-law, grandnieces and grandnephews.*

Rest in Peace Concepta

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

*25 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.
7th Birthday in Heaven occurs 25th February 2023*



Are there birthdays in Heaven?
Does the angel blow his horn?
Announcing to everybody, that this
is the day you were born.
Can the stars be your balloons and
angel food your cake?
Presents wrapped in moon beams,
all the angels helped to make.
Birthdays meant so much to you,
They were always a big deal,
Birthday presents, lots of friends
and perhaps a special meal.

So we'll whisper a little prayer today, asking everyone up
above, to sing you a happy birthday song and give you all
our love.

Happy birthday Doll, loved and missed more everyday.

Lots of love from Mammy & Daddy, Sharon & Jim,
Lorena & Shane, Brendan, Lynda & Damien, Olivia & Brian,
Geraldine & Rocky, adored nieces and nephews,
your daughter Lydian and husband Sean, your treasured
son Paddy and grandchildren Orla-Mae and Emmy.

May Orla Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
AMY DUNPHY

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 4th March at 6.30pm.

Sadly missed by all her loving family.

Rest in Peace Amy

In Loving Memory of
DES MURPHY

Borris Road, Portlaoise.

Months Mind occurs 26th February 2023.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 25th February at 5pm.**



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

*Sadly missed by his loving sister
Sr. Geraldine, Mountmellick
Presentation Convent, extended
family, neighbours and friends.*

Rest in Peace Des

In Loving Memory of
LILY DARGAN

30th Anniversary occurs 3rd March 2023

LAURENCE DARGAN

45th Anniversary occurs 27th February 2023

Late of 3 Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise.



Gone, yet not forgotten, although we are apart,
Your spirit lives within us, forever in our hearts.

*Loved and remembered always by
Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Mick) FENNELLY

Late of 30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

46th Anniversary occurred 20th February 2023.



Memory drifts to scenes long past,
Time rolls on, but memories last,
Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Love's remembrance outlasts all.

*Loved and remembered always by
Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

Rest in Peace William

In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Fiddler) DELANEY

8 Clonroosk, Portlaoise.

20th Anniversary occurs 28th February 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 4th March at 6.30pm.

*We thought of you today, but that is nothing
new, we thought about you yesterday and
days before that too.*

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

*Your memory is our keepsake, from which we'll never part,
God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.*

*Lovingly remembered by Mam, Dad, sister MaryAnn, brothers
Clement, Alan & Don, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*

May Patrick Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
RITA (Margaret) WHELAN

née Flanagan

Corrigeen, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

1st Anniversary occurs 2nd March 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
the Church of the Assumption,
the Heath, on
Sunday 5th March at 9.30am.

*Our time together was so special,
so were the memories we made, and
although you live in Heaven now,
those memories will never fade.*

*We bow our heads in silence, and remember you with
love, and we know that you are up there,
watching over us all from above.*

*Everyday is a struggle, and nothing feels the same,
And our hearts still break a little more, every time
we hear your name.*

*You will always be remembered and time may heal
our hearts, but a piece of us is missing since the day
we had to part.*

*Someday the time will come, when we no longer feel
this pain, that is the day when Heaven calls and we
will see your smiling face again.*

*Loved with a love beyond telling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.*

*Missed, Loved and Remembered by
Anne, Seamus, Ray, families and friends.*

Love you always Mammy xxx

Rest in Peace Rita



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH (Lil) BARTLEY

91 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
2nd Birthday away from home; 2nd March 2023



Today always meant so much
to us,
Now it only brings me tears,
I wish that God could have
spared you,
For just a few more years,
I'm thinking of you today Mam,
I know that's nothing new,
You were my thoughts of
yesterday and you will be in
tomorrows too.

The memories I'll cherish forever,
They always make me smile,
I just wish I could hold you close again,
If only for a while.

But until the day that we unite, we'll no longer be
apart, but until that day remember Mam,
You are always in my heart.

*Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by her
daughter Monalisa, son-in-law Donal and
grandchildren Darryl and Stefan.*

Today is filled with memories, with happiness
and tears, of birthday celebrations we've shared
throughout the years.

And though I'll always miss you, the endless joy
you brought, warms my heart with gratitude and
fills my every thought.

I feel that you are with me in everything I do,
So I'll celebrate your birthday,
But I'll spend it missing you.

*Loved and missed by her sons John, Oliver, Shay
and Darren, daughters-in-law, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and the Conroy family.*

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of MICHAEL (Mick) KEENAN

4 New Row, Green Road, Portlaoise.
100th Birthday occurs 2nd March 2023.



As you celebrate among the Angels,
On your birthday high above,
Please know we miss you very much,
And send you all our love.

*Loved and always remembered by
all your family.*

Rest in Peace Michael

In Loving Memory of WILLIE GING

Late of 70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
Who died 29th February 2008



You were always there when
we needed you,
No task too great or small,
With a loving heart and
willing hands,
For us you did it all.

Loved and missed today & everyday.

From Liam and Helena and all your loving family.

May Willie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of DOMINIC DUNNE

9 Glendowns, Portlaoise. 15th Anniversary occurs 27th February.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 26th February at 12.30pm.



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 his
loving wife Mary, family and friends.*

May Dominic Rest in Peace

40TH BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of SHARON TOBIN

9 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

40th Birthday - 1st birthday away from
home occurs 27th February.

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

*Loved and missed always by
Philip, Noah and Lennon xxx*

Rest in Peace Sharon



Peace I bequeth to you,
my own peace I give you

John 14:27

**In Loving Memory of
DENIS GRIFFEY**

32 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
37th Anniversary occurs 22nd February 2023



*Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.*

*Sadly missed by all his loving
family.*

Rest in Peace Denis

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPHINE LALOR**

née Walsh
1 Borris Little, Portlaoise.
Died 28th February 2012; 11th Anniversary



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

*Always remembered by her sisters
Mary, Dolores, Veronica and her
brothers Oliver and Joe.*

Rest in Peace Josephine

*"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ
our Lord" - Romans 6:23*

**In Loving Memory of
PHILIP (Chilly) WARD**

Ballymorris Manor, Portarlinton.
Died 30th January 2023



DAD

*Although we cannot see
you Dad, you are with us
night and day,
For you and us had a special
love, that death cannot take
away.*

*They say that hearts don't
really break,
Dear Lord that's just not true,
The day you took our Dad from us, you broke our
hearts in two.*

*Dad we were always your angels,
Now you are ours.*

*Sadly missed, loved always, never forgotten
Your loving son Jason and daughters Katie
and Angela xxx*

Rest in Peace Dad



Stations of the Cross

with UMI Sisters Raheen

Every day during Lent at 3pm

(Apart from Sundays)



ST. PETER & PAULS
**PORTLAOISE CEMETERY
COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

will be held on

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th of March

Please support generously and thank you for your continued support.



Portlaoise Cemetery Committee would like to invite anyone
who wishes to join the committee or to help out to our open

AGM MEETING

on the 5th of April in the Portlaoise Parish Centre at 8pm



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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
23rd February 2023



No €10,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Paul Quail
Phyllis Ging
Celine Scully
John Gorman
Stephen McGinn
Roisin Fitzgerald
Conor O'Brien Snr
Sheila Bergin

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Lucy Kelly
Lotto Gift
Kathleen Brown
Derek McGinn
Anita Tierney
Lisa O'Brien
Joan Bergin

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois



Next Week's Jackpot is €11,000

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

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 | Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17
Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11

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. The generosity of so many means we **continue to** be well supported. Please find your way to contribute.

Donation 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



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: @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
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

Stations of the Cross



**Every Friday during Lent
after the 10Am Mass**