

Fourth Sunday of Lent



Cairn of Peace

Ratheniska, 10th March 2023

A wonderful tradition attached to the World Ploughing Championships is the erection of a 'Cairn Stone of Peace' in the place where the event was held. A ceremony of unveiling and blessing the stone took place recently in Ratheniska. The stone is not only a reminder of a wonderfully successful event but also remains as part of the legacy reminding us to 'Let Peace cultivate the Fields'.



Photo: John Whelan, Wexford (Champion of 2013, 2017 & 2022); Eamonn Tracey, Carlow (Champion of 2014, 2015, 2018 & 2022), Mick Mahon (Chairman of the National Ploughing Association), Anna May McHugh (Managing director), Msgr John Byrne, Cllr. Thomasina Connell (Laois County Council) and James Sutton (President of NPA).

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Seeing the Bigger Picture

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject, teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works.



Saint Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday 20th March this year.

It is disappointing considering the importance of St. Joseph's role, that the gospels do not tell us more about him. All we really know of his character is that he was a 'holy and righteous man who generously cooperated with God's grace.' Early Christians must have been more interested in imitating Joseph's virtues than recording biographical details. So today, as the early Christians did, we honour Joseph for trusting in God's plan even though he had limited understanding of its reasons or consequences. We offer petitions to him as patron saint of fathers, guardians, workers and of the dying.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - 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.



Annunciation of the Lord March 25th

Our Lenten practices are designed to make us more aware of the choices and direction

in our lives.

The Angel Gabriel gave Mary a choice. It was God's plan to use her as the bearer of his Son, but she didn't have to say 'yes'. We pray that as Mary's 'yes' brought forth the Saviour of the world, so we too will have the courage and wisdom to say 'yes' to God's plan in our lives.

Visit our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie

We welcome into our Parish Community

Grace Annie Delaney, Rossleighan
Ruby Rose Killeen, Grange Upper
Alfie Patrick Finn, Ashewood Walk

Jaxon Stephen Hendrix Flaherty Potts, Mell Street

who were baptised last weekend





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FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

8th-15th June 2023

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

Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for fun, friendships and activities. New members always welcome. Our activities for the coming week;

Monday 20th; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm, new members welcome.

Tuesday 21st; Rehearsals for show in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 22nd; Our club meeting activities and fun at Irish day.

Thursday 23rd; Cards and chat in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm, new members welcome, tuition given.

Last day for paying the balance on the holiday to Killarney is 5th April.

For further information call pro Sheila at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 14th March;

Top score: Liam McCartney | **1st Lady:** Molly O' Brien & Rita Arrigan | **1st Gent:** P. Dowling

2nd Gent: P.J. Cahill | **1st Half:** Sadie Chester | **2nd Half:** Margaret Flanagan

Raffle: 1st Agnes Holland | 2nd Mary Gowing | 3rd Ann Marie Farrell | 4th Mary Downey | 5th Molly O' Brien
6th Mary J. Dunne

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.

Pioneer Notice; Portlaoise Pioneers are having a Committee/Council meeting on Thursday 30th March 2023 at 8pm in the Parish Centre. Anyone wishing to join the Committee/Council is very welcome to attend.

Daffodil Day; Friday, 24th March 2023. We still need volunteers to collect at various locations in Portlaoise. Please text Cathy on 086-879-7907 with your name and time available. If you have any fresh daffodils you can cut from your garden, please drop to Martley's shop this week by the morning of Friday, 24th March. In bud, not open blooms preferred. These flowers will help the street collection greatly.

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.

Knitting and Crocheting Group; Every Monday in O' Gorman's, Kilminchy, 7pm to 9pm. Beginners very welcome.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

Legion of Mary; Dear Lord, we pray for all who are sick at home and in hospitals, for those who are suffering because of war, weather disasters and especially all the innocent children who are suffering.

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.

Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat; Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise, Saturday 1st April 10am to 1.30pm. Holy Mass 10am, Confessions available. Retreat continues in the old Sacristy (behind Altar) from 10.45am to 1.30pm. Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry. Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305. Spiritual Director; Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P. All are welcome.

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.



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Coffee Morning and Cake Sale



Friday 31st March

In the Parish Centre

In aid of the Fatima Invalid Fund.

We would be grateful for cake donations for the coffee morning. Contact Maura 087-1210263 or John 087-1254841.

We would appreciate if all raffle tickets could be returned asap as the draw will take place on 31st.

Many thanks for your continued support.



Here's Mud in Your Eye!

Jesus was walking with his disciples when they saw a man who had been blind since birth. The disciples thought that man was blind because he or his parents had sinned, but Jesus told them, **"It is not because of his sins or his parents' sins. This happened so that the power of God could be seen in his life."**

Then Jesus knelt down, spit on the ground, and stirred up some mud. He took the mud and put it on the blind man's eyes.

He told him, **"Now, go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam."**

The man went and washed the mud from his eyes and when he came back, he could see!

Now, you would think that everyone would think that it was wonderful that the blind man could see, but the Pharisees weren't. Do you know why? It was because Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees thought that was a sin to do anything on the Sabbath - even if it was to help someone in need. You see, they were more concerned with keeping their religious laws than they were with helping people. When the Pharisees asked the man how he had been healed, he told them that Jesus had healed him. They became angry and said to him, "God should get the glory for this - we know this man Jesus is a sinner."

"I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. **"But I do know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"**

I don't know what problems you may be facing in your life, but I know that if Jesus can heal a blind man with a little bit of mud, he can help you with anything you might be facing.



My Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are here today in need of the touch of Jesus. We pray that lives will be changed so that your name will be glorified. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.



Mother's Day used to be called Mothering Sunday and we have celebrated this special day in Ireland for hundreds of years. A long time ago children from poor families were sent to work as servants for rich families. They were allowed to go home every year on the fourth Sunday of Lent. The children were given a day off to visit the church in their home town. After visiting the church they went to visit their mothers and they brought flowers or baked a special cake for the occasion.

**HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY
TO EVERYONE
= CALLED
MOM**



Block Road, Portlaoise

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www.cuislecancersupport.com email: info@cuislecancersupport.ie

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 Standford University)

10am-12 noon
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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

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MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

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Wednesdays

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Thursdays

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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

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EVERY THURSDAY

from 1.45-2.30pm

IN PORTLAOISE LEISURE CENTRE



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Time to Think!

A Mother's Love - A Blessing

Sure I love the dear silver that shines in your hair. Does anyone recognise that song? An old, old Irish favourite, Mother Machree. I remember my father singing it to us and the words have been flowing through my head this week as I wondered how to prepare a homily for Mothers' Day. Of course, this is the ideal song for mothers – even if it was written with an older woman in mind. Age is irrelevant when it comes to love and care and being there for another. Hear the words;

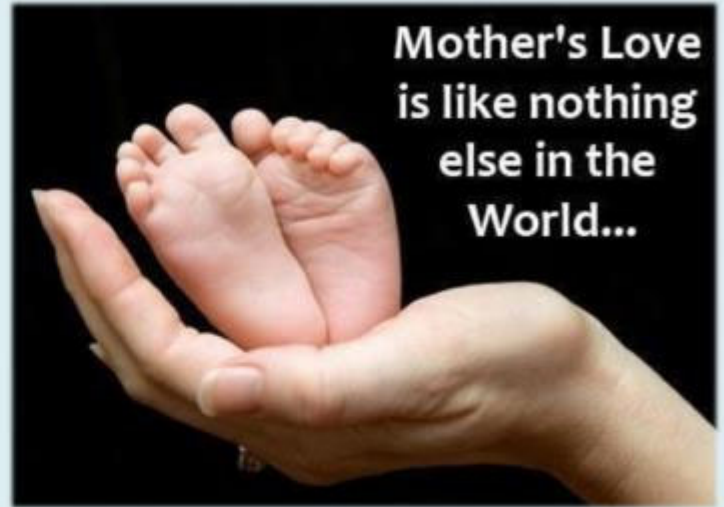
*Sure, I love the dear silver that shines in your hair
And the brow that's all furrowed and wrinkled with care*

*I kiss the dear fingers so toil worn for me
O God bless you and keep you, Mother Machree.*

Something that makes the song especially relevant for us today is the name Machree. It's made up of two Gaelic words, ma/chroí which carry the meaning from the heart. Isn't that precisely why we honour mothers? They serve from the heart. And when we honour someone, that honour comes from our hearts, from our memories of love given and shared. It's from the heart that truth and goodness shine; from the heart mistakes are forgiven and forgotten. Regrettably, it's also from the heart that other memories come: memories of going without, memories of absence, pain, neglect. But that's when Mothers' Day can become a time of healing, a time of letting go the hurt which a struggling, anxious, or abandoned mother may have inflicted on those in her care. To be generous in forgiveness is possibly the best kind of honouring.

Jesus honours his disciples in this way when he greets them with Peace be with you, following their betrayal and cowardice. His forgiveness overflowed and swamped their sense of unworthiness and in today's gospel they are offered the consequences of Jesus' generosity. This is what you must do, he tells them, Love one another as I have loved you. Peter shows he's learned what this means when he tells us in the first reading that God has no favourites – God's love is universal and everlasting. Jesus' love is a forgiving love. He understands our weaknesses; he knows the efforts we make and the pressures we can find ourselves under.

He knew Peter would not be able to hold his nerve and would deny his friend; he knew the others would panic and run. He saw them as little children, not yet able to take responsibility for themselves or their actions. We are children of God - privileged way beyond our understanding, but destined for greatness if we can just learn to think more of others



**Mother's Love
is like nothing
else in the
World...**

than ourselves. Love one another as I have loved you – could also be the legacy of a mother to her children. A mother's love models the most unselfish love and it is richly laced with forgiveness. A two year old is into all the low-lying cupboards and before long there's a breaking sound as a dish shatters. At that moment, the real mother's concern is for the child, not the loss of property. Her love pours out, overwhelming any feeling of annoyance or disappointment. She reacts from the heart: the good of the child is primary. In their way of loving, mothers can show their children what God's love is like, and with Jesus they can say to them, Love one another as I have loved you.

A contemporary song thanks a mother in these words: In my heart you bring the sunshine on my stormy days. To my soul you bring the fire that brighten up my way. The greatest gift that love can bring is your presence in my life. But I still cherish the song my Dad used to sing – and I sing it for every mother among us, and for those who have died; Sure I love the dear silver that shines...

A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of history who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly. Give them the faithful support of a loving partner, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 29,100 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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LAOIS ALZHEIMER
CAFÉ

Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Thursday 30th March at 11am

The Laois Alzheimer Café will provide a warm, welcoming space for people with dementia, their family and friends, social and health care professionals, to meet, exchange ideas and learnings. All are welcome.

For further information please contact Ann Munnelly
086-8372168 | amunnelly@alzheimer.ie
or Grainne Roche Duff 087-6075037




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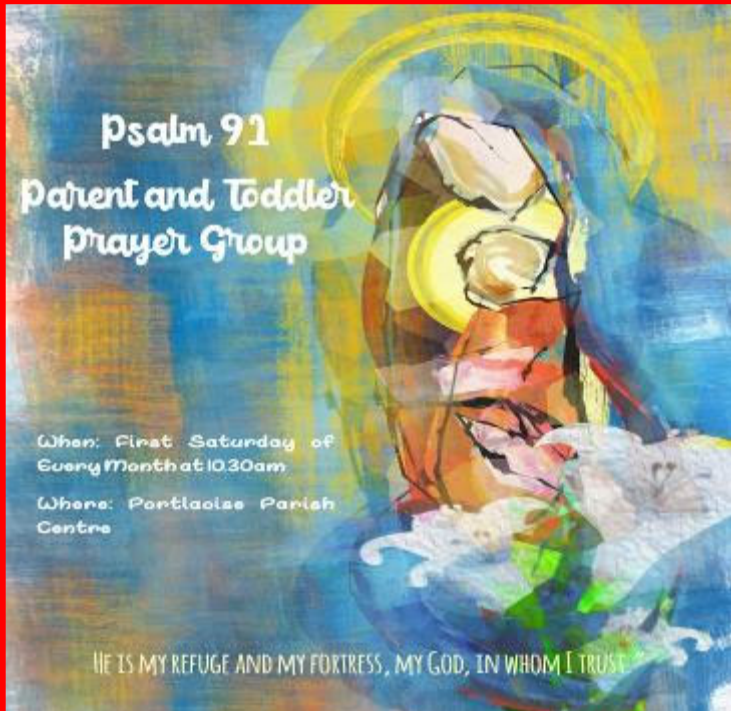
LAOIS ALZHEIMER
**Family Support
Group Meeting**




Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Tuesday 21st March at 6.30pm

This meeting is a support for carers and families who are living with someone with dementia in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

For further information please contact Ann Munnelly
086-8372168 | amunnelly@alzheimer.ie



Psalm 91
**Parent and Toddler
Prayer Group**

When: First Saturday of
Every Month at 10.30am

Where: Portlaoise Parish
Centre

HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS, MY GOD, IN WHOM I TRUST

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



BRIGID CONROY

née Bracken
Craydon Court,
Portlaoise



BRIDIE MAHER

née Maher
Birmingham and formerly
New Rd. Portlaoise

*Even though I walk through the darkest
valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff - they comfort me.*

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

A Mother's Hands

*Hands that rocked the cradle from the
moment of my birth, their tender touch
remembered by those still here on earth.
Soft as silk those hands that taught me how to
pray, banishing childhood fears, they soothed
each one away.
When I grew much older and troubles came
my way, those hands caressing mine did
more than words could say.
Mother's hands were gentle, they're missed so
very much, I'd give the world to feel once
more their warm and tender touch.
Those hands were full of comfort, now they lie
at rest, but memories hold them close to the
ones they served the best.*

Mother's Day Remembrance
For The Loving Memory Of
ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY
64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
8th Mother's Day away from home



My Mum, My Friend
On Mother's Day

It's an everlasting sadness that
you're no longer here, but every
year on Mother's Day,
I like to think you're near.
Your love for me was constant,
Your devotion had no end,

You filled my life with sunshine, as a Mother
and a friend. So may you know forever that to me,
you were the best, and may you find a gentle
peace in sweet, eternal rest.

Mother

To one who bears the sweetest name and adds
lustre to the same, long life to her, for there's no
other, who takes the place of my dear Mother.

Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

To my dearest Mum in Heaven,
I just want you to know, how much I miss you
every day and how much I love you so.
I cannot send you a card, but I can send my love
upon the wings of angels to Heaven up above.
I wish you happy Mother's Day for you were the
best, to have you for my Mother, I knew I had
been blessed. Rest in peace my angel, one day we
will be together, the next time that I see you,
I know it will be forever.

In Memory of you Mum on Mother's Day

I miss you every single day, perhaps today more
than any other, I was as blessed as blessed can be
to have called you my mother.
And though you are not with me, your light here
still shines on, so long as I live and breathe,
you will never be truly gone.
How I wish I could hold you so that you could
hear me say, just how much I love you Mum this
year on Mother's Day.
If I could visit Heaven even for a day, maybe for a
moment the pain would go away. I'd put my arms
around you and whisper words so true, that living
life without you is the hardest thing to do.
No matter how we spend our day, no matter what
we do, no morning dawns or evening falls when
we don't think of you.

I love you and miss you forever, James x

Rest in Peace My Dearest Elizabeth

**In Loving Memory of
ANNIE TARLETON**

Late of Rossleigh, Portlaoise.
22nd Anniversary occurred recently. Masses offered. RIP



*Time slips by and life goes on,
But from our hearts you are
never gone.*

Loved and remembered always, your nephews Jim
and Eddie, and their families.

May Annie Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
CHRISIE GRAHAM**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
17th Anniversary occurs 20th March 2023



No special day is needed,
for us to think of you,
For you were someone special,
and we thought the world of you.

*Loved and remembered always by
your husband Jim, son and
daughters and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Chrissie

**MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of our Mam
BRIGID (Cissy) MILLS**

5th Mother's Day away from home.



*To the world you were our Mother,
But to us you meant the World.*

*You are missed so much today Mammy.
Happy Mother's Day*

*With love, your son and your four
daughters xxxxx*

Rest in Peace Mam

**In Loving Memory of
BERNARD DEVANEY**

Newpark, Portlaoise. Died 28th March 2020
3rd Anniversary occurs at this time



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 25th March at 6:30pm.

*Greatly missed and fondly remembered
by his family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Bernard

**In Loving Memory of
My Wonderful Son**

CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN

9th Anniversary away from home - 26th March



Of all the special gifts in life, however
great or small,
To have you as my son Craig, was the
greatest gift of all.

A special time, a special face,
A special son I cannot replace,
With an aching heart I whisper low,
I miss you Craig xxx and love you so.

*Sadly missed and loved always, your broken hearted Mother,
Mudas, brothers Brandon, Noah, Junaid and sister Aisha.*

May Craig Rest in Peace

**MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE
ANNIE O' BRIEN**

6 Marian Place, Portlaoise.

Mammy

*You were someone very special,
who left your mark on me,
Things just haven't been the same,
since we said goodbye,
Sweet Jesus take this message,
To my dear Mother up above,
Tell her how I miss her,
And give her all my love.*



Miss you so much, love Conor, Lisa and Conor.

Rest in Peace Annie

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

16 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary away from home.



Dad:

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

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

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

May Patrick Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
Dr. LIAM HANNIFFY

"Pine View", Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
 1st Anniversary occurred 17th March 2023.



On the occasion of Liam's 1st Anniversary, Ann and the extended Hanniffy family thank you very much and appreciate your kindness, sympathy, friendship and support, which greatly helped us through our sad loss.

We thank Msgr. Byrne for his gentle, spiritual care, when anointing Liam and praying with us in the hospital, and for the lovely service in St. Fintan's hospital.

Many thanks to Fr. Garvey, Fr. Benny Flanagan and SMA Priest, for concelebrating the Requiem Mass in Creagh, Ballinasloe. Also, thanks to the Choir for the rendering of all the old familiar hymns.

We thank Marie O Neill, Liam's carer, the community, nurses and Palliative care staff, all of whom were so gentle and kind to Liam. We would like to thank Dr. Adrian McDonald and staff at Clann Clinic and Deirdre and staff at Laois pharmacy. We thank sincerely Dr. John Connaughton and his staff at Midland Regional Hospital and a special thanks to Dr. Anna Gullane.

Thank you to the funeral directors, Mr John Moloney, Mountmellick and Grenham's Ballinasloe, their help was kind and caring.

To our relatives, neighbours, friends and work colleagues of Liam, a heartfelt thank you.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to you all. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 19th March at 10am.

Rest in Peace Liam

In Loving Memory of
BREDA HOLOHAN

Killeen, The Heath

9th Anniversary occurs 19th March 2023



A day without a thought of you is very hard to find,
 I'm always thinking of you and you are always on my mind,
 All the things we did together,
 I'll remember them forever.

Sadly missed by your loving husband Michael, sisters Mary & Betty and neighbours and friends.

May Breda Rest in Peace

You are the
Light
of the World



In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA GING

44 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary away from home - 31st March 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 25th March at 6:30pm.



You left us without warning
 Not even a goodbye, and six years on, we still can't seem to stop asking the question "why?".

We didn't see this coming, it hit us by surprise, and when you left for Heaven, a small part of us died.

Your smile could brighten anyone's day,
 No matter what they were going through,
 And everyday for the rest of our lives, we will be

Missing You

♥ Thinking of you in Heaven today and always ♥

Loved and missed by all her loving family, extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Patricia

In Loving Memory of
Our Dear Mother
HANNAH TUOHY

10 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurs 23rd March 2023.

Also Our Dear Brother PA

5th birthday away from us occurred 17th March.



Our family chain is broken and nothing is the same, but as God calls us one by one,



the chain will link again.

We didn't always tell you, but we always hoped you knew, how much we truly loved, and thought the world of you.

You are both so missed by all your family.

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA NORTON**

9th Anniversary occurs 19th March 2023



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

Patricia's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 19th March at 12.30pm.

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

May Patricia Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM READY**

O'Moore Place, Portlaoise, formerly Luggacurran.
2nd Birthday away from home occurs 23rd March.



*Our thoughts are ever with you,
Though you have passed away,
And those who have loved you
dearly are thinking of you today.*

*Thinking of you Daddy on your
birthday. Loved and missed
dearly by Marie and Keiva x
Rest in Peace William*

**In Loving Memory of
JIM DELANEY**

Late of Borris Road, Portlaoise.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Friday 24th March at 7:30pm.

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

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

May Jim Rest in Peace

**21ST ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
DANIEL DUNNE**

Ballymacken, Portlaoise. Died 21st March 2002.



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

*Loved and missed by all his loving
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Dad

**In Loving Memory of
PADDY CLOONEY**

Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix. Died 20th February 2023 R.I.P.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary,
on Saturday 25th March at 5pm.

*Sadly missed by his daughters
Anne and Patricia, sons-in-law
Eamon and Aidan, grandchildren
Roisin, Tommy, Sean and Conall.*

Rest in Peace Paddy

**In Loving Memory of
JOE RYAN**

Avondale, Abbeyleix Rd., Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 22nd March 2023



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

*Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by
your wife Babs, son Martin and
daughter-in-law Mary.*

Rest in Peace Joe

Stations of the Cross

Daily Masses for Lent
Parish Church
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Laetare Sunday

Most Catholics today are used to the Mass being conducted in English, and they hardly ever think about the fact that Latin remains the official language of the Catholic Church. But occasionally, Latin reasserts itself, as it does in the case of Laetare Sunday. Laetare

Sunday is simply the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Laetare is the Latin for "Rejoice". It's the Sunday in Lent on which the austerity is briefly lessened. Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday or Refreshment Sunday and also Mother's Day.



Mothering Sunday is celebrated today, Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home... a day off to visit their mother and family, usually taking gifts of cake or flowers. Nowadays it's a day to show our mothers that we appreciate and love them.

Happy Mothering Sunday.



Our Link up went to print a day early this week, so, our Lotto Results can be viewed on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie and on Facebook [portlaoiseparishlaois](https://www.facebook.com/portlaoiseparishlaois)

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

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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

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