

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**
30th April 2023

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
Day of Prayer for Vocations**

**And the beginning of a
Year of prayer
for Vocations to the
Diocesan Priesthood**



Father God, we know how much our world needs the witness of good priests who imitate the Good Shepherd and know how to share the love of the Sacred Heart.

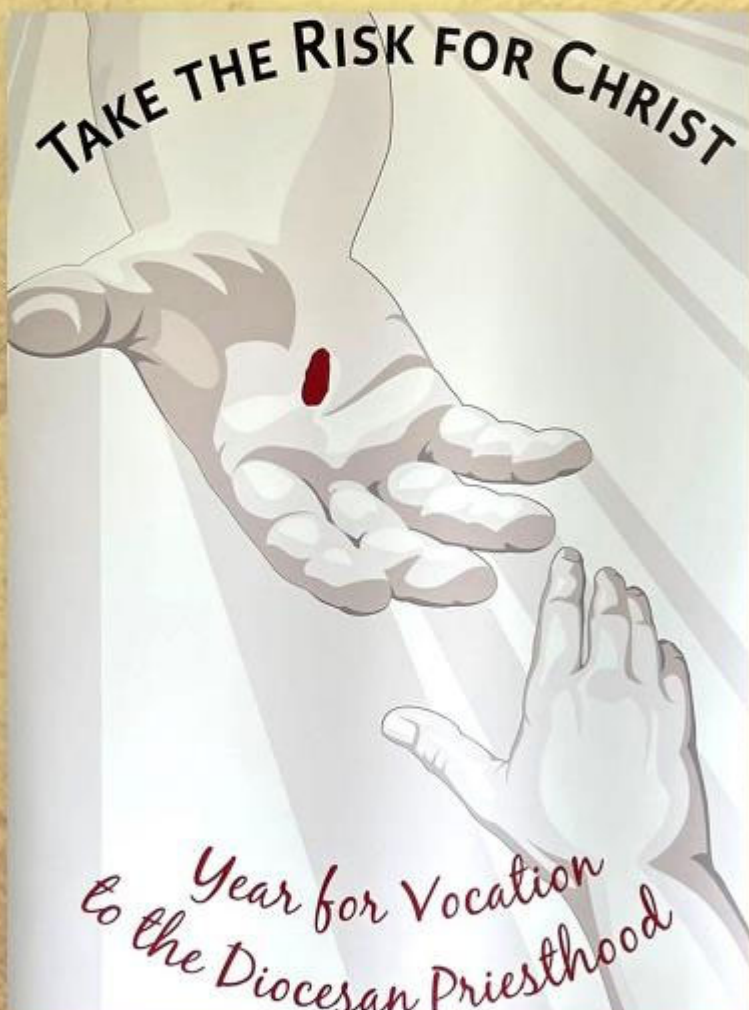
We now renew our trust in you who never abandons his flock and promises to be with his people until the end of time. Accompany your people through the ministry of priests, in which Jesus himself sanctifies, embraces, feeds, heals, teaches and leads his people and invites everyone to draw new life from the wellspring of divine grace. Assist young men amid the noise of daily life to hear God speaking to them within their hearts and to generously respond to the call of Christ to share in his sacred ministry.

In this way, sensitive to the particular needs of Irish society in the twenty-first century, a new generation of men will surely be inspired, willing and well-prepared to spend their lives for the sake of the Lord's flock, joyfully preaching the Word of God, faithfully celebrating the sacraments and humbly serving those in need.

Mother Mary, Queen of Priests, pray for us.

St. Joseph, faithful servant of God, pray for us.

*Adapted from the text of a letter written by
Pope Francis for this special year.*



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



How to be a Person of Discernment

It is not good to hear ourselves described as sheep. Sheep are silly animals that follow each other blindly and do not act or think for themselves. This however is not the imagery intended when Jesus invites us to be 'his flock', rather his is asking us to think of him as our 'good shepherd'.

The voice of Jesus the good shepherd is the one that offers us spiritual sustenance, guidance, love and protection. Jesus wants us to recognise his voice as the one who addresses what we are and what we stand for. Key to a healthy spiritual life is an overriding commitment to hearing the word of God and applying it to one's own life, but in a world of competing values can we always recognise the voice of Jesus?

The trick is to know that Jesus' voice is everywhere that encourages us to impact our world as Christians. Jesus' voice is the voice at work that encourages us to do our best. Jesus is the voice that encourages us to respond to family members and the wider community who are in need. Jesus' voice is the voice that tells us how to vote and how to campaign for those who do not have a voice of their own. The voice of the impostor on the other hand is everywhere that encourages us to act out of self-interest and greed. Sadly, this has to be an oversimplification. What seems to be the right answer for one person might be completely different for someone else. How is it that armies can fight each other, each believing that God is on their side? How is it that so many different denominations can interpret Jesus' words differently, each believing that they have got it right? How, throughout centuries of history, could heads of states have made such bitter and cruel decisions in God's name?

Clearly, recognising the voice of our shepherd isn't an easy task. Recognising the voice of our shepherd takes discernment, practice and continual self-evaluation. Have we all been doing the same things in the same way year in and year out? Is there anything we could be doing better? Recognising the voice of our shepherd relies on what we already know from scripture, and not what we fondly imagine Jesus might be telling us. Most importantly, recognising Jesus must always be rooted securely in the love for each other and in love for our enemies. If we adhere to this important commandment, then surely Jesus will find us, whoever we are. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears.

Mass times for the coming week (Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday (Bank Holiday): 10am

Tuesday - Thursday: 7.30am & 10am

Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigils 5pm & 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Erin Aoife Byrne, Buttercup Avenue
Ruzgar Dollard, Rosdarragh Glen.

Who were baptised last weekend.

Prayer to Discover Your Vocation

Almighty God,

You have made me to know you,

To love you, and to serve you,

And thereby to find and fulfil myself.

I know that you are in all things

And that every path can lead me to you,

But, of them all,

there is one path especially
by which you want me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me,

I pray you; send your Holy Spirit to me;

Into my mind to show me

what you want of me;

Into my heart to give me the

determination to do it,

And to do it with all my love,

with all my mind,

And with all my strength,

right to the end.

Amen.

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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.

CREATIVE ARTS CLASS

9.30am-11.30am

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
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

MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

11am-12noon

PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY

16th MAY

Spaces Available.
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MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

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6 Week Course

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PILATES

12.45pm-1.30pm

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Wednesdays

Next

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10th MAY

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Thursdays

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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

SEPTEMBER 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
SEPTEMBER 2023

COUNSELLING

By appointment only

NEW - AQUA AEROBICS

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from 1.45-2.30pm

IN PORTLAOISE LEISURE CENTRE



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See Prolife Campaign for more details on how to volunteer on the day or details on the day.



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Portlaoise Active Retirement meet each Wednesday in the Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun activities and entertainment. Activities for week beginning Monday 1st May;

Monday 1st; Bank Holiday - No Bowls. **Tuesday 2nd**; Rehearsal for show 2pm.

Wednesday 3rd; Singing with Caroline in Parish Centre 3pm.

Thursday 4th; Cards and chat in Sue Ryder Centre at 3pm, new members welcome, tuition given.

For more information please contact P.R.O. at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 25th April;

Top Score: Breda Fitzpatrick | **1st Lady:** Frances Gleeson | **2nd Lady:** Rita Arrigan & Molly O' Brien

1st Gent: Betty Fox | **2nd Gent:** Frank Keenan | **1st Half:** P.J. Cahill | **2nd Half:** Tom Jacob

Best of 3: Catherine Fitzpatrick | **Raffle:** 1st Betty Fox | 2nd Mary Gowing | 3rd N.J. O'Donohue

4th Frances Gleeson | 5th Bernie Cahill | 6th A.M. Farrell

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 News; Next committee meeting will be held in the Parish Centre on Thursday 4th May, 7.30pm. All welcome. Our annual retreat will be held on Sunday 21st May in Cuan Mhuire, Athy. Further details to follow.

Laos Sports Partnership would like to invite you to our Bealtaine Festival (Activities and Events) taking place for the month of May. Please contact Catriona on 086-7935234 to registered as numbers are limited. Looking forward to seeing you all and having fun! St. Mary's Hall Portlaoise 11am-1pm, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd May;

2nd May; Scooch & Activator poles (Charlie & Lee). **9th May;** Sports Day - Seated Volleyball, Boccia & Target games (Charlie & Lee). **16th May;** Dance with Moez.

23rd May; Sports Day - Seated Volleyball, Boccia & Target games (Charlie & Lee).

Offaly Personal Assistant Services are currently recruiting for Personal Assistants in the Portlaoise area. The role involves supporting people who live with a disability, to live independently. Training will be provided to support your career. The duties include assisting people with light housework, accompanying them to appointments, or engaging in their hobbies with them. This is a Community Employment Scheme and is generally available to those over 21 years of age and in receipt of a social welfare payment for 12 months. Please contact Brigid Anderson CE Supervisor, Offaly Personal Assistant Services on 085-8050539 or brigid@ocil.ie for further information.

Mary's Meals Pray in May Campaign; Pray in May is a grassroots campaign where we invite individuals, churches, and faith groups to pray with us, that our work continues to flourish and grow, that more children and communities will see their lives transformed through the provision of a daily meal in a place of education. For more information about this global movement, check out www.marysmeals.ie

Emmanuel House, Clonfert; First Saturday Devotions with Healing Service led by Eddie Stones and team, Saturday 6th May, 11am-5pm. Talks, Music, Confessions, Holy Mass. Please bring a packed lunch.

The Irish Franciscan Lourdes Invalid fund Church Gate collection took place in Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Raheen and Shanahoe on 22nd/23rd April 2023. Organisers would like to thank all those who contributed to the collection.

The annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place between 22nd and 27th September 2023, 5 nights. Hotels: 4* Astrid, Roissy and Padoue. Cost: €835 p.p.s. Bookings to Marian Pilgrimages, 01-8788159. Enquiries: lourdes@franciscans.ie

RELIGIOUS NOTES

Divine Mercy Chaplet 3pm every Sunday in the Parish Church.

Rosary will be prayed for the month of May 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.

Legion of Mary; Our Lady please intercede to Jesus for peace in the world. Please follow us on Facebook.

Church Gate Collection for the Special Olympics at all Masses in Abbeyleix Parish this weekend, 29th/30th April.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society Monthly Meeting will be held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 2nd May after 10am Mass. New members welcome.



CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish www.portlaoiseparish.ie

HANDING ON
THE FAITH



He Knows Your Name

Some of you may have seen a branding iron. A branding iron is used to put an identifying mark on cattle and sheep. When a calf is branded, they put the branding iron in a fire and burn the brand into the side of the calf. Ouch! I'll bet that hurts! When a brand is put on sheep, they dip the brand into a special paint and put the brand on the sheep's back. That sounds a little better, doesn't it? Okay, let's talk about branding sheep.



Here is a photo that shows sheep that are branded.



Do you know why they put a brand on the sheep? They do it so that they will know who owns the sheep. Each rancher has his own special brand. So, if a sheep wanders off and becomes lost or stolen, the brand will prove who owns the sheep.

I don't know whether they put brands on sheep in Jesus' day or not, but Jesus once told about a shepherd who went to a sheep pen to get his sheep. He said that the shepherd knew his sheep and called them by name. When he had called them out, he walked ahead of them and they followed him because they recognised his voice. Jesus said that if a stranger called to the sheep, they would not follow him. In fact, Jesus said they would run away from him because they did not recognise the stranger's voice.

That is a beautiful picture of our relationship with Jesus. Jesus is our shepherd. He loves us and cares for us - he even knows our name. Jesus calls us to follow him and if we belong to him, we will know his voice and we will follow him.

Sometimes, Satan may try to get us to follow him. He may try to get us to do things that will do us harm. If we belong to Jesus, we will not follow Satan. In fact, we will run from him.



PRAYER

Dear Jesus

Heavenly Father, we are thankful that we have a Shepherd who knows our name. Help us to follow him when he calls. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen



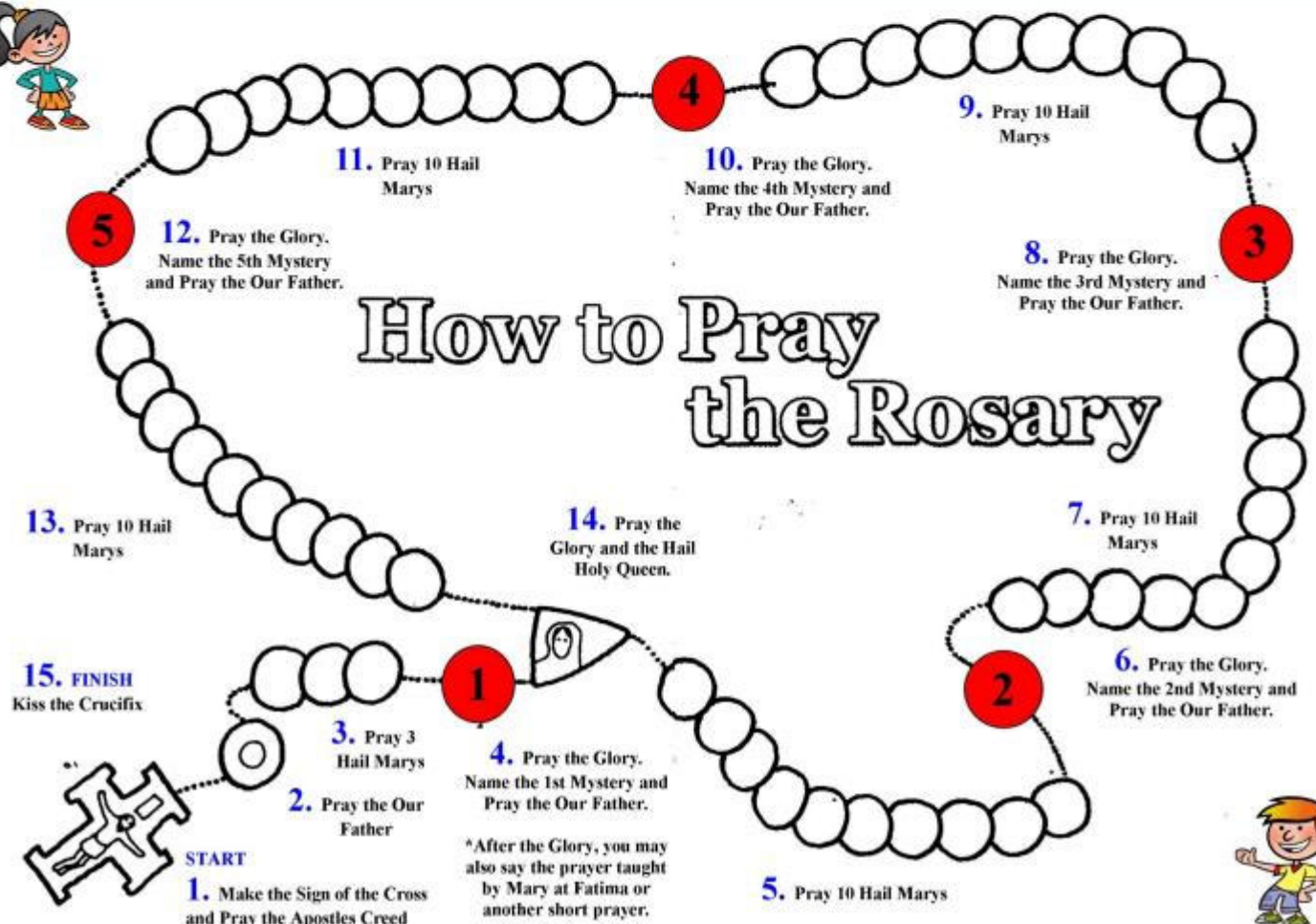
May is the month of Mary.



To celebrate the month of May you can make a May altar in your home and pray the Hail Mary. While watching their sheep, Lucia (age 10) and her cousins Francisco (age 9) and Jacinta (age 7) saw our Lady of the Rosary.



The Rosary is a prayer that we often associate with Mary. The Rosary is divided into 5 decades (sets of ten). Each decade represents an event in Jesus life.





Time to Think!

Year of Prayer for Vocations

The Irish Bishop's conference has initiated a year of prayer for vocations to the diocesan priesthood. Prayer and priesthood are closely connected. Priesthood ultimately is about service fuelled from God's Amazing Grace. A service that connects often in vulnerable moments of life, offering hope, comfort and consolation that God continues to be close to us. We live in dramatic times. The secularization of Irish culture has been both dramatic and swift. In a culture which prides itself on choice and freedom of the individual faith and faith practice has dramatically reduced. It is no longer possible to equivocate our community with parish. For the majority have made their choice not to engage in the faith life of local parish. Praying for vocations in such challenging environment is indeed a mighty act of faith. However, though our future as church will be dramatically different we must not be overburdened by anxiety of its eventuality.

Recently in Athlone and Clonmel, the Franciscan Friars after 788 years of faithful service to the people, have left their friary. They survived dungeon, fire and sword but not the vocations crisis. This reality is now felt in almost every parish on our island. The old structures and services supplied by clergy are no longer viable, simply because our model of church, as we know it, is dying rapidly. This is not a personal negativity, but rather a pragmatic observation by one who serves three parishes, trying to maintain similar services where 20 years previous, seven priests shared this responsibility.

Somehow, we are failing even in our maintenance to safeguard the health and well-being of tired, elderly, worn out clergy. The average age of clergy in Ireland is now well past 66, an age that's deemed vulnerable by H.S.E. and where in all walks of life retirement takes place. There are 26 Dioceses on our island, all facing similar realities and yet failing to offer a cohesive, All Island, response to this vocation crisis.

For as long as I can remember prayers have been said by the faithful for an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life. These prayers, are heartfelt by the faithful and have been ongoing for decades. I ask, have these prayers not been heard, or perhaps have we as church, failed to listen to the spirit speaking to us. One thing is for sure, we are living in a time of rapid change. Most of us saw this transition happening well over 20 years ago but the institution failed to implement new structures to embrace a new reality.

Whilst we maintain the same old structures, we have fundamentally failed to embrace new possibilities. Our dying continues to accelerate and our relevance to contemporary culture is at best insignificant. The horrendous sexual abuse scandals have left a deep wound in the heart of the Irish Church. The credibility and moral authority of our institution's hierarchy is seriously undermined and has no doubt been part of the reason why we now live with this vocation crisis.



Vocation to the priesthood and religious life is a deeply personal and fulfilling journey. Despite the many challenges, it's a deep privilege to serve people often at their most vulnerable reminding them we are not alone, God is very close to us. Priestly ministry, is a very sacred one, fuelled by a rich grace that comes from the Lord. The more I turn to the Lord, the greater I feel his presence in my life. Scripture reminds us "When I am weak then I am strong".

Christ the Good Shepherd, continues to be a deeply attractive and inspirational role model regarding priesthood and vocation, we as Christians are all called to share in his kindness and compassion, especially to those who carry deep wounds and bruises in life. Jesus lived comfortably on the periphery, his teaching and witness challenged those in authority, his radical love embraced the outsider and offered empathy and friendship to those who struggled most. In a culture that carries deep bruises where many seek meaning and purpose in life, we are all called to witness Christ's love to those we encounter in our daily lives.

Vocation to ministry must reflect our culture. The Spirit is speaking loudly to embrace the signs of our times. Embrace the wonderful women in all our Christian communities' welcome men and women committed in love to their families and community to ministry in their local parish. Every crisis brings opportunity. May we be creative, courageous and pragmatic as we listen to God's invitation to follow him in year of prayer for vocations.

LORD of the Harvest, BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideas, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving - for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you. UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen. *Pope Francis - Adapted from the Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations.*

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 29,500 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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 **SCOIL FIONNTÁIN NAOFA**

The school community of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who supported their recent **Fashion Show Fundraiser**.

A grand total of €4,450 was raised as a result of the Fashion Show and all of the monies raised will go directly towards developing the I.T infrastructure for the pupils in the school. Your support for the school is very much appreciated. Míle Buíochas.

Totus Tuus Women of Faith Conference 2023

will be LIVE on Radio Maria Ireland, Saturday May 6th, 2pm. Speakers;
- Siobhán Dunniece
- Sr. Benedetta (Sisters of Merciful Jesus)
- Katie Ascough
- Mary Anne Collins.

Follow the conference online www.radiomaria.ie or via the Radio Maria IRELAND App, listen live via Facebook, call 01-4373277 and listen live 5 or through your TV on SAORVIEW Channel 210.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

In aid of Portlaoise
Parish Lourdes

Committee
6th/7th May

All support greatly appreciated.

Dog Neutering

AN LSPCA SUPPORTED SCHEME



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Call 087 688 3333 for a voucher.

This scheme is running 17th April to 4th May 2023 (or until all vouchers have been allocated). There is a limit of 1 x voucher per household.

Laois SPCA is a voluntary organisation.
Terms & conditions apply.

Charity Number: **CHY20064266**



www.lspca.ie

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



Phyllis Sandgrove
née Brophy
Derrygarron, Portlaoise.



Gabrielle Scully
Morette, Emo/Portlaoise



Patsy Frayne
née Keogh
Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise



Molly Hennessy
née Malone
Kilkenny City/Shanahoe



Mark McGrath
Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix

*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

In Loving Memory of

MARY McEVOY (née Houlihan)
"St. Martin's" Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
Birthday remembrance; 28th April

CECILIA McEVOY

"St. Martin's" Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
54th Anniversary occurred 13th April



*I hide my tears when I say your
name, but the pain in my heart is
still the same.*

*Although I smile and seem
carefree, there is no one who
misses you more than me.*

*And though our hearts are
broken, and your life was far
too short,
We thank you sweetest angel,
for the happiness you brought.*



*Dearly missed by Joe and family.
May You Both Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of
RITA LALOR

57 Hillview Drive, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurred 26th April 2023.

Our Mom

Our Mom gave us the world,
Put it right at our feet,
And with her at our side,
There is nothing we cannot beat.
Our Mom was a woman who taught us
never to lose sight, though times may
seem helpless, she taught us how to fight.
She has shown us how through times of
much sorrow, to look to the future,
And new days of tomorrow.

Even though times may be hard, and all we feel is pain,
Remember, this too shall pass, even the clouds and the rain.
So it is with heavy hearts and tears in our eyes,
That we lay her down to rest and say our last goodbyes.

*Loved always by Terry, Lisa, Nicola, Derek, Keith,
Ciara, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers,
sisters and extended family and friends xxx*

Grandmother

God looked around His garden and found an empty space,
Then He looked down upon this earth and saw your tired
face, He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best.

From your loving grandkids xxx

May Rita Rest in Peace

**ANNIVERSARY AND BIRTHDAY
REMEMBRANCE**

Of our daughter

AGNES MILLIS GLEESON

25th Anniversary and Birthday away from home.

Late of O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.



*Deep in the heart
lies a picture, of a
loved one laid to rest,
In Memories frame we
keep it, because she
was one of the best.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Monday 1st May at 10am.

Also remember our brother **JOE KERRY**

5th Birthday away from home.

Late of 148 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.

*Love and miss you always
From all your loving family.*

May Agnes and Joe Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET "RITA" SCULLY**

174 St. Brigids Place Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 29th April 2023.



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

It's been five years since you slipped
away, that day seems just like yesterday,
Today, we tell you softly, you are still so
wonderful to think of and so hard to be
without.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never,
In Heaven you rest, no worries, no pain,
In God's own time, we will meet again.

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

*Sadly missed by your loving family; John, Patrick, Teresa,
Peter, Jacinta, Roch, Margaret, Kathleen, sons-in-law,
daughters-in-law and grandchildren.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, **this Saturday 29th April at 6.30pm**

Rest in Peace Margaret

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN EGAN**

Caragh House, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 30th April 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 30th April at 12.30pm.

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.*

*Rest in peace Dear loved one, thanks for all you've done,
We pray that God has given you the crown you truly deserve.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Anne, daughters Jennifer,
Deborah, and Stella, grandkids Corey and Tamin and all
his loving family and friends.*

May John Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
TONY KAVANAGH**

Colt, Ballyroan, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 5th May 2023.



*Your resting place we visit,
We place some flowers with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed and never forgotten
by his wife, family and friends.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on
Sunday 7th May at 10am.

Rest in Peace Tony

**In Loving Memory of
Our Dear Daddy and Grandad
CHRISTOPHER (Christy) O'BRIEN**

Late of Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 27th April '23



*Daddy, God saw you getting tired and a
cure was not to be, so He put his arms
around you and whispered come to me.
With tearful eyes we watched you pass
away, although we loved you dearly we
could not make you stay.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you but you
didn't go alone, for part of us went with
you, the day God called you home.*

*Always remembered, always loved and always missed by
Yvonne, Sandra and John, grandchildren Gordon, Evan,
Teagan and Grace xxx*

Rest in Peace Dad

**In Loving Memory of
MARY (Minnie) DELANEY**

Derryroe, Mountrath.

1st Anniversary occurs 5th May 2023



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, on **Sunday 7th May at 12 noon.**

*Of all the special gifts in life,
However great or small,
To have you as our mother
was the greatest gift of all.
A special time, a special place,
A special mother we cannot
replace.*

*With an aching heart we whisper low,
We miss you Mother and love you so.*

Forever in our hearts

**Jer, Mary, Rita and all the family, extended family
and many friends.**

*Our family would like to acknowledge everyone who has
helped and supported us in any way over the past year.
It is truly appreciated and made our loss more bearable.*

Rest in Peace Mary

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Billy) BERGIN**

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

13th Anniversary occurs 29th April 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Saturday 29th April at 6.30pm.**

*Treasured thoughts of one so dear,
Often bring a silent tear,
Thoughts of scenes long past,
Years roll on but memories last.*

*Missed dearly by his loving wife Detta, son John
and family.*

Rest in Peace William

**In Loving Memory of
DENIS (Dor) WHELAN**

Kilmurray, Stradbally, Co. Laois

1st Anniversary occurs 29th April '23



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, this **Sunday 30th April, 9.30am.**

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
his brother Michael, nieces & nephews.*

Rest in Peace Denis

**In Loving Memory of
JAMES (Jim) ROWE**

Mill Lane, Killone.

4th Anniversary occurs 29th April 2023



*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed, and very dear.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by your loving wife Anne, son Jim,
grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PETER FENNEL**

Grattan Street, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 7th May 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 7th May at 11.15am.**

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

*Always remembered and loved by the
Walsh and Fennell families.*

Rest in Peace Peter

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**In Loving Memory of
SHEILA READY**

*Late of 26 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
Remembering you on your 63rd Birthday;
29th April 2023*



*Thinking of you on your
Birthday Dear Mum
You always had a smile to share,
love to give and time to care.
A wonderful nature warm and
true, these are the memories we
have of you.*

*Loved and missed dearly by
your son William, daughter
Marie and your granddaughters
Teagan and Keiva.*

Rest in Peace Sheila

let His light shine.



In Loving Memory of PIPPY BOOTH McEVOY

Garryduff, Stradbally, Co. Laois



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on **Sunday 7th May at 9.30am.**

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Pippy

In Loving Memory of JOHN DOLLARD

32 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
33rd Anniversary occurs 4th May 2023.



*Life is a beautiful memory,
Death is a silent grief,
You sleep now in God's
beautiful garden,
In sunshine and perfect peace.
We miss you oh so very much,
But trust that God knew best,
He let us have you for many
years, and then gently let
you rest.*

*Sadly missed and never forgotten by your
loving family.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on
Friday 5th May at 7:30pm.

Rest in Peace John

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
27th April 2023

09

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25

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Lily Whelan
Kathleen Dunne
Chris Holohan
Aine Stack
The Lynch Clan of 79
Mary Dunne
Bernie Byrne Clancy

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Acts 2:14, 36-41 | Psalm 22:1-6
1 St. Peter 2:20-25 | John 10:1-10

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We have traditionally depended on the passing of 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.

- * Making your offering in the boxes at the entrances
- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
 - * Direct payment by cheque or cash
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 - * Donation facility on our website
- * Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
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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 be 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

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Sacristans Parish Church

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PARISH SHOP

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Calling all 2023 Confirmation Candidates and Young People

Would you like to become a Young Pioneer?

The Young Pioneer was founded to help young people who wish to abstain from alcohol until they reach the age of 18 years and who want to remain free from drugs for life.

If you would like to become a Young Pioneer please complete the attached application form and return by email to – portlaoisepioneers@gmail.com or leave at Reception in the Parish Centre by Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

Date of enrolment will be advised later.

Message for Parents / Guardians – This can be a very important choice / decision for your son / daughter.

Application Form for Young Pioneer Membership



Name: _____ **School:** _____

Address: _____

Contact No. _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Application _____

Signed: Applicant _____

I (Parent / Guardian) _____

Consent to my son / daughter named above to enrol as a member of the Young Pioneers.

Signed: Parent / Guardian _____

Date: _____
