

Sixth Sunday of Easter



May the Month of Mary



Our First Communions began last Saturday; the first of 9 ceremonies. Congratulations to the girls and boys from Educate Together and some other schools. Thanks to Ms Winters who helped to prepare them. Best wishes to the girls and boys from Gaelscoil and Scoil Bhríde, who are celebrating First Holy Communion this weekend.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie



Calling Upon the Holy Spirit

Why do we keep rules? Probably to avoid penalties, punishment or adverse consequence!

Rules are a necessary evil if we are to live in a well-ordered society. Commandments however are different from rules. Commandments are expressions of how we are to love each other. Perhaps we shouldn't need commandments, perhaps we should know how to love each other intuitively, but sadly it seems we need a little guidance and a lot of help.

In today's section of the gospel known as the 'Farewell Discourse'. Jesus gives his disciples some final assurances. He tells them that although he will no longer be with them in the flesh, they will always abide in each other's love. The disciples will have plenty of opportunity to express that love by keeping his commandments. In return Jesus will send them, and us, an advocate, a spirit of truth the Holy Spirit.

How easy life would be if Jesus had stayed with us in the flesh. All we would have to do is keep running to him for answers every time we got stuck. There wouldn't be any great long debates on abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, stem cell research or anything else for that matter we would simply send Jesus an email and twiddle our thumbs awaiting the answer. Because he knew that he could not stay with us in person, Jesus left us the Holy Spirit to take his place but how often do we call on the Spirit? We are good at thinking we can get through life under our own steam. Sometimes we can be opinionated, quite sure that we can work out all the answers for ourselves. Today we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is with us from our baptism and ready to be called upon whenever we need direction or revelation. For most of us, that probably means a daily call.

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

Monday to Friday : 7.30am & 10am

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.

St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery Mass Sunday 4th June at 1pm

This Mass will replace the 12.30pm Mass in the Parish Church on that Sunday.



**When you are
down to nothing**

God

is up to something!

EXAM TIME

Over the next few days and weeks our younger parishioners will be busy taking exams. Remember to keep the young people of our parish in your prayers. We petition for clear thinking, inspiration, guidance and calm.

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LAOIS ALZHEIMER



CAFÉ



THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of IRELAND

Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Thursday 25th May 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 Munnely
086-8372168 | amunnely@alzheimer.ie
or Grainne Roche Duff 087-6075037



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Thanks as always for your support
Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic



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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.
Booking Essential

MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

11am-12noon

6 Week Course

Booking Essential

PILATES

12.45pm-1.30pm

Places Limited

6 Week Course

Wednesdays

Next

GARMENT FITTING

Serra Nova

10th MAY

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ART

From 2-4pm

CHAIR YOGA

10am-11am Booking
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Thursdays

MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE

10am-11.15am

Booking Essential

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

EVERY MONDAY

from 1.45-2.30pm

IN PORTLAOISE LEISURE CENTRE



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

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

THIS CLASS IS FREE OF CHARGE AS IS ALL OUR SERVICES

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family SEASONS

24 May
(Wednesday)
7-8:30pm



RELATIONSHIPS & FAMILY SEMINAR

Ten Secrets of Successful Relationships



KAREN HOLFORD is a freelance writer, speaker and family therapist.

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*After the seminar refreshments will be provided.

REFLECTING hope



Afternoon Recital

SUONO Ladies Choir

Musical Director OWEN C LYNCH

Piano ANN CULLEN

Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow
Sunday 21st May 2023 @ 4pm

Program to include works by Faure, Hagenberg, Casals, Esenvalds, Humperdinck & Whitacre

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Wednesday 17th May at 5pm

The Easy Banking workshop shows how everyday banking can be quick, safe and easy on your mobile phone. No experience of online banking required.

Join friends and neighbours for a fun community based learning experience.

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Kind, reliable lady needed to mind children in our home (outskirts of Portlaoise), 1pm to 6pm Monday to Friday. Requires minding two boys aged 7 and 5 years, coming home from school, and collecting one girl aged 2 years from Crèche, feeding dinner, light housework and help with homework. Good rates paid.

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Mass for anyone travelling to Fatima this June will be celebrated on
Mon. 22nd May, 7.30pm
Tickets will be distributed in the Parish Centre directly after Mass so it is important to please attend.

FOR SALE

2014 Hyundai IX35 1.7L diesel, silver, very good condition. NCT 10/24, 269,000km, 4 new tyres, new back brake discs. Taxed end June 2023. Genuine reason for sale. €9,500.

Contact; 086-8791389

CARER REQUIRED

for elderly lady
1 hour, evenings -
approx. 9pm, days to be mutually agreed.

Tel.; 086-2259540

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 9th May;

Top Score: Kieran Fitzpatrick | **1st Lady:** Catherine Brennan

2nd Lady: Theresa Mulhare | **1st Gent:** Tom Gowing

2nd Gent: Betty Fox | **1st Half:** Mary Gowing

2nd Half: Frances Gleeson

Raffle: 1st B.O.B. | 2nd Billy O'Keeffe | 3rd Tom Dunne | 4th Rose Cole

5th Michael O'Brien | 6th Molly O'Brien

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.



Alzheimer's
Tea Day
May 4th
2023

Join us
For the best cup of tea ...ever!

Let's get together to help support families living with dementia.

Venue: MOUNTRATH DAY CENTRE
Date: TUESDAY 23RD MAY 2023
Time: 1PM-3PM All are Welcome

the Alzheimer Society of Ireland
DONATE NOW

Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for afternoon of friendship, fun and activities. New members always welcome. *Activities for coming week;*

Monday 15th May; Bowls St. Marys Hall at 3pm.

Tuesday 16th; Rehearsals for show in St. Marys Hall.

Wednesday 17th; Fun dancing and exercises with Moez in the Parish Centre, 3pm. New members welcome.

Thursday 18th; Cards and chat in Sue Ryder at 3pm, new members welcome, tuition given.

Variety show in Dunamais Theatre; June 13th at 7pm. Tickets available at the Theatre or online. Anyone interested in going should book as soon as possible not to be disappointed. Tickets €10 adults or €8 concession (students and OAP's). Anyone who has reserved tickets with Trudy, please pay before 17th, she might have some unsold tickets left. Also anyone who has put down names for trip to Dail, please pay €10 for the bus before 17th May.

For further information please contact P.R.O, Sheila at 087-6204617.

Wanted; Looking for a loving home for a black 4.5 month old girl Labrador for sale. No time wasters please. Call TJ on 085 2820502.

Thank You to the person who found a set of car keys on the Stradbally road recently and handed them into the garda station. The owner is extremely grateful.

Education Grants; St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) Abbeyleix will be accepting applications for education grants this current year. Any queries in this regard please contact St. Vincent de Paul on our dedicated Education phone number, 085 2575782. All calls and applications are treated in strict confidence. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul recognise the importance of further education, however, for many people accessibility and affordability are real barriers to obtaining a third level education and training. The SVP Education and Training Bursary Fund has been established to support students of all ages who may financially struggle to access or stay in third level education and training programmes. The Bursary Programme will consider all recognised third level education and training programmes for funding. However, postgraduate studies (Master or PhD) or private colleges are not eligible. Students must demonstrate that they have applied for all available state funding or other grants. Please note, bursary awards are dependent on funding availability.

Community Employment Programme; CE Scheme for Home Respite Care Worker in Portlaoise. Temporary contract – to find out more contact Alison Hackett 086-0213711 or e-mail; ahackett@familycarers.ie

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

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.

Pioneer Retreat; Cuan Mhuire, Athy, Sunday 21st May, 10.30am-4pm approx. Spiritual Director; Fr. Robert McCabe. Light refreshments on arrival. Lunch available at a cost or bring a packed lunch. No need to book. No cost but donation welcome.

Legion of Mary; Dear Lord, we pray for all the children receiving Holy Communion for the first time, we ask you to bless their families, teachers and all those who are involved in preparing them for their special day.

Padre Pio's Glove will be in Fitzpatrick's House, Kilberry, Athy, Co. Kildare, on Saturday 3rd June from 11am to 5pm. Items of St. Pio will be available on the day. For info. call Ann 085-1696189.



**ORDER OF MALTA
IRELAND**

**AMBULANCE CORPS
PORTLAOISE UNIT**

Order of Malta Cadets recently took part in Regional Competitions in Drogheda. Well done to everyone who participated and those who acted as casualties. We are all extremely proud of all your achievements especially when it was all the Cadets first time participating.

Jnr. First Aid

1st Fionnan Ging

Snr. First Aid

2nd Catherine Graham

Jnr. Home Nursing

2nd Place Evie Friel, Tilly Ging, Jamie Furey

Snr. Home Nursing

2nd Katie Maher and Ciara Long

We also had 2nd places in Jnr. and Snr. Cadet of the Year with Evie Friel and Katie Maher.




COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF RADIO MARIA IRELAND

In Portlaoise Parish Centre
after the 10am Mass on
Thursday, 18th May 2023

This coffee morning is a
great opportunity to join
together in community,
have a cuppa, and spread
awareness for the mission
of Radio Maria Ireland.

RADIO MARIA
IRELAND 



 St Peter's & St Paul's Parish Centre, Dublin
Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois R32 FH57

For More Information Contact
Liz at promoter@radiomaria.ie
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 Thursday 18th May
at 10.30am to 12.30pm

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FOR THE HOME

We install concrete ramps to allow freedom of
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Contact David

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LAOIS ALZHEIMER

Family Support
Group Meeting



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Tuesday 16th May 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
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Grass box for Toro Mower,
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LAOIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

present

Tourist Glaze: A Story of Irish Souvenir China
by John Stocks Powell



Thursday, 18th May, 8 pm

Portarlington Library

All welcome | Email

Laoisheritagesociety@gmail.com for further details

Admission €5 or free for members

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Showing our Love for Jesus



How many of you have a pet? What kind of pet do you have? When I was a child, I had a pet parakeet named Pete. I spent hours playing with Pete and even taught him to talk. He would say, "Pete's a pretty bird. Pretty boy, pretty boy." We usually left the door to Pete's cage open during the day. When I walked in the door after school, Pete would fly to me and land on my shoulder. I loved that bird! Do you know how I showed Pete that I loved him? I took care him. I made sure that his cage was kept clean. I made sure that he had plenty of food and water. One of the most important ways I showed my love was by spending time with him.

Now, if I came over to your house and watched you and your pet together, how could I tell that you love your pet? What kind of things do you do to show your love? It is important to remember that it isn't enough to say you love your pet. Loving isn't something you say, it is something you show by the things you do. It is the a way you act toward someone or something.

Now, let me ask you a question. Do you love Jesus? How does Jesus know that you love him? What can you do to show Jesus that you love him? That is a hard question to answer, isn't it? In today's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples the answer to that question. Jesus said, "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them."

It isn't enough just to say we love Jesus. Instead, we have to show God our love by **DOING** the right things – just like you show your love to your pets and your parents and your friends.

So, what are some things we can do to show our love for Jesus? The Bible is a good place to find the answer. I have listed a few ways that I found, perhaps you can think of some more.

1. Love one another (John 13:34-35)
2. Worship him (Luke 4:8)
3. Tell others about Jesus (Acts 1:8)
4. Talk to him daily in prayer (Matthew 26:41)
5. Read his Word (Psalm 119:11)
6. Forgive others as you forgive us (Matthew 6:15)



Dear Jesus

Heavenly Father, we are quick to tell you that we love you — but we know that we need to show our love too. Help us to show our love for you — just as you show your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

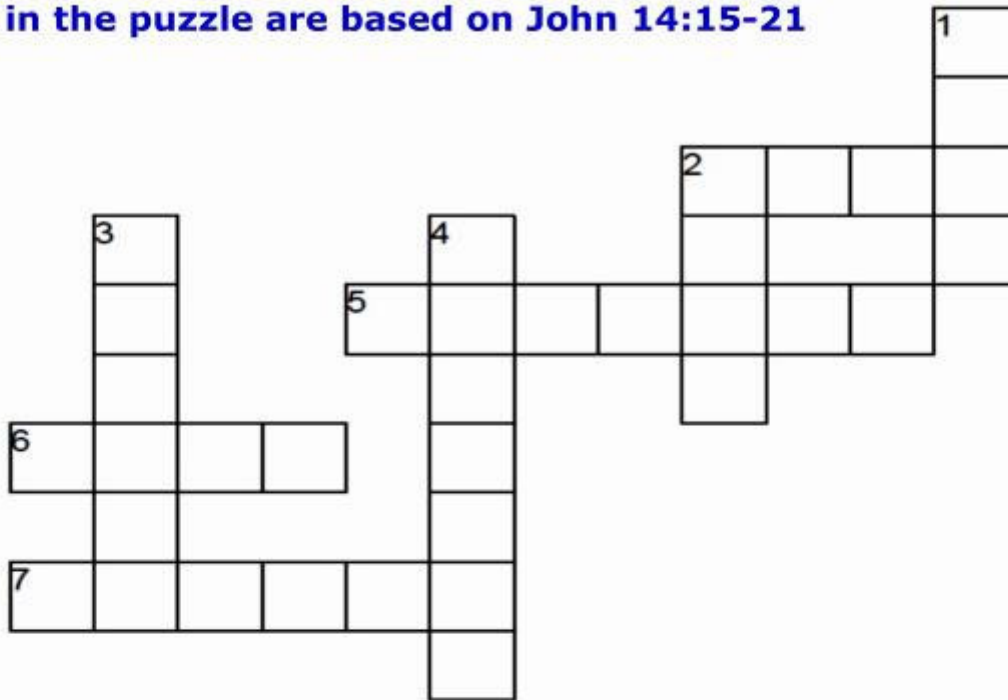


SHOWING OUR LOVE FOR JESUS

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

John 14:21

The words in the puzzle are based on John 14:15-21



HORIZONTAL

2. To have a deep feeling or affection for another person
5. An endless period of time
6. To give evidence of something
7. A child who has lost both mother and father

VERTICAL

1. To obey (such as the rules).
2. To be alive; the opposite of die
3. The relationship of God to Jesus
4. A rule or an order given to a person to do something

KEEP SHOW LOVE COMMAND
FATHER LIVE FOREVER ORPHAN

Quiz for Kids

- What is the first book in the Bible? *Genesis*
- What four books tell about Jesus life on Earth? *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*
- In what language was most of the Old Testament given? *Hebrew*
- What is the most likely the first Gospel written? *Mark*
- Who was the first man? *Adam*
- Who was the first woman? *Eve*
- Name the city where Jesus was born? *Bethlehem*
- Who was Jesus most famous cousin? *John the Baptist*
- What was Jesus mother's name? *Mary*





Time to Think!

A Prayer for Students

In the last years of his life, the great cellist and conductor Pablo Casals suffered greatly from rheumatoid arthritis and emphysema. At 90, he was badly stooped, his head thrust forward, and his breathing laboured. He needed the help of his wife, Marta, to get dressed in the morning. Marta would then help him shuffle into his studio where he would, with great difficulty, arrange himself on the piano bench. Casals would then manage to raise his swollen, clenched fingers above the keyboard. A visitor describes what he saw next, one particular morning: "I was not prepared for the miracle that was about to happen. The fingers slowly unlocked and reached toward the keys like the buds of a plant toward the sunlight. His back straightened. He seemed to breathe more freely. Now his fingers settled on the keys. Then came the opening bars of Bach's Wohltemperierte Klavier [Well-tempered Clavier], played with great sensitivity and control. He hummed as he played, then said that Bach 'spoke to him here' - and he placed his hand over his heart. "Then he plunged into a Brahms concerto and his fingers, now agile and powerful, raced across the keyboard with dazzling speed. His entire body seemed fused with the music; it was no longer stiff and shrunken but supple and graceful and completely freed of its arthritic coils. "Having finished the piece, he stood up by himself, far straighter and taller than when he had come into the room. He walked to the breakfast table with no trace of a shuffle, ate heartily, talked animatedly, finished the meal, and then went for a walk on the beach."

(From Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient: Reflections on Healing and Regeneration by Norman Cousins).

Like music that inspires and exhilarates, the Spirit of God is the melody that energises the Church, uniting our many different voices into the song of the Love of God. God has formed us into a community, or Church, an instrument for bringing His life and love into our world. But what makes our Church more than just a gathering of good people is His "Breath" infusing the Church, His Mystical Body, with the music of His Divinity. Today we celebrate that presence. In Jesus' breathing upon the assembled disciples on Easter night the new life of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Resurrection - the Church takes flight. That same Holy Spirit continues to "blow" through today's Church, giving life and direction to our mission and ministry to preach the Gospel to every nation, immersing all of humanity in the music of God's love, the symphony of the Resurrection.

During the coming weeks thousands of students are preparing for their exams. I suggest that no results, on a piece of paper, can ever determine or define the fantastic unique gifts and talents that every young person has in abundance. To measure kindness, compassion, optimism, energy, humour is far more important. Humbly I find young people fantastic and so very positive, despite the many challenges they embrace. St. Paul once said: "With God on our side who can be against us?" Essentially being open to the love of God in all our lives is surely a great gift. The life that this young generation now enter more fully is a vibrant one, full of energy and yet very challenging. I don't think it is easy to be a young person in the present culture we find ourselves in. All of these young students will now experience the competitive environment that is the point's race, finding the right college course and career path in a volatile global economy where so often only the fittest and leanest survive.



The 'burden of youth' at times can be tragic, manifesting in addiction, anxiety and mental health issues. However, the enthusiasm, resilience and sense of hopeful optimism that is so real for young people, will carry them through the difficult weeks ahead.

I believe faith in the living God is a great source of strength and love for our young friends. Yes, there will always be difficulty and disappointment in life, but faith gives us a confidence and inner peace, that allows us all to live life to the full. God invites us to manifest our hopes and dreams into the realities of our day to day lives. Faith is grounded, in the knowledge that our God abundantly loves us for who we are, not for who we may like to present ourselves as. Faith allows us to hope even in the face of adversity and human struggle. Essentially faith informs us that we are not alone. Our God resides in depth of our human experience, even in the stress of getting ready for the Leaving Certificate or Third Level exams. Over the coming weeks pray for young people that the good Lord will bless them with strength, happiness and peace. A prayer I always prayed as I faced exam time and never let me down was, 'Holy Spirit, send your power, help me to remember all that I have learnt, inspire me with the gift of Knowledge', Amen!

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION TO STUDY

Lord, I know you are with me and love me. Give me peace of mind as I prepare for this time of study. Help me to focus on my books and notes, keep me from all distractions so that I will make the best use of this time that is available to me. Give me insight that I might understand what I am studying, and help me to remember it when the time comes. Above all, I thank you for the ability to be able to study and for the many gifts and talents you have given me. Help me always to use them in such a way that they honour you and do justice to myself. Amen

PRAYER BEFORE AN EXAMINATION

Dear Lord, as I take this exam, I thank you that my value is not based on my performance, but on your great love for me. Come into my heart so that we can walk through this time together. Help me, not only with this test, but the many tests of life that are sure to come my way. As I take this exam, bring back to my mind everything I studied and be gracious with what I have overlooked. Help me to remain focussed and calm, confident in the facts and in my ability, and firm in the knowledge that no matter what happens today you are there with me. Amen

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 29,600 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

THE PORTLAOISE SINGERS PRESENT:

**A POST COVID
CONCERT OF
REMEMBERANCE**

FEATURING GUEST SOLOIST, CAOIMHE FITZPATRICK.

ST PETERS CHURCH OF IRELAND, PORTLAOISE

SUNDAY MAY 21ST, 7:30 PM

FREE ADMISSION BUT STRICTLY TICKET ONLY

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First Holy Communion in our Parish last weekend





Photos courtesy of Agnieszka Kaczmarek. See more photos on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie/galleries/

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



Tom Bracken
Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise



Mairead Maher
Market Square, Portlaoise



Mary Matthews
née Cooney
St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise



Phil Carroll
Beechlawn, Portlaoise



Sean (Dano) Baldwin
Ballymaddock, Stradbally



John Cormac Lally
Abbeyleix and Dublin



Gabriel Arogboritse
Triogue Manor, Portlaoise



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.



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**In Loving Memory of
MATTHEW (Matt) BROPHY**

Rathevan, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 21st May at 11.15am.

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

Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife
Pauline, son Mark, daughters Yvonne and Attracta,
daughter-in-law Sinéad, son-in-law Joe, grandchildren,
sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, extended family & friends.

Rest in Peace Matthew

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET (Peggy) GORMAN**

Borris Great, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 17th May 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 14th May at 12:30pm.

*We miss you Peggy and we will
always remember, your gentle soul
so kind and tender.*

*We miss your warmth, we miss your
love, and your wonderful ways.
Above all, we miss your smile, and how
it brightened our days.*



*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your
husband Marty, son, daughters and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Peggy

**In Loving Memory of
GERARD McCORMACK**

26 The Downs, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 13th May 2023.



In God's care you rest above,
In our hearts you rest in love,
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered everyday.

Sadly missed by his wife Philomena, sons
Patrick, Ciaran and Declan, daughters
Alice and Brenda, grandchildren,
extended family and friends.

May Gerard Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of a precious
Son, Brother, Father and Granddad



P.J. SWAYNE

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
52nd Birthday occurs 15th May.

*Your birthday brings back
memories, of laughter and of tears,
Of all the celebrations held
throughout your precious years.*

*As you're watching over me, I hope that you can see,
How much those memories we made,
Will always mean to me.*

*I'll always cherish times we had, and smile just at the
thought, I hope you know just how much joy your life
on earth here brought.*

*On holidays and birthdays it's so hard to be apart,
Like every day that falls between,
Your memory fills my heart.*

*You're with me now where e're I go,
You're part of all I do, I'll celebrate your special day
and the gift of knowing you.*

HAPPY HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY P.J.

*Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by Mammy,
Daddy, sister Denise and family, brother Adrian and
family, his children, grandchildren and extended family.*

Rest in Peace P.J.

In Loving Memory of ALICE PARNELL

"Avondale", Old Knockmay Road, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 16th May 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Portlaoise, on Sunday 14th May at 10am.

We will never forget you, we don't
even try, we just miss you more,
as time goes by.

*Loved and remembered by her husband Kieran,
son Michael, daughter Lisa, daughter-in-law Ann,
son-in-law Peter, grandchildren Aoife, Rachel, Adam,
Laura, Conor, Amelia, relatives and friends xxx*

May Alice Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of TERESA KHANDKER

London and formerly Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 13th May 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church
on Saturday 13th May at 10am.

*Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure,
You are loved beyond words,
And missed beyond measure.*

Fondly remembered by your pal Frances and Tom xx

Rest in Peace Teresa

In Loving Memory of AINE HETHERINGTON

3rd Anniversary occurred 12th May 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 14th May at 12:30pm and in
the Church of the Most Holy Trinity,
Rathdowney, Friday 12th May at 10am.

*A light went out on Earth for me
The day we said goodbye
And on that day a star was born,
The brightest in the sky.*

*Reaching through the darkness,
With its rays of purest white,
Lighting up the Heavens, as it once lit up my life.
With beams of love to heal,
The broken heart you left behind,
Where always in my memory,
Your lovely star will shine*

Forever in our Hearts

*Love Mam, Dad, your sisters Fiona and Sharon, your
brother Patrick, brother-in-law Ger, sister-in-law
Catherine, all your family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Aine

Anniversary Remembrance TERESA KHANDKER

née McCormack

St. John's Square, Portlaoise, London and Cambridge.
13/9/39-13/5/19



In Fond Remembrance

Thinking of you with so much love.
You are always in our hearts.
Hector, Samantha, Shabil, Gonul, Nashad,
Cinzia, Sevi, Natasha, Sophia, Millie, Helena
and Francesca.

Rest in Peace Teresa

*If you love me, keep my
commandments*

John 14:15

**In Loving Memory of
KEVIN O'ROURKE**

Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 15th May 2023.



*Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on Saturday
20th May at 6.30pm.*

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

Rest in Peace Kevin

In Loving Memory of



MARY O' CONNOR

Station House, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary away from Home; 10th May 2023

*It's normal that you shed a tear,
When first I took my leave,
But know that I am happy here,
No need for you to grieve.
The beauty that's surrounding me,
Would take your breath away,
There's colours that I can't describe,
The air's a sweet bouquet.
Don't worry about the things unsaid,
There's nothing to forgive,
Don't lay your heart upon the past,
Just let our memories live.
And though your earthly eyes can't see,
Believe that I am there,
Whene'er you feel the whispering wind,
Flow gently through your hair.
I'm there when fireflies light the dark,
When candles mark a year,
I'm there when you are far from home,
And when you need an ear.
I'm always just a thought away,
Our souls could never part,
Connected for eternity, forever in your heart.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET WHELAN** *née Dowling
Morette, Emo.*

1st Anniversary occurs 15th May 2023.



Margaret, Helen, Bart, John, Pauline, Siobhan and extended family of Margaret Whelan, would like to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to them following their sad loss.

A special word of thanks to Msgr. John Byrne for the lovely funeral Mass and for his kind

words, also to Sarah Troy for the beautiful music which enriched the funeral Mass.

To Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors for their understanding and professionalism in carrying out the funeral arrangements.

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

Margaret's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Monday 15th May at 10am.

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

Rest in Peace Mum

GERRY O' CONNOR Snr.

Also remembering
Dad's 6th Anniversary which
occurred 25th April 2023.



GERARD O' CONNOR Jnr.

Also remembering
Gerdi's 1st Birthday away from
Home on 15th May 2023



Anniversary Mass was celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Wednesday 10th May.

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

May They Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
MAY WHITE

Newpark, Portlaoise. Died 17th January 2023.



The family of the late May White, wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy received on their sad loss. Thank you to those who sent Mass and sympathy cards, floral tributes, telephoned and uploaded messages of condolence online.

Our sincere gratitude to Msgr. John Byrne, Fr. Paul O'Boyle and the Portlaoise Parish priests for the lovely Requiem Mass and to Nuala Kelly for the beautiful music.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Goode Funeral Directors for their help, support and professionalism and to the gravediggers for preparing May's final resting place with such care.

We would like to thank all the staff of St. Vincent's Community Hospital in Mountmellick for their excellent care of May over the last four years. This appreciation extends to the nursing, administration, catering and cleaning staff who were all so great to May during her time there and were so supportive to the family in the final days

Heartfelt thanks to all of our relations, friends, neighbours and work colleagues who supported and continue to support us at this difficult time.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

Rest in Peace May

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE LEWIS née Buggy

The Heath, Portlaoise.

4th Birthday in Heaven occurs 13th May 2023.



Wishing you were here today for just a while, so we could say happy birthday and see your loving smile.

But we will gaze upon your picture and think of you with all our love, and hope you are celebrating in Heaven above.

Never forgotten by your loving family; Daddy, Mammy, Sean, Valerie, Edel and families xxx

Also remembering Geraldine's father-in-law, Ted Lewis, whose 1st Anniversary occurs at this time.

Rest in Peace Geraldine

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE LEWIS née Buggy

The Heath, Portlaoise.

4th Birthday in Heaven occurs 13th May 2023.



Today is your birthday in Heaven above, My blessings I send on the wings of a Dove,

Not just for today, but everyday here of, I think of you always with all my love.

Always loved, forever missed by your loving husband Derek, children Serena, Rachel and Darragh and grandchild Killian.

Rest in Peace Geraldine

In Loving Memory of
JULIE LaCUMBER (née Carroll)

Triogue Court, New Road, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurred
12th May 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 14th May at 11:15am.



*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 by her loving sons, daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.

May Julie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
Our Mother MARY (Mai) DOYLE
And Our Brother JIM DOYLE

Late of 37 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
22nd and 9th Anniversaries occur at this time.



There is a path of beautiful memories from here to Heaven above, that keeps us very close to you, It's called the path of love. Your shadow walks beside us ever since you both died,



Oh angels take this message to our Mam and Brother up above, tell them that we love them and give them all our love.

Sadly missed, always loved, never forgotten by your loving daughters, son, brother and sisters, Joe, Ellen, Guggie, Mary and families xx

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK CONROY Snr.**

*Ballymacken, Portlaoise.
26th Anniversary occurs 15th May 2023.*



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

**Remembered always by
his loving family.**

Rest in Peace Patrick

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David 087-2369887

**In Loving Memory of
DANNY BRENNAN**

*41 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
19th Anniversary occurs 14th May 2023*



*Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered everyday,
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you are always there.*

*Loved and remembered always by your
wife & family.*

May Danny Rest in Peace

**HENRY RANKIN
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ALL IRELAND

**Rosary
Rally**

**SAT, JUNE 3RD
FROM 1.00 PM, KNOCK**

Talk, Stations of
the Cross, Rosary
and Holy Mass

Main Celebrant:
Archbishop Eamon Martin

Rosary Talk:
Bishop Oliver Doeme
at 1pm in the Basilica



**Bus to Knock Shrine
Saturday June 3rd**

Leaving Portlaoise 9am from the Church
Seat must be booked with deposit €10 to;
Maura O' Brien 087-1210263
Helena Corbett 087-9611331

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
11th May 2023

05

17

25

26

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Geraldine Lynam
Moira Costigan
Maire Reidy
Mary Daly
Marie O'Brien
Sonny Keogh
Gerald Byrne
Catherine McEvoy
Joe Paisley
Catherine Doheny
Elizabeth Moore
David Doheny

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Richard Phelan
Mary Daly
Marie O'Brien
Lotto Gift
Lotto Gift
Catherine McEvoy
John Loughlin
Margaret Doheny
M.T. Burke
Margaret Doheny

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Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts :5-8, 14-17 | Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20
1 St. Peter 3:15-18 | John 14:15-21

Support for the Parish

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
 - * 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
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Twitter: @portlaoiseparish

MANAGER Declan Kelly
Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek
Accounts Michelle Conroy
Sacristans Parish Church
Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

All Masses and services from the Parish Church and the Heath Church are live streamed
www.portlaoiseparish.ie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times
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Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
057 8621142 - Claire Scully



COMING

SOON

MAY-SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May	Living	Film	Wed 10 May, 11am & 8pm
	Laois Activations Artists Network	Artists Talk	Wed 10 May, 2pm
	Bealtaine Open Mic	Literature	Thurs 11 May, 11am
	<i>Marcel the Shell with Shoes On</i>	Family Film	Sat 13 May 2pm
	<i>Anne Gildea-How to Get The Menopause & Enjoy It</i>	Comedy	Sat 13 May, 8pm
	<i>Na Cailleacha - Down to Dusk</i>	Film & Artist Talk	Tues 16 May, 2-4pm
	<i>The Banshees of Inisherin</i>	Film	Wed 17 May, 11am & 8pm
	<i>Broke to Woke</i>	Theatre	Fri 19 May, 8pm
	Sustainable Fashion Event & Film	Fashion	Sat 20 May, 2pm-5pm
	<i>Aisha</i>	Film	Thurs 25 May, 11am
	<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i>	Film	Wed 31 May, 8pm
June	<i>Emily Kilkenny Roddy Dance - RUINING THE ACT</i>	Dance	Thurs 1 June, 8pm
	<i>An Evening of Song with Regina Nathan</i>	Music	Fri 2 June, 8pm
	<i>An Cailín Ciúin</i>	Film	Wed 7 June, 8pm
	Grow Remote Summit 2023	Conference	Thurs 8 - Fri 9 June
	NT Live Encore Screening: <i>Life of Pi</i>	Theatre / Film	Thurs 8 June, 7pm
	<i>Crinniu na nÓg</i>	Children's Theatre	Sat 10 June
	Portlaoise Active Retirement Group	Variety Show	Tues 13 June, 7pm
	<i>Winners</i>	Film	Wed 14 June, 8pm
	<i>The Whale</i>	Film	Wed 21 June, 8pm
	Old Fort Quarter Festival	Music	Thurs 22 - Sun 25 June
	<i>Celtic Con Comic Convention</i>	Various	Sat 24 June
	<i>Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom</i>	Film	Wed 28 June, 8pm
	Laois Dance Platform	Dance	7 - 9 July
	<i>Prom Queen the Jukebox Musical</i>	Musical	Sat 29 July, 7pm
	Laois Heritage Society - <i>Portlaoise Architecture</i>	Architecture	Thurs 17 August, 7pm
	Pakistan Independence Day Concert	Various	Sat 19 August
	<i>Who we Love</i>	Film	Wed 6 Sept, 8pm
	<i>Joe the Magician - It's Magic!</i>	Family	Sat 9 Sept, 3pm
	<i>Ger Carey Psycho Spaghetti</i>	Comedy	Mon 11 Sept, 11am
	<i>I AM BABA</i>	Family	Tue 12 Sept, 10, 11am & 12pm
	<i>Full Time - A Plein Temps</i>	Film	Wed 13 Sept, 8pm
	<i>The Matchmaker by J.B. Keane</i>	Theatre	Thurs 14 Sept, 8pm
	Shawn Cuddy, John Hogan & Paddy O'Brien	Music	Friday 15 Sept, 8pm
	David Vesey and Special Guests	Music	Sat 16 Sept, 8pm
	<i>North Circular</i>	Film	Wed 20 Sept, 8pm
	Culture Night	Various	Fri 22 Sept
	<i>80s Icons Show</i>	Music	Sat 23 Sept, 8pm
	<i>Decision to Leave</i>	Film	Wed 27 Sept, 8pm
	<i>The Lost Messiahs - Connected to the Real</i>	Music	Fri 29 Sept, 8pm
	Sustainable Fashion Event	Fashion	Sat 30 Sept, 2pm
SUMMER CAMPS			
	Curtain Call Stage School <i>Camp Broadway</i>	Summer Camp	10-14 July, 10am - 2pm
	Art Summer Camp	Summer Camp	17 - 21 July, 10am-12pm & 2-4pm
GALLERY EXHIBITIONS			
	Abbeyleix FEC	Visual Arts	Fri 5 May - Sat 17 June
	Eoin Coveney	Visual Arts	24 June - 29 July
	Portlaoise Camera Club	Visual Arts	8 August - 16 September
CAFÉ ART SHOWCASE			
	Laois Activations Artists Network- <i>Forward Always Forward</i>	Visual Arts	May
	Creative Ireland Laois Children's Art Competition	Visual Arts	June
	Greg Hallahan	Visual Arts	August

Bealtaine Festival

An Age & Opportunity arts initiative



10-16 MAY

FREE Events at Dunamaisé - Booking advised

A national festival celebrating creativity and the arts as we age. See dunamaisé.ie for full details. Featuring film, art talks, open mic and more!



HOW TO GET THE MENOPAUSE & ENJOY IT

SAT 13 MAY

Tickets: €22

COMEDY

THURS 1 JUNE, 8PM

Performed by Sibeál Davitt, Millie Daniel Dempsey, Rosie Mullin & Emily Kilkenny Roddy

Tickets: €16/€14/€5



Choreographed by Emily Kilkenny Roddy



OUT NOW!

Featuring Award-winning films *Banshees of Inisherin*, *An Cailín Ciúin*, Old Fort Quarter Festival, Summer Camps, *The Matchmaker* & more!!

May

June

July

Aug

Sept