



The Ascension of the Lord



See back page.



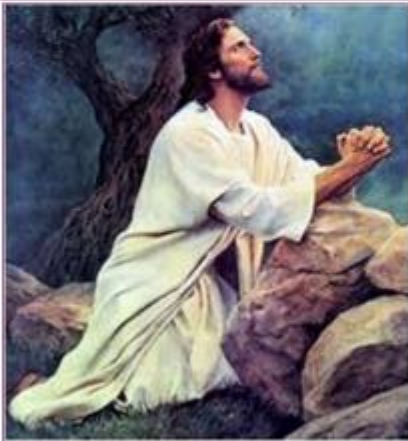
We continued last weekend with our celebration of First Holy Communion. Congratulations to the boys and girls from Gaelscoil Phortlaoise and Scoil Bhríde, may you continue to know the love of God in your life.



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What Is On Your Mind Today?

What is on your mind today? Perhaps you have to get the car through its N.C.T. Perhaps you have to do the shopping with not enough money in your purse. Perhaps you have to get some work done with not enough hours in your day. Perhaps you have to visit a

family member who is ill, or help your child fix a failed friendship at school. There is so much to do. Continuing Jesus' mission on earth problem doesn't figure much in the pages of our diaries.

Today we are privy to Jesus' prayer made on our behalf at the close of his ministry on earth. In this prayer, we are reminded that Jesus had finished the work that he had come to do. Jesus had made God's name known, so that all could share in eternal life. However, for this to happen, we have to carry the baton and keep Jesus' teaching alive in a world bursting with conflicting values.

The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we are all very familiar with the promise of eternal life, even though these words were spoken over two thousand years ago. It doesn't matter how busy we are, life is so much easier for us than it was for those early disciples. We really don't have much excuse. We have been entrusted with an important job, yet for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. We have all the benefits of a twenty first century world at our fingertips, now we just need to capture some of the passion that drove those early disciples.

We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty first century means to spread God's love, change is not beyond any of us.

'Eternal Life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent....'

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.

Ratheniska Cemetery Mass

Friday 2nd June at 7pm

COLLECTION FOR

OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

NEXT WEEKEND 27th/28th MAY

We ask for your support for this collection which will be held next weekend.

There are over 20 retired Priests in our Diocese, a number of them in Nursing Homes and others with need for extra assistance to remain in their own homes.

With a reduced number of priests in Parishes it is now necessary to invite the assistance of the faithful in the Diocese to contribute to the Retired Priests Fund by way of this annual collection.

Envelopes are available in Development Boxes or you can pick up an envelope in the Church porches.

We thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

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CAFÉ



THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of IRELAND

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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.

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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
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PILATES

12.45pm-1.30pm
Places Limited
6 Week Course

Wednesdays

Next

GARMENT FITTING

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10th MAY
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For Lymphoedema
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ART

From 2-4pm

CHAIR YOGA

10am-11am Booking Essential

Thursdays

MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE

10am-11.15am
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CLIMB PROGRAMME

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

"TRY TO BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE'S CLOUD."

— Maya Angelou

This Week's Legion Prayer Intercession

We pray that during this month of May all may come to know the love of Mary and most especially, her son, Jesus Christ.

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Legion of Mary



May 4th 2023



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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*



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PORTLAOISE FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 8TH-15TH JUNE 2023

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Candle cards, Mass Bouquets available from Michael & Margaret Houlihan 087-9212028 or any member of the committee.

Give your petitions to Michael or Margaret and we will leave them in Fatima for you.

We will be bringing donations to the convent in Fatima for anyone wishing to contribute.

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

Monday; No Bowls, they will resume the following Monday May 29th.

Tuesday; Rehearsals for Show.

Wednesday 24th; Walk and Picnic in Emo, meet at the Parish Centre at 2.30pm for carpooling, need to be there at that time or could be left behind.

Thursday 25th; Cards in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm, new members welcome, tuition given.

Portlaoise ARA 'FOREVER YOUNG' Variety Show; Tues. 13th June at 7pm in the Dunamais Theatre. Tickets available from the theatre, 057-8663355 or on line www.dunamais.ie. Please support if you can as a lot of work has gone into this production. For any further information please ring PRO Sheila at 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 16th May;

Top Score: Tom Kearns | **1st Lady:** Margaret Flanagan | **2nd Lady:** Betty Fox | **1st Gent:** Michael O'Brien

2nd Gent: Tom Dunne & Ann-Marie Farrell | **1st Half:** Mary Downey | **2nd Half:** Theresa Mulhare

Best of 3: Mary Gowing | **Raffle:** 1st Frances Gleeson | 2nd Kit Farrell | 3rd Mary Gowing

4th Catherine Fitzpatrick | 5th Mary Gowing | 6th Ann O'Dowd | 7th Sheila Duff

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.

Mountmellick Neighbourhood Watch's Annual Sale will be held in July, date to be confirmed. Anything from a needle to an anchor once it's in good condition will be accepted. Contact Paddy Bracken 087-6606804, Bobby Delaney 086-0666488 or Barbara Lalor 086-6629446.

The National Guide Dog Day is taking place nationwide on 26th May. The Laois branch of Guide Dogs are holding a Dog Walk on Sunday 28th May in Togher Wood at 2pm to mark the event. You can take part by walking your dog and make a donation to Guide Dogs at the event and be in with a chance to win a sponsored prize by Petmania for best behaved dog and best groomed dog, please support this local and National charity. Contact Dom Dunne at Dom's Tyres for more information.

Book Launch: John Lacken will be launching his new book about family life, Tuesday 23rd May at 7pm in the Killeshin Hotel. All are welcome.

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: Group to reflect on the Sunday readings, we meet every Friday in the Parish Centre after 10am Mass. All are welcome to join us. Contact Angela 086-0683085.

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.

An Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community Pentecost Retreat; Friday 26th May in the Maryborough Room, Portlaoise Parish Centre, Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise. Exposition 7pm followed by Holy Mass, celebrant Fr. David Vard C.C. **Saturday 27th** in the Maryborough Room, Portlaoise Parish Centre, Holy Mass 10am, confessions available. Programme continues in the Parish Centre. Closing Mass at 4pm. Celebrant: Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P. All are welcome. Bring a packed lunch. Visit www.spioraidnaoimh.com for the full programme.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help continues this Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm in St Clare's Church, Graiguecullen, Carlow. Guest Speaker Kathleen Chada - Mother of Eoghan and Ruairi Chada.



PORTLAOISE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 7TH-15TH SEPTEMBER 2023

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**Congratulations to all the couples recently married in
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Every good wish and blessing for a happy future together.



Pictured Above;

*Aideen Fitzpatrick and Mark Ryan who were married in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on Friday 5th May.
Celebrant; Msgr. John Byrne*



Pictured Above;

*Claire Keenan and Edward McEvoy who were married in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on Thursday 23rd March.
Celebrant; Fr. Ciprian Matei*

*And the
two
shall become
One*
Ephesians 5:31

Pictured Right;
*Aine O' Connor and Alan Dunne, who were married in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on Friday 21st April.
Celebrant;
Fr. David Vard*



Pictured Right;
James McEvoy and Shannon O' Toole, who were married in Aughrim, Co. Wicklow, on 21st April.



Pictured Above;
Olga Downey and John O'Shea who were married in the
Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on
Friday 30th December '22. Celebrant Fr. David Vard



Pictured Above;
Jane Mason and Conor Murphy who were married in
the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on Thursday
1st December '22. Celebrant; Fr. David Vard

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*I have found the one
 whom my soul
 loves*
Song of Solomon 3:4



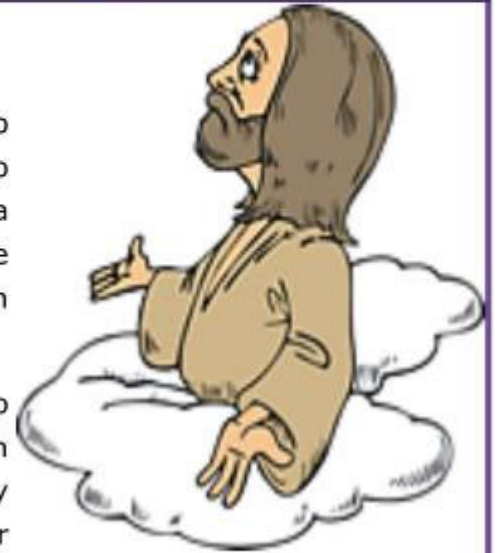
Pictured Above;
Kieran Hickey and Linda Byrne who were
married in
St. Laserian's Church, Ballinakill, on
Saturday 6th May.
Celebrant; Fr. Paddy Byrne



Up, Up and Away

I love balloons. There are so many things you can do with balloons. Some people can make balloons into various shapes. That is fun to watch! There are also a lot of different games you can play with balloons. You can tie them around your ankle and play "Stomp the Balloon" or you can fill them with water and have a water balloon fight.

One of the most enjoyable things one can do with a balloon is to fill it with helium. I am sure you know that when filled with helium, a balloon floats in the air. If you don't want it to get away from you, it is a good idea to hold on tight or tie it around your wrist. But it is also quite enjoyable when it does float away from you. It is fun to stand and watch as the balloon floats higher and higher into the heavens until it totally disappears. The only way to experience that is to be willing to let it go.



When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, he took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to him. He explained why it was important for him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the Scriptures had said about him. He also told them that he was going to return to his Father in heaven, and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

In my imagination I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until he disappeared from view. Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There they stayed continually in the temple, praising God.



We are here today for the very same purpose. We have come into the temple to worship him with great joy!

Dear Father,

we thank you for sending Jesus, your only Son, to die for our sin. We know that he has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven.

Bless us today as we worship him with great joy! Amen.



The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.
Luke 24:51



X	W	V	D	J	Q	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4 _____
- 11-16-13-18-13-4 _____
- 22-8-18-4-10 _____
- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 _____
- 7-8-10-13 _____
- 7-13-16-13-18-26 _____
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 _____
- 26-12-17-13-18 _____
- 19-13-12-3-13-18 _____
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4 _____

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B B Y C R O T E C M E T N R J
R A P R S R S P S P F E C I A
N I G Y H G U P E G K D L P S
Z F S F I I M R N A N W D T P
B J Z E P V F S T A Y E E U O
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E T E U D N X S Y L P D U E T
E S X S E K R K I O E A M M P
J S X V S E W F R N D X I C H
A X A B D I L P E U V V N O R
D E C N K U N P L F J S D Q S
H R U I F H O G G V Y K S L C

The Ascension
Jesus goes back to heaven.



Today's feast is the Ascension of Jesus into heaven,
40 days after his death and resurrection.

In the Gospel

Jesus blesses his friends and goes back to Heaven as he has done everything his Father wanted him to do. He promises his friends he will send the Holy Spirit.



Time to Think!

One Step at a Time

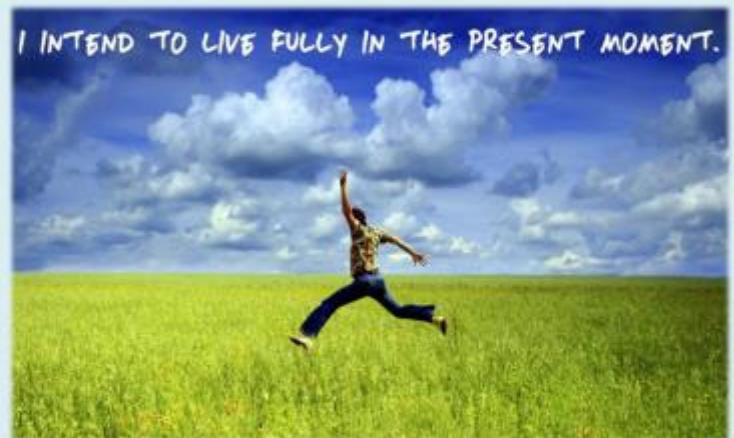
Summer, is a wonderful time of year, long bright days that awaken within us all, a sense of peace and calm. Traditionally during summer time those who are fortunate enough can enjoy a restful holiday. Time out, is a very important gift that we must embrace in our adult lives. We are not robots and often the constant demands of life can cause stress and physical consequences. To gift oneself a good rest is a very important blessing. There are many different ways to find recreation. Summer is it time to renew and give rest to our bodies and mind. Sometimes it's good to hit the pause button.

Life is indeed a sacred journey. Hopefully our pathways are level and smooth, but in our humanity we know at times we walk the mountainous and tough terrain. Our pathway is a journey where we're not in control, ultimately, all we have is now. Living in the present is a very challenging but most rewarding and life-giving blessing. We all can feel at times weighed down and overburdened, this is very true, if we have not acknowledged or processed the wounds and scars that life can inflict upon us from the past. Resentment, bitterness, unforgiveness and genuine hurt can weigh us down. Similarly, another distraction on our journey is to worry about tomorrow, the mortgage repayment, the exam results, what will happen if?

The iconic Saint Padre Pio, had a very practical spirituality which empowered him to live in the present moment and experience the power of now. His celebrated prayer is one that offers deep relevance to all our lives. "My past life I give to your mercy O' Lord, tomorrow I hand into your Providence, this day let me live in your love".

Often we don't fully appreciate what we have until it is made vulnerable, our health, friendship, shelter. To experience the ability to appreciate what we have and to be mindful that all we are in control of is now, can indeed be a liberating gift. We walk in a different pace, more observant of the environment around us and in touch with our inner selves. "The distant scene I do not ask to see no more, one step is enough for me". I pray, as we welcome the brightness of summertime that all of us will be blessed with Peace of Mind, a peace that allows us to enjoy every moment, one step at a time.

This is a beautiful poem by Mario de Andrade (San Paolo 1893-1945), Poet, novelist, essayist, musicologist, one of the founders of Brazilian modernism. It is full of wisdom and fuelled with sound advice.



MY SOUL HAS A HAT

I counted my years and realised that I have less time to live by, than I have lived so far.

I feel like a child who won a pack of candies: at first he ate them with pleasure, but when he realised that there was little left, he began to taste them intensely.

I have no time for endless meetings where the statutes, rules, procedures and internal regulations are discussed, knowing that nothing will be done.

I no longer have the patience to stand absurd people who, despite their chronological age, have not grown up.

My time is too short.

I want the essence, my spirit is in a hurry.

I do not have much candy in the package anymore.

I want to live next to humans, very realistic people who know how to laugh at their mistakes, who are not inflated by their own triumphs and who take responsibility for their actions.

In this way, human dignity is defended and we live in truth and honesty.

It is the essentials that make life useful.

I want to surround myself with people who know how to touch the hearts of those whom hard strokes of life have learned to grow with sweet touches of the soul.

Yes, I'm in a hurry.

I'm in a hurry to live with the intensity that only maturity can give.

I do not intend to waste any of the remaining desserts.

I am sure they will be exquisite, much more than those eaten so far.

My goal is to reach the end satisfied and at peace with my loved ones and my conscience.

We have two lives and the second begins when you realise you only have one.

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

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WHO?

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Kids 3 - 5 years - 10am



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First Holy Communion in our Parish last weekend



Gaelscoil



Scoil Bhríde A



Scoil Bhríde B



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

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



Gabriel Arogbortise
Triogue Manor,
Portlaoise



Gerard Garvey
Esker Hills,
Portlaoise



Brigid Bonham
Temperance St. Abbeyleix
and Ballyroan

*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



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36TH BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
IAN LAWLOR-AMARAL
Bennekerry and Oakleaf Place, Portlaoise.
2nd Birthday away from Home occurs 20th May.



*A Loving Son, Brother, Uncle,
Nephew and Friend*
*Today would have been such a
special day, but now it brings
sadness and sorrow.*
*If we could share just one more
birthday, if there was one more
tomorrow.*

*But birthdays are a time to reflect and look over the time
that has passed, and we can't believe it's been two years,
The time just goes so fast.*

*But memories of more happier times in our hearts will
stay, we will treasure each and every one,
until we meet again some day.*

*So we'll say "goodbye" for now and blow kisses to
Heaven above, to wish you a Happy Birthday and to send
you all our love.*

*Deeply loved and missed by his mother Annette,
brothers Owen, Paul and Wayne, sister Gemma and
brother-in-law Fahad, niece Sara, nephew Sameer,
extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Ian

In Loving Memory of
SEAN FARRELL
Broomville, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 23rd May 2023



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

*Missed in the morning of every day,
Missed in the evening as light fades
away,*

*Missed in a thousand and one little ways,
Around every corner, a memory stays.*

*No one knows the pain we bear, when we all meet
and you're not there, we talk, we laugh, we play
our part, but behind it all lies a broken heart.*

*You gave us years of happiness, then sorrow
came with tears, you left us lovely memories,
we will treasure through the years.*

*Sadly missed by Betty, John, Billy, Catherine,
Mark, grandchildren and all your loving family.*

Rest in Peace Sean

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Bill) CLOONEY
 11th May 1980 - 43rd Anniversary
MAUREEN CLOONEY
 22nd May 2019 - 4th Anniversary



Anniversary Mass for both Maureen and Bill, will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday 21st May at 11:15am.**



The Mass will be streamed on the Parish webcam. *Those special memories of you will always bring a smile, if only we could have you back, for just a little while.*

Then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do, the fact that you're no longer here, will always cause us pain, but you are forever in our hearts, until we meet again.

Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by their son William, daughters Carmel, Pauline and Valerie, daughter-in-law Mary, sons-in-law Richard, Dave and Noel, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family.

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
SEAN McCORMACK

Late of 16 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
 18th Anniversary occurs 27th May 2023.



May the winds of love blow softly and whisper in your ear, And tell you how much we love you and miss you more each year.

Loved and missed always by your daughter, son, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

May Sean Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

A Wonderful Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather
JOHN (Johnnie) PRESTON
Late of 28 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.
 29th Anniversary occurred 18th May 2023.

For someone who meant so much and was loved by all her knew, Who left behind a trail of tears and precious memories too, I loved the sunshine in his smile and kindness in his heart, But Heaven saw that he was tired, which meant I had to part, For he was someone wonderful and words just can't convey, How much I wish that he was here, once more with me today.



Deeply loved, sadly missed, your loving wife Eileen xxx.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 21st May at 11:15am.

DAD;

We know you're in a better place,
 We miss you everyday,
 We'll never be able to forget you,
 So just watch over us in every way.

Loved always and never forgotten by your loving daughters, sons, daughters-in-law and son-in-law xxx

GRANDAD;

No finer Grandad this world could hold,
 A happy face, a heart of gold,
 No tears, no verse will ever say,
 How much we miss you everyday.

Missed and loved always from your loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren xxx

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of Dad
MICHAEL TIMMONS

53 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
 32nd Anniversary occurs 18th May 2023



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

Sadly missed by his loving family.

Rest in Peace Dad

MAY 21, 2023
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
PADDY FITZPATRICK

3 Station Road, Portlaoise. Died 24th May 2022.



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

Our sincere gratitude to Portlaoise Parish Priests and staff and a special mention to Msgr. John Byrne for the heartfelt requiem Mass.

To John Hosey for the beautiful music on the day, thank you.

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 Paddy's final resting place.

We would like to thank the Paramedics and the staff in Portlaoise General Hospital for their excellent care of Paddy over recent times.

Heartfelt thanks to all our relations and friends who supported and continue to support us in this difficult time.

A special thank you to Portlaoise GAA for their continued support and for the guard of honour.

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

Paddy's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on Sunday 28th May at 12.30pm.

Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by Paddy's wife Imelda, sons Brian, David, and Kevin, daughter Laura and extended family.

Rest in Peace Paddy

Cherished Memories of **DAVE LALOR**

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.

24th Anniversary occurs 19th May 2023



Dad;

*A daily thought, a silent tear,
A constant wish that you were
here.*

**Love and miss you always
Daddy, Gerard x**

Daddy/Grandad

*Everyday in some small way,
Thoughts of you come our way,
Thinking of you always.*

**Love and miss you always Daddy
Marie, Christy, Kyle and Finn xxxx**

Dad/Grandad

Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

**Sadly missed everyday, Daithí, Marguerite,
Shauna, Oisín & Cillian xxxxx**

Also remembering

MARY (Molly) HEALY
Cullohill

24th Anniversary occurred
11th May 2023

*Will those who think of Molly
today, a little prayer to Jesus say.*

**Missed everyday by her loving daughters,
sons-in-law and grandchildren.**

Anniversary Mass for Dave & Molly will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this Saturday 20th May at 5pm.

May Dave & Molly Rest in Peace

Treasured Memories of **PATRICK DWANE**

41 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise. 42nd Anniversary occurs 20th May.



*Quickly and quietly came the call,
Without farewell you left us all,
A sudden call from God on high,
You had no chance to say goodbye,
Without farewell you fell asleep,
But memories of you we'll always keep.*

**Always remembered by your loving
wife and family.**

Rest in Peace Patrick

In Loving Memory of **MARIE WHELAN** née Redmond

Late of O' Moore Place, Portlaoise and Arklow.

7th Anniversary occurs 20th May 2023.



I often sit and think of you, and think
of how you died,
To think you could not say goodbye,
before you closed your eyes.

*Loved and sadly missed by your
husband Peter.*

Rest in Peace Marie

In Loving Memory of
Our Wonderful Dad
PATSY DEEVY

24 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 26th May 2023.



*What we'd give if we could say,
 "Hello Dad" in the same old way,
 To hear his voice and see his smile,
 To sit with him and chat for a while.
 A true friend we could turn to,
 When times were good and bad,
 One of our greatest blessings,
 The man that we called Dad.*

*Sadly missed by his sons Pat and Brendan,
 Daughter Hannah, daughters-in-law Sylvia & Maura,
 son-in-law Paddy, grandchildren Craig, Rebecca & Paddy.*

Also remembering his dearly departed wife Kathleen
 at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
 Paul's Parish Church, on Friday 26th May at 10am.

May Patsy Rest in Peace

Also remembering at this time Patsy's brother

JAMES (Jimmy) DEEVY

17 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

25th Anniversary occurs 31st May 2023

May James Rest in Peace



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In Loving Memory of
PAT BYRNES

29 Beechfield, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs 29th May 2023



Husband:

*Wonderful memories of one so dear,
 Treasured still with a love sincere,
 In our hearts he is living yet,
 We loved him too dearly to forget.*

*Sadly missed by your loving wife
 Margaret, never forgotten.*

Dad & Grandad:

*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 by your loving children; Mark, Anna, Joanne,
 Marguerite & Daniel and your 16 grandchildren.*

Pat's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
 Sunday 28th May at 12.30pm.

May Pat Rest in Peace

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Portlaoise Parish



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18th May 2023

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26

30

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Peggy Brennan
PJ Gleeson
John Gosling
Betty & Bernie

MATCH 3s €1,000



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The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23 | Matthew 28:16-20

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
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- * Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
 - * Or Transfer directly to our Account

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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
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Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek
Accounts Michelle Conroy
Sacristans Parish Church
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PARISH SHOP
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WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

Sunday

21st May 2023

'Go out to the whole World and make disciples of all nations'

Who is looking at us?



Statistics from our Website
Year to date (Jan to 1st May)
Hits - 110,667

In addition Shalom World TV transmit our daily 10am Mass to an estimated 'virtual' congregation of 10,000 people from all over the World. This is evidenced by the number of requests we receive for inclusion in prayers. And also by the number who visit us in person who are part of our 'virtual congregation'.

Top 10 Countries joining us via Webcam

1. Ireland	6. Australia
2. United States	7. Poland
3. United Kingdom	8. Spain
4. Canada	9. Benin
5. Andorra	10. India

It has certainly taught us that it is a 'small World' and our Church is truly Universal. Many comment on our wonderful Music Ministry and so it is. We are truly grateful to those who make it so.



Visiting us this week from the US. Patrick and Rosemarie Egan, Barrington, Illinois with Msgr. John and Fr. Simon.



Modern Communication: During the weekly audience Pope Francis was interrupted by a phone call which he took and chatted animatedly for over a minute. A big break with protocol. Wouldn't we love to know what that was about!

World Communications Day 2023

Speaking with the heart. "The truth in love" (Eph 4: 15) Touching even the most hardened hearts.

"In a world that 'so inclined towards indifference and indignation', at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth, it is particularly important there is space for proclaiming the truth, even if at times it is uncomfortable."

Pope Francis calls for words capable of doing good for others and of touching even the "most hardened of hearts." He exhorts communicators, even in our dramatic global climate, to convey the "gentle strength of love."

While the message is primarily geared toward those working in communications, Pope Francis highlights that everyone has the responsibility to communicate "with an open heart and arms."