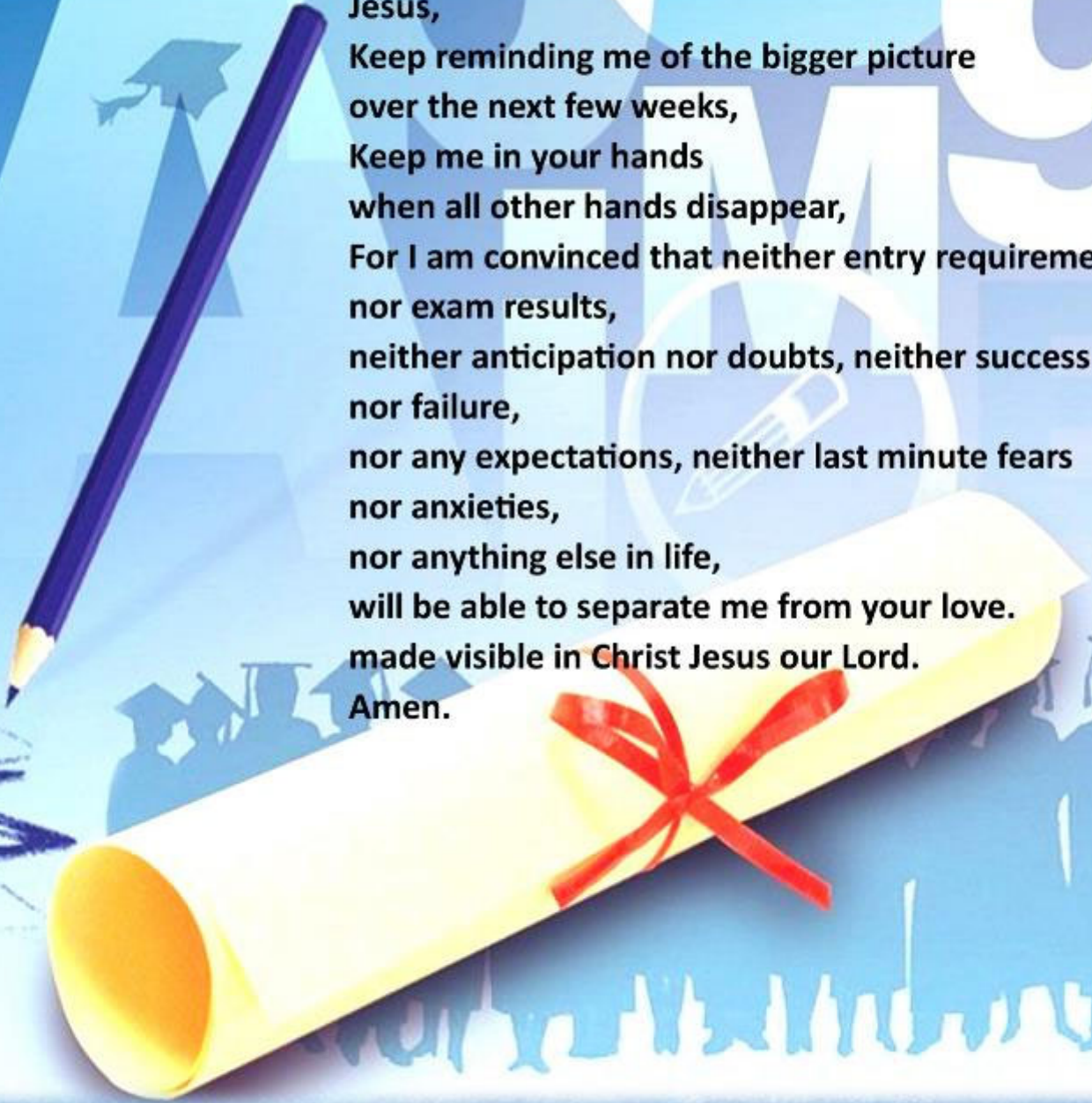


## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

### LEAVING CERT RESULTS

The long wait is over! We hope you have achieved your goal. All leaving cert students will be in our thoughts and prayers as you make plans for your future. May God direct you.



Jesus,  
Keep reminding me of the bigger picture  
over the next few weeks,  
Keep me in your hands  
when all other hands disappear,  
For I am convinced that neither entry requirements  
nor exam results,  
neither anticipation nor doubts, neither success  
nor failure,  
nor any expectations, neither last minute fears  
nor anxieties,  
nor anything else in life,  
will be able to separate me from your love.  
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

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## The Key



Who do you think Jesus is? As small children we are told that Jesus is the Son of God, and we accept it readily. When we are children God is a kindly father figure who lives in Heaven and listens to our night prayers. When we are small, Jesus is the baby we see in the Christmas Nativity scene. When we are a little older, Jesus is the teller of all those intriguing parables. Once we are young adults we see Jesus as a great teacher, a healer, a worker of miracles and a revolutionary. For some of us, doubts creep in. Is Jesus really the Son of God or simply a good man and a great prophet?

In today's gospel Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say I am?" "You are the Christ," replies Peter promptly, "the Son of the living God." But this wasn't Peter's opinion from the start. Peter and the other disciples first met Jesus as a fellow human being. By working with Jesus and following his ministry daily, Peter and the other disciples gradually came to the extraordinary conviction that God was working through Jesus; speaking, healing, working miracles and offering eternal salvation.

Today we listen again to Jesus' question. "Who do you say I am?" It seems that the question is stretching over the centuries. It seems that the question is aimed not just at the disciples but at us. Jesus doesn't want us to give the answer we've been taught to give ... our answer has to be from the heart. Our answer might be, "I don't know!" Our answer might be, "I'm not very sure right now." Or our answer might be a resounding, "You are Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus knows that faith is a journey and our answer reflects at exactly what stage of that journey we have reached.

It may be that we think of Jesus as little more than a good man and a great prophet. If this is what we believe, the Bible becomes little more than a book filled with good stories and sound philosophy. If like the disciples we are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, all at once we are opening ourselves to great possibilities.... all at once we have found the key to life's greatest adventure.

### Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

**Monday to Thursday:** 7.30am & 10am

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

**Saturday:** 10am

**Sunday**

Vigil 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.

### Communion Rounds

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds during the week.



### We welcome into our Parish Community

Bella Boe McFall, Elm Lawn  
 Cillian John O'Shaughnessy, Dysart  
 Neamh Divine-Amarachukwu,  
 Lake Avenue

Helen Jane Crown, Douglas Road, Cork

**Who were baptised last weekend.**



### The Beheading of John the Baptist 29th August

The death of St. John the Baptist is reported in varying amounts of detail throughout the synoptic Gospels and Mark and Matthew report the event with the most detail. In Mark's Gospel, John was arrested and imprisoned because of King Herod's fear of him. But although Herod feared John, he would not kill him because he knew John was a righteous and holy man, and he liked hearing John speak. Herodias, Herod's wife, did not share his respect for John and looked for any chance to have him killed. Herodias' chance came when her daughter Salome's dancing so pleased the smitten Herod that he promised her anything she desired. Herodias prompted her daughter to ask for the death of John the Baptist. Herod granted her wish and John was killed.

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



# At Cuisse We Care

## Open Day **Saturday Sept 9th**

Come to our Open Day on Saturday, September 9th, anytime from 11 am to 2 pm, to meet our team, and see for yourself the important supports and services we provide in our community.

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Start at 11:00am to 2:00pm



**Cuisse Cancer Support Centre**  
Block Road, Portlaoise, Co.  
Laois, R32Y8P2

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- \*Also stocking a large selection of baptismal candles, cards and gifts. Candles can be personalised.*
- \*Happy Day Soy candles made locally in Portlaoise*
- \*Inspirational Books & Gifts, Sacred Art items.*
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**At The Parish Centre**

**Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm**  
**057 862 1142**

## NOVENA TO ST. MOTHER TERESA

will conclude **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**, with a commemorative Mass at 10am in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.



Blessing with the relic will take place after Mass.

### *Prayer to St. Teresa of Calcutta*

*(Prayed each day of the Novena)*

Saint Teresa of Calcutta,

You allowed the thirsting love of Jesus on the Cross to become a living flame within you, and so became the light of His love to all.

Obtain from the Heart of Jesus

*(here make your request)*

Teach me to allow Jesus to penetrate and possess my whole being so completely that my life too, may radiate His light and love to others. Amen  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our Joy, pray for me.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta pray for me.

*Keep the joy of loving Jesus in your heart and say often during the day and night.*

***"Jesus in my heart I believe in your tender love for me. I love you."***

*St. Mother Teresa*

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**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Registration at 1.30 pm  
in Shanahoe National School**

**€20 fee**

Monies raised will fund sports and wellbeing related resources for our pupils.

**Step Back in Time**

**EXHIBITION:** Take a step back in time with this years Heritage exhibition in Mountmellick Library, with plans and drawings from 1873 of the Railway line, stories and photos of life in old Mountmellick and follow the stunning trail of graveyards and cemeteries in a new artwork called "Between Stone and Shadow", all during library hours for the remainder of the month.



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### ST. MARY'S CBS PORTLAOISE

Application forms are now available for 1<sup>st</sup> year for the 2024/2025 school year. The closing date for applications is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm.**

Applications are available to download from our school website (portlaoisecbs.com), school App, or by e-mailing stmarys@portlaoisecbs.com and from the school office.

They will be distributed in the primary schools also.

Our **OPEN NIGHT is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 6-9pm** and all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes are invited.

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### Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August;

**Top Score:** Mary Dunne | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Catherine Fitzpatrick & Frances Gleeson | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Mary Delaney

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** Leslie Hunter & Theresa Mulhare | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Paddy Purcell | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** Pattie Murphy

**Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Delaney | 2<sup>nd</sup> Leslie Turner | 3<sup>rd</sup> Billy O'Keeffe | 4<sup>th</sup> Betty Fox | 5<sup>th</sup> Betty Fox | 6<sup>th</sup> Annemarie Purcell, 7<sup>th</sup> Patti Murphy | 8<sup>th</sup> Peter Stevenson | 9<sup>th</sup> Norah Fisher | 10<sup>th</sup> Paddy Purcell

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

Anyone interested in learning to play, classes in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays from 10am to 11.30am. All welcome.

**Samaritans Co. Laois:** We need listening volunteers, will you join us? Information/Recruitment Evening in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. Please come along to learn more.

**Breakthrough Cancer Research** are the largest funder of research into poor prognosis cancers in the island of Ireland. We are looking for help with our Abbeyleix collection on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. If you have an hour to spare please contact Mary at 021 422 66 55 or email mary@breakcancer.ie

**Portlaoise Active Retirement Group:** Hello all, Our holiday to Louth on the 25<sup>th</sup> September is not fully booked so we are opening it up to non members. If anyone would like to join us please contact Sheila on 087-6204617 or Trudy 086-3136182 or any committee member.

### RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

**Petition Wall in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church:** Please pray for all petitions and you are welcome to place a petition on the wall at any time

**Emmanuel House Clonfert, Co. Galway:** Day of Prayer including first Saturday Fatima Devotions led by Eddie Stones & team, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept starting at 11am. Talks, Adoration, Music, Confessions, Holy Mass and Healing Service. All are welcome. Please bring a packed lunch.





## Back to School

### (Peter's Confession)

It's back to school time again! Some of you are probably feeling excited. Some of you may be a little sad that summer is over. You may feel nervous or a little scared about going back to school because of all the new things that you will have to face. You will have new teachers, some new friends, and some of you may even be going to a new school.

On the first day of school, the teacher will probably ask some questions to see how much you already know. When the teacher asks a question to which you know the answer, you might wave your hand excitedly in the air and say, "I know! I know!" It is a great feeling when you know the answer, isn't it? It sure helps to take away those "back to school Jitters."

In the gospel today, the disciples are going "back to school." Can you guess who their teacher is? Right! Jesus is their teacher. Jesus often took his disciples aside to teach them important lessons about the Kingdom of God. This was one of those days. Jesus began his lesson that day by asking his disciples a question.

"Who do men say that I am?" Jesus asked.

I imagine that one of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say that you are John the Baptist."

Then another of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say you are Elijah."

A third disciple raised his hand and said, "Some people say that you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

"Very good," Jesus said, "that is what other people are saying, but who do you say that I am?"

You know, I think that Peter was so excited that he forgot to raise his hand. I think he just called out to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said, "You are right, Peter. You didn't learn that from listening to other people. It was taught to you by my Father in heaven."

The lesson that the disciples learned that day is just as important today as it was then. Many people in our world today still do not know who Jesus is. You and I need to be ready with the answer, "He is the Christ, the Son of the living God."

### Prayer

Dear Father, when people are searching for the answer to the question,  
"Who is Jesus?" help us to be ready with the answer.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



# Peter's Confession of Christ

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page.

1. Some people thought that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Others said he was Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus asked, "Who do \_\_\_\_\_ say that I am?"
4. Simon Peter answered, "You are the \_\_\_\_\_ the Son of the living God."
5. Jesus said, "This was revealed to you by my \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my \_\_\_\_\_."
7. "I will give you the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of heaven."
8. Jesus warned his \_\_\_\_\_ not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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FATHER

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KEYS

BAPTIST

## Back to School Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for holiday times  
For freedom, family and friends.  
Help me to keep these happy times  
in my heart.

I am excited to start school.  
To spend time with my teacher  
and school friends.

Help me to settle back  
into this school year!

Help me to learn,  
to grow in confidence  
And to have lots of fun.

Amen.

Jokes for today!



What is a snake's favourite subject in school?

Answer: Hisssssstory

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school?

Answer: Because her students were so bright.

**Blessing of school bags will take place in the Parish Church at 6.30pm Mass next Saturday (2nd September).**



## Enrol Now!

### St. Peter & Paul's Children's Choir

Now open to new members for 2023/2024

All primary school Students welcome

**Rehearsal:** Friday's

**Time:** 3:15pm - 4:30pm

**Location:** Parish Centre

**Rehearsals start**

**Friday the 8th of**

**September**

**To Enrol Contact:**

troymusic5@gmail.com



# Time to Think!

## Building Solid Foundations

This was a major week, for over 60,000 students who received their leaving certificate results. Sincere best wishes to all students, who soon begin a new journey. I suggest that as students of life, time is the greatest teacher of all. What makes us tick? Where do we find our foundations in life..

One key biblical image is that of building solid foundations, making a dramatic distinction between building on rock as opposed to on sand (*Matthew 7: 24-27*). The point of foundations is that they have to be done in advance, this largely hidden, deep digging, has an enormous impact on the stability of the building. The importance of the foundations are only realised when the storm comes and tests the structure. These days are an opportunity to do this crucial excavation work, to deepen our foundations and give us something to hang onto during the personal and social storms that threatens us. These are ten principles based on the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola, suggestions for how you might concretely build up a good structure and hopefully help weather the many storms

**1. Know yourself.** The ancient Greek wisdom highlights the importance of the journey into oneself, the acquiring of crucial self knowledge that allows a person to be creative, responsible and free. Generally, we are given a gift or talent in one area, which also comes with a shadow side. Some kind of journaling or diary writing can help as a way of reflecting on life experience and seeing the meaning in it. Ask for divine help to process difficult experiences. It can take a lifetime, maybe that's why we live so long in general.

**2. Accept your humanity.** We are all a complex mix of body, mind and soul, with great gifts but also a great capacity to deceive ourselves. We are often driven by desires that unexamined will ruin us, but conversely will complete us. The best thing is that we have the tools to make great things of ourselves with humility and God's help. There are two basic movements within us, towards God and life and the opposite; we can learn how to differentiate these feelings or moods. This skill of discernment has to be learned and practiced, the challenge is accepting the mix of good and evil in us.

**3. Tackle your demons.** Many of us labour under the effects of the past, wounds or secrets that can severely limit our peace and happiness. It takes real courage to face into these, to ask for help (e.g. a counsellor or a close and trusted friend) and to take the necessary steps to move on.

**4. Make amends.** Inevitably we will have made mistakes along the way, we have a duty to try to right the wrongs that we have done insofar as that is possible. There is something concrete and real about actions as opposed to just words. The word 'sorry' goes a long way.

**5. Put the supports in place.** No one is a completely self sufficient 'island', rather we are who we are through relationships and particular individuals or institutions. Accepting that you can't do it alone means figuring out what supports or people you need to help you. The self sufficient ego doesn't like this so you have to actively go against it to put supports in place. Have a regular prayer/meditation practice. This is the most challenging thing as it demands accepting limits, the need for a higher power and the need to ask for help. A bit like charging a battery,



there is no shortcut for being plugged into the source for a certain time and frequency. It becomes easier with practice; the Spirit prays within us. God needs the access and time to make great instruments of us.

**6. Fix a bad habit.** Things tend not to get better by themselves so it's better to set out to conquer a bad habit intentionally and applying our resources to it, recognising that we need God's help especially in really tough challenges (pray as if everything depends on you but act as if everything depends on God). Apparently it takes around 7 weeks to fix a habit; start now. Bring God's grace to bear on the very root of the problem, clear all other debris.

**7. Thank those who have made you what you are.** A really useful exercise is to look back and realise all the people and kind actions that brought you to where you are. Remember what power you have to influence others for good in the same way. Break the cycle of negativity and regret though, it goes nowhere. Cultivate an 'attitude of gratitude

**8. Reflect on your life and to what extent you are living your life's purpose and finding meaning.** This is challenging, to examine the choices and compromises made in your 'big' decisions. Realise that you always have choices and pray for the insight to know what to do now, whether to live with it or make changes. Inevitably life is messy but God is there somewhere and we always have choices, even if it is to find meaning in less than ideal circumstances. It is in aligning ourselves to a sense of mission that we really come alive.

**9. Reflect on your death** - it's going to happen anyway! How would you like to have looked back on your life, what would you like to be remembered for, what can you do about it now? This is not a morbid speculation but rather an invitation to live fully the time that you have as a gift. We know from following Jesus that death is nothing to fear. The Cross of Christ is the centre of our lives.

### Scaffolding by Seamus Heaney

*Masons, when they start upon a building,  
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;  
Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,  
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.  
And yet all this comes down when the job's done  
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.  
So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be  
Old bridges breaking between you and me  
Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall  
Confident that we have built our wall.*

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 30,400 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*

## BLESSED BRIGIDA MORELLO Foundress of the Ursulines of Mary Immaculate



The Congregation of the Ursulines of Mary Immaculate (UMI) was founded by Blessed Brigida Morello on 17th February 1649 in Piacenza, Italy. During this era, education for the girl children was a far-fetched dream and was very difficult to find a platform for the ladies to come up in life. Blessed Brigida recognizing this need of the time responded prophetically, started her mission of educating young girls instilling in them the Christian values, who in turn would be the future mothers, the home maker to hand over the faith to the coming generations. Centuries later Five Zealous Italian Missionaries landed in Kerala, India on 12th November in 1934. The Ursulines gradually extended their services to different parts of India and other continents as well.

Responding to the call of the LORD, according to the special needs of the people the mission is spread out in 103 convents at present in 5 different Provinces, engaged in various apostolate, such as education, healing Ministry Social apostolate and Pastoral Ministry. Besides Italy and India, the mission has expanded to Brazil, Africa, U.K and Ireland.

### Spirituality of Blessed Brigida

Blessed Brigida's passionate love for the Crucified Lord developed from her very tender age, gradually culminated in an ardent desire to suffer for his greater glory. Twenty four long years of her cheerful suffering reflects this passion in her. Deep interior union with her beloved in profound contemplation made it possible to lead and guide the congregation with zeal and enthusiasm. Conformity to God's holy will in total abnegation and genuine unfeigned humility are ways of soaring the heights of holiness, according to Blessed Brigida. She was so well adorned with modesty, humility and deep interior and exterior serenity. She exhorts the importance of embracing adversities with patience, and heroic mortifications as powerful aid to genuine progress in sanctity.

### Venerable Sr. Maria Celine Kannanaikkal

Venerable Maria Celine Kannanaikkal, an epitome of Blessed Brigida Morello, our Foundress, had an ardent devotion to the Crucified Lord from her early childhood. She was born into an ordinary devout Christian family on 13th February 1931 in Kerala, India. After her training and few years of teaching, she decided to dedicate her life and thus joined the Congregation in 1954. During her Novitiate she led a very virtuous life, and was blessed with visions and ecstasies. She also had to undergo various unpleasant experiences from the evil one, which she endured bravely for the love of the Crucified Lord and offered it for the salvation of souls.



Sr. Celine

After a lot of apprehensions she was professed on 20th June 1957. On the day of her Profession, Jesus appeared and requested her to surrender her health she is enjoying. Thus after 35 days of her life as a Professed sister, she was called for her eternal reward at a younger age of 26. Several people testify that they receive innumerable favours through her intercession. She has promised "I will come with my beloved Jesus to console those who are in great difficulties." She was raised as the Servant of God on 29th July, and Pope Francis elevated her to Venerable on 5th August 2022.

**The 10am Mass on Thursday 31st August in St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise will be celebrated as a Mass of Blessed Brigida Morello.**

*Ursuline sisters, Parnell Crescent and Raheen*



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



**Declan Daly**  
44 Rathgailine  
Portlaoise



**Peter Frawley**  
Lynden Court  
Portlaoise



**Mary Farrell  
Nee Maher**  
20 Mountain View,  
Portlaoise



**Paddy Ramsbottom**  
Athy & formerly  
Main St. Stradbally



**Lily McDonald  
Nee Wey**  
Larchfield House,  
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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

**In Loving Memory of**  
**EDWARD (Ned) McEVOY**  
*Capoley, Portlaoise - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (30<sup>th</sup> August)*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
this Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 12:30pm.

*Time unfolds another year, memories keep you  
very near. No need for words except to say  
you are loved and missed each passing day.*

In God's care you rest alone, in our hearts you rest in love.  
Never more than a thought away, loved and remembered  
everyday by Sarahann, Ailish, Mary, Joe and Breda and  
families.

*Also thinking of our Mother Madge at this time.*

*May Edward Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOHN SCULLY**  
*Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023*



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on Saturday  
2<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.30pm.

Your life was one of kindly deeds,  
A helping hand for others' needs,  
Sincere and true in heart and mind,  
Beautiful memories left behind.

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

*Rest in Peace John*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**JEROME PADIOS**  
*10 Rosdarragh Glen, Portlaoise.*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023*



Your life was one of kindly  
deeds, a helping hand for  
others' needs. Sincere and true  
in heart and mind, beautiful  
memories left behind.

Loved and sadly missed by  
his wife Lisa, children JL, JB,  
Grapes, Cherry and his  
grandchildren Alexa, Yanna,  
Kyle and Kate.

*Rest in Peace Jerome*

**In Loving Memory of  
MICHAEL DALTON**

4 Borris Little, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



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

Sadly missed by his loving wife  
Margaret, family and friends.  
Rest in Peace Michael

**Treasured Memories of  
CHRISTOPHER DWANE**

28 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



We did not know that morning,  
What sorrow the day would bring,  
When a heart of gold stopped beating,  
And we couldn't do a thing,  
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.  
Always remembered by his loving mother and family.  
May Christy Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN MAHER**

Grange, Stradbally.  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



As each day dawns we think of you  
As each night falls, we pray for you  
And throughout our lives,  
no matter where,  
In our hearts you are always there.

Sadly missed by his loving family.  
May John Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of  
PETER KEOGH**

Late of Borris Rd., whose 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> August.  
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 12:30pm.



Gone are the days we used to share Peter,  
But in my heart you are always there,  
The gates of memory will never close,  
I miss you more than anyone knows,  
With tender love and deep regret,  
I who loved you will never forget.  
Lovingly remembered today and forever.  
Deeply missed by your loving Julie xxx

May Peter Rest in Peace forever

**In Loving Memory of  
WILLIE O'REILLY**

Formerly of 13 Borris Rd & 13 Holdbrook, Portlaoise  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



Those we love don't go away  
They are there beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard, but always near  
Still loved, still missed, and very dear  
Missed and remembered by your wife  
Sheila, children Karen and Adrian,  
grandchildren, brother, sister and  
extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Willie

**In Loving Memory of  
CHRISTOPHER CON CARROLL**

26 Beladd Upper, Portlaoise.  
18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023



Chris, I would like to say so many things,  
I don't know where to start,  
I only know I miss you from the bottom of  
my heart,  
When I am sad and lonely and everything  
goes wrong, I seem to hear you whisper,  
"cheer up and carry on".

Loved and remembered always by your loving wife Sheila.  
May Christopher Rest in Peace

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  
In Loving Memory of  
ARON GING**

formerly 51 Borris Little  
Whose 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday away from home occurs 28<sup>th</sup> August.



Thinking of you always  
It is especially difficult today not to  
have you here,  
To celebrate the happy times we  
shared over another joyful year,  
We wish we had just one more chance  
to see your happy smile,  
To laugh and celebrate with you,  
just for a little while,  
We'll hold you close forever,  
deep within our hearts,  
And though you are not here with us,  
know that we'll never part,

This day was always special, so we just want to say,  
That we are thinking of you with lots of love,  
On this, your Birthday.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Aron  
Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.  
Loved and remembered by all your loving family.

Rest in Peace Aron

You are the  
**Light**  
of the World

## In Loving Memory of ALLAN WRIGHT

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023



*I am still with you*  
If it seems that I am far away, on this  
empty and solemn day,  
Just open your heart and know its true,  
That I am still right here with you.  
Sadly missed by your loving wife Iva,  
children Janet, Barbara, Alan,  
Teresa and Siobhan, grandchildren,  
great-grandchildren and all your loving family and friends.

*Rest in Peace Dear Allan*

### Portlaoise Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 7<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Have your loved ones included in our daily Mass at all the Holy sites in the Holy Land.

For the sick, deceased, your intentions or thanksgiving, signed Mass cards, Mass bouquets are available from;

**John 087-1254841 | Kitty 087-9506634**  
**Chris 086-1987596.**

For further info. contact John, Kitty or Chris.

4 seats available for trip to Holy Land. Contact Joe Tully Carlow on 05991-36100.



### MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN THE MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

*For the perfect tribute card for your loved one  
our bespoke memorial cards.*

*Create a collage of images illustrating  
the life of your loved one with our  
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*All our Cards are individually designed  
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## KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew  
**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

## HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We have opened a new office and show room on  
Abbeylex Road, Portlaoise.  
(opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

Contact;  
057-8620567  
PAUL; 087-2562137  
NIALL;  
086-2770095



## Portlaoise Stone Centre

- ♦ We supply an extensive range of headstones and plaques in granite, marble and limestone, any design made to order.
- ♦ We also supply bronze eternal lamps, statues etc.
- ♦ Sandblasting cleaning carried out.
- ♦ Inscriptions added and old headstones renovated.
- ♦ Cement top and wide range of chippings available.
- ♦ We also supply and fit artificial grass.
- ♦ We supply ceramic photos - single and double.
- ♦ All grave work carried out to a high standard.

Please visit our new website [www.portlaoisestone.ie](http://www.portlaoisestone.ie)



Unit 3b Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Laois.  
Tel: (057) 8660258 | Mobile: (087) 2538930  
Email: [info@portlaoisestone.ie](mailto:info@portlaoisestone.ie)



## HHC Baton Twirlers Portlaoise, Dance Fitness

HHC is an established fun, fitness dance club for children & teens aged 4-18 years. Classes are taught by a fully qualified NCEF, Zumba Zin, Garda Vetted, insured instructor. Our club is also registered with the Baton Twirling Sport Association of Ireland (BTSAI).



Activities include: Baton Twirling, Hula Hoop Dance, Zumba Kids, Pom Poms, Hip Hop, dance games, class shows, Baton Grading & yearly BTSAI competition.

The classes are a fun & sociable place for children & teens who love everything dance & want to be part of a team. 2024 will see the clubs 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**New 8 week term starting on Tues 29<sup>th</sup> & Wed 30<sup>th</sup> August in St Mary's Bingo Hall.**



Lil Starz 4-7years class on Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm  
Lil Starz 4-7 years class on Wednesdays 4.00-5.00pm  
Super Starz 7-18 years class on Tuesdays 4.30-6.30pm

**For full details & bookings;**

**Contact : 086 - 8857116**

**Email: [info@happyheartclub.ie](mailto:info@happyheartclub.ie)**



Find the club on Facebook: HHC Baton Twirlers Portlaoise, Dance Fitness.



Medjugorje, August 2023

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES  
WORLD ASSOCIATION OF L.A.P. MEMBERS & PIAC

**Portlaoise Parish recent Pilgrimage to Medjugorje**

*Spiritual Director: Fr. George Adzato*



Single Book

€6

Double Book

€10

## Friday Night Bingo in St. Mary's Hall Resuming Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm

Buses collecting from their usual pick-up points in the Portlaoise area at 7:30pm.



# WE ARE HIRING!

### Community Employment Scheme

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

Childcare Assistants

**REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY:**

- Aged 21 or over
- In receipt of a social welfare payment for at least 12 months
- Ability to work 19.5 hours a week

**Locations**

- Portlaoise
- Mountmellick
- Killadooley
- Portarlinton
- Abbeyleix

**APPLY NOW**

For More Information:  
Contact Emer or Lisa at  
cescheme@laoispartnership.ie

CE Scheme is funded by the Department of Social Protection. A video on CE Scheme can be seen in the 'Whats Going on' section of the Jobsireland website at the end of the page

## FÁTIMA



### FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

Led by Spiritual Director and Fr Pat Hennessy  
Group Organiser: Maura O'Brien

**13 JUNE 2024**

**7 nights**

**€899 per person sharing**

(€100 off per person if paid in full by 1 December 2023)

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lisbon
- » 20kg bags included
- » Return airport transfers in Fatima
- » 7 nights **Hotel Avenida**
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme
- » Guided tour of Sanctuary & Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary
- » Visits to Aljustrel & Valinhos
- » *Optional: travel insurance & single supplement*

For information and bookings, please contact:

**Maura O'Brien 087 1210263**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88

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We're here to listen, night or day.

**1800 901 909**

## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2023



**No €13,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Joe Dunne  
Geraldine Doran  
Marguerite Walshe  
Daniel Rafter  
Caroline Byrne  
Jason Anita & Tom  
Margaret Parkinson  
John Joe Ging  
Claire Scully  
Teresa Doran  
Teresa O'Connor  
Mary Murphy  
Tom Delaney  
Aishling & Eimear Keogh  
Sarah Power  
G & B  
Ann Savage

**MATCH 3s €1,000**



Play PARISH



[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

### PROMOTER

Parish Centre  
Mary Doran  
Marguerite Walsh  
Lotto Gift  
Lily Whelan  
Laura Skelly  
Barbara Dowling  
Anne Ging  
Parish Shop  
Browns Shop  
Browns Shop  
Elizabeth Dowling  
John Loughlin  
Betty Lynch  
Paul Dooley  
Betty O'Rourke  
Pacelli Walshe

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**Next Week's Jackpot is €14,000**

**Twenty First Week in Ordinary Time**  
Isaiah 22:19-23 Psalm: 137:1-3, 6, 8  
Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20

## 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
  - \* 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. Simon Jin  
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira  
Tel: 057 8600121



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](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times  
057 8600119)



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

SUNFLOWER PICKER 2023



AUGUST 20, 26 & 27

PICK YOUR OWN SUN FLOWERS

Donation Entry  
Bring your own secateurs  
10:30-4:30 FIELD EVENT,  
Heath House, The Heath,  
Co.Laois, R32 VH28  
Tel: 085 1754709

In aid of LOFFA &  
Azheimer's Society of  
Ireland

This is an organic farm **field event**.

Strong **covered shoes** are recommended.

Access limited to the sunflower field area only. Max 200 people at any time. Children must be supervised at all times by a parent or responsible adult. Parking available on The Heath. Weather dependent.

In aid of: **Laois Offaly Families for Autism and The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland**