

## Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Season of Creation

1st September - 4th October

### *Lovely Things*

*by H. M. Sarson*

*Bread is a lovely thing to eat - God bless the barley and the wheat!  
A lovely thing to breathe is air - God bless the sunshine everywhere!  
The earth's a lovely place to know - God bless the folks that come and go!  
Alive's a lovely thing to be - Giver of life - we say - bless Thee!*

**Ploughing 2023**  
**19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September**



*Our Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Mass*  
*Saturday 23rd at 6.30pm*  
*All are welcome*

The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
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### If Forgiveness Was Infectious

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us." Just imagine what sort of world we would live in if this simple statement could become a reality. Imagine feeling the relief of

being forgiven for our sins and in turn, forgiving those who had sinned against us. Imagine the same people forgiving those who had sinned against them and so on and so on until the world's screaming grievances grew gradually quieter and finally disappeared altogether. What a wonderful world that would be. Is it any wonder Jesus talks so much of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation?

So how can we make forgiveness more of a reality? How can we make forgiveness globally 'infectious'? Firstly we need to look inwards. What do we each need to be forgiven for? Who might we be hurting, perhaps unintentionally? Might we have made someone feel small or stupid with a careless or overly sharp remark? Might we have spoiled someone else's relationship by indulging in an affair? Have we neglected a lonely or vulnerable family member? Might we have bullied someone, gossiped behind someone's back, lied, cheated or taken something that didn't belong? Only when we can admit our own sins and unburden our own guilt can we really appreciate the value of forgiveness in the lives of others.

Offering forgiveness is just as hard as asking for it. How often do we hear someone say, "I will never forgive that person for what they have done!" Behind the statement is a deep rooted need to avenge the offender, either by hurting them back, or by withholding forgiveness. One person not forgiving another person is bad enough, but when entire nations are unable to forgive, then mankind is in big trouble! Sometimes the sins of others are so great that we wonder how we can begin to forgive. Sometimes a crime is so great and the culprit so devoid of remorse that we wonder whether we should really be expected to forgive, yet Jesus tells us, "I do not tell you to forgive seven times but seventy seven."

It is clear that we need a few helpful strategies in place to move us from feelings of vengeance and violence to a more peaceful place. The first and probably the easiest strategy is to search for some level of understanding and empathy. Understanding why someone has done something is a strong platform for forgiveness. However, where empathy totally eludes us, it is important for us to entrust the mechanics of justice to others who are less angry and less prejudiced than ourselves. Another 'must' is to set aside any notion of forgiveness turning us into doormats or naïve and deluded 'do-gooders'. The strategy that Jesus teaches us today is that we can become more compassionate as individuals by remembering how often we have been forgiven ourselves.... perhaps more times than we can remember.

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

**Monday to Friday:** 7.30am & 10am  
**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 6.30pm Mass.



### We welcome into our Parish Community

Tommy Gerard McInerney-Ryan  
Market Mews, Maryborough Village  
**Who was baptised last weekend.**

### St. Matthew 21st September



One day, as Our Lord was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw, seated in his customs bureau, Levi the publican, whose business it was to collect the taxes from the people for their Roman masters. Jesus said to him: "Follow me," Leaving all behind, Matthew arose and did so, thereby giving us all an example of the way in which we should respond to grace. The humble Matthew, as he was thereafter called, tells us himself in his Gospel that he was Levi, one of those publicans abhorred by the Jews as enemies of their country, outcasts and notorious sinners, who enriched themselves by extortion and fraud. Other than this, we know little about St. Matthew as a person, but we know for certain that he was a worthy and faithful disciple, unquestionably a gifted writer and one of the better educated of the apostles.

*I tell you to forgive not seven times,  
but seventy-seven times.'*  
*Gospel (Mt. 18:21-35)*



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





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## **Mondays**

### **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)

**18th September**  
**10am-12 noon**  
**Booking Essential**

### **CREATIVE ARTS CLASS**

**6 Weeks**  
**Booking Essential**  
**Starting 25th September**  
**2pm-4pm**

### **WALKING GROUP**

Our walking group brings participants through a walking programme gradually increasing fitness over time.  
**Starting 25th Sept. 10am**

### **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**

9.30am-10.30am  
**Starting 3rd October**

### **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**

10.45am-12noon  
**Starting Tuesday,**  
**10th October**

### **PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY**

**3rd October**  
Spaces Available.  
Booking Essential

### **GARMENT FITTING**

Serra Nova  
**12th September**  
Sleeve/Leg Garments  
For Lymphoedema  
Booking Essential

### **PILATES**

1pm-1.45pm  
Places Limited  
6 Week Course  
**Starting**  
**3rd October**

### **MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME**

2.00-3.00pm  
6 Week Course  
Booking Essential  
**Starting**  
**3rd October**

### **COUNSELLING**

By appointment only

## **Wednesdays**

### **BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING**

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### **REFLEXOLOGY REIKI**

By appointment only

### **ART**

From 2-4pm  
**Starting 4th October**

### **CHAIR YOGA**

10am-11am  
11.20am-12.20pm  
Booking Essential  
6 Week Course  
**Starting 4th October**

## **Thursdays**

### **MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE**

11.30am-12.30pm  
Booking Essential  
6 Week Course  
**Starting 5th October**

### **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  
**Date to be confirmed**

## **Fridays**

### **WORK & CANCER PROGRAMME**

This is a 5-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  
10am-12.30pm  
**Friday, 29th  
September 2023**

## **AQUA AEROBICS**

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# SCAM ALERT



**Beware of scammers pretending to be a relative asking for help**



Beware of text or WhatsApp messages appearing to be from a relative, in most cases a son or daughter, asking for help because they lost or broke their phone. It is likely to be a scam.

The messages often begin with 'Hi Mum' and could provide several different reasons why they are using a different phone number.

These scams are designed to trick you into handing over money or financial information to a fraudster. If you respond to these messages, the fraudster will eventually request help for some kind of emergency, such as needing a new phone or paying an urgent bill.

**If you get a message like this:**

1. Contact your child or relative through an alternative communication channel such as a phone call, video chat, or another messaging platform on a number that you always use for them.
2. Confirm their safety and ask if they indeed lost their phone. It is essential to have direct confirmation from your child before proceeding with any assistance.
3. Take your time and do not be rushed, fraudsters are using your emotions to make you fall victim.
4. Report the account immediately to WhatsApp and An Garda Síochána.
5. Block the suspicious account to prevent further attempts at communication.



**For more on fraud prevention visit [www.peoplefirstcu.ie/education/fraud-prevention](http://www.peoplefirstcu.ie/education/fraud-prevention) to reiterate again that it's coming from your Credit Union.**



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## **PORTLAOISE FATIMA INVALID FUND TABLE QUIZ**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October in De Bruns & Hume's Portlaoise at 8.30pm.

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

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September;** Bowls in St. Mary's hall at 3pm, new members welcome, tuition given.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>;** Board games and Cards

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>;** Cards in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

16 members of our club are joining Abbeyleix for a holiday to Clonakilty in October. For any further information call Sheila, PRO at 087-6204618.

### Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September;

**Top Score:** V. Kearns | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** M. Gowing | **2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** M. Downey | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** C. Brennan & T. Jacob

**1<sup>st</sup> Half:** C. Fitzpatrick | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** F. Keenan | **Best of 3 Games:** L. Hunter & L. McCartney

**Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> M. Flanagan | 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Murphy | 3<sup>rd</sup> P. Stephens x 2 | 4<sup>th</sup> F. Keenan | 5<sup>th</sup> M. Gowing | 6<sup>th</sup> T. Kearns 7<sup>th</sup> B. Kennedy



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

Classes in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays have finished for this season.

**Laois Alzheimer Society** have vacancies on their Community Employment Scheme for Home Care Workers/Carers. Applicants welcome from all areas in Laois. For further information please ring Ann Munnely 086-8372168.

**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 e-mail mary@breakcancer.ie

**Date for your Diary;** Niamh Kavanagh & Monasterevin Gospel choir in concert on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 8pm. Tickets €30. Booking at the Parish Office Monasterevin 045-525346 or Earley's Fashion shop 045-525395. Proceeds in aid of St. Peter & Paul's Church & Monasterevin Tidy Towns. Concert will NOT be live streamed on the night.

### RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

**St. Pio Mass;** A Special Mass to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of St. Pio will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Edenderry, Co Offaly. The Chief Celebrant will be Bishop Denis Nulty. After Mass the glove worn by St. Pio will be available to anyone who would like to be blessed. Everyone welcome.

**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;** An afternoon of reflection, led by Fr. Chris Alar MIC, acclaimed author of "Understanding Divine Mercy" and "After Suicide - There's hope for them and you", Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm, all are welcome. Also Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, first Saturday Fatima Devotions, led by Eddie Stones and team, starting at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch.



## PORTLAOISE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

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

Organised by Portlaoise Legion of Mary

Bus leaving Lyster Square Carpark at 9am sharp. Fare; €25

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## Keep On Forgiving



One day, Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Should I forgive him seven times?" I imagine that Peter thought he was being pretty generous to forgive someone seven times. I don't know about you, but I think I agree with Peter. To forgive someone seven times is be pretty generous. Guess what? Jesus didn't agree. Jesus answered Peter, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven."

Wow! Seventy times seven! That's four hundred and ninety times. I think that before I got to four hundred and ninety I would lose count. You know, I think that is probably what Jesus was trying to get Peter to understand and he wants us to understand it too. We shouldn't worry about keeping count of how many times we have forgiven someone - we should just keep on forgiving. Isn't that what God does? He doesn't keep count of how many times he has forgiven us. He just keeps on forgiving.

### PRAYER



Dear Father, we are thankful that you love us and forgive us without keeping count. Help us to love and forgive others as you have forgiven us.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**What is so special about the following sentence?**

**The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.**

ANSWER: It contains all the letters of the alphabet!

### PRAYERS TO SAY

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hearing. I enjoy listening to so many wonderful things. Please help me listen to your Good News too. Amen.

#### God Hear My Prayer

God in Heaven hear my prayer  
Keep me in thy loving care.  
Be my guide in all I do,  
Bless all those who love me too.  
Amen.



#### Guardian Angel

O Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me  
here;  
Ever this day,  
be at my side  
To light and guard.  
To rule and guide. Amen.



# Keep on Forgiving

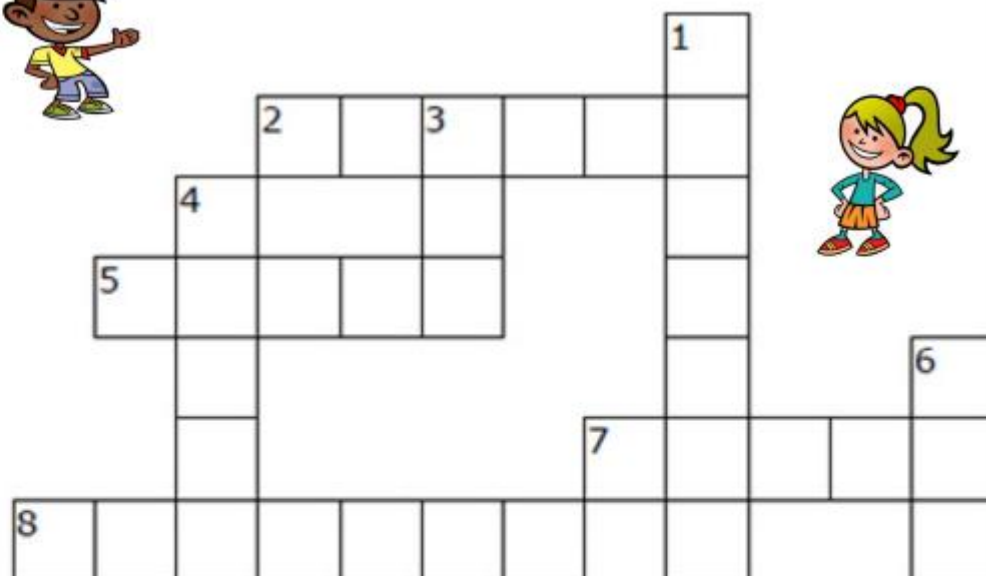
Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **Matthew 18:21-22**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The number of times Peter thought you should forgive.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ To seek an answer to a question
3. \_\_\_\_\_ To excuse someone for an offense
4. \_\_\_\_\_ To break one of God's commandments
5. \_\_\_\_\_ One of Jesus' disciples
6. \_\_\_\_\_ To reply to a question
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The number of times Jesus said we should forgive
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A male who has the same parents as another person

**SEVEN**  
**ANSWER**  
**FORGIVE**  
**PETER**  
**SIN**  
**ASK**  
**BROTHER**  
**SEVENTY-SEVEN**



BROTHER  
 SEVEN  
 ASK  
 FORGIVE  
 PETER  
 ANSWER  
 JESUS  
 SIN



## ACROSS

2. A statement given in reply to a question
5. The number that is equal to six plus one.
7. The Son of God
8. To pardon someone for doing something wrong.

## DOWN

1. A male with the same parents as someone else.
3. To break God's law
4. A fisherman who became one of Jesus' disciples.
6. To seek an answer to a question.





# Time to Think!

## *The Season of Creation*

Recent Harvest Thanksgiving Masses, in our local churches, have been a source of deep inspiration. The colour, fragrance, coupled with creativity and gratitude, offered hope and consolation for many people who gathered to celebrate this joyful season of harvest gathering. This week an estimated 300,000 people will visit the national ploughing championship, the largest agricultural event in Europe proudly hosted in Ratheniska Co. Laois.

The national ploughing championships celebrates rural Ireland, putting its best foot forward, celebrating the rich tradition and sense of accomplishment that is achieved with hard work, resilience and pride. Pope Francis is keenly aware that every season especially this harvest one is a sacred gift, a gift that we are invited to be active caretakers in a volatile but incredibly beautiful environment.

The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi). Christians are called to celebrate the joy of creation, as well as to encourage awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Local faith communities are called to promote respect and gratitude for the wonders of creation and to integrate environmental themes in our liturgies. After all, the Eucharist celebrates our communion not only with one another and with the Lord but also our communion with all of nature.

This year's theme is outlined on the international ecumenical website: "Let Justice and Peace Flow". The theme is inspired by the prophet Amos who cried out for justice. "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). And so Christians throughout the world "are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice."

Pope Francis emphasised the impact of climate injustice in his much acclaimed encyclical "Care for our Common Home". Collaborating with leading scientists and ecological activists in the drafting of the document, he spells out the problems caused by climate change due to global warming. These include melting glaciers, rising sea levels, acidification of the ocean and extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, rising temperatures, raging forest fires with resulting huge loss of life. Francis was particularly scathing of climate-change deniers and sceptics (they seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problem or concealing their symptoms). He unhesitatingly lays the blame on the model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which are at the heart of the worldwide energy system: in other words, human activity is the main cause of the problem. After the summer of 2023, it is no longer possible for people to deny climate change. Global warming is a reality and it is happening now. I believe it has finally seeped into our consciousness and can no longer be seen as a theoretical possibility that may impact our lives sometime in the distant future.

The wildfires in Greece, Canada, America and more recently in Hawaii were, according to scientist Cormac O'Raiheartaigh, "of unprecedented ferocity and frequency." There can be no disputing the cause of these blazing infernos, which wreaked havoc and caused so many deaths: climate change has created the conditions which precipitate such infernos.



For example, in relation to Hawaii, climatologists point out that climate change has exacerbated dry and hot conditions allowing wildfires to spread. As well as that, declining rainfall and rising temperatures have left the islands more susceptible to blazes. Record-breaking temperatures in southern Europe throughout the month of July also resulted in considerable loss of life. (Last summer alone there were over 61,000 heat-related deaths. The number will be considerably higher when statistics are published for this year). Thoughts and prayers for thousands of people who lost their lives as a result of flash flooding in Libya last week.

Scientists warn us that the extreme weather seen around the globe in 2023 will become the norm within a decade without dramatic action. This means severe weather episodes will multiply, sea levels will continue to rise, temperatures will soar and forest fires will continue to destroy towns and villages and claim more and more lives. Crop yields will decrease, forcing more and more people to migrate. Climate change will become more difficult to control and the associated costs will escalate. That is if we do nothing. I don't believe that is an option for us.

The only viable alternative is to reinforce policies, which aim to reduce carbon emissions until eventually we leave no carbon footprint. This will be costly and will demand sacrifice from everyone. Carbon taxes are not popular but industrial and agricultural sectors will have to accept them. Policymakers will also have to make alternative energy sources and means of transport financially viable. But to begin with, we need an 'ecological conversion', whereby, according to Pope Francis, "the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us." Celebrating the Season of Creation should inspire us to embrace an ecological spirituality wherein we realise that we are all connected to the web of life and "joined in a splendid universal communion".

*Thank you, O Lord, your love is boundless*

Thank you, O Lord, your love is boundless

Thank you, that I am full of you

Thank you, you make me feel so glad and thankful as I do

Thank you for all the grains of wheat

Thank you for all the bread we eat

Thank you for all the turf we gather

Thank you we will have plenty of heat

Thank you for all the ripe bananas

Thank you for orchards in the field

Thank you for all the new potatoes

Thank you for all the beans and peas

Thank you for all our gifts and talents

Thank you we share with those in need

Thank you I see your world has meaning

Thank you I know your spirit here

Thank you because you love all people, those both far and near.

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 30,700 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*



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HOSPICE

**HOSPICE**  
**COFFEE**  
**MORNING**  
Together with *Bewley's*

***Ireland's Biggest Coffee Day***  
***Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023***

***Have a cuppa in aid of Laois Hospice Foundation***

*This year Laois Hospice coffee morning takes place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September (or you can host on any day that suits you).*

*Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning sponsored by **Bewley's** and marks the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the campaign.*

*Can you host a coffee day in your home or with colleagues in work to raise much needed funds for Laois Hospice?*

*If you would like to host a coffee morning please contact;  
Mary Finlay on **087-2968433** or Jennifer McKay on **087-2945420**  
for supply of coffee.*

*All monies collected in Laois are spent on hospice services in Laois.*

***Why not drop into the Parish Centre, Portlaoise where there will be a coffee morning on 21<sup>st</sup>.***

*Host a coffee morning for Hospice -  
and if you can't host please donate.*  
***[www.hospicecoffeemorning.ie/donate](http://www.hospicecoffeemorning.ie/donate)***

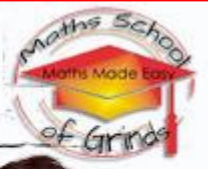
***Thank you for your continued support to  
Laois Hospice and remember  
every cup counts.***

*thank you* 😊





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## Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe

will host their Annual Tractor,  
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- Kids big wheely  
fun run



- Tuck Shop

- Raffle

RESCHEDULED DATE

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

**Registration at 1 pm**

**in Shanahoe National School**

**€20 fee**

Monies raised will fund sports and wellbeing  
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CAFÉ



THE ALZHEIMER  
SOCIETY OF IRELAND



Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 11am**

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

For further information please contact Ann Munnelly

086-8372168 | amunnelly@alzheimer.ie

or Grainne Roche Duff 087-6075037



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**LAOIS ALZHEIMER**  
Family Support  
Group Meeting



THE ALZHEIMER  
SOCIETY OF IRELAND



**Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 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 Munnally  
**086-8372168 | amunnally@alzheimer.ie**

Join us on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7pm**  
in **Shanahoe Community Hall**, where we will host our first Culture Night event.

Irish Dancing, Traditional Music and Poetry, performed by some very talented locals.

Follow us on Social Media

Set Dancing continues every Tuesday in Shanahoe Community Hall 7.30 - 9pm. All are welcome.



Culture Night is brought to you by The Arts Council in partnership with Laois County Council. Cúrsaíocht an Chomhairle Ealaíon Oibre Chultúr | lathair. | goimhsháir le Corraithe Chultúr Laoise

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**SHOWTIME 3:00PM**

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DATE

SUNDAY

**24<sup>TH</sup>**

SEPTEMBER



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



**Sr. Consolata  
Blackwell**  
Kilcock/Portlaoise and  
Cappamore



**Margaret Duggan**  
née McEvoy  
Dublin Road, Portlaoise  
and Ballybrophy

*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)



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**PLEASE NOTE**

Anniversary Masses included on memorial  
notices must be booked at reception prior to  
submitting your notice. Tel. **057-8621142**

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

*In Loving Memory of our Daddy*  
**KENNETH (Ken) CLEAR**  
44 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
52<sup>nd</sup> Birthday occurs 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.  
10<sup>th</sup> birthday away from home.



*Wishing you were here today, for just a  
little while, so we could say  
Happy Birthday Daddy  
and see your loving smile.*

*The only gifts today will be memories you  
left behind, of laughter, joy & happiness  
that echo in our minds.*

*We'll gaze upon your pictures,  
We'll think of you with love,*

*And hope you're doing fine in Heaven up above.*

*You were very kind and thoughtful, with a loving heart,  
When other people needed help, you always played your part.  
You're thought of every single day, whatever time of year,  
But somehow more than ever, now your special day is here.*

*No presents can be given and that's really very sad,  
But nothing will stop us saying "Happy 52<sup>nd</sup> Birthday" Dad.  
Each memory is shining bright and treasured dearly too,  
But memories will never take the place of someone as  
wonderful as you. May our friends and family in Heaven, hold  
you close and sing you a birthday song, we will be sending a  
million hugs and kisses, today and all year long.*

*Happy 52<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Daddy  
Forever in our thoughts*

*Lots of love Becky and Dylan*

**In Loving Memory of  
JEMEEL WALSH**

Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church this **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30pm.**



*Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently I gather and treasure them all,  
Unseen, unheard, you are always near,  
So missed, so loved, so very dear.*

*Loved and remembered by her husband  
Gerry, children Matthew, Alex and Sarah  
and extended family.*

*Rest in Peace Jemeel*

**In Loving Memory of  
PATRICIA O' BRIEN**

*Whose Anniversary occurs at this time*



*From your loving sister Mary and Jimmy  
and family.*

*May Patricia Rest in Peace*



## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

For A Wonderful Mum

In Loving Memory of

**ELIZABETH (Mary) McEVOY** née Ryan  
64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1941. 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday away from home  
occurs Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023



*On My Mam's Birthday in Heaven*

I'm remembering her and the phenomenal woman she was.

Her memory will live long in my heart.  
Happy Birthday in Heaven Mum, today on your birthday you are 82 years, on this very special day.

*Happy Birthday in Heaven Mum*

Your birthday arrives year after year,  
We always celebrate though you are not here,  
It's strange, but true and maybe sounds wrong,  
But I still sing you the birthday song.  
I sing it out loud as though you're still here,  
I smile at the memories and wish you were near,  
To see your face, to hug you once more,  
To hear your voice is what I wish for.  
I hope that you hear me, as I believe that you do,  
And know just how much I am missing you.  
Though years may pass, your memory will stay,  
As near and as dear as it is everyday.

*Thinking of you on your Birthday in Heaven Mum*

I have a gift, you cannot see, of heartfelt love and memories,  
This special gift, the angels bring,  
Is priceless though weighs not a thing,  
Carried through the sunlit skies,  
On wings of doves and butterflies,  
A loving wish wrapped tight with love,  
To one I've lost, living above.

*In Loving Memory of You Mum*

There is nothing so special on this earth,  
As a Mother's undying love,  
It's as precious as an ocean pearl,  
And pure as a snow white Dove.  
And although you are not here with me,  
No longer my earthly guide,

I can feel your love and warmth, forever here inside.  
I wish that we could have more time, that God had let you stay,  
forever would not be long enough, but I would take one day.  
Words cannot describe the loss I feel saying farewell to you,  
but Heaven chose to give you wings, and now it's time you flew.

*A Happy 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to My sweet Mother in Heaven*

I miss you everyday Mum  
Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end,  
They simply mean I'll miss you, until we meet again.  
Love you forever James xxx

Birthday remembrance Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. at 7:30am & 10am.

*May my Dearest Mother Elizabeth*  
*Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of SEAN O' REILLY

Borris Road, Portlaoise.

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 10.00am



There are some we meet in passing,  
and forget as soon as they go,  
There are some we remember with  
pleasure and feel honoured and  
privileged to know,  
You were that kind of person who left  
beautiful memories behind,  
And there are many days which bring  
fond memories of you to mind.

Sadly missed by his loving wife Nancy, sons Aidan and Noel and all his family, extended family & friends.

*Rest in Peace Sean*

## In Loving Memory of BETTY (Elizabeth) McNALLY

née McEvoy

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 10am.

*Mum, the light of your love will shine brightly forever in our hearts, until we meet again.*

*Dearly missed by all her loving family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Betty*

## In Loving Memory of THOMAS CARROLL

72 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm.

*The thoughts we held most dearly, are the times we spent with you, The laughs, the jokes and silly things, are memories fond and true.*

*Forever in our thoughts. Sadly missed by all his loving family, extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Thomas*

*To be forgiven,  
you must forgive*



**In Loving Memory of  
PETER CULLEN**

6 Oaklawn, Portlaoise. 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise, **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 11.15am.**

*Your hand we cannot touch, still we have so many memories of the one we loved so much, Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part, God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts.*

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

*May Peter Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN SUTHERLAND**

Abbey Crescent, Abbeyleix.

6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



*As we look at your picture,  
Fond memories we recall,  
Of a face so full of kindness,  
And a smile for one and all.  
Of a heart so full of loving,  
Caring and giving,  
Of a wonderful man,  
Who believed life was for living.  
We long to hear your voice once  
more, it echoes in our ears,*

*But we know, dear John, that you are resting in a place beyond tears.*

*Sadly missed by his daughter Jacqueline and son-in-law Liam.*

*Grandad; Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday,  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
So loved, so missed, so very dear.*

*Loved and sadly missed by Adam.*

*Rest in Peace John*

**In Loving Memory of  
CHRISTINE COUGHLAN**

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.



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

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

*Rest in Peace Christine*

**In Loving Memory of  
Our Dad**

**JOHN (BARNEY) BRENNAN**  
(38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.  
Died 18<sup>th</sup> September 1985.



*Dad, sometimes it's hard to believe that you have actually gone,  
Yet you've let us with an inner strength to build our lives upon,*

*You've also left good memories, which within our hearts we hold, that no one can ever take away,*

*For we treasure them like gold.*

**And our Brother**

**OLIVER PATRICK BRENNAN**  
Died 25<sup>th</sup> September 1963.

*You were a chosen child sent down from God above, chosen to fill our homes with laughter and with love,*

*You were a chosen child that gave us so much pleasure, Chosen above the rest, a precious, priceless treasure.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church for John on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30am and 10am. Mass for Oliver will be celebrated on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30am and 10am.

*Sadly missed by all their loving family and extended family.*

*May Barney & Oliver Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
THOMAS (TOMMY) DARGAN**

3 Abbeyleix Rd., Portlaoise.

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



*Gone are the days we used to share,  
But in our hearts you are always there,  
The gates of memory will never close,  
We miss you more than anyone knows,  
With tender love and deep regret,  
We, who loved you will never forget.*

*Loved and always remembered by Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

*May Thomas Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
ANNE HUGHES**

Oaklawn, Ballyfin Rd., Portlaoise.

4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 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.*

*Rest in Peace Anne*



## In Loving Memory of ANNE E CONROY

3 Rockdale, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Arles on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.

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

*Greatly missed by Noel, your loving  
brothers, sisters and all your  
extended family.*

*May Anne Rest in Peace*

## KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew  
**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

## In Loving Memory of CHRISTINE FARRELL

39 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.  
16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Church, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 12:30pm.

*You left behind some aching hearts that  
loved you most sincere, we never shall and  
never will forget you, Mother dear.*

Loved and sadly missed by her sons, daughters,  
daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren.

*May Christine Rest in Peace*

## HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

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



# 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 info. and bookings contact  
**Maura O'Brien 087-1210263**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88  
[www.joewalshstours.ie](http://www.joewalshstours.ie) | [info@joewalshstours.ie](mailto:info@joewalshstours.ie) | Reservations: 01-2410800  
Fatima Ltd T/A Joe Walsh Tours is bonded and licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation in Ireland - T0273 and  
T00804 - in compliance with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Package Regulation.



## 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)





We are so lucky in our parish to have so many dedicated people who volunteer in the ministries of the Church. There are a wide variety of ways to get involved, maybe as a reader at Mass, or even as an altar server for our younger parishioners. There are also some new ministry groups that will be formed in our Parish very soon, such as our reformed Funeral Ministry Team. We need people in all areas of our parish to help us make our parish a place for all.

There are a number of these ministries listed below and we would love to get more of you involved. If you are interested place tick one or more of the ministries and include your name, phone number and email address and we will be contact with you about upcoming training.

Please Tick



Reader at Mass	
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion	
Funeral Ministry Team	
Altar Server (open from 3rd Class)	
Play and Pray Group	
Baptism Team	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I give Portlaoise Parish permission to contact me in relation to the relevant ministry activities

**Please Return this Form to the Parish Office**





## Portlaoise Parish



## Results for 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

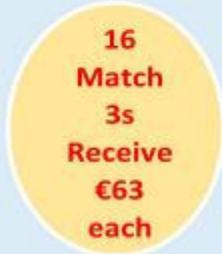


### No €16,000 Jackpot Winner

#### WINNERS

Matthew Lalor  
Kathleen Fogarty  
Pauline Hughes  
Jean Delaney  
Edward Crawley  
Two None Blondes  
Teresa Hibbitts  
Joan Fitzgibbon  
Marolin Cuddy  
Michael O'Connor  
Shirley Hearn  
John Coughlan  
Kevin Coss  
Dolores Mulhare  
Ava Hosey  
Laura Boyhan

#### MATCH 3s €1,000



#### PROMOTER

Richard Phelan  
Online Lotto  
Rocky Kehoe  
Brown's Shop  
Peter Ryan  
Peter Ryan  
Peter Ryan  
Nancy Fitzgibbon  
Greg Keenan  
Paddy O'Connor  
Brian Conroy  
Betty Phelan  
Declan Fitzpatrick  
Mary Costello  
Pam Killeen  
M Garrette

Follow Us

@PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us

portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €17,000

**Twenty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**  
Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 | Psalm: 102:1-4, 9-12  
Romans 14:7-9 | Matthew 18:21-35

## 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 be 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



**Join the**  
**- 6.30pm Saturday -**

# **ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH CHOIR**

**Where?**

**Saint Peter  
& Paul's  
Church**

**Who?**

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME  
TO JOIN**

**When?**

**First  
Saturday  
of the Month**

**{ THE FIRST PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE  
THURSDAY, THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER  
AT 6PM IN THE CHURCH GALLERY }**

**MORE INFORMATION IN THE PARISH CENTRE**