

## Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

At the Blessing and Official opening of Laois Partnership head quarters (the former St. Francis School, owned by the Parish) Msgr. John said 'Portlaoise parish are delighted to be associated with their new base on New Road and to be associated with their great work in Portlaoise and throughout the County. Work that aims to make Laois a better place to live by enhancing community life, combatting disadvantage and social exclusion and supporting enterprise development'. It is indeed a fitting continued use of a building that began its life as a place of care and education. Every success and blessing on their work.



*Photographs courtesy of Joe Conroy*

The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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





## The Cornerstone



What happens when we forget that our lives are a gift from God? What happens when we forget that humankind is God's creation? What happens when we forget that the planet we live on belongs to God?

Today's parable describes a landowner who leaves tenants in charge of his vineyard. But at harvest time the tenants refuse to pay their rent, failing to recognise the landowner's authority and killing the servants and even the son who are sent for the rent. The tenants appear to have forgotten that the vineyard belongs to the landowner. The tenants had come to believe that they could make up their own rules. They had forgotten that they were accountable. They had certainly forgotten that they had been given responsibilities and entrusted with stewardship.

God is still master of the 'vineyard', and we are the new tenants to whom the welfare of the vineyard has been passed on. The parable was originally targeted at the Pharisees, but for us too, the parable demands some degree of self-examination. We might think of ourselves as good people, but like the first tenants, do we constantly fight shy of accountability? Over the years we each develop our own individual code of conduct. Perhaps we begin to feel that as long as we are living by some kind of moral code, we no longer need to be accountable. We begin to imagine that 'being accountable', is just for those who go round getting things wrong. Living by self-made standards is all well & good, but if we do this, are we in danger of forgetting about the very high standards that God has set for us?

What happens when we forget that Christ is our cornerstone? When we make up our own rules with little thought for Jesus' teachings, the chances are we will fall a long way short of what God expects. Today's invitation is to raise the bar, step up to the mark, and recognise Christ as our cornerstone.

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**

Cian Thomas Delaney, Ashewood Walk.

**Who was baptised last weekend.**

**Bereavement Mass - Parish Church  
Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm**



This year our Annual Bereavement Mass will take place on:

**Thursday 2nd November (All souls)  
in the Parish Church at 7.30pm.**

Those who died in our Parish during the year and their families will be remembered at our Mass on 2nd November. A family member will be invited to light a candle in their memory. If we have a photo of the deceased it will accompany their name on the screen in the Parish Church.

Also there are parishioners who have lost loved ones, parent or siblings, and also natives of our Parish, whose funerals were celebrated elsewhere. If you would like them to be remembered by name at our bereavement Mass please give the details to the Parish Centre by calling in or email [michelle@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:michelle@portlaoiseparish.ie) (A photograph may also be displayed if you wish to provide one).



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A big thank you to Fr. Ciprian from the PATH committee for all of your help and interest in coming to Dublin last Saturday night, in helping the homeless and seeing the voluntary work that PATH does for our homeless friends.





# When is that all important date? Let's mark it on the Calendar!



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Wed: 9:30am - 5:30pm

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





# INFORMATION EVENING

on



# LYMPHOEDEMA

**Join Deirdre Cullivan here at  
The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre, Portlaoise  
for a talk on how to manage your Lymphoedema.**

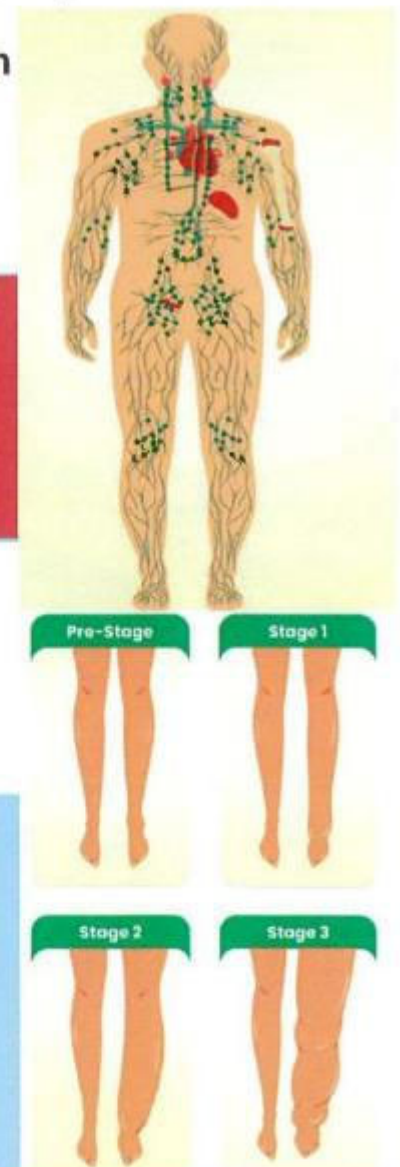
Deirdre is a Chartered Physiotherapist specialising in the management of Lymphoedema. Information on the night will be on self-care and education on managing this condition.

**Wednesday,  
18th October**

6.30pm

Booking Essential as places are limited

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING:**  
Cuisle Cancer Support Centre,  
Block Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
Tel: 057 8681492  
email: [info@cuislecancersupport.ie](mailto:info@cuislecancersupport.ie)  
[www.cuislecancersupport.com](http://www.cuislecancersupport.com)







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**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm.**

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The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church, **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners. Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm. All are welcome.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> October;** Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm. New members welcome

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October;** Club day with talk by John Sugrue

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>;** Cards in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm. New members welcome. Also chat tuition given  
Just to remind people there is a mind yourself day in Dunamais Theatre on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, talks been given at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm also on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October older person's council in Castletown 2 to 5 guest speaker Anna May McHugh with food and entertainment with Martin Delaney. Bus booked cost €8  
For further information call Sheila at 087-6204617

**Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Top Score:** Kit Farrell | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** N. Delaney & P. McEvoy | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** B. Brennan & Christy Fitzpatrick

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** L. McCartney & C. Gavin | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** F. Keenan | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** M. Dobbins

**Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> T. Gowing | 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Dowling | 3<sup>rd</sup> F. Gleeson | 4<sup>th</sup> K. Farrell | 5<sup>th</sup> T. Gowing | 6<sup>th</sup> P. McEvoy  
7<sup>th</sup> F. Gleeson | 8<sup>th</sup> M. Dunne



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.

**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.

**Variety Concert Cancellation:** Variety concert on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel is cancelled until further notice.

**P.A.T.H (Portlaoise action to homelessness)** are holding an Open Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in Hub 17, Portlaoise Plaza. R32 V97T. All welcome.

**Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal;** Annual meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise. New members welcome

### **RELIGIOUS NOTES**

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

**Rosary** will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm on the first Friday of every month.

**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.

**Monastic Vocations weekend for women** at St. Benedict's Priory, Cobh, Co Cork, 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October. For more information contact Mother Prioress 021-4811354 or email [cobhtyburnconvent@gmail.com](mailto:cobhtyburnconvent@gmail.com).

**Special Mass in honour of "The Little Flower"** will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Ballyadams, Co. Laois on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. There will be individual blessings with The Little Flower Bone Relic after Mass .





## Parable of the Tenants

The Gospel today is about one of Jesus' parables. It is a story about a man who owned some land. He planted some grapes on the land and then rented it to some other farmers who were to work in the vineyard and take care of it for him. Part of the agreement he had with these farmers was that they would give him a share of the crops.



When it came time to harvest the grapes, the landowner sent his servants to collect his share of the harvest. The farmers who had leased the land beat the servants and even killed one of them. They refused to give the landowner what was owed to him.

A second time the landowner sent servants, more than the first time, but again the farmers treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his own son, thinking, "Surely they will respect my son."

But when they saw the son coming, they said, "This is the landowner's son, let's kill him and take his inheritance."

Jesus asked the men listening to his story, "What do you think the landowner will do to those men?"

"He will destroy those wicked men, and rent his land to someone else, who will give him his share of the fruit at harvest time" answered his listeners.

In this story that Jesus told, the landowner represents God. God first sent men such as Noah, Moses, David, the prophet Isaiah, and others to tell people of his love for them and to call them to turn away from their wicked ways, but many would not listen. Finally, he sent His own Son, Jesus. You know what they did to him, don't you? That's right, they crucified him. God gave them a chance. He even gave them a second chance—and a third. But when they rejected His Son, that was their last chance. He is our last chance too—our only chance to have eternal life in heaven with him.

### Prayer



Dear Father, we thank you for sending us Jesus, your only Son. Help us to remember that he is our only chance to receive eternal life.

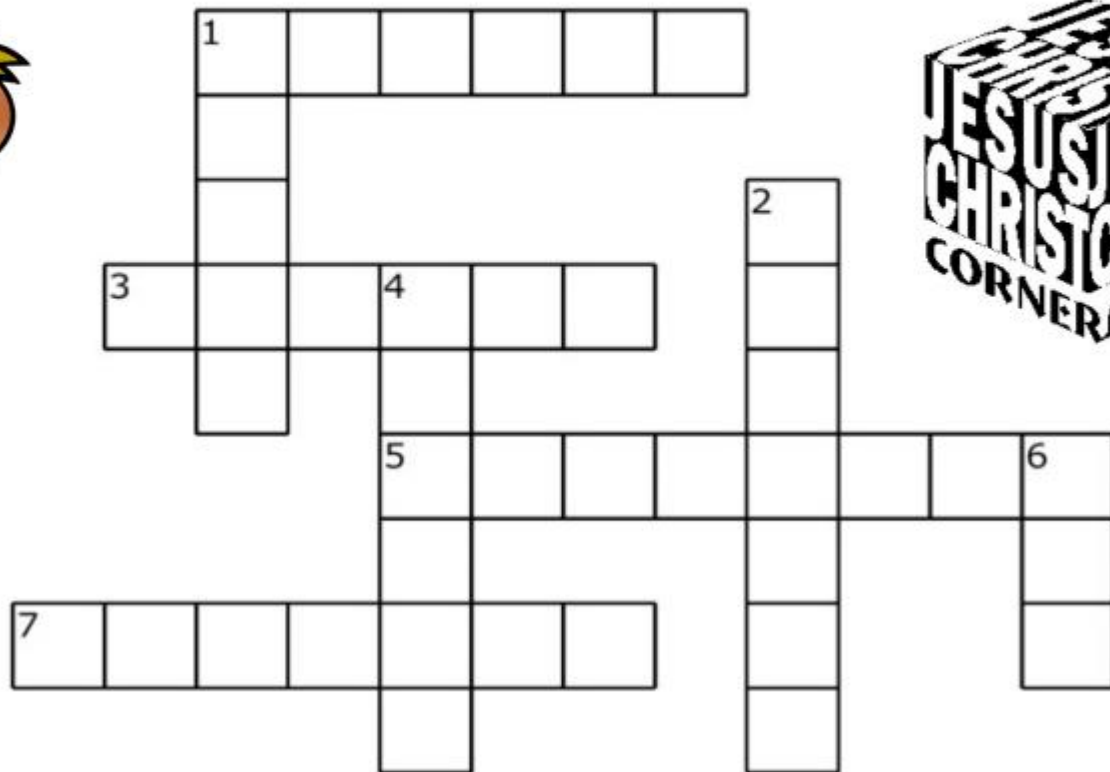
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





# The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son', he said. Matthew 21:37



## ACROSS

1. A person who works with plants and flowers
3. To put to death
5. People employed to perform services for another person
7. The time or season for gathering crops

## DOWN

1. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
2. A simple story teaching a moral or religious lesson
4. To hear or pay attention to something.
6. A parent's male child

**PARABLE  
SERVANTS**

**LISTEN  
SON**

**KILLED  
FRUIT**

**HARVEST  
FARMER**

## Morning Prayer

Thank you, O God, for this new day.

Help me in body and soul,  
In my work and play.

Bless all I do or think or say.

Let me do everything to please You, and to keep me from all danger and sin.



## Evening Prayer

O God, I thank You for being good to me.

Forgive me for anything I have done to displease You this day.

I am sorry!

Bless my father and mother,

My brothers and sisters,

All those I love,

And the children of the whole world.





# Time to Think!

## St. Francis... An Iconic Saint

Throughout this month of October, a universal Synod of the church, takes place in Rome. This is a historic moment, where discernment, reflection and pragmatic evaluations will take place regarding how best the church, can embrace the gospel message in 2023. This synod personally, is a time of deep hope and I invoke the spirit of Saint Francis to inspire those gathered, that it's OK to be different, because ultimately the gospel is a radical message of love inclusion and compassion. These are necessary and relevant values. Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us

Recently we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis. Here in Abbeyleix to mark the occasion we had the blessing of pets and animals. St. Francis is among the most beloved and most familiar of all the saints of western Christianity. He remains as popular today as he was in his lifetime. His love of animals and of God's creation have made him an icon of the environmental movement. His joy, playfulness, and child-like faith offer an alternative to a Christianity that often seems to take itself too seriously.

Francis was born in a time of rapid social change. Italian towns were growing and the monetary economy was emerging. Then as now, the church was finding it difficult to respond quickly to these changes. Francis grew up like many boys in urban settings. His father was a cloth merchant but Francis participated in a number of military campaigns and enjoyed the sorts of things that young men typically do. In his early twenties, he began to take a deeper interest in spiritual matters, and had a number of religious experiences that culminated in a vision of Christ, in which Christ told him to "repair my church."

Key to Francis' devotion to Christ was his desire to imitate him. A common phrase used of him was "naked to follow the naked Christ." When he finally organized his followers into an order (that was ultimately recognized by the church), he took as his model Jesus' words when sending out his disciples two by two. So as Jesus said in Matthew, they were dressed in tunic and sandals with a rope for a belt. They had no money or possessions. Imitation of Christ ultimately became identification with Christ. Near the end of his life, after he had given up control of the religious order he had founded and retreated into a life of solitude, he is believed to have received the stigmata - he bore on his hands and feet the wounds Jesus Christ received on the cross. It is the first recorded example of that phenomenon in the history of Christianity. His reception of the stigmata is evidence of his total identification with his Lord. It is also an example of another trend to which Francis gave impetus. Although the suffering of Christ was already an important focus of Christian piety by the time Francis came on the scene, his devotion to it helped make it wildly popular in the later Middle Ages.

Upon his election in March 2013, Pope Francis said: 'Some people want to know why I wished to be called Francis. For me, Francis of Assisi is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation.

Since then, the Pope's Franciscan "accent" has become increasingly evident. His manner of living is both faithful to the teachings of Jesus and illuminated by the spirit of the



"poor little man" from Assisi. The title of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment *Laudato si* is taken from the first line of St Francis' *Canticle of the Creatures* which is one of the best insights into the saint's vision for life. It is crucial to grasping how St. Francis understood the message of the gospel — and may offer a glimpse into Pope Francis' own vision for the world.

After his election as pope, it was revealed that Pope Francis had been the runner-up in the previous conclave in 2005 that elected Pope Benedict. But in 2013 it was generally thought that Jorge Bergoglio was too old to be considered again, and he must of thought so himself, because he bought a round-trip ticket from Buenos Aires to Rome for the election.

Yet, as the conclave proceeded, Bergoglio had to think again what being pope could mean, and what name he would choose if he were elected. By becoming Pope Francis, he managed to express in that name much of what he hoped to accomplish during his papacy. St. Francis of Assisi was synonymous with themes Pope Francis quickly made his own: He was devoted to the poor, he preached God's mercy, he sought to reform the church and he was passionate about caring for Creation. I pray, as we enter a new Season of late autumn, we all will be inspired to live simply and be nourished by the rich gift, which is life itself.

### Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;*

*Where there is hatred,*

*Let me sow love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon;*

*Where there is doubt, faith;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is darkness, light;*

*Where there is sadness, joy;*

*And all for thy mercy's sake.*

*O divine Master,*

*Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;*

*To be understood as to understand;*

*To be loved as to love;*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;*

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 30,750 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*



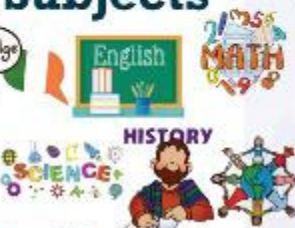
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**Rose Walsh**  
(née Bonham)  
Summerhill Lane



**Teresa Jasiulevic**  
Rathevan Close

**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  
PHYLLIS FITZPATRICK**

14 Borris Road, Portlaoise. Died 14/10/2004.  
19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30pm

Your resting place where no shadows fall,  
In a peaceful sleep you await us all,  
Your loving memory we will always keep,  
While you, dear Phyllis rest and sleep.

*Always remembered by your  
husband Mick, sons James, Thomas and Damien,  
daughter Theresa, daughters-in-law, son-in-law,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*Also remembering at this time*

*Her loving granddaughter  
LEONA CUDDY  
Meelick Road, Portlaoise.*

*May They Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of**

**ANN BERGIN**

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs on  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

*Also Remembering*

**KEITH BERGIN**

22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs on  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**NIALL BERGIN**

12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred on  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 10am

Sadly missed and remembered by her husband Tom,  
sons Darren, Jayson and Tristian, daughters-in-law  
Kimberley and Ashling and her sister Vera

*May They Rest In Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
PATTI DONELLAN**

Glenside, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.

*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 Patti*



**In Loving Memory of  
PATTI DONELLAN**

Glenside, Portlaoise.

*So many things have happened  
Since you were called away  
So many things to share with you  
Had you been left to stay.  
Every day in some small way  
Memories of you come our way  
Though absent, you are ever near  
Still missed, loved and always dear.*

*Sadly missed by the Jacob family, Glenside.*

*Rest in Peace Patti*



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*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOHN BYRNE**

St Martins, Ridge Road, Portlaoise  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023



*God saw you getting tired, and so it was to be.  
He put his arms around you and whispered,  
"Come to Me."  
With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away, and although we loved you, we could not make you stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating, working hands at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.  
Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving family.*

*Rest in Peace John*

*We Remember With Love*  
*Our Brother*  
**JOHN BYRNE**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise on his 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary



*Softly the leaves of memory fall  
Gently we gather and treasure them all  
Loved and remembered always by  
Phyllis, Raymond & Oliver.*

*We also remember our parents Jack & Annie and our sisters Anne & Maureen*

*May They All Rest Peacefully Together*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**ETHNA MORAN**

Glynnside, Portlaoise.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023



*Wherever I go, whatever I do,  
Memories of your love will always keep me near to you.  
Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving daughter Veronica,  
Rory and Molly Rose x,*

*Rest in Peace Mam*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*In Loving Memory of*  
**ETHNA MORAN**  
Glynside, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise



As we remember our Mother Ethna on the first anniversary of her passing (8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022), the Moran family wish to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful neighbours, relatives and friends for their support, and to all those who sympathised with us on our loss, also to everyone who attended Ethna's wake, funeral, or phoned, sent texts and left messages of condolences online and sent Mass Cards, it was gratefully received and very much appreciated.

Special thanks to the Priests of Portlaoise Parish and Rankins Funeral Directors.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgment as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

We would also like to remember our father Tom who passed away on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and again we would like to thank our neighbours, friends and relatives and thank you to all who cared for our father and a special thanks to Dr. Sinead Burke and the Cedar Clinic, the Kavanagh Family, Garvey family and Doheny family.

*Forever in our Thoughts*

Ethna's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 11.15am

*May They Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**LIAM (Bill) HORAN**

23 Grattan St., Portlaoise.  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11.15am.

*Daddy*

*We lost a father with a heart of gold  
How much we miss him can never be told  
He shared our troubles and helped us along.*

*If we follow his footsteps we will never go wrong.  
Always loved and missed by Hannah, Andy, Cian,  
Pat, Fiona, Jason and Rachel.*

*May Liam Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
EOIN FINGLETON**

*Sallins and formerly of Ballytegan, Portlaoise.  
Died 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019*



4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10am.**

*Never more than a thought away,  
Deep in our hearts you will always stay,  
Loved and remembered everyday.*

Sadly missed by his Dad, Mam, sisters Aoife and Ciara, brother Brian, nephew Cillian, nieces Aine and Eabha, extended family and friends.

*Rest in Peace Eoin*

**In Loving Memory of  
KATHLEEN DEEVY**

*24 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.*

*Whose 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023*



*It's an everlasting sadness, that  
you're no longer here,  
But every year on this day, we like  
to think you're near.*

*Your love for us was constant,  
Your devotion had no end,  
You filled our lives with sunshine,  
as a Mother and a friend.*

*So may you know forever, that to us you were the best,  
And may you find a gentle peace in sweet eternal rest.*

*In our hearts you will live forever.  
Because we thought the world of you.*

Anniversary Mass was celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10am.

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

*Also remembering her dearly departed husband Patsy at this time.*

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*

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

*59 Newpark. 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church this **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm**

*Your gentle face and patient smile  
with sadness we recall,  
You had a kindly word for each and  
died beloved by all.*

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

*May Billy Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARGARET CULLEN**

*Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10am.**

*Just a prayer from the family that loved  
you, just a memory fond and true,  
In our hearts you will live forever,  
Because we thought the world of you.*

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

*Rest in Peace Margaret*

**In Loving Memory of  
BERNADETTE KELLY**

*Parkside Apartments and formerly Capoley.  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023*



*God saw you getting tired and a cure  
was not to be, so He put His arms around  
you, and whispered; "Come to me".  
With tearful eyes we watched you,  
And saw you pass away,  
And although we loved you dearly,  
We could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands at rest,  
God broke our hearts to prove to us, that  
He only takes the best.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.**

*Sadly missed by her loving daughters Joan and Thelma,  
son-in-law, grandchildren and all her loving family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Bernadette*

**In Loving Memory of  
BRENDAN BOWE**

*77 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 5<sup>th</sup> October.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm.**

*Never more than a thought away,  
And those who have loved you dearly  
are thinking of you today, and always.*



*Love from your wife Eilish, sons Gary  
and Shane, daughter in law Katie, Gary's  
fiancée Ciara, grandchildren, brother, sisters  
and extended family.*

*May Brendan Rest in Peace*

*let His light shine.*





**Birthday Remembrance**  
**THERESA WHELAN**

23 Coote Street, Birthday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023



*Missing You on Your Birthday*

Those we love don't go away

They walk beside us every day

Unseen, unheard but always near,

Still missed, still loved and always dear

*Always in our Thoughts*

*Forever in our Hearts*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving husband Paddy and sister Olive.*

*May Theresa Rest In Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PETER LANHAM**

Late of Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise  
21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurred 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023



*We often come and visit you  
just to say hello*

*We touch the stone where we  
laid you, can you feel it?*

*we don't know,*

*we wonder can you see us,  
when we are at your resting*

*place*

*can you tell how much we miss  
you,*

*by the look upon our face,*

*we tell you all that's happened,*

*and just before we go*

*we tell you that we miss you, as if you didn't know,*

*and as we walk away from you feeling very sad*

*we turn around and take one more look,*

*and say we love you Dad.*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &  
Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10am*

*Always loved and remembered by his children,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren*

*May Peter Rest In Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOE LAFFAN**

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11.15am

*Will those who think of Joe today,*

*A little prayer to Jesus say.*

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

*May Joe Rest in Peace*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**STELLA PHELAN**

Green Rd, Portlaoise. Died 25/08/2023



The family of the late Stella Phelan  
would like to thank all our family and  
friends who attended the funeral  
Mass.

To Msgr. John and the Priests of the  
Parish, thank you for the beautiful  
Mass.

Thank you to Aishling Rohan for the  
beautiful singing and music.

A heartfelt thank you to the Palliative Care team at  
Portlaoise Hospital especially the staff at Emo Court  
Ward.

Thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for their  
professionalism with Stella's funeral arrangements.

*As it would be impossible to thank everybody,  
individually please accept this acknowledgment as a  
thank you and deepest gratitude to all.  
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for  
all of your intentions.*

*May Stella Rest in Peace*

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# W E L C O M E



*Pictured Above: Sr. Fran Donnelly, Fr. Paul Jaroszeski and Gil Gustafson from the United States in the Parish Centre last week with Fr. Nick.*

*We are always happy to meet members of our virtual congregation*



*Pictured Above: John Joe and Brid Griffin from Illinois on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the Parish Centre with Msgr. John*  
*Pictured left John Joe and Brid Griffin with Fr Simon & Fr. Nick*



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



*Photo taken in Jerusalem on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023*



## Our Lady of Aparecida – Patroness of Brazil<sup>1</sup>



Early on the morning of October 12, 1717, three Brazilian fishermen set out on the waters of the Paraíba River, which ran through their village. They were charged with providing the fish for the banquet that would be held a few days later in the village of Guaratinguetá on the occasion of the visit of the Governor.

The three fishermen had had no luck that morning; they had been fishing for hours without catching anything. They had almost given up when one of them decided to give it one more try. He cast his net into the river and slowly began to draw it in. There was something there, but it wasn't a fish... it seemed to be a piece of wood. When they pulled it out of the net, they saw that it was a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the head missing.

The fisherman cast his net into the waters once more, and pulling it in, he found another piece of wood which proved to be the statue's head. As if in response to strange instinct, he cast his net a third time into the river. When he tried to pull it in, he found it was full of fish. Now his companions cast their nets as well and likewise found themselves overwhelmed with an abundance of fish.

Over the course of the next few days, the three fishermen cleaned and re-assembled the statue, and they placed it in one of the houses. Soon after, news of the miraculous catch spread to the neighbouring villages, and day-by-day more of their countrymen came to honour the Blessed Virgin and pray the Rosary. They gave her the name "*Nossa Senhora da Conceição Aparecida*," that is, Our Lady of the Appeared Conception. As time went on, the crowds became so large that there was no longer room in the little hut. A small chapel was built, and later, in 1737, a larger one. Soon witnesses began to tell of many graces that were received from Our Lady, and of the many miracles that took place at the sanctuary.



In 1846 work began on a new church, which was completed in 1888. In 1904, the statue of Our Lady of Aparecida was crowned by order of Pope St. Pius X. In 1930, Pope Pius XI declared Our Lady of Aparecida to be the Patroness of Brazil.

### Consecration to Our Lady of Aparecida

Mary Most Holy by the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in your beloved image of Aparecida, spread infinite favours over all Brazil. I, unworthy to be counted among your sons and daughters but full of desire to share in the blessings of your mercy, lie prostrate at your feet. To you I consecrate my intentions, that they may ever dwell on the love that you merit; to you I consecrate my tongue that it may ever praise you and spread your devotion; to you I consecrate my heart, that, after God, I may love you above all things.

Receive me, incomparable Queen, you whom Christ Crucified gave to us as Mother, and count me among your blessed sons and daughters; take me under your protection; come to my aid in all my needs, both spiritual and temporal, and above all at the hour of my death. Bless me, heavenly helper, and through your powerful intercession, give me strength in my weakness, so that, by serving you faithfully in this life, I may praise you, love you and give you thanks in heaven, for all eternity. Amen.



<sup>1</sup> (Excerpt from the article *Three hundred years ago, October 12*. See: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/saints/10/12/our-lady-of-aparecida.html>).



"Ní Neart Go Cur le Chéile"

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## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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17

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Patricia Mulrennan  
Bridget Noonan  
Marie O'Brien  
Margaret Gibbons  
Angela  
Ambrose Larkin  
Pamela Muldowney  
Eileen Preston  
Eileen Preston  
Catherine Downey  
Trish Griffey  
Sarah Bowe  
Sharon Dempsey  
Mick Doheny  
Fiadh Dowd  
Michelle Duggan  
Holly Emma & James O'Brien

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Paul Dooley  
Greg Keenan  
Carmel Whelan  
Catherine Kearns  
David Tobin  
B O'Brien

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**Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000**

### October Collection for the Priests of the Parish

Envelopes for the October Collection for the priests of the parish are in the Development Boxes or in the Church porches. Thank you for your support.

### 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





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