



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catholic Schools Week 2024

21st - 27th January
"Serving Our Communities"

In December the Boards of management in our Catholic Primary Schools have been renewed. We are very grateful to the Chairpersons and members who have volunteered to serve for the new 4 year term. And also to retiring members who have served in the past. It is a great act of service to our Schools and communities.

Thank You



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community



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



Change of Heart

"Wanted:- Men and women willing to leave behind their old way of life and become fishers men."

Can you see job applicants queuing round the block? Would we respond to Jesus' call with the same immediacy as those first disciples? Probably not! Chances are we'd hesitate long and hard. A hundred and one questions would hold us back. What would being a disciple involve? Would we be up to the job? What would we have to leave behind? What would we have to give up? Would part time discipleship be okay ... after all we've got lots else to do! Would candidates be permitted to serve two masters, giving up one's own agenda is surely too much to ask!

There would be lots of questions we would ask, but sadly no easy answers. There is no one answer that is right for everybody. But the one important message for us today is that discipleship usually means a major shift in direction; a change that involves leaving behind things that get in the way of our relationship with God. It is left to each of us to decide what our particular mode of discipleship might be, and what stands in the path of our new direction. Our new direction has to start with some good hard soul searching, and a change of heart.

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.



Fáilte

**We welcome into our
Parish Community**

Aiden Johnson Wong,
Lions Gate, Maryborough Village

Ivy Rose Conroy
Marian Avenue.

Who were baptised last weekend.

Conversion of St. Paul 25th January

The great thing that we learn about God is that forgiveness and conversion are possible for all of us. Paul is portrayed as the greatest enemy of the earliest followers of Christ, but rather than smite him, or demonise him, Jesus instead takes his gifts of zeal and persuasion, and puts them to work for the Gospel.

An encounter with the risen Lord can do that for any of us. God doesn't give up on Paul, nor does God give up on us.



Prayer for Catholic Schools Week

God, our Father, we ask that you may help us walk in the footsteps of Jesus, caring for one another and for the earth, bringing justice, peace and hope wherever we may be each minute of our school day. We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Fri: 8:50am -5:20pm

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Thanks as always for your support

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Helen Keller

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with the
Joy of Singing

The Dawn of
SHANORÉ
GOSPEL CHOIR
has arrived!

Join us
Friday 9th Feb 2024
at 7:30pm
in St Bridget's Church
Shanahoe
Contact Martina on
087 7004903 for more info.



No 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois

Dear Parishioners,

St Vincent de Paul Portlaoise would like to thank you all for your extreme generosity during a very busy time over the Christmas period. Thank you to all who supported our Church collection weekend. Thank you to all who donated food, toys, and treats this year and to those who donated directly to our St Vincent de Paul shop.

We would also like to thank all the local businesses who once again showed incredible support for our charity. We would not be able to continue the work we do in the community without the very generous support we receive from you year on year.

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, we had several new families coming on board this year and a very high volume of calls to our helpline in the last few days before Christmas. We found this Christmas period particularly challenging but due to the kindness of people like you we were able to assist almost all these families.

You can be assured that this donation will be used in the Portlaoise area to support families who struggle with Education, heat, electricity, and food. We as a conference are committed to ensuring that any local family that may find themselves in an emergency situation will get the help they need.

Your donation will be vital in helping us succeed, and will make an incredible difference to people's lives.

Thank You
St Vincent de Paul Portlaoise Conference



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8 Week Programme

Beginning Wednesday

24th January

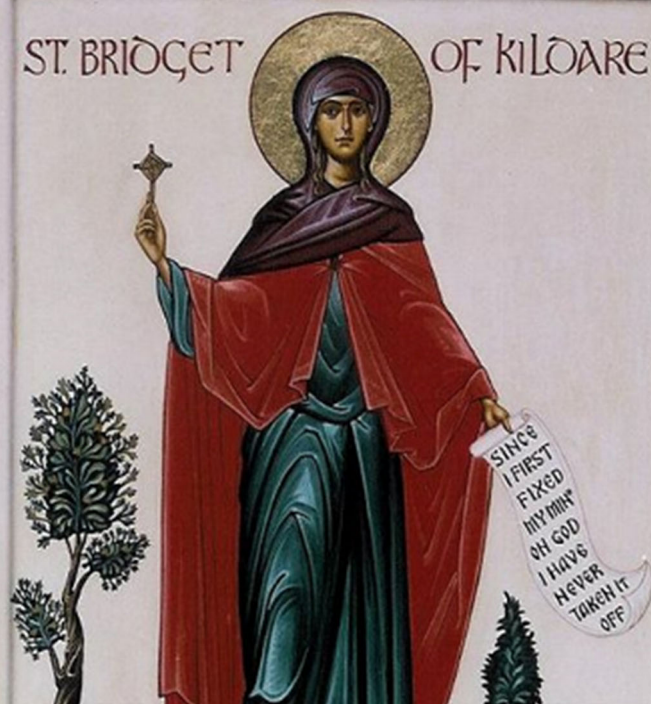
6.45pm – 7.30pm



**20 places are available
and booking is essential**
To register, please email
sports@laoiscoco.ie



ST. BRIDGET OF KILDARE



For Brigid 525-2025, learn and record a new

Hymn to St Brigid

Monday 29th January 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Dominican church, Newbridge

No audition – no sign-up – will begin with learning SATB lines and then record audio and video in the church which will be shared online and with media.

If you can sing in tune, come along! Spread the word!
linltr.ie/DominicansNewbridge

Sunday, 21 January–Saturday, 27 January



Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities



Catholic Schools Week 2024 runs from 21st - 27th January. The theme for this year is Catholic School: Serving Our Communities. Christian service puts faith into action. In Catholic schools, as we study and look to Jesus Christ as our role model and Teacher, we come to a greater understanding of the depth of Christian service. Jesus served every person regardless of creed, background, faith, social status or age. He put faith into action by showing all those around him how our Heavenly Father is compassionate, courageous and forgiving. Jesus didn't just talk about His faith; He lived it. We are called by faith to go into the world to share the love of God with all those we meet. Each person, at every age, is called to become Christ for another by serving every person with a humble heart and with a generous spirit.

Each year, the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week is designated as the day the school community celebrates the contribution of grandparents. Grandparents do so much to help raise and nurture their grandchildren. They play a massive part in helping to pass on the Christian faith to the next generation.

Prayer for Grandparents

Loving God, bless all our grandparents, those with us here today, and those who have gone to be with you. May they have courage and confidence to hand on your gifts of experience and knowledge of stories, songs and memories. May they continue to learn and grow with us day by day. Bless all of us gathered here today. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Enrolment

Scoil an Fhraoich Mhóir
together we learn



Scoil an Fhraoich Mhóir The Heath, Portlaoise, Co.Laois Junior Infant Enrolment 2024-2025 school year

The school is accepting applications for junior infant enrolment for the school year 2024-2025 from Monday 8th January 2024.

Application forms are available from the school website www.heathns.ie or from the school office.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **Friday 2nd February 2024**.

For any further information you may require please contact the school Principal Mr. David O'Brien on 057-8646658 or e-mail: office@theheathns.com

Ratheniska National School Junior Infant Enrolment September 2024/2025

The school are currently accepting applications for admission until Monday January 22nd 2024. Enrolment forms are available by e-mailing ratheniskans@eircom.net or Ratheniska National School, Ratheniska, Stradbally, Co. Laois R32HW50 or via our website, www.ratheniskans.ie. Please return Enrolment application to the office with a copy of your child's Birth Certificate on or before January 22nd.

Scoil Mhuire, Abbeylax on the Ballyroan Road, Abbeylax is accepting enrolment applications for Junior Infant classes from Monday 8th January until Friday 26th January 2024. Parents who wish to enrol their children for Junior Infants beginning September 2024 are invited to submit applications for enrolment during this period. We recommend pupils are at least 4.5 years old by September 2024. Enrolment forms are available from the school secretary at 057-8731051 or e-mail scoilmhuiresabbeylax@gmail.com, from MerryMornings Preschool, Gort na Nóir, JellyTots Playschool, Ballyroan Crèche and The Children's House. All completed forms must be returned on or before Friday 26th January 2024. Those accepted for enrolment in Junior Infants will be notified by post by Wednesday 14th February 2024. For any further information you may require please contact the school Principal Margaret Slevin or Fiona Hynes, Deputy Principal, on 057-8731051 during school hours.

St. Francis School Admissions: We are currently accepting applications until Friday 9th February 2024. St. Francis School caters to children with special educational needs between the ages of 5 and 18 years. We offer both a primary and second level programme within a holistic, caring, child centred environment.

Tobar an Léinn Raheen National School are now accepting enrolments for the academic year 2024-2025. (There are 23 places available in Junior Infants). Currently there are no places for the A.S.D classes but parents may apply and name will be put on a waiting list.

Enrolment forms are available from

•**School office**: 057 8731767 •**Email**: office@tobaranleinn.ie OR secretarytoblr@gmail.com

•**Website**: www.tobaranleinn.weebly.com

•**Address**: Tobar an Léinn NS, Raheen, Mountrath, Co Laois R32 R296

Please note the closing date for applications is January 29th 2024



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Maureen's 2024 Dance Programme

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Contact Catriona Slattery, Laois Sports Partnership on 086-7935234

8pm Mondays; Set Dancing at Seanchistin, Irej, Ballyfin, R32AY99

11am Tuesdays; Line Dancing at Seanchistin, Irej, Ballyfin, R32AY99

8pm Thursdays; Sean N6s Dancing at Seanchistin, Irej, Ballyfin, R32AY99.

All classes beginning on the week of January 15th 2024.

Contact Maureen for further information on 087-6482038 or e-mail seanchistin@gmail.com.

Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the parish centre for afternoon of friendship, fun and activities. New members always welcome.

Monday 22nd; Bowls in St Mary's Sports hall at 3pm. New members always welcome. Tuition given.

Wednesday 24th; Club at 3pm. New members always welcome.

Thursday 25th; Cards in Sue Ryder centre Kilminchy at 3pm. New members always welcome. Tuition given.

We are having our A.G.M. on the 31st of January. Any motions anyone wants to put forward bring them along on that day and put them to the committee. For any further information please contact P.R.O Sheila at 087-6204617.

Word of Thanks: On behalf of the PATH Committee (Portlaoise Action to Homelessness) we would like to send a Big Thank You to all who supported our Church Gate Collection. It is very much appreciated.

Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000+ family carers nationwide. Contact 057-9370221 and hear how we can support you or for more info visit www.familycarers.ie.

Graiguecullen Bingo; St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm. Jackpot on 46 numbers €1,610. Double number €740. Lotto €3,450

RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

Rosary in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath; Daily 2pm (Monday-Saturday) and Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

Reader required for Ratheniska Mass; Would you like to read at Mass for the month of February?

You may wish to share the month with someone else and read two Sundays each. Your help would be very much appreciated. Please contact Bernie 087-7602148.

Reflection/Meditation on Sunday's Gospel with Martina Lehane Sheehan (*Ruah* Retreats). Join us for free online weekly sessions to strengthen our hope and nourish the soul. Sunday Evenings 6.45pm. (Online via Zoom).

For further enquiries and bookings, e-mail info@ruahrest.com

Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community; Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat. St. Peter & Paul's Church Portlaoise on Saturday 27th January 10am to 1.30pm. Holy Mass at 10am. Confessions available. Retreat continues in Parish Centre from 10.45am to 1.30pm. (Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry) Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P. All welcome.

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THE FAITH

Portlaoise Parish www.portlaoiseparish.ie



Answering the Call

What do you do when there is an emergency? Let's say, for example, that someone has a serious injury or illness, and if they don't get help right away, they might die. What would you do? Right! You'd pick up the phone and call 9-9-9!

When you call 9-9-9 and tell the person who answers that you need help right away, it is their job to see that you get help. That person would never say something like, "I'm sorry, we are really busy right now, maybe some other time." No way! They drop whatever they are doing and make sure that you get the help you need.

In our Gospel today, Jesus was walking along beside the sea of Galilee preaching the good news of God when he made a call for help. He saw Peter and Andrew throwing a net into the water, because they were fishermen. He called out to them, "Come, follow me and I will teach you how to fish for people." You see, Jesus wanted Peter and Andrew to help him teach people about God's love for them. When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, they didn't say, "Not right now, we are busy fishing. Maybe some other time." No way! The Gospel tells us that they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus, Peter, and Andrew had gone a little farther when they saw James and John sitting in a boat mending their nets. When Jesus saw them, he called to them, "Follow me." They didn't say, "Not right now, we're busy mending our nets. Perhaps some other time." No, the Gospel says that they left their father sitting in the boat with the hired hands and followed Jesus.

Jesus is still calling for help today. He has called you and me to help him to bring others into God's Kingdom. Is it an emergency? It sure is! It's a matter of life and death! The Bible says, "Unless you repent, you will all perish." (Luke 13:3) Jesus has called us, what will we say? What will we do? I hope and pray that we will drop whatever we are doing and answer the call.



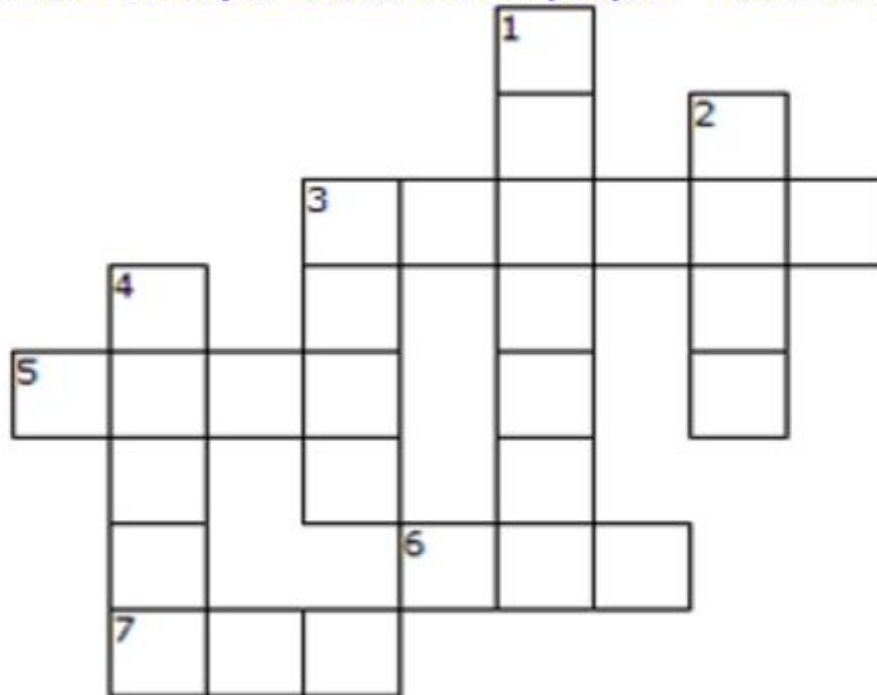
Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we want to be faithful in answering the call to discipleship.
We want to fish for people - just like Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Fishing for People

"Come, follow me," Jesus said,
"and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 14:17



ACROSS

3. To get behind someone and go where they go
5. A report of recent occurrences
6. An openwork fabric of cords used to catch fish.
7. A large area of salty water, smaller than an ocean.



DOWN

1. To area of Israel; the place of Jesus' ministry.
2. A small vehicle for travelling on water.
3. An animal which lives in water and is covered with scales.
4. The Son of God.

GALILEE

NEWS

JESUS

FISH

FOLLOW

SEA

BOAT

NET



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Catholic Schools Week 2024

21st - 27th January



"Serving Our Communities"

You are welcome to join
the Opening Mass for Catholic Schools Week
this Saturday 20th January at 6.30pm
in our Parish Church.

**Ceremony of Light
for all Confirmation
Candidates**



**Next Saturday at 5pm
In St. Peter & Paul's
Church, Portlaoise**

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**Beginning:
Saturday, 27th January
9.50am – 10.45am**

**Venue:
Laois Leisure Portlaoise
Cost: €60**



Places are limited and booking is essential.
Please email sports@laoiscoco.ie or call 057 8664058



WATER SAFETY CLASSES

WINTER/SPRING
PROGRAMME

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Keep you & your children safe in water * Train to be a lifeguard
Water Safety Ireland Certified * Bronze Gaisce Award Approved

Safety/Rescue Classes & National Pool Lifeguard Course

Senior Class: Adult & 16+ (10 weeks)

Beginning: Wednesday 24th January, 6.45pm – 7.35pm
(Additional Weekend Hours for
Pool Lifeguard ONLY in April 2023)

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise

Cost: Adults – Water Safety Classes – €75

Students – Water Safety Classes – €60

National Pool Lifeguard – €200*

National Pool Lifeguard Revalidation – €75*

*subject to level/previous participation
in Water Safety Laois classes



Places are limited and booking is essential.
Please email sports@laoiscoco.ie or call 057 8664058



CELEBRATING BRIGID 1500

Friday 2nd February to Tuesday 6th February 2024

Enjoy the St Brigid's Bank Holiday weekend at Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre

Arrive for Supper on Friday 2nd February and depart on Tuesday 6th February after Breakfast

Optional morning and evening sessions of prayer, crafts, reflection and music at Mount St Anne's.

Enjoy the extensive programme at Solas Bhride, the town of Kildare and surroundings. Return to Mount St Anne's for evening meal at 6.30pm



Facilitated by the Mount St Anne's Team

Cost: €450 includes morning and evening sessions, evening meal and B&B

€350 includes evening meal and B&B only

Booking/Enquiries to secretary@mountstannes.com or by phone 057-8626153

Monday 5th February 2024 – Walk the Pilgrim way with Monasterevin Parish from St Brigid's Shrine, Mountrice to Sts Peter & Paul's Church, Monasterevin (approx. 6km)

For details, see Monasterevin Parish Website <https://www.monasterevinparish.ie/>

www.solasbhride.ie www.brigid1500.ie



Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre on Tuesday, January 16th.

Top score: Bridie Kennedy
1st Lady: Breda Fitzpatrick
2nd Lady: Paraic Dowling
1st Gent: Angela Brennan
2nd Gent: Leslie Hunter
1st Half: Mary Dunne & Freda Gaynor
2nd Half: Christy Fitzpatrick & Nora Delaney
Raffle: 1st Catherine Galvin,
2nd Bridie Kennedy,
3rd Freda Gaynor,
4th Margaret Flanagan,
5th Theresa Mulhare.

Whist continues every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo,

25th February 2024.
€799.00 pps.

Price includes 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch/Snack on 2 days. Afternoon Tea at Ashford Castle. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Cong. Single supplement enquiry.

Contact Patricia or Natali on 094 9006426 or 087-1890236 or email

knockpilgrimimages@gmail.com.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 18th – 25th January

The theme of this year's week of prayer for Christian Unity is **'You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself'**. This theme comes from the story of The Good Samaritan, a story that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. Jesus told this story in response to a question 'Who is my neighbour?' It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.





Time to Think!

The Last Priests of Ireland

Ardal O' Hanlon, played one of the most famous fictional priests of all time as Father Ted's lovably dim Dougal McGuire. He was hilarious, but there was always more to Ted than laughs. Dosed with absurdity, salted with satire, the sitcom opened a window into the Irish soul. O'Hanlon presented an absorbing documentary recently about the decline and perhaps extinction of the Irish clergy. But the documentary has the broader objective of placing the priesthood in the context of the long history of Irish spirituality. The conclusion is that the hegemony of priests was but a passing phase.

The number of priests and members of religious orders in Ireland has dropped by 70% since 1970. In the past three years more than 25% of all priests in Ireland have died. The average age of priests has risen substantially in that time; it is now well above 70. Add to that problems of health and morale, and you have a serious difficulty with staffing, to name just one. I currently hold the responsibility as parish priest of three parishes. Clustering parishes has become the norm. In our diocese many clergy generously continue holding active posts of responsibility well into their 80s. I often marvel at these elderly priests being so selfless despite the burden that comes with old age. However, does the institution think it is acceptable that this responsibility is inflicted on such men to be acceptable?

The volume of work has grown, but the numbers available to do it have declined. Statistics and anecdotal evidence could be multiplied, but it is unnecessary. This situation did not develop overnight. A substantial decline in vocations began as far back as thirty years ago. There was no shortage of voices calling for action, for a review of the way that we are church, for the training and empowerment of lay-people, for the creation of structures of dialogue, participation, and subsidiarity. In response, some wagged a finger in reproof, saying, 'God will provide'. That was to evade the issue, and the decline continued. Regrettably, little of the above was done. A crash landing, therefore, seems more likely than a soft one. If you don't learn lessons the easy way, you are taught the hard way. If you don't take the initiative, you will be boxed into a corner by circumstances beyond your control, and with no room for manoeuvre. If you don't reform, you precipitate a revolution – or a collapse.

Perhaps it is providential. The model of church – that is to say, the particular way of being the church – we have lived with in Europe for centuries is on its last legs and, most likely, will collapse. What will follow? It is impossible to know, and speculation about the future usually gets it wrong. What may emerge will be a new model of church, more democratic and less hierarchical, more charismatic and less structured, more lay and less clerical, smaller and less concerned with numbers. Out of that, a new understanding of the Christian faith may also emerge. In much of the world, the Catholic Church turned the faith into a control system. That was to repeat the Pharisees' mistake, and to miss the point that Jesus was trying to free people from that. If the faith is seen as prophetic and motivating, focusing on relationships, enabling people to realize their humanity, it will be true to itself and



welcomed. Otherwise, it will wither, and have to await a better day.

Few priests does not mean no priests – rather it may mean moving to a different understanding of priesthood – one where the emphasis is on empowerment and enablement and getting local eucharistic communities to take responsibility for managing themselves, with all that means – in which case we may not need so many priests. Yes, no reason why we can't have married priests – let's face it – we had them before – but not to simply prop up the existing system – as part of the next phase of development which our Saviour wills.

It means quite a few changes both theologically as well as pastorally, which it is understandable that some priests (and even more Bishops) will find difficult – but now is the time to start thinking, planning and preparing. We have plenty of examples from earlier periods in the Church to draw on. But this does not mean turning the clock back – rather taking the learning and applying it to the present and future. "God gave us brains – and he expects us to use them!"

In my opinion, this continued disconnect from lived reality is at the heart of the so-called "vocations crisis". Reality is where the Truth lives – and a male, celibate, hierarchical priesthood no longer rings true. In the words of Paul Brady, it is "trying to reach the future through the past!"

Yes, we need "priests", but a reimagined priesthood, freed from the shackles of history. A priesthood where people who are trained in spirituality and an understanding of the Gospel message, who are willing to work in their community as facilitators at community gatherings to celebrate "Eucharist", a celebration of the universal presence of a loving God, to forgive, to heal, to mourn. These people would be drawn from their own community of faith, not separate from, nor above it (celibacy and gender exclusivity are weapons of power and authority)

As a Church, we need to step into the deep, to ask the pertinent questions, to have the ears to listen to the prophetic voices of our time. We are weighed down by so much historical baggage – we need a new freedom. I hold firm in the hope that Christ continues to be present and available to us all. His promise "I am with you always"

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,600 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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May the road rise up to meet you.

*May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of
His hand.*

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



Christopher (Chris) Reddy
Portlaoise & Terenure



Sheila Prone
(née Brady)
Woodgrove Portlaoise
& Ballyfermot



Jim McCloskey
Well Road Portlaoise



Patrick Kavanagh
Derry Portlaoise & Belgium
(Died in Belgium during the
week)

*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



In Loving Memory of
*A Cherished Husband,
Father and Grandfather*



WILLIAM (Willie) O' REILLY
28 Lakeglen, Mountmellick Rd. Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 24th January 2024



*A shadow walks beside us, forever by our sides
Always there beside us since the day you died
Today's the anniversary of the day that
we lost you
And for a time it felt as though our lives had
ended too
But loss has taught us many things
and how we face each day
With hope and happy memories to help us
on our way
And though we are full of sadness that you are
not longer here
Your influence still guides us and we still feel
you near.
What our family shared will never die because
it lives within our hearts
Bringing strength and comfort while we
are apart*



**Very sadly missed by your wife Anne, your sons
and daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law
and grandchildren xxx**

Rest in Peace William

*If we have **died** with him
then we shall **live** with him*
Timothy 2:11

In Loving Memory of BRIDIE DOODY

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurred 15th January 2024.



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

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

*Sadly missed by her
nieces and nephews.*

Rest in Peace Bridie

In Loving Memory of MARY KELLIHER

Newpark, Portlaoise.

30th Anniversary occurs 26th January 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 27th January at 6.30pm.

*Loved and always remembered
Órlaith, Patrick & families*

May Mary Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of FRANCES DUNNE

Late of Silverdale, Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise who died on
14th January 2010. 14th Anniversary of a dear sister and best friend.



*To hear your voice, to see your smile,
To sit and talk to you a while,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.*

*Loved and remembered always Chrissie,
Yvonne, Trevor, Jack & Aine xxxxx*

May Frances Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of PADDY O' BRIEN THE PROPHET

2 Millview, Portlaoise. 7th Anniversary occurs 20th January.



*No words can tell, no tears express,
The love, the loss, the emptiness,
You are not just a memory or part of
the past,
You are ours to remember as long as
life lasts.*

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

May Paddy Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of EOIN DOOLEY

Brittas Mountmellick.

10th Anniversary occurs 31st January 2024.



*We thought of you today, but that is
nothing new, we thought of you
yesterday and will tomorrow too,
We think of you in silence and make no
outward show, for what it meant to
lose you, only those who love you know,
Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,*

It's the heartache of losing you, that never goes away.

*Treasured memories of a loving son, brother and father,
missing you always, love Mam, Dad, Diarmaid, Grainne,
Sarah, Eileen, daughter Molly and your extended family.*

Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Mountmellick, Saturday 27th January at 7:30pm and Sunday 28th at 11am, and in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise at 11:15am on Sunday 28th January.

May Eoin Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of JIM (JAMES) BONHAM

Raheenabrogue, Ballyroan, Co. Laois



Jim's brothers and sisters would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those who sent their condolences following Jim's recent passing, especially those who attended Jim's wake and funeral Mass, also sent Mass cards and messages of sympathy.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to the celebrants, to Fr. Paddy Byrne and Fr. Petru Medves, also a special word of thanks to the Parish choir, Eamon Kelly funeral directors and also the wonderful staff of St. Vincents Hospital Mountmellick.

Jim's family would like to thank Professor Tim Lynch, Mater Hospital, Dublin who looked after Jim's Parkinsons.

Jim's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyroan on Sunday 28th January at 9.30am

Rest in Peace Jim xxx

*Jesus,
remember me
when you come
into your kingdom*

Luke 22:42

**In Loving Memory of
DICK (RICHARD) SIDES**

6 Ridge Road, Portlaoise . Died 19th January 2023
Remembering Dick on his 1st Anniversary



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church this
Saturday 20th January at 6.30pm
*Your presence we miss,
Your memories we treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.
Sadly missed and always remembered by
his living family*

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raith A Anam

**In Loving Memory of
RICHARD ANDERSON**

Late of 37 Upper Beladd, Portlaoise
5th Anniversary occurs on 19th January 2024



In Loving Memory of a Special
Husband

Husband, you were my world
you meant everything to me
The love I have for you now will last
eternally

I miss your warmth, I miss your
strength

I miss your lovely smile,

I wish I could see your face again even for a little while.
Thank you for your devoted love that helps me through
each day

And for all the precious memories that will never fade
away

I hope that you have felt at peace since we said goodbye
In my heart I know that we will be together again in time.

Always loved and missed by your loving wife
Cecilia and family

May Richard Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL MORRIS**

Colliers Lane, Kilminchy, Portlaoise



The Morris Family would like to
express their sincere gratitude to all
who sympathised with them both online
and in person in huge numbers at the
time of Michael's departure from this
life, we would like to thank the retired
Garda Siochana who formed a Guard of
Honor in the Church grounds and to all
those who attended the funeral home
and Requiem Mass either in person on the Parish
webcam and to those who sent Mass cards.

Sincere thanks to the nursing staff and medical staff in
MRH Portlaoise and to the Palliative Care team, for all
their assistance and kindness to Michael in his final days.
A special thanks to Msgr. John Byrne for celebrating the
Requiem Mass and to the Priests of the Parish for all
their support to the family.

Thank you to Heather Fogarty for providing such
beautiful music at Michael's Mass. Thank you to Michelle
& the staff of the Parish Centre for their invaluable
assistance.

Many thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode of
Keegan Funeral Directors, Portlaoise for the most
professional and compassionate manner in which they
carried out Michael's funeral arrangements and also to
the gravediggers for preparing Michael's final resting
place.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone
individually please accept this acknowledgement as an
expression of our deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Michael's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday 22nd January
at 10am.

*May Michael's Forever Gentle Soul
Rest In Peace.*

MONTH'S MIND

**In Loving Memory of
ELLEN COSTIGAN (née Doyle)**

Clonad, Portlaoise/
Ballymoheen, Clonakenny, Roscrea



Month's Mind Mass for Ellen
will take place on Saturday
3rd February at 7pm in
St. Fintan's Church, Raheen.

*Ní imithe uainn, ach
imithe romhainn.*

Much loved and sadly
missed every day by your family and friends.

May Ellen Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of PHYLLIS MONAGHAN

Highfield Meadows & formerly Dublin
2nd Anniversary occurs 22nd January 2024



*Time slips by and life goes on but
from our hearts you are never gone
We think about you always,
we talk about you to
We share many memories but
we wish we still had you.*

*Missed every day
Your heartbroken husband
Noel, your children Gerard,*

*Carol, David, Pamela, grandchildren and your
precious great grandchildren*

Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Church on Sunday 21st January at 12.30pm.

May Phyllis Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of MAY & FRANK WHITE

Late of 26 Newpark, Portlaoise.

May's 1st Anniversary occurred 17th January 2024.
Frank's 2nd Anniversary occurred 16th January 2024.



Anniversary Mass
will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Sunday 21st January
at 10am.



*I miss you both in so many ways
I miss the things you used to say
And when old times I do recall*

Its then that I miss you both most of all

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by Mary

Rest in Peace Mary & Frank

In Loving Memory of ANNE GING

70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
17th Anniversary occurs 25th January 2024.



*Missing you is a heartache that will
never go away, you are always in our
thoughts and live forever in our hearts.*

*Loved and remembered today and
everyday, by your loving son Liam,
daughter Helena and families.*

May Anne Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of MARY M'EVOY

Late of 104 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
22nd Anniversary occurs 19th January 2024.



*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.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again*

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

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

*We also remember Mary's husband Alo, her sons,
her two sisters, Alice and Esther and Mary's
grandson Daryl Dargan at this time.*

Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of VERA AND NEVIN BREEN

Formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

Vera's 12th Anniversary occurs 27th January 2024
Nevin's 6th Anniversary occurred 19th January 2024



Anniversary Mass
will be
celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on
Wednesday 24th
January at 10am



*Missing you is a heartache that will never go
away,*

*You are always in our thoughts and live forever
in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all
their loving family and friends.*

May Vera and Nevin Rest in Peace

You are the

Light

Of the World



**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN WALSH**

**118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 21st January 2024**

Martin's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 21st January at 12.30pm.



A whisper on a January
evening,
You heard a gentle call,
You took the hand of Jesus
and gently left us all.

*Deeply loved and sadly missed
by your ever loving wife Margaret, son Joseph,
daughters Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia and
Colette, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

Also remembering Martin Jnr and Anthony
at this time.

Rest in Peace Martin

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN BOSCO GRANT**

**Colt, Ballyroan Portlaoise
1st Anniversary occurs at this time.**

1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Fintan's
Church Raheen on Saturday 27th January at 7pm.



*A Limb has fallen from the
family tree
It's lonely here without you.
We miss you more each day
For life is not the same to us
Since you were called away*

*To your resting place we visit
Place flowers there with care
But no one knows the heartache
When we turn and leave you there.*

*Loved missed and remembered everyday by your loving
mother Kathleen, sons Dylan and Callum, brothers
Martin, Carol, Michael, Cathal, P.J. your sisters Sheila,
Nicola, Cathariona and Annette, brothers in law
Tommy, John and Enda, sisters-in-law Geraldine,
Deirdre, and Lisa, nieces and nephews & grandchildren*

May John Bosco Rest In Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARY LALOR**

Ballycarroll, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 22nd January 2024.



**Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in the Church of the
Assumption, The Heath, Sunday
21st January at 9.30am.**

*"Those we love we never lose,
for always they will be,
Loved remembered, treasured,
always in our memory"*

**Sadly missed and always
remembered by Paddy, Patricia,
Jennifer, Seamus, Carol, Padraig
Mary and families.**

*"Our thoughts are ever with you, though you have passed away,
And those who have loved you dearly, are thinking of you today.
Your memories are so precious, your presence missed so much,
Forever remembered and missed by all of us".*

**Also remembering Paddy's parents Ellen & James Lalor
whose anniversaries occur around this time.**

Rest in Peace Mary

I am still here

**Just because you cannot see me
Does not mean I am not there
Just because I am in heaven
Does not mean I do not care**

**I often see you crying
You often call my name
I want to hold you tight
I want to ease your pain**

**Its easy for me
For I know heaven is real
If you knew the truth
How much better would you feel**

**One day we will meet again
But only when the time is right
When you step out of the darkness
I will be standing in the light**

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
18th January 2024



No €14,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Cil Scully
Olivia Whelan
Mary Behan
Mary Carroll
Kevin & Bridget O'Keeffe

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Mary Flanagan
Lily Whelan
Browns Shop
M Farrell
Anne O'Keeffe



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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



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only Tel: 0852134285

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Kathleen Sherry safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley

Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church and the Heath Church are live streamed on our website



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5, 10.

Psalm 24:4-9

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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)

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- * Essential Oils/Incense
- * Happy Days Soy Candles, made locally in Portlaoise
- * Inspirational Books and Gifts
- * Sacred Art items for your home
- * Bibles & Spiritual Books for adults and children



Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

At The Parish Centre

057 862 1142

www.portlaoiseparish.ie