

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**  
**link  
up**

**28th January 2024**

**Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

**SAINT BRIGID FEAST: 1ST FEBRUARY  
ABBES, PATRONESS OF IRELAND  
AND PATRONESS OF OUR DIOCESE**

To celebrate the Feast of Saint Brigid, join Bishop Denis  
in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow on 1st February  
at 7.30pm for the Evening Prayer.



**PRAYER TO SAINT BRIGID**

YOU WERE A WOMAN OF PEACE.  
YOU BROUGHT HARMONY WHERE  
THERE WAS CONFLICT.  
YOU BROUGHT LIGHT  
TO THE DARKNESS.  
YOU BROUGHT HOPE  
TO THE DOWNCAST.  
MAY THE MANTLE OF YOUR  
PEACE COVER THOSE WHO ARE  
TROUBLED AND ANXIOUS,  
AND MAY PEACE BE FIRMLY  
ROOTED IN OUR HEARTS  
AND IN OUR WORLD.  
INSPIRE US TO ACT JUSTLY AND  
TO REVERENCE ALL GOD HAS  
MADE. BRIGID YOU WERE  
A VOICE FOR THE WOUNDED AND  
THE WEARY. STRENGTHEN WHAT  
IS WEAK WITHIN US. CALM US  
INTO A QUIETNESS THAT HEALS  
AND LISTENS. MAY WE GROW  
EACH DAY INTO GREATER  
WHOLENESS IN MIND,  
BODY AND SPIRIT.  
AMEN.

**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)**





**St. Brigid**



**Thursday  
1st February  
Patroness of our  
Diocese**

St. Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care for the sick. She was born c.454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her

but she insisted in consecrating her life to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524. The St. Brigid's Cross was used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith. Along with Saints Conleth and Lazarian, Brigid is Patron of our Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

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

**Monday to Thursday:** 7.30am & 10am  
**Friday (First Friday):** 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm  
**Saturday:** 10am

**Sunday**

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

**Sunday:** 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

**Sunday:** 10am

**CONFESSIONS**

**Feast of St Blaise**

**The Blessing of Throats**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. In a ritual dating back to the 17th century, the blessing was originally made by touching the throat with two crossed candles.

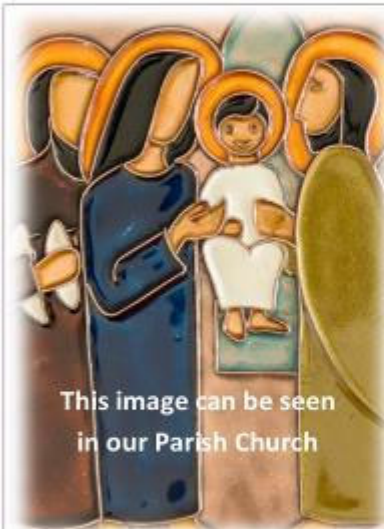
**BLESSING OF THROATS**

Next Saturday (3rd Feb) is the Feast of St. Blaise. Blessing of Throats will take place after 10am Mass in the Parish Church.



**The Presentation  
of the Lord  
Friday 2nd February**

Simeon had waited all his life to see Jesus. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would live long enough. Seeing Jesus satisfied Simeon's life. We are prompted to ask what would satisfy us in our lives. Are the goals we set worth a lifetime of



This image can be seen  
in our Parish Church

wanting, as Simeon's was?

Candlemas Day occurs 40 days after Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas cycle.

**Blessing of Candles at all Masses in the  
Parish Church next Friday.**



**We welcome into our  
Parish Community**

Rose Anna Booth  
The Heath

**Who was baptised last Sunday.**



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Tues: 9:00am -6:50pm    Fri: 8:50am -5:20pm  
Wed: 9:00am -5:30pm

Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic



Lift your Heart  
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  
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087 7004903 for more info.

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for a diocesan celebration of*

## Evening Prayer on the Feast of St Brigid

With Fr Liam Lawton & the diocesan choir

Marking the beginning of a year  
commemorating St Brigid and her legacy 1500  
years after her death.

**Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow  
1 February 2024 at 7:30 pm**



Kandle.i





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email: [info@cuislecancersupport.ie](mailto:info@cuislecancersupport.ie)



## **Mondays**

### **MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME**

11.30am-12.30pm  
6 Week Course  
Booking Essential

### **EXERCISE CLASS**

Gentle strengthening  
exercise for cancer patients  
12.45-1.30pm  
Places Limited  
6 Week Course

### **CREATIVE ARTS CLASS**

12th February  
(6 Weeks)  
Booking Essential  
2.15pm-4.15pm

### **COUNSELLING**

By appointment only

### **SUPPORT NURSE AVAILABLE**

By appointment  
only

### **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

## **Tuesdays**

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

10.30am-11.30am  
Date to be

### **MINDFULNESS FOR MEN**

11.45am-12.30pm  
13th February

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

Spaces Available.  
Booking Essential  
13th February

### **GARMENT FITTING**

Serra Nova  
Tuesday, 5th March  
Sleeve/Leg Garments  
For Lymphoedema  
Booking Essential

### **LOOK GOOD**

### **'FEEL BETTER'**

Tuesday, 9th April

## **Wednesdays**

### **CHAIR YOGA**

10am-11am  
7th February  
11.20am-12.20pm  
Booking Essential  
6 Week Course

### **ART**

From 2-4pm  
7th February  
8 Week Course

### **BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING**

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### **REFLEXOLOGY**

### **REIKI**

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## **Thursdays**

### **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 Stanford  
University)

10am-12 noon  
Booking Essential

### **MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE**

11.30am-12.30pm  
8th February  
Booking Essential  
6 Week Course

### **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

MAY 2024

## **FRIDAYS**

### **TAI CHI**

Tai Chi improves quality  
of life, balance, agility,  
flexibility and muscle tone  
in cancer survivors. It may  
also help reduce fatigue,  
anxiety, depression, and  
stress.

9.30-11am  
8 Week Course  
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## INFORMATION EVENING

The Heath Community Health and Wellbeing Group are hosting an information evening to discuss ideas on being "Active in Retirement", in the Heath Hall beside the church,

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.**

All welcome. For further info. contact

**Anne Marie Monnelly 087-2414562**

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

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January;** Bowls in St. Marys Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January;** We are holding our A.G.M. We would like as many as possible to attend. Any suggestions or motions or nominations for the committee, if possible please have them written down so you won't forget.

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

For further information please contact P.R.O. Sheila at 087-6204617.

**Ballyroan Active Retirement Group** are up and running for 2024. Any new members are welcome. Meeting Tuesday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in Sue Ryder Centre.

**Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January:**

**Top score:** M. Gowing | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Margaret Flanagan | **2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** Teresa Mulhare | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** T. Dunne (Jnr) | **2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** P Kavanagh | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** T. Gowing | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** C. Galvin | **13 Tricks:** T. Mulhare & Tom Dunne (Jnr)

**Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> M O'Brien | 2<sup>nd</sup> Kit Farrell | 3<sup>rd</sup> S. Hunter

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

**Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January;** St. Fiacc's Hall 8.30pm. Jackpot on 46 numbers €1,740. Double number €810. Lotto €3,500.

**Mountmellick Camera Club Membership for 2024** is open to accept new members, if you are interested in photography, over 18 and wish to join, please join us at our next meeting, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 8pm in the MDA Mountmellick or follow us on Facebook at Mountmellick Club for updates

## 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 Lehan 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

**M. Nerney Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 2024;** Direct flights to Mostar – Medjugorje, Dublin to Medjugorje in half the time, 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, €765. Price increases to €815 after 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2024. Spiritual Director Fr. Sean Hyland C.C. Contact: Michael Nerney 086-8157305.

**Emmanuel House, Clonfert, Co. Galway - Day of Prayer with Healing Service led by Eddie Stones and team;**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 11am. Talks, confessions, music, Fatima first Saturday devotions, Holy Mass. Please bring packed lunch.

**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 your child's 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 29<sup>th</sup> 2024**







## St. Brigid - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February

**Born: 453 Died: 523**

St Brigid is the Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. A few years after St. Patrick arrived, a little girl named Brigid was born at Faughart, County Louth, in Ireland. Her father was an Irish Lord named Dubtach and her mother was a Christian slave named Brocca. As Brigid grew up, her love for Jesus grew deep. She once heard St. Patrick preach and never forgot his teaching for the rest of her life. She looked for Jesus in the poor and often brought food and clothing to them. One day she gave away a whole pail of milk



and then she began to worry about what her mother would say. She prayed to the Lord to make up for what she had given away. When she got home, her pail was full again. Another day Brigid gave away her father's precious sword to a poor man so he could sell it to buy food. She was always helping the poor. Brigid's father wanted her to marry but Brigid had decided in her heart to give herself entirely to God. She did not want to marry anyone. Brigid finally got her wish and her father let her enter a convent. Brigid became a nun under Saint Mel and shortly afterwards she founded a monastery on land given to her by the King of Leinster. The land was called *Cill Dara* (Kildare) or the "the church of the oak".

### *Prayer to St. Brigid*

**You were a woman of Peace, you brought harmony  
where there was conflict,**

**You brought light to the darkness, You brought hope to the downcast,  
May the mantle of your Peace cover those who are troubled and anxious  
and may Peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.**

**Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.**

**Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.**

**Strengthen what is weak within us.**

**Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.**

**May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.**

**Amen.**



Making a St Brigid's Cross is a custom in Ireland. The St Brigid's Cross is made out of plants called rushes (*Juncus effusus*) for hanging above the entrances to dwellings to invoke the help of St Brigid in warding off disease. St Brigid's Day is celebrated on the 1st February each year and the crosses are made at that time. Rushes were traditionally used to make the St Brigid's Cross. These were collected from wetlands and cut into pieces, 8-12 inches long. Rushes can be hard to get for city dwellers so ordinary drinking straws are a good substitute. Use rubber bands to tie up the ends.

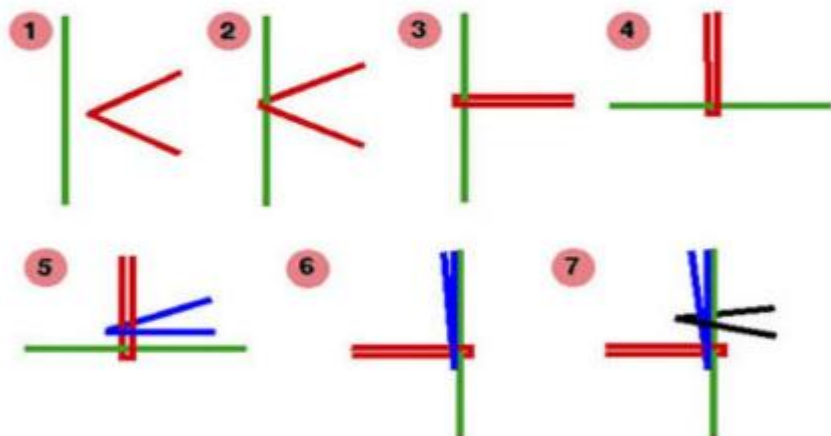
## You Will Need

9 drinking straws & 4 small rubber bands

## What to Do

1. Hold one of the straws vertically. Fold a second straw in half as in the diagram.
  2. Place the first vertical straw in the centre of the folded second straw.
  3. Hold the centre overlap tightly between thumb and forefinger.
  4. Turn the two straws held together 90 degrees counter clockwise so that the open ends of the second straw are projecting vertically upwards.
  5. Fold a third straw in half and over both parts of the second straw to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Hold tight.
  6. Holding the centre tightly, turn the three straws 90 degrees counter clockwise so that the open ends of the third straw are pointing upwards.
  7. Fold a new straw in half over and across all the straws pointing upwards.
  8. Repeat the process of rotating all the straws 90 degrees counter clockwise, adding a new folded straw each time until all nine straws have been used up to make the cross.
- Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length.

**The St. Brigid's Cross is now ready to hang.**



## The Presentation of the Lord

On Friday the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day.

*On day we hear about Jesus and his family  
and a special trip they took to Jerusalem.*

*We hear about the special things that happened to Jesus  
there and all that was said about him.*



### Our Prayer

Father, as we celebrate The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.  
We are reminded of who is important and special in our life. In the  
name of Jesus we pray. Amen.







# Time to Think!

## ***1500 Anniversary of St. Brigid of Kildare, Abbess, Co-Patron of Ireland***

This week we reach the midpoint of winter, marked by the cross-quarter day of Imbolc. Traditionally, Imbolc begins at sundown on February 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Imbolc is an ancient Celtic holiday celebrating the very first stirrings of new life, the earliest breaths of spring. We are beginning to feel the very earliest hints of spring rising in our spirits. After months of turning inward, of hibernation and of rest, life is beginning to stir again. Spiritually, this is a time of new life coming into manifestation. We may only be seeing the tiniest hints of life above the surface but things are really beginning to stir in the darkness.

We are about to begin a new season of promised hope and light. February is a most hopeful month. This week we celebrate St. Brigid's Day, a day which brings great hope. St Brigid brings with her a story of compassion, generosity, healing and renewal. These early February days mark the beginning of Spring. Yes, it may still feel cold but already brighter evenings, emerging green shoots and snowdrops, announce a time for new beginnings. I'm glad the darkness of winter once again is being transformed by the light of our new spring. Spring is a season of Hope and renewal. We are in the true sense of Scripture called out of darkness into God's wonderful light.

I love this time of year, a time to embrace brighter evenings and early mornings. Already there are signs of the new spring. Snowdrops, emerging from the winter soil. I'm absolutely delighted that on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, our Country celebrates a national holiday, attributed to an iconic and important lady, Saint Brigid of Kildare. Children in primary schools, learn the hopeful melody, Saint Brigid brings the spring. I pray that this new season of hope, when green things re-emerge, will be a time of rejuvenation for us all.

Brigid was whole-hearted in the ministry of helping people in need, convinced of the principle that "the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Born at Faughart, near Dundalk, County Louth, in the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, probably in the latter years of Saint Patrick's ministry in Ireland, Brigid refused several offers of marriage, in order to become a nun in the service of Christ and his church. With seven other young women she settled for a time at the foot of Croghan Hill, but moved then to the plains of the Liffey Valley, where under a large oak tree she erected her famous convent of Cill-Dara, that is, "the church of the oak" (now Kildare). She died there half a century later, on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 525.

The most ancient life of St Brigid is by Broccan, (d. 650). Then the "Second Life" was composed in the 8<sup>th</sup> century by Cogitosus, a monk of Kildare. An interesting feature of this work is his description of the Cathedral of Kildare, whose Round Tower may date back to the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> century. Brigid's strong personality and example ensured her community served their neighbours, through various acts of mercy. Soon her small oratory at Cill-Dara (the chapel-at-the-oak) became a centre of religion and learning, and later developed into a small city. She founded two monastic institutions, one for men, and the other for women, and



apparently held jurisdiction over both of them. According to her biographer, she chose St. Conleth "to govern the church along with herself."

For centuries, Kildare was ruled by a double line of abbot-bishops and abbesses, the abbess of Kildare being the leader of all the convents in Ireland. During the raids by the Norsemen in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Brigid's relics were taken for safety to Downpatrick, where they were interred in the tomb of St. Patrick and St. Columcille, and since 1190 they rest in Downpatrick Cathedral. The three; Patrick, Brigid and Columcille, have for centuries been regarded as the three main patron saints of Ireland. Even after 1500 years, the iconic Brigid, known as Mary of the Gael, is very dear to Irish hearts, and Brigid, Breege or "Bridie" preponderates as a female Christian name. Hundreds of place-names in her honour are to be found all over the country, e.g. Kilbride, Brideswell, Tubberbride, Templebride, etc. While her main monument is in Kildare town, she is also keenly remembered in her birthplace at Faughart, in County Louth. The old St. Brigid's well adjoining the ruined church there dates from antiquity and still attracts pilgrims today.

May we all indulge in the well springs of Brigid. May this great Lady, bring rich blessings of health and peace to all our families.

**St. Bridget's well (a poem from the point of view of a pilgrim to the shrine)**

"We set out this night toward the well of St. Brigid sailing from the island of Innis Oirr.

Then by foot on through Doolin to follow that trail that skirts the sheer drop off the Cliffs of Mohar.

Then we scramble the Burren over rock walls and pastures to a foothill of magic in the County of Clare,

where a spring of cold water runs through a cold cave and the water is wishes from the wells of our hearts that the ones that we love might be plucked from their sickness

or freed from despair so the healing might start".

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,700 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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# CELEBRATING BRIGID 1500

Friday 2nd February to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

Arrive for Supper on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
February and depart on Tuesday  
6<sup>th</sup> 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**

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Booking/Enquiries to [secretary@mountstannes.com](mailto:secretary@mountstannes.com) or by phone 057-8626153

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.solasbhride.ie)

[www.brigid1500.ie](http://www.brigid1500.ie)



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



**Josephine Henderson**  
née Byrne  
Grenville, Portlaoise  
and Roscrea



**James (Jimmy)  
Redmond**  
Borris Road, Portlaoise



**Anthony Reddin**  
Triogue Place, Portlaoise  
and Mountmellick



**Christine Keyes**  
St. Brigid's Place,  
Portlaoise



**Christopher F. Kiernan**  
Ballybought, Tullamore  
and Portlaoise



**Philomena Lalor**  
née Tyrrell  
Ballinakill

**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  
CARMEL O'GORMAN**

Rathevan View, Portlaoise.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.



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

*I found a picture of you,  
One that I have not seen in a  
while,  
I held it gently in my hands,  
Lost for a moment in your smile.  
I found a card from you, written  
in your own special way,  
I held it gently in my hands,  
Lost for a moment in that day.*

*Memories, sweet gifts from you,  
To allow my heart a breath,  
To let me be lost for a moment,  
To remember life not just death.*

*Dearly missed and never forgotten by Daddy, Barbara,  
Norma, Geraldine, Gwen, Paul, Aidan and all their  
families.*

*May Carmel's gentle soul Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
ANNIE (Nan) MAHER**

New Road, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurred 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024



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

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by everyone who knew her.*

*Also remembering her sisters Mary and  
bridie and brother Johnny at this time.*

*Rest in Peace Annie*

**In Loving Memory of  
KATHLEEN BRENNAN**

Rathleague, Portlaoise.

14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30am.

*Think of her as living in the hearts of those  
she touched, for nothing loved is ever lost,  
and she was loved so very much.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by her loving  
children, grandchildren, family and friends.*

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN (Ulick) CONROY**

Beladd, Portlaoise.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10am.

*Loved and sadly missed by all his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace John*

**In Loving Memory of  
COLETTE CROSSAN**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 11:15am.

*Always in our thoughts*

*Forever in our hearts*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by  
Padraig, Michael and family,  
Kieran and family.*

**In Loving Memory of  
ESTHER SZWAGLIS**

Late of 170 St. Brigid's Place. Died 29<sup>th</sup> January 1999.  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home.



"From sunrise to sunset, every moment would have been more wonderful if you were with us today.  
Your memories will never be forgotten".

*Missing you every day from your loving  
husband Les, your children, grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren.*

*Also remembering her daughter Vanda, son-in-law David and her sisters Alice and Mary at this time.*

*May Esther Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
ELIZABETH (Lill) FARRELL**

Green Mill Lane, Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Lill's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm.**

*Deep in our hearts your memory  
is kept, to love and to cherish  
and never forget.*

*We love and miss you, from your loving husband  
William, children Gemma, William and Eoin,  
son-in-law Kevin, daughters-in-law Lisa & Jessica  
and grandchildren Dylan, Zak, Liadh, Grace,  
Sophia, Alex and Lily xxx*

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*

**In Loving Memory of  
ANGELA DUNNE** née Carey

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Also remembering her husband Paddy, whose

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurred 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



*If I could go to Heaven on this  
my saddest day, maybe for one  
moment, my pain would go  
away.*

*I'd put my arms around you  
and hug you one more time,*



*Tell you that I love you both and sit with you awhile.  
But for now we must be parted, life without you is so hard,  
but you will never be forgotten and will both live on in my  
heart. A broken heart is a heart that's been loved.*

*Loved and remembered by Terry, Aisyah and Sean,  
nephews John and Dinny.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
CHRISTY WHELAN**

138 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11:15am.**

*Times passes,  
Memories stay,  
Loved and remembered  
everyday.*



*Always loved and sadly missed by your  
loving wife Lily and family.*

*Rest in Peace Christy*



## In Loving Memory of SHANE LYNCH

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm.

*I miss you with every breath I take,  
I wish your sadness didn't take you away,*

*Sometimes when I close my eyes, I can still see you and I reach for you with my arms as if I could still hug you, I wish I could hug your demons away, or squeeze your gravestone until you again would make jokes about how stupid I am.*

*I miss you, and none of my grief will bring you back, but please know that time won't drive you away either.*

*You are forever with me.*

*Greatly missed by his heartbroken mother Kathleen, sisters Tara, Katie, Nicole, Shannon, brothers Dylan, and Aaron, nieces, nephews and extended family.*

*Rest in Peace Shane*

## In Loving Memory of BRÍDÍN MULHALL

Ballyroan, Laois and Rathmines, Dublin.  
8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



Dearly loved daughter and sister - you are greatly missed and lovingly remembered today and everyday by Seamus, Ursula, John, James and Gerard.

The much loved niece of Sr. Gerard, Sr. Kay and Sr. Patricia, Frances and Michael, Evelyn (God Mother) and Eamon, Sean and Elizabeth.

Sadly missed by all her cousins and extended family and forever in the minds and hearts of her many friends.

*The just will live in the company of the lord' Psalm 37*

Bridin's family would like to thank the community for their continued support over the years.

*Rest in Peace Brídín*

*His reputation spread  
throughout Galilee*

Mark 1:28



## In Loving Memory of MARY (May) CONNELL

31 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in

Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30pm.

*January comes with sad regret,  
The day, the month, we'll never forget,*

*In our hearts you will always stay,  
Loved and remembered forever each day.*

*Sadly missed by Liz, Liam, Noreen, John, Mary, Domo and Freda.*

*Rest in Peace Mary*

## In Loving Memory of PHILIP (Chilly) WARD

39 Ballymorris Manor, Portarlington.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



*Along the road of suffering, you found a little lane, that took you up to Heaven and ended all your pain. You may be out of sight, We may be worlds apart, But you are always in our prayers and forever in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your son Jason and daughter Katie.*

*Rest in Peace Chilly*

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

JULIA MARGARET "BELL" DOHENY

23 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise. Birthday occurred 24<sup>th</sup> January.



*Mother: A mother like ours is more than a memory, She is a living presence. Our mother is always with us. She's the whisper of the leaves as we walk down the road; she's the smell of bleach in our freshly laundered socks; she's the cold hand on our brow when we're not well.*

*Our mother lives inside our laughter and she is crystallised in every tear drop.*

*She's the place we came from - our first home, and she's the map we follow with every step we take.*

*She's our first love and our first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can separate us....not time, not space - not even death.*

*Always remembered and never forgotten.*

*From her daughters, sons, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.*

*Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at this time.*

*May Julia Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of MICHAEL DEMPSEY

3 Roselawn, Portlaoise and late of Rathdowney.  
9th Anniversary occurs 1st February 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
on Thursday 1st February at 10am  
and Saturday 3rd Feb. at 6.30pm.

*Looking back on all our years and  
things that we've been through,  
Of all the choices that I made,  
I'm glad I married you.*

**Sadly missed by your loving wife Marie.**

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

**Lots of love Dad from Joe, Patricia, Mickey, Helena and  
Aine, daughters-in-law, son-in-law & grandchildren.**

*Rest in Peace Michael*

## In Loving Memory of ANN FITZPATRICK

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 29th January 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
**Monday 29th January at 10am.**

*A picture of you I carry in my heart,  
I close my eyes to see it when the world  
gets dark,*

*A memory of you I carry in my soul,  
I wrap it close around me, when the  
nights get cold.*

*If you ask how I am, I'd say just fine,  
But the truth is, if you could read my mind,  
Not a day goes by that I don't think of you Mum.*

**Loved and remembered by your son Tom,  
grandchildren Jack and Emma and family.**

*Rest in Peace Mum*



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## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**One €15,000 Jackpot Winner**

**Congratulations to Amedeo Viscocchi (Online Lotto)**

### WINNERS

Michael Lambe  
Mary Hennessy  
Eugene Byrne  
Jolanta Zadora  
Martin Whelan  
L & R Brennan  
Charlotte Griffin  
Marian & Greg Augustine  
Keith Fitzpatrick  
Anita Tierney  
Sarah Dunne  
Betty Redmond  
Mary Tierney  
Pam Killeen  
Ann Kelly  
Catherine Doheny

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Mary Doran  
Marian Augustine  
Lotto Gift  
Anita Tierney  
Browns Shop  
Parish Centre  
Paul Dooley  
Pam Killeen  
Ann Kelly  
David Tobin

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**Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000**

## 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](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

(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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

**PARISH SHOP**

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

## World Day of Consecrated Life

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. We pray for all the religious in our Parish on this day.

Over 300 young people in our Parish are preparing for Confirmation on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> February and the theme this year is 'This little light of mine'. A reminder that all who have been baptised are called to be 'children of the Light'.



## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9  
1 Corinthians 7:32-35 | Mark 1:21-28



## Development Fund Envelope Boxes Available at the Church Porches

We invite you to take a box for your Weekly contribution to the Parish Development Fund.

The boxes also contain envelopes for the other collections during the year. **Thank you for your continued support.**



## SUPPORTING THE PARISH - Portlaoise

We begin by saying a big 'thank you' for the support we receive from so many of our parishioners. This is the time of the year we renew the parish Envelope Boxes. We invite you to take a box and use the envelopes to make your contribution as an excellent way to support.

Due to the pandemic we ceased the practice of passing the 'blue bags' for the Development Fund and the baskets for the Offertory Collection. While many Churches have resumed these collections we have not. It is undoubtedly much better for the dignified celebration of our Masses and we would like to be able to continue without the interruption of holding collections during Mass. So we have to devise other ways that parishioners can contribute to the upkeep and development of our Parish. Along with the collection points at the porches and entrances to our Churches there are a number of other ways you can contribute.

### WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARISH

You are invited to take a Development Fund Box of envelopes that contains envelopes for each Sunday beginning 4<sup>th</sup> February '24. It also contains envelopes for the four Priests collections and the other special collections during the Year.

Direct payment to the parish by cheque or cash

Cashless point at the back of the Parish Church

Donation facility on our website - <https://donate.portlaoiseparish.ie/>. You can also sign up to a regular contribution via this method.

Standing order forms are available at the Church porches and from the Parish Centre.

Direct transfer to our Account(s) (details below).

#### **PORTLAOISE PARISH**

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**BIC: A I B K I E 2 D**

#### **PORTLAOISE PARISH CLERGY FUND**

**IBAN: I E 1 2 A I B K 9 3 3 2 7 9 1 6 6 5 8 2 0 1**

**BIC: A I B K I E 2 D**

Completing a Tax Back form – if you contribute more that €250 to the Parish in any of the ways that we can record (envelopes with name, S/O, website donation etc.) the Parish can claim the tax back from revenue. Forms are available at the Church porches and from the Parish Centre.

*Thank You*