





#### The Past Doesn't Have to Equal the Future.

What does Jesus' baptism say to us? Jesus' thirty years of preparation before his public baptism remind us that it takes time to get ready for God's mission. How many countless hours did Jesus spend in prayer? What study, what thought, what vision must he have undergone

before appearing in front of John asking for baptism? What do we learn from Jesus' baptism? January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and reform ... that's what his baptism was all about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. We all fondly imagine that change is just beyond our reach, and all we have to do is reach that little bit further. Perhaps we would be more giving if we had more money. Perhaps we would be more helpful to others if we could manage our time better. Perhaps we would manage to be tidier if we had a home extension. Perhaps we could be happier if we found a perfect partner. Perhaps we could feel better fulfilled if we changed our job, passed a few more exams, moved to the country, lost weight, got a promotion, had a baby... the list goes on and on. Yet every January we find ourselves in much the same situation as the previous year. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

When we look for change in our lives, perhaps we are looking in all the wrong places. Perhaps all we need to do is to ask the Holy Spirit for help. We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism. Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit ..... perhaps change isn't just beyond our reach after all. The past doesn't have to equal the future.

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
Nora Lilith Woodhouse, Lymington, UK
Sienna Kate Rochford, Killeen, Stradbally
Emily Rose Winchcombe, Mell Street, Kilminchy.
Who were baptised during Christmas.

Baptism of the Lord and New Year's Resolutions



If we remember daily to ask the Holy Spirit for inner strength, then change will not be beyond our reach after all, and world will be a better place because of it.

If you haven't made any resolutions yet, here are a couple of ideas!

### Peace Resolutions

#### Resolve to put Peace Into Action

Peace – based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met, people feel safe and valued in their communities and where we care for our common home.

**Reconciliation** – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute.

Nonviolence – a way of living and making choices that respects others and offers alternatives to violence and war.

# MULHALL MEATS

Est. 1931





## Mulhall's Fresh Irish Eye of Round Roast

Offer ends Sunday 14th January

Mulhall Meats is located within Mulhall's SuperValu. Phone 057 86 21044

## AUDIOLOGIST HEARING AID

Consultant

Patricia Kilmartin B.A.A.T., M.I.S.H.A.A. (28+ years experience with Private & Public Sector)



- · Comprehensive Hearing Assessment
- Full range of Digital Hearing Alds available incl. FREE PRSI HEARING AIDS TO VALUE OF €1000 TO ELIGIBLE CLIENTS
- Pre-employment tests/Occupational Screening Tests
- Ear moulds, Custom made Swim Plugs, Musicians Moulds, etc.
- · Hearing Aid Batteries, Minor Repairs, etc. (incl. postal service)
- Ear Wax Removal Service

### In Attendance

10 Lismard Court, Portlaoise Co. Laois.

(Entrance beside Macra Na Feirme Hall on Timahoe Road)

#### By Appointment Only

Tel: 057 8692289 Mobile: 085 8568808

E-mail: pkaudiology@gmail.com

Website: www.kilmartinaudiology.ie

"STRICT SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE, IN LINE WITH ADVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT & HSE GUIDELINES"



## Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

live life physically well

The Coach House, 4 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.

JOHN SUGRUE BS: MS: MISCP NICOLA CALDBECK BS: MISCP MAACP
CONOR BOLTON BS: MS: MISCP

Online booking: www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie To book by phone: 087 666 4808

#### Services include

- · Manual Therapy
- · Exercise Prescription
- Post-Operative Care Programmes
- . Taning
- Home Visits
- Dry Needling
- Exercises Classes
- Ergonomic Assessment & Presentation

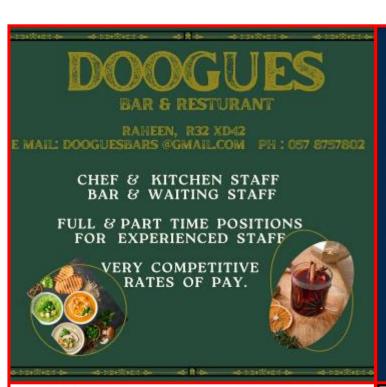
#### Opening Hours:

Mon: 9:30am -5:40pm Thurs: 9:00am -6:30pm 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





- NEED HOME HEATING OIL?
- NEED TRACTOR DIESEL?

Call Sean Smyth 086-3561669



FINGER FOOD PACKAGES

€15pp

## Create memorable moments at Maldron Hotel Portlaoise!

Let's raise a toast to milestones that make life extraordinary:

- > Baby showers
- > Christenings
- > Communions
- > Confirmations
- > Birthdays
- > Appiversaries

We offer tailored menus, option for private room hire and celebrating child always dines complimentary.

ferms 5 conditions apply

#### CONTACTUS

5 057 869 5900
sales.portlapise@maldronhotels.com
maldronhotelportlapise.com



3 COURSE MEAL

€35рр

€16pp

# Declan Bourke Wall Panelling

& Understair Storage



Also Sliderobes & Wardrobes
Contact Declan
086-8323640

#### LAOIS JET WASH SERVICES LTD



C.C.T.V. PIPE & DRAIN INSPECTION HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN CLEANING TEL/FAX 057-8681720 MOBILE 087-7749519 HAVE YOU A PROBLEM WITH YOUR DRAINS?



# HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR SCHOOL School Enrolment 2024/25

Enrolment forms will be available from 8th-19th January 2024 for the above school for Junior Infants.

Enrolment forms are available from:

Holy Family Junior School Aughnaharna, Summerhill, Portlaoise (057) 86 88224 or from our website: www.holyfamilyjs.ie

Please return Enrolment forms to the office along with a copy of your Child's Birth Certificate.

Closing date for applications is 19th January 2024

# **BREEN STEEL SHEDS**

STEEL SHEDS

#### **CATTLE CRUSHES**

ALL WEATHER CLOTHESLINES







- · Various sizes of Cattle Crushes and all weather Clotheslines available to order.
- Maintenance free Steel Mobile Garden Sheds in a choice of colours.
- PVC coated with non drip sheeting to avoid condensation.
- Timber or Concrete floors fitted.
- Delivered and erected on site, can be transported in sections or fully assembled.
- All sizes manufactured; 7x5, 8x14, 10x8, 10x17, 10x20, 20x24
- Our range of Steel Sheds include two variations of buildings with many uses; garages for vehicle storage in residential areas, small workshops, office accommodation, store rooms, games rooms.
- Manufacturing Security Steel Frames for Windows and Doors.

Drim, Mountrath, Co. Laois | Tel; 087-9444098 / 086-1732542 | E-mail; info@breensteelsheds.ie





The Management and Staff of Abbeyleix Further Education and Training Centre wish you a very Happy New Year.

Applications are now open for our full-time courses starting this September.



Guíonn Bainistíocht agus Foireann Ionad Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna Mhainistir Laoise Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit.

Tá iarratais ar oscailt anois dár gcúrsaí lánaimseartha ag tosú i mí Mheán Fómhair seo chugainn. PORTLAOISE PANTOMIME GROUP PRESENTS



# Cinderella **JAN 20th - 27th**



**DUNAMAISE ARTS** CENTRE

Matinees Saturdays and Sunday at 200 pm Nightly Shows at 730 pm BOOK TICKETS AT WWW.DUNAMAISE.IE OR CALL THE BOX-OFFICE 057 866 3355



School Runs Airport Shuttle Hen and Stag Parties Sporting Events and Concerts Tours Work Events

Bingo Runs







Tai Chi for Beginners

Tai Chi is a program for better living.

- Improve flexibility and balance,
- Reduce stress
- Enhance inner peace and wellness.

Class Date & time:

Wednesday Jan 17th 2024 at 8:15 -9:45pm ( 90 minute class)

8 weeks

Venue

Portlaoise Parish Centre - Stradbally Rd, Borris Little, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 FH67

The cost is €100. Booking is required and payment of €50 in

These classes are led by certified Tai Chi instructor, Loretta Hipwell

For information or to book, please text or Whatsapp 087 4879899 or email taichiatone@gmail.com.



# laois

Wishing All Our Customers a Very Happy New Year.

Thank You All For Your Continued Support

Annual Stock Clearance
Sale
Continues In Store
And Online @
expertlaois.ie
Huge Discounts on All
Stock







co helmankat



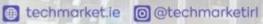
## **Techmarket**

Sales Accessories Repairs

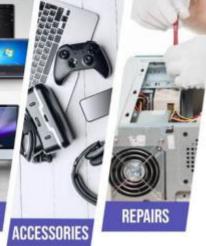
Located in the Kyle Centre, Portlaoise

Laptops, Macs, iMacs, Tablets and all Computer and Phone Accessories in stock





SALES



We install concrete ramps to allow freedom of movement and steel handrails to provide safe access for everyone



087-2675

## AFRO-LATIN DANCE FITNESS

COMING TO PORTLADISE PARISH CENTRE FOR 6 WKS: WEDNESDAYS @815PM

I Free Trial Class: 17 January 2024 €60 for 6 classes /€12 pay as you go







Participants who register will receive our updated 'Couch To 5km' Handbook which includes:

- · Training Plan
- Progress Tracker
- · Useful Tips
- · Tasty Recipes
- Other Resources

Contact? Liam 086 0111 722

Register? On Eventbrite - Scan QR Code

SCAN ME















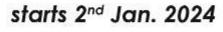




























ALL RUGS NOW



## Qualified Foot Care Professional



Treating Corns, Callus, Ingrown Toenails and Fungal problems etc.

House Calls Available

Dip FH Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh



083-4188753





Business Irish Enterprise

Awards 2022

BEST PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN AGENCY MIDLANDS 2022

\* ECO-CONSCIOUS EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022

# THE PRINTER YOU NEED TO KNOW

















Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EH11 057 8634050

Henry Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 TF83 **433569** 

















#### **PAINTING &** DECORATING

- Interior & Exterior
- Spray Painting
- Powerwashing
- 15 years experience
- Fully Insured

089-4459958

www.kukic-hms.ie

### WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIRS

- Hinges/Handles
- Letterboxes
- Slide Patio Door Rollers
- Window and Door draught proofing
- Fully Insured

083-3153211

www.kukic-hms.ie

## **ACTIVE BUILDING** SERVICES

Domestic Plumbing. Oil Fired Central Heating. Plumber on call, Portlaoise and surrounding areas. Tel.;

Fergus 089-4541868

#### TV SERVICES

Repairs to TV and home entertainment equipment. Also we supply and fit and repair Saorview, Aerial and Satellite systems. Contact;

057-8732998

087-3636497 / 083-3742600

#### <u>PLUMBE</u>R AVAILABLE

All domestic, solid fuel and oil servicing.

Water softener installation. Full Bathroom Renovations.

Contact Alan;

085-1141395



#### **KPS CLEANING**

- School Cleaning
- General House Cleaning
- Deep Cleaning
- . End of Tenancy Cleaning Cleaning of offices,

schools, shops, salons etc. Contact us for all your cleaning needs.



## SG DRIVING SCHOOL

ad =

Call or Text

089-4542508

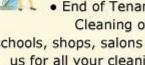
E-mail

sgdrivingschool1@gmail.com

## PAT LALOR TARMACADAM

- Tarmacadam
- Kerbing
- Drainage

Tel. 083-0211577



## Church Avenue, Stradbally

- Free Quotations VAT Registered

E-mail; patlalor37@gmail.com

# 087-9737073

#### DAVE CUNNINGHAM CARPENTRY SERVICES

Registered and fully insured

All aspects of Carpentry work undertaken Secondary glazing with instant results Pergolas, fitted Kitchens, fitted Slide Robes

All Maintenance work undertaken



Call Dave 086-8209640 davecunninghamdrom@gmail.com

#### **Hugh Thompson** MIDLAND HEATING SERVICES

For all your Heating & Plumbing needs Service and Repair of Oil Boilers, Oil Cookers & Gas Boilers

Plus Power Flushing of Heating Systems Removing all the old sludge and water that has built up in your radiators and boilers over the years with clean water and Inhibitors to reduce fuel bills and save money. Ballyfin, Portlaoise. Call:

086-3758503

## CLARE'S



Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise Quality Service Dogs required for Student

grooming. Discounts apply. Tel. 089-4890869

www.claresdoggroomingschool.ie

# LOCKSMITHS

24/7 Emergency Service. Auto - Home - Commercial 086-2624270

085-2833064

Shop: 05786-20135

www.jacknolan.ie

## PODIATRIST

#### MAY COLLINS

Bsc (Hons) Podiatry MCHSI 2 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise. Tel.;

### 086-3785327

By Appointment only. VHI-Aviva-Laya approved

All Scrap Metal; Washing machines, Cookers, Lawnmowers etc. collected free. Also Mini-Digger and small Tipping Trailer for hire. Garden sheds cleaned out, old sheds, fences or sewer problems solved. Contact; Richard 085-2529893

## MC CARPENTRY



Kitchens and Renovations Fully registered and insured

1st and 2nd Fixing Contact Martin;

085-1986546

#### LAOIS COUNSELLING SERVICES

Professional, Supportive, Confidential, Non- Judgemental service.

Abbeyleix. Online counselling sessions available also. Enquiries welcome.

Tel. 085-8762314

## CHILDMINDER

Mature lady available for childminding in Ballacolla, Durrow, Abbeyleix or Portlaoise. Contact:

Patricia 087-9440396

#### Are you feeling stressed, low, isolated, or anxious?

If so it helps to talk to people with similar challenges.

Join us for a

#### **Grow** meeting

weekly on Thursdays at 7pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre Tel. Michelle 086-4183805



## **DeReach**Recruitment

Recruitment Consultant

#### Healthcare and Medical Recruitment Specialists

#### Now Recruiting;

- · Nurses · Care Assistants
- · Social Care Workers · Home Caregivers

Do you need a Caregiver, nurse or someone to assist you in your home? Then please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help.

Call: +353 89 2438 613 E-mail: info@dereachrecruitment.ie Office: +353 85 1487 892

www.dereachrecruitment.ie

## Mountain View Eco Wood FIREWOOD SALES

- Net bag softwood logs €5
- Net bag hardwood logs €7
- Net bag kindle wood €3
- Trailer load logs (hardwood/softwood)
- 20kg bags Coal
   Free delivery
- Fuel Vouchers The Ideal Christmas Gift Price increase due to new regulations Phone card payments accepted

Contact Fintan 087-7645855

#### L.P.M.

#### Laois Property Maintenance

Services include;

Plastering, painting, gardening, soft landscaping,

bin enclosures, power washing, window cleaning and general property maintenance. Call;

085-1485097

## **S&R SERVICES**

Painting/Decorating
Kitchen fitting
Furniture assembly
Flooring, Carpentry
Tiling, Bathrooms
General maintenance
Extensions, Sheds,
Pergolas,
Renovations, etc.

085-7462417

## LAMBERT HEATING & PLUMBING

Covering all your Heating & Plumbing needs;

RGI registered, new builds, extensions, power flushing, gas and oil boiler upgrades, air to water heat pumps, water softeners, servicing etc.

085-1211244

#### ASH FIREWOOD FOR SALE



Trailer loads delivered.

Contact; 085-2437088

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 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.

## FOR SALE

Weslo Momentum Cross Trainer exercise machine MSO VFit Exercise Bike €250 for both

Call 087-2493715

after 7pm

# ROSARY AT THE SHRINE Market Square,

Portlaoise
THIS SUNDAY
and on the

First Sunday of every month at 2:30pm. All are welcome.

#### LOST

Rosary Beads lost Christmas week in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, or surrounding area, of huge sentimental value. Contact;

057-8646752

# SCOIL FIONNTÁIN NAOFA



Term 1 2023-202

#### Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix Applications for Admission 2024-2025

The school will be accepting applications for admission to Junior Infants for the school year 2024-2025 from Monday, 8th January to 29th January 2024. Our Sonas Autism Class is currently at capacity and as a result a waiting list for places in the class will be in operation.

Parents can forward an 'Application for Admission Form' for the Sonas class should they wish for their child to be placed on the waiting list.

All information regarding admission can be found on the admissions section of the school website <a href="www.shanahoens.weebly.com">www.shanahoens.weebly.com</a> under the 'Parents' tab.

"Application for Admission Forms" can also be obtained from the school by e-mailing shanahoens@gmail.com, by phoning (057) 87 39715 or by writing to The Principal, Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix, Laois R32 F899.

In addition you can also follow us on Facebook at 'Shanahoe National School', Instagram at 'shanahoe ns' and Twitter/X at 'ShanahoeNs'.

For further enquiries please contact the school Principal Mr. Barry Whelan at principalshanahoens@gmail.com or on (057) 87 39715.



# Enrolment



#### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 will commence accepting applications for admission on January 8th, 2024 and will cease accepting applications for admission on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024. Enrolment forms are available by e-mailing ratheniskans@eircom.net or Ratheniska National School, Ratheniska ,Stradbally, Co. Laois R32HW50. Please return Enrolment application to the office with a copy of your child's Birth Certificate on or before January 22<sup>nd.</sup>

Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix on the Ballyroan Road, Abbeyleix 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 scoilmhuireabbeyleix@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.

#### Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla; 087-2068972 | ? seandoylelightengineering

Clothes line poles, covered clotheslines, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle stands.

#### Maureen's 2024 Dance Programme



11am Mondays; Sequence Dancing in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Contact Catriona Slattery, Laois Sports Partnership on 086-7935234 8pm Mondays; Set Dancing at Seanchistin, Irey, Ballyfin, R32AY99 11am Tuesdays; Line Dancing at Seanchistin, Irey, Ballyfin, R32AY99 8pm Thursdays; Sean Nós Dancing at Seanchistin, Irey, 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.

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).

M. Nerney Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 2024

Direct flights to Mostar - Medjugorje Dublin to Medjugorje in Half the Time

12th-19th June 2024; €765

Price increases to €815 after 2nd February 2024

Spiritual Director; Fr. Sean Hyland C.C. Contact: Michael Nerney 086-8157305

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.





## New Beginnings

January is an exciting time. It is the beginning of a brand new year. Some people like to make New Year's resolutions or promises to themselves about what they plan to accomplish in the new year. The number one resolution that people make is, "I am going to lose weight." I don't think too many people succeed, since it seems to be the number one resolution year after year. I know that it usually makes my top ten list of things I would like to accomplish in the new year.



Even if you don't make any New Year's resolutions, this is an

exciting time. It is a time that we can forget our past mistakes and look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is a time of new beginnings.

Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in his life too. One of those times was when he was baptised. There were a couple of very important things that happened when Jesus was baptised. First of all, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and landed upon him. The second thing was that God spoke and said, "You are my Son. I love you and I am well-pleased with you."

This event marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry here on earth. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God upon him, Jesus began to perform great miracles. From this new beginning, many people began to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and they began to follow him.

Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. When we are baptised, it shows the world that just as Jesus rose from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we also live a new life in him. (Romans 6:4) God may not always be well-pleased with us, but I think that He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus.

New beginnings — God gives us opportunities for new beginnings. Let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.



#### OUR PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for new beginnings. Help us to make the most of them

— not through our own strength — but through the power of the Holy Spirit that

dwells within us. Amen.

Children's Liturgy Group resumes this Sunday at 10am Mass. Looking forward to seeing our young parishioners!

## The Baptism of Jesus

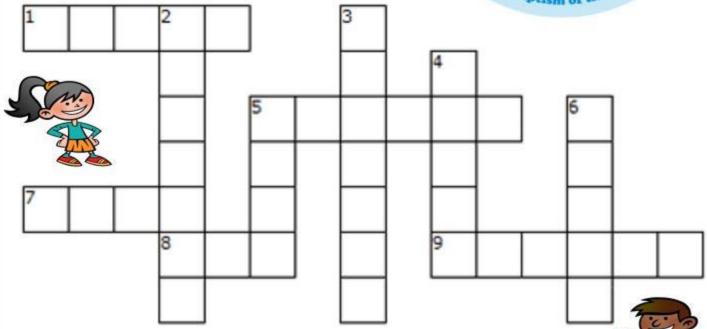
As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven:

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:4-11





#### **ACROSS**

- What was heard when Jesus was baptised.
- The river where Jesus was baptised
- The Spirit cam down from heaven like a \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- To break one of God's commandments.
- 9. To turn away from sin.

#### DOWN

- To admit that you have done wrong.
- 3. To pardon for sins.
- 4. The liquid used to baptise someone.
- Name of the man who baptised Jesus.
- A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE JORDAN JOHN DOVE REPENT
CONFESS WATER SIN VOICE HONEY



# Time to Think! Happy New Year

I pray that 2024, will be a blessed and healthy one for us all. Every New Year brings with its expectation, uncertainty, hope and a degree of anxiety. 2024, invites us to begin again. The greatest gifts are really only appreciated when they are made vulnerable, particularly our health and well-being. This time when we make resolutions and prioritise, a fitting New Year's resolution, is to safeguard our physical, mental and spiritual health. Making time for ourselves, being good to ourselves, fuels our ability to reciprocate and share with generosity our gifts and talents. Already the green shoots in our gardens and pathways celebrate that sense of new beginning. Christmas isn't just something that happened, but its effects linger throughout the year. I was greatly taken by the huge amount of people who made priority to coming to visit Church this Christmas. I pray that the Lord will truly bless you all with what's good throughout 2024.

New Year is often seen as an opportunity to improve ourselves or what we have. But while this can be a healthy practice, it is also beneficial to reflect on the blessings that we already have.

On New Year's Eve, people around the world watched their clocks strike midnight and brought in the New Year with fireworks, celebrations, and time with loved ones. It seems like, at least for a little while, we were all united in our gratitude for another year of life. For many, a new year brings hope because it represents a chance for a new start. All of us need a new beginning, a fresh start. The good news is that Jesus is with us along the way and turning our eyes to Jesus renews us every time. As we begin a new year, we often desire change like weight loss or having a better work/life balance. These things are good; however, the change Jesus brings, impacts this life and the life to come.

He can change us on the inside in such a way, that everything becomes new. He brings a new beginning to how we see God and ourselves. He brings a new beginning to our purpose. He may not change our problems, but he can help us



overcome our troubles. He may not change the way you look, but he will make you confident in the skin you are in. He may not bring back the person you lost, but he will comfort you so you can comfort others. He is the Light and he knows how to chase away the darkness. We have a new beginning in Jesus. We do not have to wait another year to get our fresh start. Our Jesus knows how to make everything new. This New Year 2024, let us open our hearts and ears and receive what God has already given us. Let us experience his grace and love and deep peace. Happy New Year.

#### New Year's Prayer

As we begin a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed. Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right. Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none. May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful 2024.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,500 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



# We provide:

French, Spanish and English classes, Children (€15ph) & Adults (€20ph).

Junior/Leaving Cert Grinds, French and Spanish (€40ph).

## Also available:

University-level private tuitions.
French/Spanish for Business.
Language exams preparation
Online book store
Language level assessment

Online class recordings





WWW.AURELIE-LANGUAGES.COM

086 365 9715

## **Christmas in Our Parish**





# OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY;



Very Rev. Brendan J. Howard P.E. Carlow Town / Clonegal, Carlow Former Christian Brother and Principal St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise



**Dan Duggan** Dublin Rd., Portlaoise



Shane Lynch St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise



Frank O' Loughlin St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise



Mary Donovan née McLoughlin Liogard, Portlaoise



Jim (James) O'Connor Ballyroan



Ellen Costigan née Doyle Clonad, Portlaoise



Jim (James) Bonham Raheenabrogue, Ballyroan

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE Our sympathy to their families.



# Christmas Remembrance In Loving Memory of MICHAEL KERRY



Cois na hAbhann, Greenmill Lane, Portlaoise. 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas away from Home.

The moment that you died. My heart was torn in two. One side filled with heartache. The other died with you.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your loving wife Tina, son Declan daughter Rebecca, daughter-in-law Catríona, son-in-law Ciaran and

grandchildren, Leah, Eoghan, Alana, Ava and Hannah.

Rest in Reace Michael



## In Loving Memory of JOHNNY O' BRIEN



Old Knockmay Road, Portlaoise. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Also Birthday Remembrance & Wedding Anniversary
7th January 2024



Our love is forever and although we are apart, Our love only grows stronger, deep within my heart.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your loving wife Maura, sons Richard, John and Tony, daughters Christina and Maureen, sons-in-law,

daughters-in-law, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

Rest in Reace Johnny



## New Year Remembrance In Loving Memory of





TOM & NORA MEAGHER Lawrence Grove, Howth Road, Dublin 3



PADDY & NORA PHELAN Cullenagh Portlaoise

Remembered by Eamonn and Mag, Pat, Angela and Gerry, Patrick and Mark xx

May They Rest in Reace





and new year, What a lovely time we'd have, if only you were here, We would spend so many happy hours, The way we did before, This time of year is for loved ones and we couldn't miss you more, Throughout this Christmas season, as we begin each new day,

We will look to Heaven above, and we

will remember every smile and think of

With all the celebrations of Christmas

you with love. Happy Christmas and New Year We miss you more

than words can say.



Always remembered by your wife Anne, sons and daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and all your grandchildren xxx

Rest in Reace William

40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE In Loving Memory of a Precious Son and Brother

DEAN BERGIN

6th Birthday away from home; 6th January



Today is your birthday in Heaven above, our blessings we send on the wings of a dove, not just for today, but everyday here'of, we think of you always with all our love.

Always missed, love forever, your Mother Mossie, sisters Martina, Lisa, Sandra, nieces and nephews xxxxxx



May Dean Rest In Reace

## In Loving Memory of KEVIN O' BRIEN

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary occurs 6th January 2024



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 6th January at 6.30pm.

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

Sadly missed and remembered by his loving wife Grainne, parents Seamus and Bernie, brothers Paul and Brendan, extended family and friends.

Rest in Reace Xevin

## In Loving Memory of JANE SHIELS

Formerly Dr. Murphy's Place, Portlaoise. 24th Anniversary occurs 5th January 2024.



Though her smile has gone forever and her voice we cannot hear, Her smile brought warmth like sunshine from above, Not a minute goes by when we are not thinking of her, Even though we are far part, Her love lies in our hearts.

Loved and remembered by your sons, daughters, son-in-law, grand-children and great grandchildren.

Rest in Reace Mammy



## In Loving Memory of STEPHEN CONROY

34 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. 10th Anniversary occurs 9th January 2024.



Memories of you we will keep and treasure,

In our hearts they will live forever.

Sadly missed today and always by his loving wife Pauline, sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

May Stephen Rest in Reace



## In Loving Memory of JANE BYRNE née Dempsey

Old Knockmay Rd. Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 8th January 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 7th January at 12.30pm.

Silent thoughts of times together, Hold memories that will last forever.

Sadly missed by her husband Joseph, sons Joe, John and James and daughters-in-law Aisling and Sinead.

#### Granny

Remembering you is easy, we do it every day; Missing you is a sorrow that never goes away. Loved & missed every day, Robyn, Oran, Caoimhe, Oisin, Aoibheann.

Rest in Peace Jane



## In Loving Memory of

JANE BYRNE née Dempsey Old Knockmay Rd. Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 8th January 2024.



You were always there when we needed you, no task too great or small, With a loving heart and willing hands, for us you did it all. In God's garden now at rest, Peacefully sleeping lies one of the best. In loving memory, your son John and daughter-in-law Sinead.

Time slips by and life goes on, but from our hearts you are never gone.

We think about you always, we talk about you too, we share so many memories, but we wish we still had you. Missed everyday by your grandkids, Caoimhe, Oisín and Aoibheann.

Rest in Reace Jane



## In Loving Memory of MARY MAHER

42 Borris Rd. Portlaoise and formerly of Eyne.



It's your first anniversary in Heaven granny. We miss you more than you could know. We are thinking of you always. Love Julia, Bonnie, Martha

and Dickie X

On your First Anniversary The year has passed, the season have changed, loving thoughts and memories of you remain.

Missing you always, not just today. With all of our love, Gerry, Geraldine and Caitriona x

Rest in Reace Mary



# In Loving Memory of



42 Borris Rd. Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary occurs 8th January 2024



Some people just can't help making a difference in our lives, By simply being who they are, they make the world; A little brighter, A little warmer, A little gentler.

And when they're gone, we realise how lucky we are to have known them.

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by Mam, brothers, sisters and extended family.

Rest in Reace Mary



## In Loving Memory of PATRICK (Pat) BOWLER



6 The Cottage, New Road, Portlaoise. 5th Anniversary occurs 9th January 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 7th January, 11.15am.

Time unfolds another year, Memories keep you very near. Will those who think of Patrick today, a little prayer to Jesus say.

Missed by his loving wife Maureen, sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and relatives.

Rest in Reace Ratrick



## In Loving Memory of MARTIN BRENNAN

54 Borris Little, Portlaoise. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



Remember Martin with a smile today, For he would not want our tears, Reflect instead on memories of all his happy years.

Sadly missed by your loving mother Nellie, brothers and sisters.

Rest in Reace Martin



### In Loving Memory of JAMES DEMPSEY

8 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. Died 1st January 1997.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 6th January at 6:30pm.

A loving husband and father so true, No one on this earth we'll find like you, For us you always did your best, God grant your soul eternal rest.

Also remembering our mother Sadie at this time.

From all your loving family.

Rest in Reace James



## In Loving Memory of

Late of Capoley, Portlaoise. (Died 7th January 1981)



Each time we look at your picture You seem to smile and say; "Don't be sad, but courage take and love each other for my sake"

Sadly missed by your son Martin, daughter-in-law Jacqueline, grandchildren Lorraine, Michelle, Sarah and her great-grandchildren Danny, Joe, Maeve and Rosie.

May Rily Rest in Reace



## In Loving Memory of JOSEPH O' SHEA

20 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise. 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



Loved and missed dearly by Mam, Caroline, John, Paul, Patrick and William, his children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Rest in Reace Joseph



## In Loving Memory of AGNES CARROLL ROONEY

43 Liogard, Portlaoise. 10th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Mammy, you left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide, Although we cannot see you,

Although we cannot see you, you're always at our side.

> Always in our Minds Forever in our Hearts

Sadly missed and always remembered by all her loving family.

May Agnes Rest in Reace



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of LILY (Elizabeth) McEVOY

Kilminchy, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.



Lily's family, her sister Meta Cooke and sister-in-law Kathleen McEvoy, nieces and nephew would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who sympathised with them, sent Mass cards, flowers and wreaths and uploaded messages online.

We would like to thank all those who attended the funeral home and requiem Mass, either in person or via the Parish Webcam.

A special thank you to Msgr. John Byrne for celebrating the requiem Mass and to the Priests of the Parish for all their support to the family at such a difficult time.

Thank you to Heather Fogarty for providing such beautiful music at Lily's Mass.

We would like to thank the carers who attended Lily over the last year. Thanks to the Palliative Care team, Nursing staff and Medical staff in MRH Portlaoise for all their assistance and kindness to Lily in her final days.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for the most professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out Lily's funeral arrangements and also to the gravediggers for preparing Lily's final resting place.

Heartfelt thanks to our family, friends and work colleagues for all their support and kindness during this time.

Please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

Thanksgiving Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Lily's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 14th January 2024 at 12:30pm in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise.

Map Rily's forever gentle soul Rest in Reace



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & FIRST ANNIVERSARY

#### In Loving Memory of DECLAN BRACKEN

Block Road, Portlaoise and Earlsfield, London. 1st Anniversary occurs 5th January 2024



The family of the late Declan Bracken, Block Road, Portlaoise and Earlsfield, London wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following Declan's untimely passing.

To our relations, neighbours, wide circle of friends and to Declan's friends and colleagues, your presence and expressions of

sympathy and kindness, both in person and online were a huge source of comfort to us. Many thanks to everyone for your Mass cards, letters, phone calls and messages of support.

We send our sincere thanks to those who called to our houses, brought food, helped with catering and with general planning and support to us in every possible way. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who attended Declan's wake, funeral Mass, and burial particularly those who travelled long distances.

We greatly appreciated everyone's messages of condolence on RIP.ie, especially those expressing gratitude to Declan, from his past patients and work colleagues at St. John of God's in Stillorgan, Basingstoke Hospital and St. George's Hospital in London and all other hospitals where Declan served as a caring nurse and colleague.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode of Keegan's Funeral Directors for their support and professionalism. To Colm Dunne and The Heath Cemetery Committee, thanks for your work and empathy. Heartfelt thanks to Msgr. Byrne and all the Priests of the parish for their support, comfort and beautiful celebration Mass, which was also kindly facilitated by the sister sacristans.

Thanks are also extended to Michelle and the staff of The Parish Centre for their support and assistance, and to Harte's florists for the beautiful floral arrangements.

Thanks to Declan's brother-in-law Tony Norton for organising and partaking in the music throughout the service.

A special thanks to the emergency services in London and the nursing staff in St. George's Hospital, London for your assistance and support.

Declan's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 6th January 2024 at 6.30pm in Sts. Peter & Paul's, Parish Church, Portlaoise.

Suaimhneas Dé ar d'anam dílis



## In Loving Memory of MARY TYNAN



Rathevan, Portlaoise. 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024



There is no night without a dawning, no winter without a spring,
And beyond death's dark horizon, our hearts once

more will sing. For those who leave us for a while, have only gone away,

Out of a restless careworn world, into a brighter day.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 7th January at 12.30pm.

Sadly missed and always remembered by her husband Luke and family.

Rest in Reace Mary



## In Loving Memory of MARTIN (Murt) KIRWAN

Anngrove, Kilbricken, Mountrath. 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, on Sunday January 14th, at 12 noon.

> God saw you were getting tired, When a cure was not to be, He closed his arms around you, And whispered "Come to Me".

In tears we watched you sinking, We watched you fade away; And though our hearts were breaking, We knew you could not stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest, It broke our hearts to see you go, God only takes the best.

No matter how life changes, no matter what we do, A special place within our hearts, is always kept for you.

Also remembering Murt's son John Paul at this time.
Just a prayer from the family who loved you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.

Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife Ann and his sons Martin, Anthony, James, daughters Mary, Martha, Noirin, his adoring grandchildren and extended family.

Rest in Reace Martin

## In Loving Memory of FERGUS PATRICK DUNNE

8th Anniversary occurred 4th January 2024



Our memories build a special bridge when loved ones have to part, to help us feel we are with them still and soothe a grieving heart.

Our memories span the years we shared, preserving ties that bind, They build a special bridge of love and bring us peace of mind.

Rest in peace Fergus. Dear Jesus, thy Heavenly home above with Sacred Heart of Jesus in his own eternal love.

Sadly missed by your loving partner Esther, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.

May Fergus Rest in Reace



Trusted Family Name Serving The People of Co. Laois and Surrounding Counties for Over 100 years



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

📞 James: 086 2572224 🔑 sales: 087 4899798

窗 james@mckeonmemorials.ie 🍙 sales@mckeonmemorials.ie

www.mckeonmemorials.ie

COME TO ME AND YOUR SOUL WILL LIVE

## **KEEGAN'S** FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew 087-2549195

David 087-2369887

## HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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





# **Portlaoise**

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

Please visit our new website www.portlaoisestone.ie



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

# The Parish Shop



For Your Special Day
Stocking a wide selection of Wedding Candles, Gifts and Cards



#### ALSO STOCKING

- \*Large selection of Baptismal Candles, Cards and Gifts candles may be personalised
- \* 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







At The Parish Centre

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm 057 862 1142 www.portlaoiseparish.ie

#### Portlaoise Parish

## **Results for**



4<sup>th</sup> January 2024







## No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

#### WINNERS

**Christy Cahill** 

**Christy Cahill Jnr** 

**Johnny Fitzpatrick** 

Frank Cullen

Cora Marum

Patricia Grant

**Bernadette Dunne** 

Ger O'Brien

John Kelly

Gerry O'Brien

#### MATCH 3s €1,000

10 Match 3s Receive

Receive €100 each

Play PARISH

#### **PROMOTER**

Tony Cahill
Tony Cahill
Lotto Gift
Frank Cullen
Chris Holohan
Bernie Lalor
Paul Dooley
Evan Byrne

C J Kelly M Farrell



www.portlaoiseparish.ie



@PortlaoiseParis

& Like Us ()

portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000



### The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 55:1-11 | Psalm 12:2-6 1 John 5:1-9 | Mark 1:7-11

### Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support. *Thank you* to the many who have found new ways of continuing to support the Parish. The generosity of so many means we **continue to** be well supported. Please find your way to contribute.

- \* Making your offering in the boxes at the entrances
- \* Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
  - \* Direct payment by cheque or cash
  - \* Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church
    - \* Donation facility on our website
  - \* Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
    - \* Or Transfer directly to our Account

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201
(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

THANK YOU

#### Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G. Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C. Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. Simon Jin Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira Tel: 057 8600121



Deacon Eugene Keyes Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364

#### Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can viewed on our website and our Church Porches. Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Kathleen Sherry safeguarding@kandle.ie



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

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

PARISH SHOP 057 8621142 - Claire Scully





Locally owned and locally run for a personalised, reliable and friendly service at all times. We believe in fast efficient service, either the same day delivery or a no hassle following day delivery with 5 trucks looking after your area. There has never been a better time to order your heating oil from Dunkeen Oil!

Contact Marcus directly
on 086 2904029 (any time)
Contact our office on 057 86 62777 (8am to 6 pm)
or order online on www.dunkeenoil.ie

Dunkeen Oil, Mountmellick Rd., Portlaoise
Our depot offers kerosene and tractor diesel at discounted prices