



First Sunday of Lent



REOPENING OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH RATHENISKA

A full congregation gathered last Sunday for a rededication Mass celebrated in the beautifully refurbished Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska.

Bishop Denis with concelebrants Msgr. John, Fr. Kevin O'Rourke (hidden), Fr. Nick Harnan and Fr. Ciprian.

More photos: page 15 and our website.



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It's Tempting

What are you giving up for Lent? Chocolates smoking television ... wine? It's tempting to

think that Lent is about saying a few extra prayers and giving up sweets or alcohol, but in truth, we are in serious danger of trivialising Lent. This forty-day journey with Jesus is so much more than resisting a few bad habits.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained there for forty days to be alone and consider his priorities away from distractions. Whilst he was there, Satan confronted him with all the temptations we lesser mortals are great at falling for the promise of wealth, fame, power, and worldly success. Having overcome Satan's temptations, Jesus emerged all the stronger, and proclaiming God's gospel.

This Lent we are invited to share Jesus' wilderness experience. Over the next forty days, we are challenged to retreat into our own wilderness and face our demons. The power of evil seeks us out in our weaknesses. Lent is a time when we can strengthen the areas in our life that show weakness. Lent is a time when we can change our sinful habits, change our minds about the way we live and decide what we are really about. The wilderness is a place where we can be tested, where we can get to know ourselves better and grow in maturity.

The theme of today's gospel is the close link between the preparation by Jesus in the desert and the start of his preaching. Lent has an end result. What end result are we preparing for? In what ways could we emerge all the stronger by Easter? Could this Lent provide the starting point we need to change the direction in our lives?



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.

Thank You!

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - 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

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 6.30pm Mass.



Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings during Lent
after 7.30pm Mass in Parish Church.

LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.

This Lent

Lent comes each year in three different cycles. This Lent we follow the gospel for the 'Year B' cycle. As the wisdom of the readings of the following weeks unfurl, we are invited to confront and overcome the temptation in our lives that prevents us from living the gospel. We are reminded that life is full of daily choices. What negative aspects do we need to drive out of our lives before we can make those choices? To motivate us when the demands of the gospel seem altogether too difficult, we are given a glimpse of God's glory and reminded that with death comes resurrection. Finally we are reminded that we must all 'die to self' ...like the grain which must die in order to bear fruit, so too must we always humbly put the needs of others before our own.



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Wed: 9:00am -5.30pm

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12th February

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Tuesdays

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10.30am-11.30am

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MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

11.45am-12.30pm

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13th February

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29th February

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

Monday 19th February; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

Wednesday 21st February; Some people are going to Google headquarters for one to one help with smart phones, laptops, note pads etc. and the remaining people will get some advice on preparing for Spring.

Thursday 22nd February; 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.

Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre on Tuesday, February 13th;

Top Score Sheila Duff | **1st Lady** Theresa Mulhare | **2nd Lady** Maeve Morrissey | **1st Gent** Tom Dunne
2nd Gent Catherine Gavin & Christy Fitzpatrick | **1st Half** Mary Gowing | **2nd Half** Bridie Kennedy

Raffle: 1st C. Fitzpatrick, 2nd Kit Farrell, 3rd N. Delaney, 4th T. Kearns

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

Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 20th February in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm; Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,130. Double number €1,020, Lotto €550.

Monster Whist Drive in Clonbullogue Hall 3rd March at 3pm in aid of Clonbullogue NS Parents Association;

Top Score €75, 1st Gent €30, 1st Lady €30, 2nd Gent €20, 2nd Lady €20, First Half €20, Second Half €20, Sitting Prize €10, Student Prize €10, Low Score €10. Refreshments served, raffle for hamper, for details contact 087-9828876.

Dinner Dance; Carlow Region Pioneers are holding their annual dinner dance on Sunday 25th February 2024 in the Seven Oaks Hotel Carlow at 1.30pm. Tickets €30. Music by Teresa and the Stars. Please contact Eileen 086-1664471.

Easter Raffle; The Parents' Association of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe are organising an Easter Raffle with excellent prizes 'up for grabs', which include; 1st Prize; €800 Blue Book Voucher, choose a luxury getaway in one of Ireland's top hotels. 2nd Prize; Dinner for two in Ballyfin House worth €250 | 3rd Prize; €250 Dunnes Stores Voucher. 4th Prize; €100 Voucher for the Heritage Spa, Killenard. Ticket Prices: 1 for €10/4 for €20/12 for €50.

All details relating to the Easter Raffle can be found online at www.idonate.ie and put 'Shanahoe Parents' Association Easter Raffle' in the search bar. All of the proceeds of the raffle will go towards purchasing additional levelled readers for the pupils in our school which ensures that every child is reading books that are at their instructional reading level and in turn enables all children to reach their full reading potential. Your support for this fundraiser would be greatly appreciated as we work towards enhancing the literacy resources at the disposal of our pupils. Many thanks.

Registered Charity Number of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe: 20126124

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).



Resisting Temptation

There was a bowl of sweets sitting on the coffee table in the living room of Mary's house. Mary's mother noticed that she was looking at the sweets and said, "Now, don't you eat any sweets until after dinner or you will spoil your appetite." The sweets looked so good and the temptation was so great. "Surely just one little piece won't hurt - and mother will never know the difference," Mary thought to herself.

Have any of you ever had an experience like that? Here is another story which might sound familiar.

"Put away your books and take out one sheet of paper and a pencil," the teacher said. "We are going to take our weekly spelling test." Johnny had an empty feeling in the pit of his stomach. He knew that they were going to have a spelling test today, but he watched TV last night instead of studying for the spelling test and he wasn't ready for the test. As the test began, Johnny looked around the room and realised that he had a clear view of Sally's paper. "It won't hurt if I look at Sally's paper just this once," Johnny thought to himself. "I promise — I'll never do it again and nobody will ever know."

All of us have faced temptations such as these, haven't we? Did you know that Jesus was tempted just as we are? The Gospel tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with Scripture!

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days. He was hungry, and Satan knew he was hungry, so he said to him, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but he didn't. Instead, he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took Jesus up to a high place and showed him the worldly kingdoms below. "All of this belongs to me," he said. "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give it to you."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and led him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angels to rescue you."

Again, Jesus quoted the Scripture, "'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

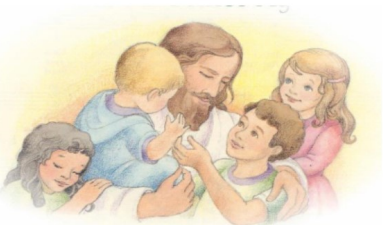
Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

Satan tempted Jesus just as he tempts you and me. Jesus resisted Satan's temptation, and we can too, by answering him with Scripture.



My Prayer

Dear Father, help us to learn what the Bible teaches us to do so that when the devil tempts us, we can do what Jesus did — answer him with Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



We know that Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and praying. During Lent we try to follow Jesus' example by doing something special to show how much we love him and want to be like him. This is not easy and sometimes it is difficult to decide what we want to do and even more difficult to keep doing it for forty days.

There are three things that we are asked to focus on during Lent.



PRAYING: Spend a little more time with God.

SACRIFICING: Giving up something that you really like.

ALMSGIVING: Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.

They are:

SOME OF THESE SUGGESTIONS MIGHT HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO:

I will share a smile



I will help my mammy

I will write a letter to my nana

I won't eat sweets

I will play with my little brother/sister

I will share my lunch with my friend

I will be patient

I will make a card for my mammy

I will eat my dinner

I will help clean the kitchen

I will say thank you to Jesus

I will do what my teacher asked

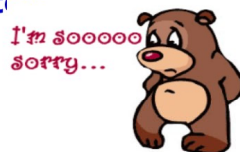
I will forgive someone who hurt me

I will give my daddy a hug

I will read a story to my sister

I will share my toys

I won't watch television



I will pray for those who are hungry

I will put some money in the Trócaire Box

I will pray for those who have died

I will make a card for my granddad

I will help my teacher

I will clean my room without complaining

I will be kind to someone

I will pray for those who are sick

I will share my pencils with my friends

I will put my litter in the bin

I will help mind the baby

I will go to Mass

I will call my grandparents

I will pray for peace

I will say 'sorry'

I will make my bed

I will give away something that I like.





Time to Think!

Lent - A Time to Grow

We live in an instant culture. Perhaps the greatest challenge of our time is to acquire the gift of patience. We don't do waiting very well. Easter eggs are readily available, since the end of December. The challenge of lent, is to be countercultural. Perhaps a Lenten resolution for 2024, is to grow in the gift of patience. Some gifts are worth waiting for. Easter is one of them.

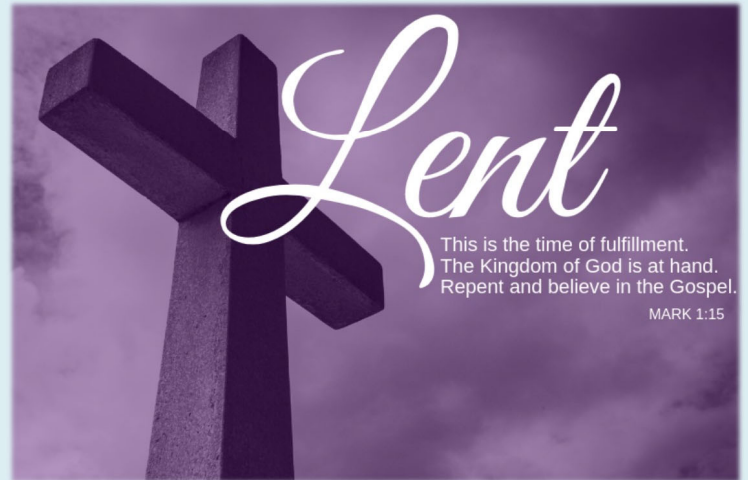
Lent is a season of reflection that leads us towards the three days of the Triduum, culminating with the celebration of Easter. It is a time to ask questions, a pause time on a journey, a time when we might re-examine the baggage we carry from month to month, maybe a time to lighten the load. The third verse of a hymn from the late Sixties, *'God's spirit is in my heart'* has these words. *"Don't carry a load in your pack, you don't need two shirts on your back, a workman can earn his own keep, can earn his own keep"*. That just about sums up the story of our journey. So the signing of the cross on our foreheads, using ash from last year's burnt palms is a reminder of where we have come from and where we are headed and the ever-present need to take stock. Lent is a time of return, when that which was lost is found again and a new beginning sought. The *'lost sheep'* is a recurring symbol of our experience. A few years ago I came across a solitary sheep cropping the roadside verge. It gave rise to these few lines.

*"It had strayed beyond the barbed fence, head down,
to graze the grass verge by the roadside.
Careless of traffic, a single sheep, carrying a rust-red stain
of identity, had walked away from the field flock.
Slowly it cropped the road edge unhurried,
waiting to be found"*.

Saint Basil, known as the Great, was a fourth-century bishop of the Eastern Church who was known for his care for the poor. He was also the writer of a monastic rule of life, which is still followed today by monks. He wrote a short piece on fasting, which can help us to a wider understanding of what it means; Do not limit the benefits of fasting merely to abstinence from food, because a true fast means refraining from evil. Lose every unjust bond, put away your resentment against your neighbour, forgive him his offences. Do not let your fasting lead only to wrangling and strife. You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother; you abstain from wine, but not from insults. So all the labour of your fast is useless.

Maybe we could extend that idea a bit further. Why not do some of these?

- Fast from anger and hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.
- Fast from judging others. Before making judgments, recall how we wish God to overlook our faults.
- Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that he has a mission for us in life. Whatever you give up for Lent, don't let it be hope.



- Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, stop and recall some of the good things that happened to you in your life.
- Fast from resentment and bitterness. Work on forgiving those who have hurt you.
- Fast from spending too much money on yourself. Reduce your personal spending and spend instead on the poor, e.g. through Trócaire.
- In Lent don't just give up, take up. Take up prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Give up sin and take up repentance.

Lent is always an invitation to begin again. This is a time above to build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Lent can be a most profound and liberating personal journey. Building a relationship that gifts our personal lives to hope and indulge in a most resilient confidence, a confidence that reminds us, no matter what happens we are not alone. The light of Christ is brighter than any clouds of despair or uncertainty. St. Paul reminds us, "With God on our side who can be against Us". Make the most of this sacred season as an opportunity to grow in our humanity. The more we accept our wounded selves the more we grow in wholesomeness and peace of mind. When this happens our vision and perspective becomes positive and bright.

The following is a lovely daily prayer for Lent...

I Will Turn

Lord, I will turn, turn my face towards you.
I will lay before you the desert areas I hide,
and turn to soak in your refreshing words of life.
I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits and turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love.
I will draw back from the harsh pull of media and turn to bathe in the gentle power of your Spirit.
Lord, today I turn my face towards you.
I will turn,
To soak in your words of life, to rest in the warmth of your love, and to bathe in the power of your Spirit.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,800 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

**Reopening of Holy Cross Church in Ratheniska
11th February 2024**



Michael Scully photo



Michael Scully photo

Two Important Ukrainian Anniversaries coming up this week

20th February: 'Angels of Memory' Ukrainians will mark the 10th Anniversary of the massacre of 100 people involved in a peaceful protest that ousted the country's Russia friendly president.

24th February: Ukrainians and supporters of Ukraine will mark the second anniversary of Russia's full scale invasion of



Ireland - Ukraine friendship flag

Worldwide Ukrainians will create paper cut-outs of Angels on white paper and placed on trees in memory of those who gave their lives for freedom in 2014. In Portlaoise this will take place on a tree in the grounds of the Parish Church on Tuesday next 20th February.

And on Saturday 24th the Ukrainian community will gather at that tree in the Church grounds after 10am Mass to mark the 2nd Anniversary of Russia's wholly unjustified and aggressive invasion of Ukraine that has cost thousands of lives. Russia unleashed the first war in Europe in the 21st century. The world is again faced with a regime that seeks to forcefully revise borders.

Ukraine's victory is a guarantee of world stability.

You are invited to show solidarity with Ukraine and their efforts to repel this unjust aggressor.



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of Ireland

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Project Ireland
2040

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

20
FEB

You are invited to
CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS
ONLINE WEBINAR | 7:00 PM

Get inspired with examples of projects for your community group to apply with to this fund.

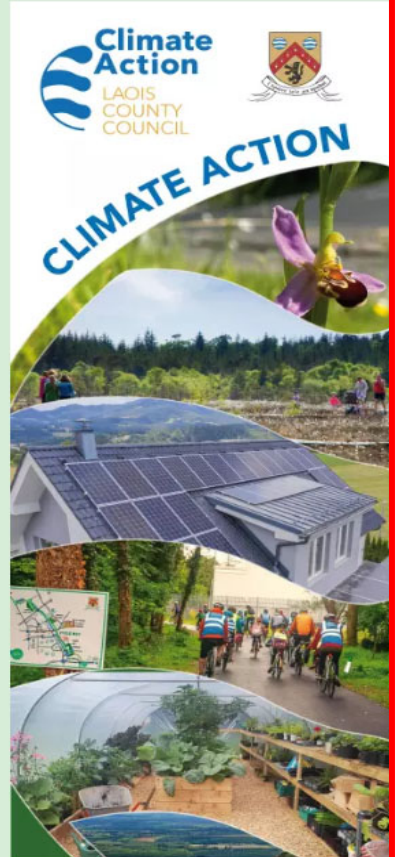
Hear from climate action experts:

Dr Karen Moore: Community Climate Action Officer,
Laois County Council

Aoife Munn: community activator, lecturer and
environmentalist

To register email kmoore@laoiscoco.ie

Finish @ 8.30pm



Community Energy



Travel



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Parent And Baby Swimming Class

- Gradual exposure to water, with support from parents can help build a baby's confidence.
- Most importantly, baby swimming should be enjoyable for both the baby and the parent



Swim Academy

- Swim provides essential water safety skills
- Boosts self-confidence and discipline in children
- Preparation to progress to the next levels of Swim Academy

Rookie Lifeguard

(Suitable for children between 8-12 years old)

- Learn new Livesaving skills: CPR & First Aid.
- Opportunity to explore water safety
- Independence and confidence while learning vital life skills



NPLQ National Lifeguard Qualification

(12-16 years old, following for Rookie lifeguard)

- The NPLQ is recognised around the world, so potential to work and travel
- Practical pool assessment
- Theory Assessment for all three sections
- Learn essential life skills, including First Aid and CPR.



Adult Swimming Lessons

- Beginner, Intermediate and Advancend
- Opportunity to learn water safety skills
- Improve confidence while having fun

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



Gabrielle (Gaye) Martin
Kilminchy, Portlaoise



Johanna O' Dooley
Grange Upper, Stradbally



Tom Lalor
Portlaoise Road, Mountrath
and Shanahoe



Dickie McDonald
Abbeyleix



Helen Byrne
(nee Harding)
"St. Martins", Ridge Road



Mary Kealey
Sheffield Cross

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.



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**In Loving Memory of
JOHN KELLEHER**



Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 23rd February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Friday 23rd February at 10am.

*Our thoughts are ever with you,
Though you have passed away.*

**Always remembered by all his loving
family and friends.**

Also remembering John's wife Theresa at this time.

May John Rest in Peace



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



**In Loving Memory of
JACK LYONS**

Ballyroan. Died 22nd October 2023.



The family of the late Jack Lyons wish to
acknowledge the many expressions of
sympathy received on their sad loss and
to thank all those who visited our
home and attended the funeral Mass,
crematorium and burial, sent Mass cards,
letters of sympathy and posted messages
of condolence online.

Our sincere gratitude to Fr. Paddy Byrne and Fr. Petru
Medves for the beautiful funeral Mass and house visits
and to the choir for the lovely singing and music.

To Rody, Frank and all who helped with traffic and
parking and the girls who took on the task of kitchen
duties and looked after everyone. To the G.A.A. for their
guard of honour, you did Jack proud.

Special thanks to Dr. Fleming, Dr. Shafi and their team for
the great care they took of Jack. To the nurses and staff
on Medical ward and catering staff who showed kindness
to him over many years.

To the doctors, nurses and staff at the Cedar Clinic and
Marcus Breslin and staff at Breslin's Pharmacy.

To Dr. Anna Gullane and Dr. John Connaughton for their
kindness shown to the family over many years.

To Des and Carmel Moran, Funeral Directors for their
help and support and professional manner in which they
carried out Jack's funeral arrangements and to the boys
for preparing his final resting place with such care.

To Richard Noel for making the beautiful cross and Richie
for all his support, also Jack's brothers, sisters, nieces and
nephews.

To Eileen Scully for providing lovely food after the burial,
sincere thanks and to our kind neighbours and friends.

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

May Jack Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MARGARET LAWLESS**

née Lawlor

Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

*Thinking of Margaret (Mag) on her
4th Anniversary since she went home.*

4th Anniversary occurs 18th February 2024



*"Mom, from the time we were
really young, we realised we had
someone.....you,
who always cared,
who always protected us,
who was always there for us
no matter what.*

*You taught us right from wrong,
and pushed us to do the right thing,
even when it was hard to do.
You took care of us when we were
sick, and your love helped make
us well.*

*You had rules, and we learned that when we followed
them they guide our lives to be simpler, better, richer.*

You were and are the guiding light of our lives.

*Our heart is filled with love for you, our teacher,
our friend, our mother".*

**From your husband Sonny, sons Thomas, daughter-in-law
Louise, Alan and son-in-law David, Terry, daughter-in-law
Siobhan and your loving grandchildren Tamara,
Thomas (Jnr), Jack, Luke and Rhea xx**

Missed every day

Rest in Peace Margaret

In Loving Memory of **PADDY CLOONEY**

Shanahoe Rd., Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix.

1st Anniversary occurs 20th February 2024



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
the Church of the Most Holy Rosary,
Abbeyleix on**

Sunday 25th February at 11am.

*Gone from us that smiling face,
The cheerful pleasant ways,
The heart that won so many friends
In bygone, happy days.*

A life made beautiful by kindly deeds,

A helping hand for others needs,

To a beautiful life, comes a happy end,

He died as he lived, everyone's friend.

**Always remembered, never forgotten by his loving
daughters Anne & Patricia, sons-in-law Eamon & Aidan
and grandchildren Roisin, Tommy, Sean & Conall.**

Rest in Peace Paddy

In Loving Memory of **PETER LALOR**

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 23rd February 2024



Husband;

*My love, losing you was
hard, but living without you
every day is the hardest,
My heart and soul still
seeks for you, but it knows
that you are at peace in
Heaven.*

*I miss you so much more
than words can say.*

Forever loved and missed by your loving wife Jean xxx

Brother;

No farewell words were spoken,

No time to say goodbye,

You were gone before I knew it,

And only God knows why.

My heart still aches in sadness,

And secret tears still flow,

What it meant to lose you,

No one will ever know.

Loved and missed every day, Ger xx

Brother/Uncle;

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in
your ear, how much we love and miss you,

And wish that you were here.

Love and miss you every day P

Marie, Christy, Kyle and Finn xxxxx

Brother/Uncle;

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

Daithí, Mags, Shauna, Oisín and Cillian xxxxx

Brother/Uncle;

I wish I could have you back a while,

I miss your laughter, I miss your smile,

I would hold you tightly and never let go,

And tell you how much I miss you so.

Everyday is hard without you

Olive, Willie, Ciara, Aimee, Jodie and Tierna xxxxx

**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 17th February, at 6.30pm.**

Rest in Peace Peter

In Loving Memory of **ANTHONY REDDIN**

8 Triogue Place, Portlaoise and Mountmellick.
Months Mind occurs 21st February 2024
Also remembering Anthony on his first birthday away
from home which occurs 25th February.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm.

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

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
his sons Pierce and Cole and their mother
Elizabeth, his granddaughter Emily-Rose,
god-child Keelin, partner Margaret and her family, brothers,
sisters, extended family and large circle of friends.

Rest in Peace Anthony

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of **JOHN DOWLING** Newpark, Portlaoise.



The family of John would like to
express their sincere thanks for all the
expressions of sympathy and kindness
following our recent sad loss. We
extend our gratitude to all those who
attended the wake and funeral and to
all who sent Mass cards and offered
condolences on rip.ie

A special thank you to Msgr. Byrne for
his guidance and for celebrating the
beautiful funeral Mass. A special thank you also to
Matthew Keegan for his caring and mindful approach
during a difficult time. Thank you to Heather Fogarty for
the beautiful music at the funeral Mass.

We are forever grateful for Olive and all the palliative
nursing and care team in Portlaoise, the oncology teams
in Tallaght and St. Lukes, the public health nurses, the
Irish Cancer Society night nurses, Dr. Simon Honan, the
home care team and everyone who made John
comfortable and well looked after and who supported us,
especially in his final weeks.

A heartfelt thank you to all our Newpark neighbours for
their kindness and offers of support.

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

John's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 25th February
at 12.30pm.

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MAURA LOUGHLIN**

144 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 21st February 2024



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

*Memories of you Mam
It's been the hardest thing to lose
you, you meant so much to me,
But you are in our hearts Mam,
And that's where you'll always be.*

*We know that Heaven called you, but we wish you
could have stayed, at least the memories we have
of you, they will never fade.*

*We did not want to lose you, but you did not go
alone, because part of us went with you, when
Heaven called you home.*

*So just remember one thing, we are not apart,
You're with us in our memories,
And in our broken hearts.*

*Forever loved and missed by your husband John,
daughter, sons and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Maura

In Loving Memory of **SEAN & UNA McEVOY**

Clontygar, Acragar, Co. Laois and formerly
Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

Sean's 9th Anniversary occurs 20th February 2024
Una's 21st Anniversary occurs 24th February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 24th February at 6.30pm.

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

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

May They Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of NIAL WALSH

Stradbrook Apartments Portlaoise and late of Dysart.



Nial's parents Tess and Pat Walsh, and his brother Colum, sister Fiona and extended family, would like to thank all those who sympathised with them, sent Mass cards, telephoned, posted messages of condolence online, attended the Requiem Mass in person or online via the webcam, we are truly grateful.

Thank you to Monsignor John Byrne for the very personal Mass to celebrate Nial's life and all the Priests of the Parish for their kindness and support.

Thank you to the paramedics and emergency services and all the medical staff of A&E who were so supportive on the evening of Nial's sad and sudden passing.

Thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Goode of Keegan Funeral Directors for their kindness, compassion and the professional and dignified manner in which they carried out Nial's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers who prepared Nial's final resting place with such care.

A special word of thanks to all our close family and friends who provided emotional and practical support for us at this difficult time and for the many thoughtful and kind gestures, in particular Nial's uncle Tom for the beautiful poem and family members for the beautiful music. To those who helped in any way, your contribution made our loss more bearable.

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

The Holy Sacrifice of Mass has been offered for your intentions.

May Nial Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of WILLIAM GREENE

Formerly New Road, Portlaoise.
27th Anniversary occurred 10th February 2024



*Wonderful memories of one so dear,
Treasured still with a love sincere,
In our hearts he is living yet,
We loved him too dearly to forget.*

Always loved and remembered by
Daddy, Mammy, brothers, sisters,
nieces and nephews.

Mass of intentions offered.

Rest in Peace William

In Loving Memory of



Mary Kate (Kitty) McCormack

Late of Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise
Who died 20th February, 1984 RIP.
40th anniversary.

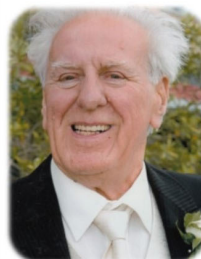
Whose anniversary occurs at this time

*Time may pass and fade away,
But silent thoughts and memories stay.*

Loved and always remembered
by all your family

In Loving Memory of MICHAEL RIGNEY

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 18th February 2024.



*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 wife Kathleen, family & friends.

May Mick Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of BILL (William) WHELAN

And his Wife

MARGARET (Rita) WHELAN

Corrigreen, Stradbally

Bill's 9th Anniversary occurred
15th February 2024

Rita's 2nd Anniversary
occurs 2nd March 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the
Assumption, the Heath, **Sunday 25th February at 9:30am.**

*When we look upon your picture, sweet memories we recall,
Of faces that are so full of sunshine,
And a smile it brings for one and all.*

*Sadly missed by your daughter Anne, sons Seamus
and Ray, in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
relatives and friends.*

*You will both always be in our thoughts and
forever in our hearts.*

May Bill and Rita Rest in Peace



Stations of the Cross Friday evenings during Lent at 7pm in St. Bridget's Church
Shanahoe, Abbeylax. R32AH90



In Loving Memory of

Our Mother

ANN DELANEY

Cappagh North, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs 23rd February 2024.

And Our Father

JAMES DELANEY

8th Anniversary occurred 17th January 2024.



*Treasured thoughts of ones so dear,
Often bring a silent tear,
Thoughts of scenes long past,
Years roll on but memories last.*

*Sadly missed by your loving daughter Ruth, son
Mark and grandchildren Alannah, Elisha and Kody.*

May They Rest in Peace



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In Loving Memory of

Our Loving Father **WILLIAM KERRY**

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise. Died February 1999.

25th Anniversary occurs 19th February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Monday 19th February at 10am.

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

Sadly missed by your loving family.

Rest in Peace William

In Loving Memory of **SEAN KEOGH**

6 Park View, Portlaoise. 13th Anniversary. Died 14/2/2011.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 18th February at 6.30pm.

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

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his
loving wife Bríd and all his family.*

May Sean Rest in Peace

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
15th February 2024



No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Martha McGlade

HM

Bartle Dunne

Orla Farrell

MATCH 3s €1,000



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Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000

THE
SUNDAY
MISSAL

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm 24:4-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

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



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

Supermac's



LAOIS/OFFALY GARDA YOUTH AWARDS 2024

Do you know a young person aged 13-21 years or a local youth group who has made a difference in their community, school or elsewhere? Laois/Offaly Gardaí, in conjunction with Supermacs and the Killeshin Hotel, want to celebrate these achievements.

Nominate an inspiring young person or local group you know



Nomination forms can be accessed on the Garda Síochána Laois/Offaly Facebook page or through the QR code and returned to laoisoffalygardayouthawards@garda.ie

Closing date for applications is the 29 February 2024

