

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

4th February 2024

**Fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

Thank you to the pupils of  
Scoil Bhríde and all who  
made St. Brigid's crosses.  
They proved very popular  
at our Masses on the  
1st February.  
St. Brigid pray for us.



**St. Brigid's Blessing**

May Brigid bless the house  
wherein we dwell.  
Bless every fireside,  
every wall and door.  
Bless every heart that beats  
beneath its roof.  
Bless every hand that toils  
to bring its joy.  
Bless every foot that  
walks portals through.  
May Brigid bless the house  
that shelters us.  
Amen.

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

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

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## The Greater Point

When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why

does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody!

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

In some schools today, children are rewarded for a hundred percent attendance. Children come rushing home at the end of term waving certificates to prove that sickness has not kept them away from the classroom for one single day. But there are critics who would suggest that being in school every single day is not the important bit; it's what the pupil achieves whilst in the classroom that is of true importance. So it is with our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere?

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Monday (Bank Holiday): 10am**

**Tuesday - 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**

Billy Sean Langton, Graigavern Lodge, Ballybrittas.

**Who were baptised last weekend.**

## Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for February 2024 *For the Terminally Ill*

For the very sick or dying, there may be feelings of helplessness, confusion, anger, regret or fear. But for the Christian, the love of Jesus Christ can help to make sense of suffering, and give hope, comfort, peace and spiritual support. The Bible describes Jesus reaching out to the sick with compassion and tenderness: holding them, comforting them, offering them forgiveness and healing. We are taught that dying well is as important as living well. No one is forgotten by God. This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention "...that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment."



**Development Fund Envelope  
Boxes Available at the Church  
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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.**



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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



Lift your Heart  
with the  
Joy of Singing

**The Dawn of  
SHANORÉ  
GOSPEL CHOIR**  
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Join us  
Friday 9th Feb 2024  
at 7:30pm  
in St Bridget's Church  
Shanahoe

Contact Martina on  
087 7004903 for more info.

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Congratulations to Amedeo Viscocchi, winner of last week's €15,000 Lotto Jackpot, pictured above with his girlfriend Shannon Doody and Fr. Ciprian presenting the winning cheque.

You too could be as lucky as Amedeo - play lotto online at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) or purchase a membership in the Parish Centre. If you aren't in, you can't win!!

The lotto draw takes place in the foyer of the Parish Centre every Thursday evening after 5pm and is live streamed on the Portlaoise Parish facebook page; [fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois](https://fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois)

Antique and Collectors Fair at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon  
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- \* Sacred Art items for your home
- \* Bibles & Spiritual Books for adults and children



**Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm**

**At The Parish Centre**

**057 862 1142**

**[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)**





**Block Road, Portlaoise,  
Co Laois**  
057 8681492  
**www.cuislecancersupport.com**  
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## **Mondays**

### **MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME**

11.30am-12.30pm  
**12th February**  
6 Week Course  
Booking Essential

### **EXERCISE CLASS**

Gentle strengthening  
exercise for cancer patients  
12.45-1.30pm  
**12th February**  
Places Limited  
6 Week Course

### **CREATIVE ARTS CLASS**

**12th February**  
(6 Weeks)  
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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 confirmed

### **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  
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### **"LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER"**

**Tuesday, 9th April**  
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## **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**

By appointment only  
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### **MANUAL LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE**

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dema, which may result from  
surgery or radiotherapy.  
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### **REFLEXOLOGY REIKI**

By appointment only

## **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**  
**29th February**  
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

**SEPT 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,  
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**9.30-11am**  
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## **AQUA AEROBICS**

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**Portlaoise Active Retirement** meet every Wednesday at 3pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun and activities, new members always welcome. Here is our programme for next week;

Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February; No Bowls

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February; Fun and activities with Moez

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February; Cards and chat in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm, tuition given.

For further info. contact Sheila (PRO) on 087-6204617.

**Ballyroan Active Retirement Group;** 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, 30<sup>th</sup> January;**

**Top Score:** Mary Delaney | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Catherine Fitzpatrick & Maureen Fitzpatrick | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Frank Keenan

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** Tom Jacob | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Frank Keenan | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** Kit Farrell | **Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> Maureen Fitzpatrick

**2<sup>nd</sup> Theresa Mulhare | 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Kearns, Paraic Dowling and Kit Farrell**

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

**Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February;** St. Fiacc's Hall 8.30pm. Jackpot on 49 numbers €1,870.

Double number €880. Lotto €3,550. Over €10,000 in prize money to be won.

**Volunteers Required;** Jack and Jill, Kea-Lew Portlaoise are currently looking for volunteers willing to give a few hours of their time on Saturdays. If interested contact Martina 087-486817 or e-mail [portlaoise@jackandjill.ie](mailto:portlaoise@jackandjill.ie) or call to our shop and pick up an application form. We are open 10am to 5:30pm Monday to Saturday.

**ALONE;** Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to Older People once a week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested please sign up online at [www.alone.ie/volunteers](http://www.alone.ie/volunteers). For more information, contact Fiona 086-1366539 or e-mail [fiona.boyle@alone.ie](mailto:fiona.boyle@alone.ie).

**Newbridge Kildare Samaritans** are holding a recruitment information evening in the Midland Park Hotel Portlaoise, on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. We would welcome anyone interested in joining us in our important work, we will give all the necessary information to help make the decision.

### **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).

**Life in the Spirit Seminars;** St. Brigid's Parish Centre Clara, commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February for 7 nights, starting at 8pm. Guest speaker each night. Come and be renewed. Enquires to Kay 085-7114205.

**Free Online Reflection and Meditation;** Join us for 40 minutes to find healing and hope through the Sunday Gospel. We will do this through input, music, and guided prayer, to help nourish the soul for the week ahead. Sunday evenings 6.45pm, online via Zoom 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February. Presented By Martina and The Ruah Team. For further enquiries and bookings e-mail [info@ruahrest.com](mailto:info@ruahrest.com) or visit [www.ruahrest.com](http://www.ruahrest.com)



## **REFLEXOLOGY**

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- **NEED HOME HEATING OIL?**
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## Looking for Jesus

A few years ago, "Where's Wally?" books were very popular. You still see them in bookstores and libraries. How many of you have seen a "Where's Wally?" book? If you have, you know what Wally looks like. He always wears a red and white striped ski cap and a matching sweater. Wally has a rather goofy smile and wears thick, black-rimmed glasses. In these picture books, Wally is always in every picture, but he is very hard to find. You can spend a lot of time looking for Wally. Looking for Wally can be a lot of fun, but in real life, looking for someone can much more serious. Our Gospel today tells about a day when a lot of people were looking for Jesus. They were looking for Jesus because they needed something that only he could give them.

Jesus had been travelling around the countryside teaching, preaching, and healing the sick. He had become very popular, and everywhere he went there were great crowds of people. They came to hear him teach about God's love and to be healed of their diseases.

One day Jesus went to visit in the home of Simon Peter. When he got there, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, so they told Jesus about her right away. Jesus took her by the hand and helped her up. Immediately the fever left her. She was healed and went in and began to fix dinner for everyone. When the people heard that Jesus was at Peter's house, a large crowd of people began to gather outside the door. People brought their sick friends to Jesus, and he healed many people who had all different kinds of diseases.



The next morning, Jesus woke up before anyone else. He went outside to spend some time alone with his Father in prayer. Later, Peter and the other disciples went looking for Jesus. When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

Jesus answered and said, "Let's go to the nearby towns and villages so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So Jesus travelled all around Galilee teaching, preaching, and healing people.

People today are still looking for Jesus. They are looking for Jesus because they need something that only he can give them - forgiveness for sin and everlasting life. Are you looking for Jesus? The Bible says "If you search for him with all your heart and soul, you can find him." (Deut. 4:29) You can find him right here - in the Bible.



Dear Father, many people today are searching for Jesus.  
We pray that today will be the day that they find him.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



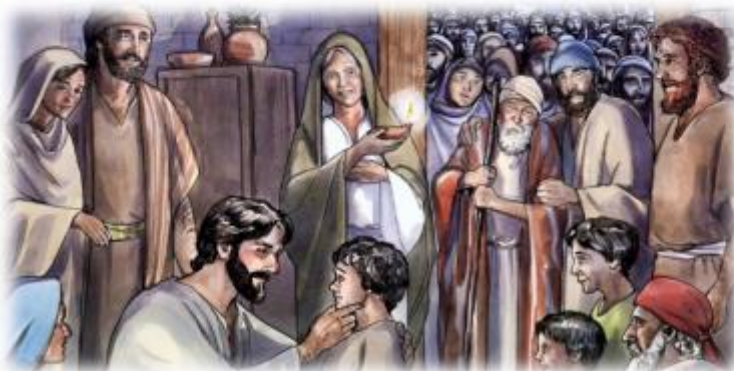


# Show others you care

The whole town gathered at the door to watch. So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases. **Mark 1:33-34**

Choose the word that best matches the definition:

- \_\_\_ 1. A place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith  
A. town      B. village      C. home      D. synagogue
- \_\_\_ 2. The time of day when the sun disappears below the horizon  
A. morning      B. sunset      C. dawn      D. sunrise
- \_\_\_ 3. To cure from sickness or disease  
A. sick      B. prayer      C. heal      D. preach
- \_\_\_ 4. A condition when the body temperature is higher than normal  
A. demons      B. synagogue      C. healed      D. fever
- \_\_\_ 5. The body part used for holding things  
A. feet      B. head      C. hand      D. leg
- \_\_\_ 6. To be ill or have a disease  
A. demon      B. sick      C. bed      D. hand
- \_\_\_ 7. Evil spirits  
A. diseases      B. sick      C. fever      D. demons
- \_\_\_ 8. To give assistance; to aid  
A. help      B. preach      C. hand      D. synagogue
- \_\_\_ 9. To deliver a sermon  
A. help      B. fever      C. heal      D. preach
- \_\_\_ 10. A piece of furniture for sleeping  
A. chair      B. synagogue      C. bed      D. table



**Jesus heals  
many people**





# Time to Think!

## Deep Peace

The person who has probably done most in the Christian world to promote the idea of concentrating on our breathing as a form of prayer is the Indian Jesuit Tony de Mello, who sadly died prematurely in 1987, at the age of 55. He was greatly influenced by Buddhist spirituality. He gave a number of retreats in Ireland and made a lasting impression on all who heard him. He was not always favourably received, as some of his views were (at least at that time) controversial. His most constant message was that God loved us unconditionally. This may seem rather commonplace today, but when Tony began his retreat ministry there was a strong emphasis in the Catholic Church on sin and the divine punishment for sin, so most Christians believed that God did not really love us unconditionally, but only on condition that we did not sin, or at least that we repented of our sins.

Tony did not always give clear and immediate explanations as to how concentrating on your breathing could be a form of prayer. Furthermore, his insistence that it could take many hours of this exercise to experience the spiritual benefits of this form of prayer meant that not too many of his listeners persisted in the exercise long enough to discover any benefits for themselves, since they were carrying out the exercise in blind faith, and were inclined to waver along the way, like Peter walking on the water. The breathing awareness exercises that Tony prescribed were very simple: "Become aware of the air as it comes in and goes out through your nostrils. Do not control your breathing or attempt to deepen it. This is not an exercise in breathing but in awareness. Observe it." Tony's main point was that people live too much in their heads, and are far too little conscious of the activity of their senses. As a result, he stated, they rarely live in the present. Even in their prayer, they are almost always in the past or in the future, mulling over their past sins or praying for some future event to happen, or perhaps not to happen. But, as Tony put it, God isn't yesterday or tomorrow; God is now.

To succeed in prayer it is essential to make contact with the present, and the only way of doing this is by getting out of your head and returning to your senses. It is certainly true that you can think about the past, and about the future; but you can't feel something from the past or the future. You can only feel what is happening now. Before you use awareness of breathing as a means of prayer, it is important to think about what you are hoping for from this kind of prayer. It is probably not helpful to think of it as a way of communicating with God, but rather of giving God an opportunity to communicate with you. This is an understanding of prayer characteristic of St. John of the Cross, who said "if the person is seeking God, much more is her beloved seeking her". As Tony de Mello himself wrote, "The Holy Spirit is not produced by any efforts of our own. He cannot be 'merited'. There is absolutely nothing we can do to get him... We can't produce the Spirit. We can only wait for him to come". So the intention with which we embark on this kind of prayer is important.

Tony talks about the importance of removing the 'dross' in prayer. By dross in this case he means the vast number of thoughts and words and images that we interpose between ourselves and God when we are communicating with God; or perhaps even more to the point, when God is trying to communicate with us.



But it is impossible to clear the mind of dross unless we put something else in its place. We can't think of just nothing. If you try to 'clear your mind', thoughts will run in from all over the place. Clearing the mind is achieved only by getting out of the mind (to the extent that this is possible), and by substituting sense impressions (in this case awareness of our breathing) for thoughts. In this kind of activity we are firmly in the now, where God resides, which puts us, so to say, on the same wavelength. Live in the present moment, says Tony de Mello. Why not concentrate on the now, instead of hoping for better times in the future?

So, in short, in order to make awareness of our breathing an effective way of praying, it is important to enter prayer with the aim of waiting for God to communicate with us, and then to give our attention solely to our breathing as a way of silencing our minds, and clearing the 'dross' from our minds, and in this way to enter into the 'now' of God's action in the world. This is not to expect any conscious messages or revelations, but just to leave ourselves open to the touch of God's spirit, in the hope that this may slowly, over time, change our lives, in most cases without us even realising what is happening to us.

Tony de Mello also suggests that it is questionable whether this should be our only way of praying. For one thing, concentration on our breathing for very long periods of time could bring about unwelcome psychological effects. A few minutes a day may be enough for many people. It is also possible that if we make awareness of our breathing our only way of praying, it can be due to laziness, – it is also important for our spiritual life to take the time to build up some images and words, perhaps from the Bible, which can echo in our hearts when we are praying. Tony de Mello describes other forms of prayer, and though some of these exercise the brain more than simple awareness of our breathing, they also focus on the now, and leave room for the action of God's grace in our lives. It is important to admit that praying can be at times a fatiguing and frustrating experience, especially when it is riddled with distractions. Giving our brains a rest from time to time, and returning to our senses, can relieve the tension in our prayer, and bring us moments of deep peace.

Deep Peace of the running wave to you.  
Deep Peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep Peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep Peace of the shining stars to you.  
Deep Peace of the infinite peace to you.

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,750 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*



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**5<sup>TH</sup> FEB**  
2024

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to music**

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everyone**

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essential**

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2024

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Fr Breen Park

CONTACT:

[SPORTS@LAOISCOCO.IE](mailto:SPORTS@LAOISCOCO.IE)

FROM WEDNESDAY  
**7<sup>TH</sup> FEB**  
2024



These outdoor activity sessions are provided by fully qualified instructors and are weather dependent. Wearing layers and a rain jacket is advisable.



Laois County Council  
Áras an Chomair, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Healthy  
Laois



Riailtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland





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



**John Dowling**  
Newpark, Portlaoise



**David Duncan**  
Rathevan, Portlaoise



**Eamonn Kelly**  
Ballymacken, Portlaoise



**Esther Heffernan**  
née Tynan  
Esker Hills, Portlaoise



**Edward (Eddie) Deevy**  
Sue Ryder Centre  
Kilminchy, Portlaoise and  
Crettyard, Kilkenny



**Elizabeth (Liz) Simpson**  
Borris Road, Portlaoise

**Teresa Lalor**  
Clonad, Portlaoise

**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  
EDWARD COOKE**

Rathevan, Portlaoise.

42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurred 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.



*The years are passing quietly,  
With pride we speak your name,  
Our lives go on without you,  
It's never been the same.*

*Loved and remembered always Dad*

*From Margaret, Gerard, Edward & Gearóid, Katie, Rachel  
and great-grandchildren Madison, Ailbhe and Autumn.*

*May Edward Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
EDWARD COOKE Rathevan.**

Died 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1982

42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary; 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.



*If memories bring us closer,  
We will never be far apart,  
For you are always with us,*

*In our thoughts and in our hearts.*

*Loved and remembered always by;*

*Your loving daughter Bridie, son-in-law Stephen,  
grandchildren Deirdre, Karen and Eamonn and  
great-grandchildren Ciara, Abbie, Oisín, Lily and Hayley xx*

*May Edward Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
KATHLEEN BRACKEN**

née Dunne

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm.*

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

*Loved always by Larry, Frances and family.*

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
PETER O' BRIEN**

St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2024



*Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts*

*Sadly missed by his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Peter*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### In Loving Memory of AMY DUNPHY

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2024



On 2nd February 2023 our lives changed forever by the devastating loss of our beloved and beautiful Amy. Amy's family would like to thank everyone who sympathised with them on their recent sad loss. Sincere thanks to family, friends and work colleagues who have supported us this past year at this terrible time in our lives.

To those who travelled from near and far to celebrate Amy's life, who sent Mass cards, flowers, brought food and attended Amy's funeral, we will be forever grateful.

To our wonderful neighbours in Marian Avenue - thank you. Thank you to Dr. Gerald White and staff for your support to Amy and her family. Thank you to the staff of Portlaoise Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service and Gardaí for their kindness, support and professionalism shown to Amy and her family.

Fr. David Vard, thank you for your kindness and sensitivity and your beautiful words at Amy's Mass.

A special thank you to Sarah Troy for your beautiful singing of Amy's songs.

To Hazel O'Reilly and John Coss, thank you for being so respectful and caring to Amy, preparing her for her final journey.

Thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for your outstanding support and professionalism with Amy's funeral arrangements.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone in Portlaoise Musical Society who provided a guard of honour for Amy as she made her way to her final resting place.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, we are very grateful to all those who helped us during this difficult period and who continue to do so. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

*A limb has fallen from the Family Tree*

*We keep hearing a voice that says*

*Grieve not for me*

*Remember the best times*

*The laughter, the song*

*The good life I lived*

*While I was strong*



Loved and missed everyday, from Mammy and Daddy and your little man Brody.

Amy's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 4th February at 12.30pm.

*Rest in Peace Amy*

## In Loving Memory of AMY DUNPHY

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 2nd February 2024.



One year without you Amy  
Twelve months of missing you  
365 sunrises and sunsets that  
we've seen without you  
Everyone says that time heals  
everything, but even after a  
year I cannot stop the tears  
My heart is filled with sadness  
I don't know how I'll ever move  
on from this phase

You were an amazing person, I was so lucky to have  
you as my sister, even if it was for a short 27 years

I know you have found your peace and are in a  
better place, so please keep watch over us all as we  
continue life without you

I know you are with us everyday, guiding us  
through this journey, we miss you so so much

Love you always, Gemma, Gary, Ava and Noah xxx

*Rest in Peace Amy*

## In Loving Memory of FINTAN DOOLEY

7 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

11th Anniversary occurred 2nd February 2024.



Time unfolds another year,  
Memories keep you very dear,  
Simple words but very true,  
We will always love and  
remember you.

Sadly missed and lovingly  
remembered by all his  
loving family.

*Rest in Peace Fintan*

## In Loving Memory of BRIGID & JOE CARROLL

4 Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise, whose 38th and 20th  
Anniversaries occur at this time. (February and March)

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on Sunday 4th February at 10am.



We won't forget ye,  
We won't even try,  
We just miss ye more,  
as time goes by.

Sadly missed by all their  
loving family and friends.



*May Bridget & Joe Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
VANDA RAFTER**

**"Ardville" Glenside, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish  
Church, on Saturday  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.30pm.**

*Sunshine passes, shadows fall  
Love's remembrance outlasts  
all*

*Though years be many or  
few, all are filled with  
remembrance of you.*

**Missed always by your daughter Amy, son  
Stefan and partner Jennifer, grandson Daithí  
and your loyal friend Teddy xxx**

*My Dearest Daughter-in-Law Vanda  
The years may pass but still you stay,  
As near and dear as yesterday.*

**Missed today and always, Betty xxx**

*Vanda*

*Chance made you my sister-in-law,  
But the fun and laughter made us best friends,  
You are always just a thought away.*

**Loved and missed beyond words,  
John, Martina and Craig xxx**

*Ship Beyond The Horizon  
The human soul is like a ship  
Sailing proudly on life's seas,  
With sails hoisted in magnificence  
She sails upon the buoyant breeze.*

*Then, as she fast approaches*

*The horizon far away,  
She slips gently from our sight  
Towards another day.*

*Although we cannot see her  
Nor no longer gaze in awe,  
She still sails proudly onward  
To a far-off distant shore.*

*Those waiting on that distant shore  
For our loved ones who have passed,  
With open arms will welcome them  
And embrace them at long last.*

**Fondly remembered by Jimmy, Claire and  
family xxx**

*Rest in Peace Vanda*

**In Loving Memory of  
VANDA RAFTER**

**Glenside, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*If roses grow in Heaven Lord,  
Please pick a small bouquet,  
Place them in my daughters arms,  
And tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love and miss her,  
And when she turns to smile,*

*Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while.*

**Always missed and sadly remembered by  
your loving Dad.**

*Rest in Peace Vanda*

**In Loving Memory of  
VANDA RAFTER**

**Glenside, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*I close my eyes and see your face,  
Smiling at me from a beautiful place,  
You tell me you are never far away,  
And that we will meet again someday,  
I ask if you could stay awhile,  
I miss your laugh, I miss your smile,  
Then you whisper sweetly into my ear,  
I never leave you, I'm always here.*

**Sadly missed by Philomena, Rita, Leslie & Clive.**

*Rest in Peace Vanda*



**In Loving Memory of  
VANDA RAFTER**

**Glenside, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*I close my eyes and see your face smiling  
at me from a beautiful place.*

*You tell me that you are never far away  
and that we will meet again someday.*

*I ask if I can stay awhile,*

*I miss your laugh, I miss your smile.*

*Then you whisper sweetly into my ear,*

*"I never leave you, I'm always here".*

*Always remembered and never forgotten*

**Les, Verona, Aishling, Aaron,**

**Aoibheann, Adam & Anna xx**

*Time passes by but memories remain, you are loved and  
missed every day.*

*Your loving godson Adam xx*

*Rest in Peace Vanda*

**ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE**

**In Loving Memory of  
JOSEPH BUGGIE**

**3 Kylebeg, Stradbally.**

**8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from Home occurs 8<sup>th</sup> February.**



*Wonderful memories woven in  
gold,*

*This is a picture we tenderly hold,  
Deep in our hearts a memory is  
kept, to love, to cherish,  
never to forget.*

*Always remembered by your  
loving wife Patricia, daughters,  
Celina, Margaret and Samantha  
and grandkids Haleema, Alannah, Kayla and J.J.*

*Rest in Peace Joseph*

**In Loving Memory of  
DAN COOKE**

**'Villa Igea' Mosse Lane, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.30pm.*

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday,  
Unseen, unheard but always near,  
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.*

*Loved and remembered by Meta, Eadaoin, Siobhan  
and Dearbhail, James and Eileen, grandchildren,  
extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Dan*

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

**"Chestnut Drive", Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*Today's the Anniversary of the  
day we lost you, and for a time it  
felt as though our lives had ended  
too.*

*But loss has taught us many  
things and how we face each day,  
With hope and happy memories to  
help us on our way.*

*And though we are full of sadness  
that you are no longer here,  
Your influence still guides us  
and we still feel you near.*

*What we all share will never die, it lives within our  
hearts, bringing strength and comfort,  
while we are apart.*

*Forever loved and missed by your loving  
husband Frank, sons Michael, David and Ken,  
daughter Regina and extended family xx*

*Rest in Peace Mam/Elizabeth*

**Missing you Gran**

*May the winds of Heaven blow softly  
And whisper in your ear,  
How much we love and miss you  
And wish you were here.*

*Loved and Missed dearly by Jennifer, Stephen, Ava,  
Saoirse, Leon & Jaxon xx*

*Rest in Peace Gran*

**In Loving Memory of  
DENIS (Hector) PHELAN**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary away from home occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**



*Your hand we cannot touch,  
Still we have so many memories  
Of the one we loved so much.  
Your memory is our keepsake,  
With which we'll never part,  
God has you in His keeping,  
We have you in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed and dearly loved by  
your mother Kit, sister Hilda,  
brother-in-law Richard and all his  
loving family, extended family  
and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Denis*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### In Loving Memory of PETER CULBERT

Portarlinton, formerly Dr. Murphy's, Portlaoise.



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

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the celebrants, Msgr. John

Byrne, Fr. Simon and the Priests of the Parish and also a special word of thanks to Julie Conroy and Louise Kavanagh for the beautiful music.

Our thanks to Keegan's funeral directors for the professional and dignified manner in which they carried out Peter's funeral arrangements.

Peter's family would like to thank Michelle and the Parish team and staff of the Parish Centre for all their kindness, assistance and support.

Warmest thanks to all of the staff of MRH Portlaoise for their compassionate care of Peter.

Peter's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm

*Rest in Peace Peter*

## ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

### In Loving Memory of ALICE NEVIN

Formerly 12 Mountain View Square, Portlaoise.  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from us.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.

*We would give the world if we could  
have you here in the same old way,  
In our hearts you live forever,  
because we thought the world of you,*

*The shock of you passing still lingers, the ache in our  
hearts still remains, but the wonderful memories you  
left us, stay with us each passing day.*



Sadly missed and always remembered, love from your  
brother Paddy, Kathleen, family and grandchildren.

*Rest in Peace Alice*

## In Loving Memory of MARY DOOLEY

29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.

*Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered everyday,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts, you're always  
there.*

*Sadly missed by all her loving family, neighbours  
and friends.*

*Mary*

*No more tomorrows for us to share but yesterday's  
memories will always be there.*

*Always remembered by Jim and Maureen Lynch  
and family.*

*May Mary Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of MAUREEN CONDON née Daly

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 11.15am.

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

*Loved and remembered by Neil, Elaine, Carol,  
her siblings and extended family.*

*Rest in Peace Maureen*

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

### In Loving Memory of EUGENE O'CONNOR

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Another Birthday away from home; 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



*Thinking of you today as I do  
everyday.*

*Happy Birthday Eugene*

*Loved and missed by your twin  
sister Lucy, brothers, sisters, your  
children James and Zoe and your  
grandsons Odin and Zane xxxx*

*Rest in Peace Eugene*



**In Loving Memory of  
ALICE McEVOY**

Late of 80 St. Brigid's Place. 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. Died 5/2/1992.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.30pm**

*A face that is always on our minds,  
A smile we have seen a million times,  
Two eyes that would light up the sky at  
night, one last battle you could not fight.*

**Sadly missed by all her loving family.**

Also remembering her sisters Esther and Mary at this time.

*May Alice Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
LUCY WHELAN née Harris**

Portlaoise and Shanahoe

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*Mammy, it's been 60 years  
A lot has happened  
So until we meet up again  
Dominus Vobiscum*

**Loved and remembered by  
James**

*Rest in Peace Lucy*

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

*"Chestnut Drive", Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.*

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**



*It is sad to walk the road alone  
Instead of side by side,  
But to all there comes a moment  
When the ways of life divide.  
You gave us years of happiness  
Then came sorrow and tears,  
But you left us beautiful memories  
We will treasure through the years.*

**Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her  
son Ken, daughter-in-law Catherine and  
granddaughter Holly.**

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY BERGIN née Fitzpatrick**

Naas and late of St. John's Square, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in  
the Church of Our Lady and St. David,  
Naas, this **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 6pm.**

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

*Remembering you is easy,  
We do it everyday,*

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

**Much loved and very sadly missed every minute of  
every day by your loving sons, daughters,  
grandchildren, sister and brothers, relatives and  
a large circle of friends.**

*Rest in Peace Mary*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**In Loving Memory of  
JIM O' CONNOR**

Redhill, Ballyroan, Portlaoise.



The family of Jim would like to  
express their sincere thanks for all  
the expressions of sympathy and  
gestures of 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 who  
offered condolences on RIP.ie.

A special thank you to Fr. Paddy for  
his spiritual guidance and for

celebrating the beautiful funeral Mass.

A special thanks also to Olive and all the Palliative care  
team and his carers Trisha and Caroline and Vinnie  
from Chemco who looked after Jim so well.

A special thanks also to all the team in Portlaoise  
Parish centre and to Nuala for her beautiful singing.

A very special thanks to Des and Carmel Moran for  
their compassion and support in organising the funeral  
and to all at Portlaoise Cemetery for preparing Jim's  
final resting place so nicely.

As it would be impossible to thank everybody  
individually, as an expression of our deepest gratitude,  
a Mass of thanksgiving will be offered for your  
intentions.

*"Jim you have gone no further from us than to God and  
God is very near"*

*Rest in Peace Jim*



*My life is but a breath*

Job 7 1-4, 6-7



**In Loving Memory of**  
My Husband  
**CHARLIE CLARKE**

5 Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise.  
29th Anniversary occurs 8th February 2024



*Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts*

*Always remembered by his loving wife  
Peggy and his daughter Dorothy.*

*May Charlie Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**Wm Reginald (Reggie) White**

Blairgowrie, Abbeyleix  
10th Anniversary occurs 5th February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in the Church of the  
Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix,  
on Sunday 4th February.

*O Lord, support us all the day  
long, until the shadows lengthen  
and the evening comes and the  
busy world is hushed and our  
work is done;*

*Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest and peace at the last. (Cardinal Newman)*

*Loved and remembered by your wife Mary,  
children Willie, David, Florence, Suzanne, Louise  
and Reg, daughters-in-law Gilly, Allison and Amy,  
sons-in-law Tommy, Matt and Alan.*

*Rest in Peace William*



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**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)

Contact;  
057-8620567  
PAUL; 087-2562137  
NIALL;  
086-2770095

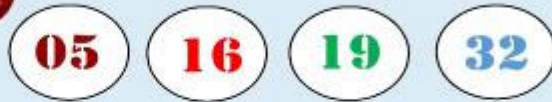




## Portlaoise Parish



## Results for 1st February 2024



**No €10,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Timothy Fitzpatrick  
Thomas & Teresa Timmons  
Lyndsey Gaughan Hall  
Joe Moore  
Morrin Family  
Chris Lacey  
One Crazy Pup  
Morrin Family  
Chris Lacey

### MATCH 3s €1,000



### PROMOTER

Online lotto  
Anne Ging  
Online Lotto  
Parish Centre  
Teresa Morrin  
Chris Lacey  
Julie Conroy  
Teresa Morrin  
Chris Lacey

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**Next Week's Jackpot is €11,000**

## 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

## 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

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 | Psalm 146:1-6

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mark 1:29-39

## 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**





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