



**Fourth Sunday  
of Lent  
(Laetare Sunday)**



*A Mother's Day Prayer*

*Thinking of you on Mother's Day  
And saying a special prayer  
That God, who knows how dear you are  
Will keep you in His care.  
That he will bless your daily life  
With joys of every kind  
With perfect health and happiness  
And peace of heart and mind.*



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

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## How To Make Good Choices

From the minute we open our eyes in the morning, we are faced with choices. By the end of the day we have made hundreds of choices and not all of them good. In fact, we probably fail to choose God in a hundred and one different ways, yet God still loves us. How do we know? We know because every time we look at a Crucifix we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made out of love for us. Just as Moses held up a bronze snake on a pole to remind the Israelites of God's love, so we look to the Crucifix as a reminder that God doesn't condemn us for our mistakes, but offers us a second chance of salvation. Too often we take God's love for granted. How could we make ourselves more deserving? We could begin by looking at all those choices we make on a daily basis. Do we choose to fritter our lives away in inconsequential activities, or do we choose to make the world a better place? Do we choose to bury our heads in the sand when we see someone bullied at work, or do we make a brave stand? Do we determine to look after ailing family members or do we put it off until we are less busy? Do we shroud our decisions in darkness and secrecy, or do we walk in the light with our heads held high?

But how do we start making good choices when we have spent so much time making poor ones? This is the beauty of reconciliation; our mistakes are part and parcel of making better choices from now on. We remember how it felt to make a bad choice and we don't want to go there again. Knowing what we are about is also a part of making good choices. Jesus knew what he was about and so must we. There's no better time than Lent to sit down and think about who we want to be. Lastly, once we have decided what choices we are going to make, we mustn't procrastinate. The Bible never tires of telling us that time is of the essence.



### How Can This Be?

John 3:14-21

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

**Monday - Friday**

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

**Saturday: 10am**

**Next Sunday St. Patrick's Day**

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday), 7.30pm (In Portuguese)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am 'as Gaeilge' & 12.30pm

5pm (Polish Mass)

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.

## Laetare Sunday

Most Catholics today are used to the Mass being conducted in English, and they hardly ever think about the fact that Latin remains the official language of the Catholic Church. But occasionally, Latin reasserts itself, as it does in the case of Laetare Sunday. Laetare Sunday is simply the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Laetare is the Latin for "Rejoice". It's the Sunday in Lent on which the austerity is briefly lessened. Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday or Refreshment Sunday and also Mother's Day.



## Mothering Sunday is celebrated today,

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home... a day off to visit their mother and family, usually taking gifts of cake or flowers. Nowadays it's a day to show our mothers that we appreciate and love them.

Happy Mothering Sunday.



## We welcome into our Parish Community

Ned O'Reilly, Rossleighan

Nathaniel Yao Kafui Agbonu, Lake Place

Bonnie Rae Shinnors, Clonrooske Abbey

Lauren Frances Ann O'Donovan, Timogue

Freya Grace Byrne, Maryborough Village

Jayden Daniel Byrne Friday, Roselawn

Temmy Rae Byrne Friday, Roselawn.

**Who were baptised recently.**



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To book by phone: 087 666 4808

### PILATES CLASSES

**Starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March for a block of 6 classes  
running until Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
In Portlaoise Parish Centre**

- A limited number of places still available
- Intermediate at 6pm
- Beginners at 7pm
- Cost €84 for the 6 classes

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Other classes currently available in the clinic include;

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- Elderly Exercise Class
- Online Pilates Class







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## **Mondays**

### **MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME**

11.30am-12.30pm  
6 Week Course  
Booking Essential

### **EXERCISE CLASS**

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

### **CREATIVE ARTS CLASS**

(6 Weeks)  
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2.15pm-4.15pm

### **COUNSELLING**

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### **SUPPORT NURSE AVAILABLE**

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will give you  
advice about the  
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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

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

Spaces Available.  
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### **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  
11.20am-12.20pm  
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### **ART**

From 2-4pm  
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### **REFLEXOLOGY REIKI**

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## **Thursdays**

### **THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME**

This is a self-management  
programme for cancer  
survivors with the aim of  
improving their quality of  
life to better manage daily  
health.  
(Developed by Stanford  
University)

**10am-12 noon**  
Booking Essential

### **MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE**

11.30am-12.30pm  
**8th February**  
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6 Week Course

### **CLIMB PROGRAMME**

Helping Children  
Understand Cancer. This  
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**SEPT 2024**

## **FRIDAYS**

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## THE HEATH'S FIRST ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



- To all participating in the parade we are asking that everyone will gather between 8.15am-8.30am at The Heath GAA Community Hall on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick's Day.
- The parade will begin at 8.45am and proceed to The Heath Church for 9.30am Mass followed by light refreshments in the Church Hall after Mass.
- We are asking as many as possible to come out and watch the parade too, all can line up down the road to welcome the parade.
- Please note that when the parade begins the road will close from the GAA to JK Auto's.



## The Heath Golf Club

### Get into Golf for Women



#### Information evening in Golf Club

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Time: 7:00 pm

*Bring a friend*



8 weeks incl. 6 lessons  
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Cost €80

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Anne 086 2374287

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## CAKE SALE

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee would ask you to please support their upcoming cake sale in the Parish Centre on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm Mass, Mother Day, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11.15am and 12.30pm Mass only. Your support and any donations of cakes etc. would be greatly appreciated.



Portlaoise Parish  
Lourdes Committee



**Easter Raffle:** The Parents' Association of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe are organising an Easter Raffle with excellent prizes 'up for grabs', which include;  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize; €800 Blue Book Voucher, choose a luxury getaway in one of Ireland's top hotels.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize; Dinner for two in Ballyfin House worth €250.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize; €250 Dunnes Stores Voucher.  
4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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Vetcare, Portlaoise	057 86 648 41
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**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** in  
honour of Our Lady of Fatima  
and for the intentions of all  
parishioners. Rosary will be  
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All are welcome.



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**6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 10:00-13:30**

Location: Ridge of Capard Room, Bloom HQ, Brigidine Convent Unit 1, Patrick St., Mountrath, Laois, R32DT9F. Fee: €120.

Please e-mail sheilakeeshan2506@gmail.com first to join the waiting list for this course.

Lámh is a manual key word signing system used by children and adults with communication difficulties in Ireland.

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For more information text or Whatsapp Ronan on

**085-2367846**

**Portlaoise Active Retirement** meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun and activities, new members always welcome. **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March;** Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome. **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March;** Irish Day **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March;** Cards in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

Money being taken and tickets being given out for our 20<sup>th</sup> Celebration on 7<sup>th</sup> April, each member is allowed to bring one other person, cost €30 for everyone, tickets will not be given until payment has been made. Deposits being taken for mini 3-day holiday, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, cost €245 p.p.s., €25 single supplement, €50 deposit.

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

### Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre, Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March:

Top Score: Kit Farrell | 1<sup>st</sup> Lady: Sadie Chester | 1<sup>st</sup> Gent: Peter Stevenson & Ann Marie Farrell | 1<sup>st</sup> Half: Norah Delaney & Freda Gaynor

2<sup>nd</sup> Half: Sheila Duff | Raffle: 1<sup>st</sup> Christy Fitzpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paraic Dowling, 3<sup>rd</sup> P. J. Cahill, 4<sup>th</sup> Frank Keenan

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

### Graigucullen Bingo Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March in St. Fiacc's Hall, 8.30pm;

Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,520. Double number €390. Lotto €700. Save the Date: Monster Easter Bingo Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm. Easter eggs galore!

**Daffodil Day**, the annual collection for the Irish Cancer Society, will be held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. If you can help out in Portlaoise for an hour or two, please message Cathy 086-8797907 or the Facebook page Portlaoise Daffodil Day. Many thanks in advance for your help and contributions on the day.

### Ratheniska Parents Association Easter Raffle will be held on Easter Monday with amazing Family prizes;

1<sup>st</sup> Prize €500 voucher for Centre Parcs, followed by five all access tickets for Emerald Park, Family Season Pass to Kildare Stud and Gardens plus many, many more.

For tickets scan this QR code or purchase tickets online at <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/RatheniskaNSParentsAssociationEasterRaffle>

**Volunteers Required:** Are you a parent or grandparent in Laois/Offaly with a few hours free each week? If so, please consider offering friendly support to young parents with Parents First. There is free training and travel allowance. For more information, call Dolores or Paula at 086-1959221 or 05793-22996.

### 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).



Hotpoint Fridge Freezer  
Almost new, €200. Also cooker. Tel.

**089-4290216**





## Measuring God's love

One of my favourite Bible verses begins, "For God so loved the world." I was thinking about that verse and wondering - just how great is God's love and how could we measure it?

Sometimes we use a measuring cup to measure things. If I were making some cookies, I would use a measuring cup to make sure that I put in exactly the right amount of flour, sugar, and milk. I wonder if we might use a measuring cup to measure God's love? The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want....my cup runneth over." (Psalm 23:1,5) Well, if our cup runs over with God's love, I don't guess we could use a measuring cup to measure it.

If we were building something, we might use a tape measure to measure the length, width, and height of different things. I wonder if we might use a tape measure to measure God's love? The Bible tells us that God's love is higher than the heavens. (Psalm 108:4) If God's love is higher than the heavens, I don't think we could use a tape measure to measure it, could we?

We use a watch to measure time. There will probably be some people here this morning who will use their watch to measure how long the priest's homily lasts! I wonder if we could use a watch to measure how long God's love will last. The Gospel tells us that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting. (Psalm 103:17) Wow! If God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, I don't guess we could measure it with a watch.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." How do you measure a love like that? We can't measure it -- we don't need to -- but we do need to experience it.

My prayer for you today is, "That you may understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience it, though it is so great you will never fully understand it." (Ephesians 3:18-19)



## My Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love — a love so great that you gave your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life. Amen.







Mother's Day used to be called Mothering Sunday and we have celebrated this special day in Ireland for hundreds of years. A long time ago children from poor families were sent to work as servants for rich families. They were allowed to go home every year on the fourth Sunday of Lent. The children were given a day off to visit the church in their home town. After visiting the church they went to visit their mothers and they brought flowers or baked a special cake for the occasion.

## Our Prayer on Mother's Day

God our Father,

today we thank You for one of your special gifts to us,  
our Mother.

Thank You for the love she shares with us in so many ways.

We thank her for the warmth she gives our home,  
for the cuts and bruises she makes well,

for the ideas she gives us when we don't have anything to do,

for the ways she makes peace when we are mean to each other.

We thank her for seeing good in us that we don't see ourselves.

Help us to love her as she loves us.

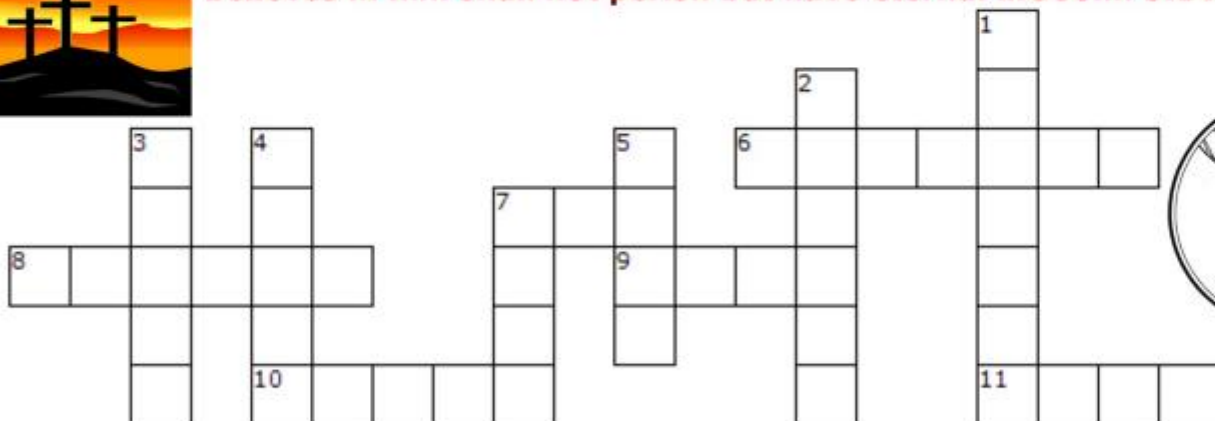
And keep her close to You always.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus your Beloved Son.

Amen.



**For God loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life John 3:14-17**



### ACROSS

6. To accept something as true, genuine or real
7. A male child
8. To die or be destroyed
9. To care very deeply for someone
10. A serpent or reptile
11. The period of time from birth to death.



### DOWN

1. Lasting forever, without end
2. Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
3. The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it.
4. Received the ten commandments from God.
5. Alone in its kind, nothing like it.
7. To rescue from danger or harm



**SNAKE  
LIFE  
ONLY**

**ETERNAL  
SON  
BELIEVE**

**SAVE  
PERISH  
MOSES**

**LOVE  
DESERT  
WORLD**







# Time to Think!

## A Mother's Love - A Blessing

As I write this article, citizens across this Republic, are voting regarding the proposed amendments to our constitution. One such article, is about removing the title "Mother" as named in the constitution. Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Mother's Day. I suggest the title of "Mother" is indeed a very sacred one. A mother encapsulates all what's good in our humanity. A mother's unconditional love reflects the very essence of God's great love for all of us. I believe mothers should be both named and acknowledged in our constitution and their role, deserves to be safeguarded and supported by our government.

Mother's Day in the U.S. originated because of a mother named Ann Jarvis. Sadly, it has evolved to become far more individualised and commercialised than the type of day that she, or her daughter, ever wanted. Ann was a mother and community activist who lived from 1850-1907. Infant mortality was high in the Appalachian region where she lived. In that place and time, 15-30% of infants did not survive their first year due to poor sanitary conditions and related epidemics. Ann had 12 children, and 8 of them died before reaching adulthood. Despite her grief (or fuelled by it), she devoted her life to improving the quality of life for all women and children within her reach.

Sure I love the dear silver that shines in your hair. Does anyone recognise that song? An old, old Irish favourite, Mother Machree. I remember my father singing it to us and the words have been flowing through my head this week as I wondered how to prepare a homily for Mothers' Day. Of course, this is the ideal song for mothers - even if it was written with an older woman in mind. Age is irrelevant when it comes to love and care and being there for another.

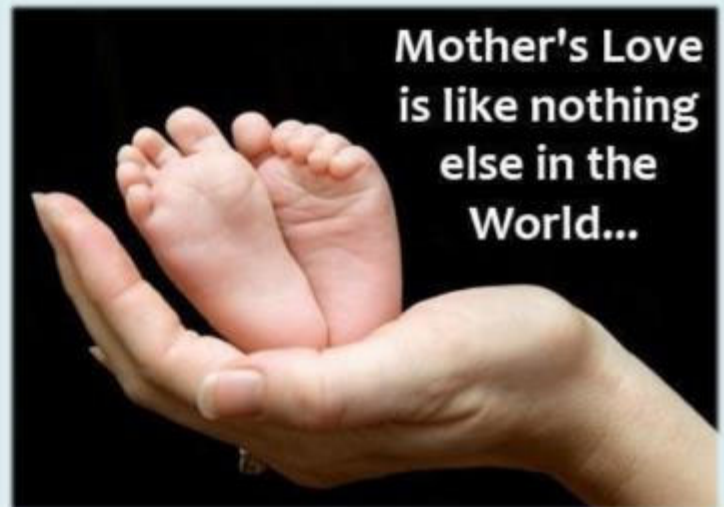
Hear the words:

*Sure, I love the dear silver that shines in your hair  
And the brow that's all furrowed and wrinkled with care  
I kiss the dear fingers so toil worn for me  
O God bless you and keep you, Mother Machree.*

Something that makes the song especially relevant for us today is the name Machree. It's made up of two Gaelic words, ma/chroí which carry the meaning from the heart. Isn't that precisely why we honour mothers?

They serve from the heart. And when we honour someone, that honour comes from our hearts, from our memories of love given and shared. It's from the heart that truth and goodness shine; from the heart mistakes are forgiven and forgotten. Regrettably, it's also from the heart that other memories come: memories of going without, memories of absence, pain, neglect. But that's when Mothers' Day can become a time of healing, a time of letting go the hurt which a struggling, anxious, or abandoned mother may have inflicted on those in her care. To be generous in forgiveness is possibly the best kind of honouring.

Jesus honours his disciples in this way when he greets them with Peace be with you, following their betrayal and cowardice. His forgiveness overflowed and swamped their sense of unworthiness and in today's gospel they are offered the consequences of Jesus' generosity. This is what you must do, he tells them, Love one another as I have loved you. Peter shows he's learned what this means when he tells us in the first reading that God has no favourites - God's love is



universal and everlasting. Jesus' love is a forgiving love. He understands our weaknesses; he knows the efforts we make and the pressures we can find ourselves under.

He knew Peter would not be able to hold his nerve and would deny his friend; he knew the others would panic and run. He saw them as little children, not yet able to take responsibility for themselves or their actions.

We are children of God - privileged way beyond our understanding, but destined for greatness if we can just learn to think more of others than ourselves. Love one another as I have loved you - could also be the legacy of a mother to her children. A mother's love models the most unselfish love and it is richly laced with forgiveness. A two year old is into all the low-lying cupboards and before long there's a breaking sound as a dish shatters. At that moment, the real mother's concern is for the child, not the loss of property. Her love pours out, overwhelming any feeling of annoyance or disappointment. She reacts from the heart: the good of the child is primary. In their way of loving, mothers can show their children what God's love is like, and with Jesus they can say to them, Love one another as I have loved you.

A contemporary song thanks a mother in these words: In my heart you bring the sunshine on my stormy days. To my soul you bring the fire that brighten up my way. The greatest gift that love can bring is your presence in my life. But I still cherish the song my Dad used to sing - and I sing it for every mother among us, and for those who have died; Sure I love the dear silver that shines...

### *A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers*

*Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of history who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly. Give them the faithful support of a loving partner, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.*

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,900 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*



# Open Day

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



**Jimmy Cooney**  
Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise  
and Clonard, Meath



**Paddy Dempsey**  
Marian Avenue, Portlaoise



**Michael Carroll**  
Aughnacross, Ballinakill



**Christina Lawless  
née Murray**  
Ridge Road, Portlaoise

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me: your rod  
and your staff - they comfort me.*

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

*Our sympathy to their families.*

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to  
the death notice at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

*We pray for the family of*

Baby James Moran, Main Street, Ballyroan,  
now resting with the angels.

*We will keep them in our prayers*

**A Mother's Day Remembrance**

**For The Loving Memory Of  
ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY**

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.

9<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day away from home



**For My Lovely Mum on  
Mother's Day**

Mum, today's your special day  
and I will think of you, with  
heartfelt love and gratitude,  
the way I always do.

Today I will remember your  
gentleness and grace,  
Your kindness and your humour,  
And your happy smiling face.

May you find a perfect peace in your eternal rest,  
For being the loveliest Mum who was the dearest  
and the best.

**Dear Mum**

I used to think that people didn't need their Mums so  
much after they grew up, but I've realised that's just  
not true. So often when I'm making a decision I wish  
you were here so I could ask your advice,

And so many times when something happens that I  
know you would enjoy, I wish you were here to share  
it with me. Now that I'm older I've realised

how special our relationship was and  
while I'm thankful for this bond, it only  
makes me miss you more.

I love you so much Mum.



**For A Precious Mum On Mother's Day**

Nothing's more important than a Mother's constant  
love, and nothing can replace it in all the Heavens  
above. And when that love so precious is lost  
forevermore, its strength and inspiration continues to  
endure. We very soon discover what a Mother's love is  
worth and this is just to thank you for the greatest gift  
on earth.

**A Mothers Day Message In Loving Memory**

Mother's day brings back memories that are still  
painful to bear, you remain forever special, you remain  
forever dear.

The loss is still indescribable especially at this time of  
the year, I dearly miss you not being here.

You may have been taken out of sight but nothing can  
take you out of my heart,

You live forever in my memories from where you can  
never depart,

As I remember you this Mother's Day I dearly cherish  
my memories of you always.

**You are always in my heart**

**In loving memory of my beautiful Mum on  
Mother's Day. Till we meet again in Heaven Mum  
I love and miss you always, James xxx**

*May you Rest in Peace Elizabeth*



Remembering John today with love  
and pride on his 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
A brilliant Husband, Father and Grandfather.

## JOHN GING

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024



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.

Loved and remembered dearly by  
your wife Phyllis, your seven  
children, seventeen grandchildren,  
daughters-in-law, & sons-in-law,  
all of whom you can  
be so proud of.



*Rest in Peace John*

## In Loving Memory of MARY MCEVOY (née Houlihan)

"St. Martin's" Ridge Road, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary away from home



We said goodbye to you three  
years ago, but we'll never give a  
farewell to our memories of you,  
They're etched in our hearts  
forever and a part of you will live  
there rent free 'til we meet again.

Also remembering her daughter

## Cecilia McEvoy

It's been a few decades but feels  
like yesterday.

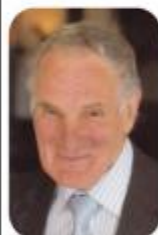
We still miss you, we still love  
you and we still remember every  
moment with you.



*May You Both Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of PATRICK LEWIS

Raheen, The Heath, Portlaoise. 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; 4<sup>th</sup> March.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
the Church of the Assumption, the  
Heath, this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30am.

You left us special memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always by our side.

Loved and remembered by his wife Kathleen and family.

*May Patrick Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of DAN and MAUREEN DUNNE

St. Judes, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.

Dan's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Maureen's 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Anniversary Mass will  
be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
at 12.30pm



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

Sadly missed and always remembered by their loving family.

*May Dan & Maureen Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of MARY KEALEY

Late of Sheffield Cross, Portlaoise  
Died 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church  
Portlaoise, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
at 6.30pm.

It's hard to believe you're no longer  
here, we think of you,  
You feel so near,

In some small way every single day  
Memories of you come our way.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your loving  
family and large circle of friends.

*May Mary Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of THOMAS DOHENY

St. John's Sq., Portlaoise. 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 9<sup>th</sup> March.



It broke our hearts to lose you,  
but you did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you, the day  
God called you home,  
You left us peaceful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you, you are  
always by our side.

Sadly missed by your sons, sons-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law,  
grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all your family and friends.  
Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends at this time.

*May Thomas Rest in Peace*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of TOM SCULLY

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise



Tom's wife Brenda and family wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy received on the sad and sudden loss of Tom.

Thank you to those who visited our home, attended the wake, funeral Mass and burial especially those who travelled long distances. To those who sent Mass cards, letters of sympathy and posted messages of condolences online, thank you.

Our sincere appreciation to Monsignor John Byrne for celebrating a beautiful funeral Mass.

Thank you also to the team in Portlaoise Parish Centre and to Heather for the beautiful singing.

A special thanks to the paramedics and the staff in the Palliative Unit in the Midlands Regional Hospital who treated Tom with such kindness and respect.

Since thanks to Matthew Keegan and staff for their professionalism and guidance throughout the funeral. Thank you also to all at Portlaoise Cemetery for preparing Tom's final resting place.

Thank you to the G.A.A., Portlaoise Rugby Club and all of Tom's great friends who formed a guard of honour on the day.

A special word of thanks to Bosco for his friendship and to his staff who supplied food over the three days of the funeral.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgment as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

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

*May Tom Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of BIBI CONROY

14 Craydon Court, Portlaoise

1st Anniversary occurs 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm

*Remembering you with love Mam xxx*

From Kay, Anne, John, Mary, Breeda, Gabrielle, sons-in-law, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren,

*May Bibi Rest in Peace*

## Mother's Day Remembrance In Loving Memory of ANNIE O' BRIEN

6 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.



As each day dawns we think of you,  
As each night falls we pray for you,  
And throughout our lives no matter where,  
In our hearts you will always be there.

*Wishing you a Heavenly Mother's Day.*

*Loved and missed always by her loving daughters and sons; Elizabeth, Liam, Martina and Michael.*

*Rest in Peace Mam xxx*

## MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE ANNIE O' BRIEN

6 Marian Place, Portlaoise.



**Mammy**

*You were someone very special,  
who left your mark on me,  
Things just haven't been the same,  
since we said goodbye,  
Sweet Jesus take this message,  
To my dear Mother up above,  
Tell her how I miss her,  
And give her all my love.*

Miss you so much, love Conor, Lisa and Conor.

*Rest in Peace Annie*

## In Loving Memory of ANNIE (Na) CARROLL

25 Dr. Murphy's Place, Portlaoise.

*Birthday and Anniversary Remembrance*

*Birthday Remembrance occurs 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024*



Just close your eyes and you will see,  
All the memories that you have  
of me,

Just sit and relax and you will find,  
I'm really still there inside your mind.

Don't cry for me now I'm gone,  
For I am in the land of song,  
There is no pain, there is no fear,  
So dry away that silent tear.

Don't think of me in the dark and cold,  
For here I am, no longer old,  
I'm in that place that's filled with love,  
Known to you all as "up above".

*From her loving family Mickey, Tommy, Ann, P.J., Eileen,  
John, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*May Annie Rest in Peace*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of ANNIE MAHER

New Road, Portlaoise



The family of Annie would like to express our 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, those who viewed Annie's funeral Mass online, to all those

who sent Mass cards, flowers and condolences and left messages on RIP.ie

A special thank you to Msgr. John Byrne, the Priests of the Parish and Deacon Eugene Keyes for organising Annie's beautiful funeral Mass. Thank you to Louise Kavanagh, organist and Niamh Griffin for the wonderful singing.

A heartfelt thank you to all of Annie's dear friends, all those who cared for Annie during her illness and her New Road neighbours for their kindness and support.

Thank you to Rankin's Funeral Directors for their kindness and professional manner in which they carried out Annie's funeral arrangements

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

*Ar Theis De Go Raith A Hanam Dillis*

## In Loving Memory of CHRISTOPHER LaCUMBER

The Cottage, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurred 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 11:15am.



Many the thoughts I give to you,  
As the long hours go by,  
Thinking of the things we used to  
do and say, just you and I.  
Sometimes they make me smile,  
Sometimes they make me cry,  
But are precious to me alone,  
Memories of You and I.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by his loving wife  
Bridie and family and brother Jim.*

*May Christopher Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of MICHAEL (Mick) KENNEDY

Shanahoe, Abbeylax. (Note: original text has typo)



1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am.

*It doesn't take a special day  
to bring you to our mind,  
For days without a thought of  
you are very hard to find.  
You always tried to do your best,  
Your heart was true and tender,*

*You simply lived for those you loved,  
And those you love remember.  
We hold you close within our hearts,  
And there you shall remain.  
To walk with us throughout our lives,  
Until we meet again.*

*So rest in peace dear loved one,  
And thanks for all you've done,  
We pray that God has given you,  
The crown you've truly won.*



*Sadly missed and always remembered by  
his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Mick*

God loved the world so much

Jn 3:16

## In Loving Memory of ANGELA (Jill) KEENAN

4 New Row, Green Road, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.

*When we look upon your picture,  
Sweet memories we recall,  
Of a face so full of sunshine,  
And a smile for one and all.*

Sadly missed by all your loving family.

*Rest in Peace Angela*



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





## In Loving Memory of

BRIGID O'BRIEN, Ridge Road, Portlaoise  
Died 10<sup>th</sup> March 1968. (56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)



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

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

*May Brigid Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of BRENDAN FITZSIMONS

14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise  
on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.

*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.*

*Sadly missed by all your loving family.*

*May Brendan Rest in Peace*

## ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

*In Loving Memory of*

PATTY HOLOHAN formerly 1 Liogard, Portlaoise  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024



*It's hard to believe you're no longer  
here, we think of you, you feel so near,  
In some small ways every single day,  
Memories of you come our way.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered  
by Ger, Marie, Kenneth, grandchildren,  
extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Mam*



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THE MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

*For the perfect tribute card for your loved one  
— our bespoke memorial cards.*

*Create a collage of images illustrating  
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*All our Cards are individually designed  
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## 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  
Abbeylex Road, Portlaoise.  
(opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

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





ST. PETER & PAULS  
**PORTLAOISE CEMETERY  
COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL  
CHURCH GATE  
COLLECTION**

*will be held on*

**Saturday 16th and  
Sunday 17th of March**

*Please support generously  
and **THANK YOU** for your  
continued support.*

*Divine Mercy Sunday*



**When:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Where:** Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise

**Devotions:** Starting 2.45pm followed by Holy Mass

**Celebrant:** Fr. Adriano Oliveira

**Music by:** Louise Kavanagh and Elaine Walsh

Divine Mercy Sunday, a great day of reconciliation of the soul.  
Holy Mass, Communion and Confessions, partaking in all the  
conditions of Divine Mercy Sunday, where all sin is obliterated  
and all punishment to that sin is obliterated.  
What a great gift to mankind from Jesus!

The brazilian community Catolicos em Laois invites you and your family to join us for a Mass in Portuguese.  
The celebration will take place 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in our Parish Church. All are welcome - Fr. Adriano.

*Missa em Português  
Comunidade Católicos em Laois*

**Dia:** 16/03/2024 (Sábado)

**Horário:** 19h30min

**Local:** St. Peter & Paul's Roman Catholic Church

**R32R684 - Portlaoise**

**Venha, participe e traga um amigo!  
Faça parte desta comunidade.**





# *The Parish Shop*

**At Portlaoise Parish Centre  
Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

**A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNION GIFTS IN STOCK**

Prayer Books - Rosary Beads - Rosettes - Certificates

Personalised Cards and Candles

Photo Frames - Gift Sets - Bookmarks

Sterling Silver Necklets, Chains and Crosses

Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories

*Communion Dates;*

*Portlaoise Parish; 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April*

*Abbeyleix/Shanahoe/Raheen/Ballyroan; 20<sup>th</sup> April*

*Ballinakill; 25<sup>th</sup> May*





## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

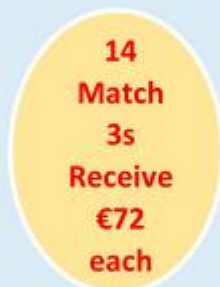


**No €15,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Margaret Langford  
Mary Thompson  
Christine Purcell  
Brendan Lynch  
Cody's Clan  
Jayne Delaney  
Brunos Gang  
Margaret Brogan  
Cyrena Pevoy  
Donna O'Connell  
Dolores Mulhare  
Rita McMahon  
Bridget O'Connor  
Ciara Holmes

### MATCH 3s €1,000



**Next Week's  
Jackpot  
€16,000**

### PROMOTER

Margaret Langford  
Online Lotto  
Online Lotto  
Lotto Gift  
Julie Conroy  
Browns Shop  
Parish Centre  
Rocky Kehoe  
Thelma Brown  
Tom Colohan  
Mary Costello  
Rita Watkins  
Rita Holland  
Bernie Phelan



Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish  
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

## 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  
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person  
Ailish Higgins [safeguarding@kandle.ie](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Twitter: @portlaoiseparish

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley  
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

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



**Secretary: Julie Conroy**  
Monday to Thursday  
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm  
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday  
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

**PARISH SHOP**  
057 8621142 - Claire Scully

## Supporting our Parish

*Each one must give as he or she has decided in their heart, not reluctantly or  
under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'* 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Registered Charity Number 20015848**

**Please choose a way to make your contribution**

- \* Making your offering in the boxes at the Church entrances
- \* Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes  
available at Church porches and Parish Centre
  - \* Direct payment by cheque or cash
  - \* Cashless tap facility at 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**

Scan this QR Code to take you  
directly to our Donate facility



*Thank you*  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT





# St. Patrick's Day Parade



**Main Street, Portlaoise**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - 12.30pm**

**Parade and a host of Musical, Cultural and Family-Fun Activities**

- *Parade from Laois County Council Buildings to Main Street*  
*(Ending outside the New Library at the bottom of Main Street, 2.30pm)*
- *Two Stages at Top and Bottom Square*
- *Children's Amusements*
- *ALL of Main Street filled with FUN*
- *Street Traders*
- *Irish Traditional Music*
- *Irish Dancing*
- *Street Entertainers*
- *Cultural Displays*
- *And much, much more!*



**Thanks to all local businesses and communities for their support.**  
**Contact Chairperson, Dominic Dunne at 086-8312034 or our Secretary,**  
**Pauline Flanagan at 087-9984574 with any queries.**

The St. Patrick's Day committee includes Chairperson, Dominic Dunne; Secretary, Pauline Flanagan; Treasurer Eugene McDonough, Councillors Catherine Fitzgerald and Marie Tuohy, Noel Tuohy, Paul Downey and Christy Bannon, Joint MCs and Event Co-ordinators, Frank Ward, P.J. Kavanagh and Wayne Haslam.