

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

17th March 2024

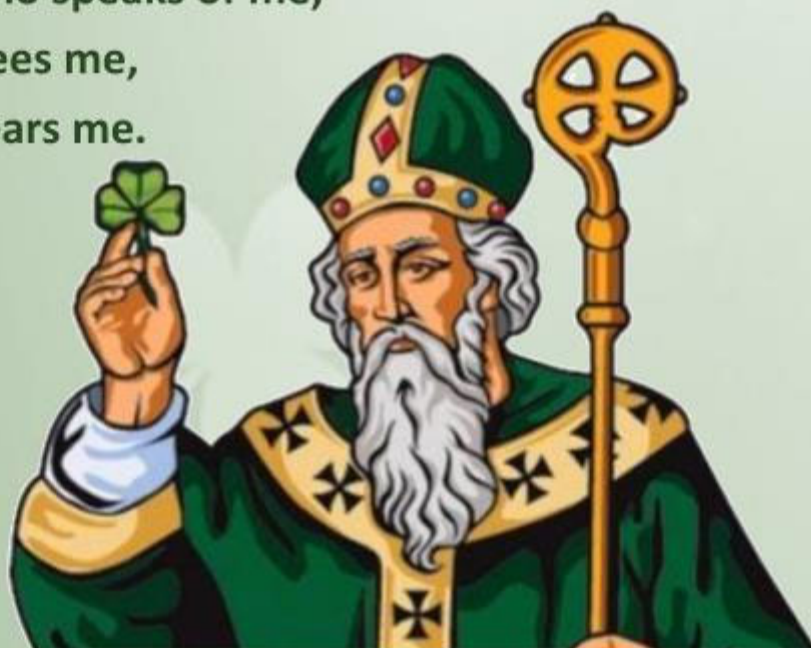


**ST. PATRICK, BISHOP,  
PRINCIPAL PATRON OF IRELAND**  
(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

**St. Patrick's Breastplate**

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



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

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





## Unless A Grain of Wheat Falls

'Eat drink and be merry .....for tomorrow we die.'  
In a life or death situation, human nature would always prompt us to hold on to life no

matter what the consequences, but in today's gospel a grain of wheat is used to teach us a valuable lesson. The selfless grain of wheat falls and dies to enable a fresh harvest. What point is there in choosing life, if that life boils down to nothing more than self preservation? On the other hand, what great value death, if that sacrifice gives others life. Many of us fail to understand why Jesus perceived the necessity of going to Jerusalem where he knew he would die. Wouldn't it have made more sense for him to bypass Jerusalem and carry on teaching into his dotage? Jesus however, isn't about to compromise his purpose.

Jesus determines to give his life so others can find true life. This is what Christianity is all about. Jesus teaches us that we must 'die to self' before we can be of any use to God. Letting one's own ambition die to be replaced by God's plans for us? 'Dying to self'? Could we be blamed for not feeling enthused? How many of us really see the wisdom in ditching our own exciting life plans to go around being holy? Perhaps we need to think again about how exciting our ambitions really are. Perhaps sacrificing our own agenda and recognising God's plan in our lives could be the best and most exciting thing that ever happened to us. Perhaps sacrificing something of ourselves for a greater purpose could put us in touch with who we really are.

"Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." This epitomizes everything as Christians we are not!



## Chrism Mass

You are warmly invited to join with Bishop Denis and the priests of the diocese in the Cathedral, Carlow at 7:30pm on Monday, March 25th to celebrate the Chrism Mass - this is the largest diocesan celebration during the year!

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

**Monday (Bank Holiday)**

10am & 7.30pm

**Tuesday - 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.



## We welcome into our Parish Community

Andrew Sagalyuk, Higgins Park

Noah Kai O'Brien, Lakeglen.

Kali Bridget Shiels, Oakleaf Place

Billy Joseph Murphy, Shaen

Benjamin George Orpen, Aghnaharna Drive

Effy Kate Campbell, Clonboyne Close

Teddy James Cushen Ballymaddock

Darren James Quirke, Maryborough Village

Fiadh Eileen Quigley, Esker Gate, Mountmellick

**Who were baptised recently.**

## Saint Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It is disappointing considering the importance of St. Joseph's role, that the gospels do not tell us more about him. All we really know of his character is that he was a 'holy and righteous man who generously cooperated with God's grace.' Early Christians must have been more interested in imitating Joseph's virtues than recording biographical details. So today, as the early Christians did, we honour Joseph for trusting in God's plan even though he had limited understanding of its reasons or consequences. We offer petitions to him as patron saint of fathers, guardians, workers and of the dying.





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To book by phone: 087 666 4808

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Tues: 9:00am -6:50pm Fri: 8:50am -5:20pm  
Wed: 9:00am -5.30pm

Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic





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**10am to 3pm**

**Leaving Cert/Mature Students and Parents Welcome**

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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**

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

### **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  
8 Week Course

### **BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING**

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### **REFLEXOLOGY REIKI**

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## **Thursdays**

### **THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME**

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

**10am-12 noon**  
Booking Essential

### **MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE**

11.30am-12.30pm  
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6 Week Course

### **CLIMB PROGRAMME**

Helping Children  
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**SEPT 2024**

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### Lámh Module 1

**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  
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Lámh reduces children's frustration in being  
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Saturday of the month in  
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## BALLYFIN BRIDGE CLUB

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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 18<sup>th</sup> March**; No Bowls as it is a bank holiday.  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**; Sports day. **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**; Cards in Sue Ryder Centre  
Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given. We still have  
some places available for our anniversary dinner and celebrations on 7<sup>th</sup> April.  
Each member can bring a friend with them, if anyone would like a ticket  
please contact Sheila 087-6204617 or any committee member, it promises to  
be a very enjoyable afternoon.

### Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March;

Top Score: Angela Brennan | 1<sup>st</sup> Lady: Kit Farrell | 1<sup>st</sup> Gent: Leslie Hunter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gent: Mary Delaney | 1<sup>st</sup> Half: Freda Gaynor & Christy Fitzpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> Half: Frank Keenan | Raffle: 1<sup>st</sup> Kit Farrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paula McEvoy,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Brennan, 4<sup>th</sup> Mary Gowing, 5<sup>th</sup> Kit Farrell

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

Daffodil Day Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March; Please support this collection to provide  
needed services to cancer patients. If you have any fresh daffodils that can be  
used, please drop them to Martley's shop on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March. Thank you.

### 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).

St. Joseph's Prayer Group; Holy Hour, Adoration and Prayer for vocations,  
every Friday at 3pm in the Parish Church.







## My Soul is Troubled

Have you ever come across a stone that is small and flat and fits into your hand in such a way that you can rub it with your thumb. Many people carry a stone like this in their pocket. They call it a "worry stone." Whenever they are troubled



about something, they just reach into their pocket and rub the worry stone. They believe that rubbing the smooth surface of the stone gives them a peaceful feeling and helps them to quit worrying about their troubles.

If we really want to know what we should do when we face trouble in our life, we should look at what Jesus did.

Just a few days before he was to be crucified, Jesus said, "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Jesus knew that he was going to die on the cross. He could have asked God to save him. Instead, he only asked that his Father's name would be glorified.

Why do troubles come into our life? I believe that troubles come for the very reason that Jesus said - so that God's name will be glorified. I have known people who followed the example of Jesus when they faced trouble in their life. I have even known people who faced death with such courage and faith that God's name was glorified. Wouldn't it be pleasing to God if all of us faced trouble in such a way that His name is glorified?

## My Prayer

Dear Father, we all face trouble in our daily life. Instead of asking you to take them away, let us ask that you help us to face those troubles in such a way that your name will be glorified.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.





# ST. PATRICK



As a teenager, Patrick was captured by Irish raiders and forced into slavery for six years. During this time he learned the language and customs of the Irish people. He also grew close to God. After the six years, he escaped and made his way back to his family. Then he decided that the people of Ireland needed him. So, he began to learn the Bible and train for mission work. Once he was ready, he returned to Ireland and preached to the people for 40 years before he died. As he converted the Irish, he made disciples out of them. Many of his followers went on to become renowned religious leaders as well.

Saint Patrick left behind a great example for us to follow. He could have hated the people who stole him from his family, but he knew that they needed God's love. He



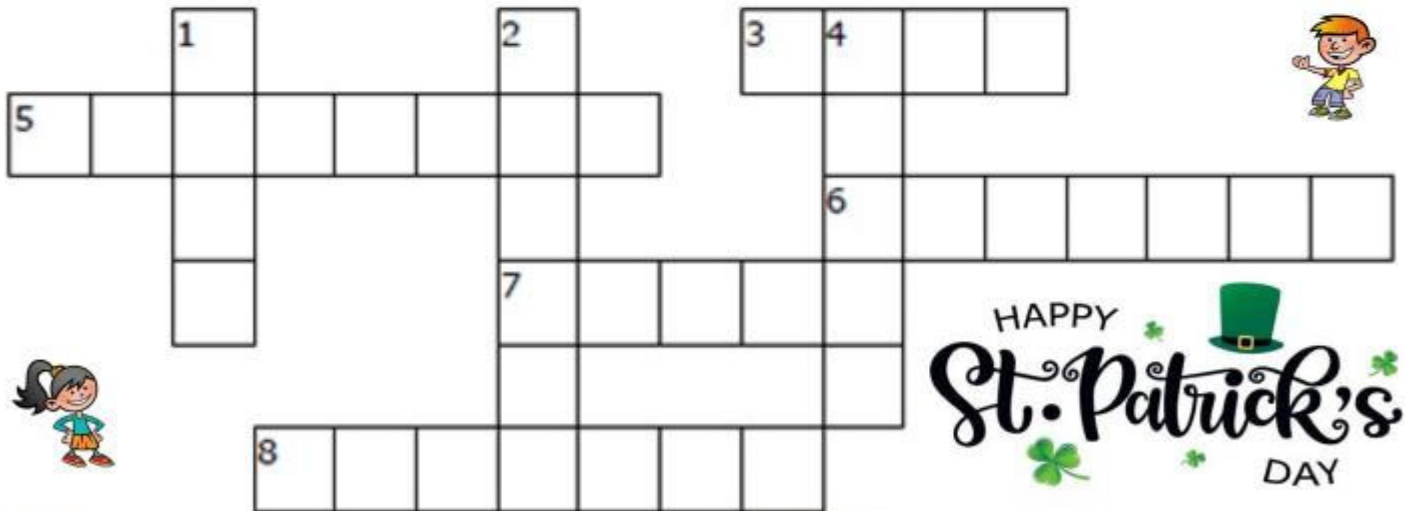
*Do you know  
what this is?*



loved his enemies and wanted them to know God like he did. In addition to converting many, he spent time training them to lead others. We need to learn from his example of not only converting the lost but training them in God's Word after they convert. Patrick's love, forgiveness, service, and leadership provides us with an excellent example to emulate.

## "My Soul is Troubled"

**"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" John 12:28-28.**



### ACROSS

3. To rescue from danger
5. To have problems or difficulties
6. To honour or praise
7. The sound people make when they speak or sing
8. A booming noise that follows lightening.

### DOWN

1. The spiritual part of a person that continues to live after the body dies
2. The home of God and the angels
4. A heavenly being who serves God.

**GLORIFY**

**TROUBLED**

**ANGEL**

**VOICE**

**THUNDER**

**SAVE**

**HEAVEN**

**SOUL**





# Time to Think!

## *St. Patrick inspires Faith*

Saint Patrick's feast day, is now a global event. The Irish diaspora, have contributed significantly to the four corners of the world. In this regard, civic buildings and national monuments will cheerfully be greened to celebrate our National Holiday. Saint Patrick, was a courageous, faith-filled and prophetic voice. His intelligent delivery of Christianity embraced a rich Celtic Spirituality, that celebrated life and seasons, when he walked upon our shore. I pray that this great feast day will continue to offer hope and inspiration. Parishes and villages across the country will gather together and celebrate the great gift of community, volunteerism, sport, music and culture. This indeed is a sacred time and I pray, that this Saint Patrick's weekend will be filled with every blessing for you all.

On St. Patrick's Day we celebrate our Irishness and our faith. For so long in our history they have been intertwined, perhaps at times identified. As a result we may have been tempted to take our faith for granted. Admittedly we did not have to fight for it or die for it as our ancestors did. They were challenged by their faith and responded generously to that challenge. Today, Irish people all over the world and we here at home rejoice in the new opportunities which are available in our country - for education, employment and a good quality of life. Indeed many of our exiles will tell you that they regret the fact that these opportunities were not available to them before they emigrated. However, a worrying trend, of highly qualified young people, emigrating because of the lack of affordable housing, is a cause of deep concern. In the past the challenge to our faith came from outside of ourselves - from Penal Laws and from oppressive regimes. Today the challenge is not so obvious and it comes from within ourselves. Faith is not something that has myths of compartmentalisation; rather it impinges on all areas of human living. Today there is probably no area of life in which faith is not being challenged and in which it does not have a significant contribution to make.

As individuals and families, whether in our work, socialising, education or whatever, our faith impinges or we can refuse to allow it to do so. At times we misinterpret and misunderstand the nature of faith. Great faith is not a faith that walks in the light and knows no darkness. Real faith perseveres in spite of God's seeming silence. When one considers the obstacles with which Patrick contended - taken captive from his own people and his home, slavery on Slieve Mish, eventual escape and yet prepared to return as a missionary and preach Christ's gospel to those who had held him captive.

The wholeheartedness and single mindedness of Patrick are clear pointers to his faith. He is a man of flesh and blood whose whole life was fed on faith in God's love. Faith must have been a struggle for him, as it is for you and me. In the experience of slavery it must have been tempting for him to abandon faith and yield to despair. Yet he recognised his real helplessness and turned to God as a helper and a true friend. Slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century takes on a more sinister and subtle form. Work, pleasure, comfort, the celebrity status. Almost unnoticed God can be excluded and pushed out to the margins of life in a busy competitive world. With so many voices clamouring for our attention we have to make an effort to keep the lines of communication open with God in prayer and in our participation at Mass and the sacraments.

In a confused and complex culture we need a compass to



provide us with a sense of direction. Enabling us to cope with and respond to the various challenges which meet us every day. I am convinced that faith, properly understood and genuinely lived can provide us with such a compass. Faith can enable us to see beneath and beyond the situations in which we find ourselves. Just as in Patrick's life, faith made it possible for God to enter, so in our lives faith makes it possible for God to become involved in our busy world and our hectic activity. As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy celebration and pray that the faith that Patrick brought to our shores will sustain all of us in challenging times.

If St. Patrick were looking at the 6:1 News this evening, he would undoubtedly be surprised to find that his name was associated with the greening of the Great Wall of China and of the Pyramids in Egypt. The marketing people have been very clever in turning our national feast day into an opportunity to promote tourism and to seek opportunities for overseas trade. Fair play to them. If these things help to rebuild our economy and to ensure that all our people can live with dignity and enjoy the fruits of citizenship, then there is nothing wrong with that. But we who believe in Jesus need to be doing a bit of marketing ourselves. St. Paul reminds us that the time will come when many people will not want to hear the message of the Gospel. The image of the weeds and the wheat growing together is a common theme in the Gospels, it is a reminder that faith and disbelief exist side by side in our society. It is not the responsibility of politicians, economists or entrepreneurs as such to promote faith. It is our task as Christians, together with Christians of other religious traditions throughout Ireland, to ensure that the primary focus of St. Patrick's Day remains the reception of the Gospel and that the values of the Gospel permeate our civil society. St. Patrick's Breastplate is a popular prayer attributed to one of Ireland's most beloved patron saints. According to tradition, St. Patrick wrote it in 433 A.D. for divine protection before successfully converting the Irish King Leoghaire and his subjects from paganism to Christianity. (The term breastplate refers to a piece of armour worn in battle.)

***Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.***

***Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 31,850 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)***



## New Laois housing project in Portlaoise

On Friday last, Bretland Construction, Sophia Housing and Laois County Council signed the contract to build 52 homes and amenities on the former Church and Convent sites, Church Avenue. Mr McCarthy, Chair of the housing body with Sophia Housing, appreciated the vision of the Presentation Sisters and Portlaoise Parish for having the imagination and focus to offer their buildings and lands. "Their buildings and lands which served the community for over one hundred years will now be re-purposed to respond to the most pressing need in our current times; namely the need for homes," he said. The project will see the former convent and former Sacred Heart school converted into housing. A new apartment block will be built on the site old Parish Church site beside the convent. The new homes will be ready by end of 2025.



**Model of new housing project**



Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley, Sr. Frances Crowe, Presentation Sisters; Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, Msgr. John, Portlaoise Parish, John Mullholland, CEO, Laois County Council, Michael Lee, Company Secretary, Sophia Housing, Cllr Pascal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach, LCC and Coleman Yates, Deputy Managing Director, Bretland Construction.

Photo: Michael Scully



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



**Christy Cahill**  
St. Brigid's Place  
Portlaoise



**Shane O'Loughlin**  
Newtown, Ballyroan

*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)

**In Loving Memory of  
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**

*Boughlone Way, Portlaoise.*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<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 10am.

*How we miss the welcome footsteps  
Of the one we loved so dear,  
Oft we listen for his coming,  
Fully sure that he is near.  
Thou are gone but not forgotten,  
Fresh our love will ever be,  
For as long as there is memory,  
We will always think of thee.*

*Sadly missed and remembered by Tom Fitzpatrick  
and family.*

*Rest in Peace Michael*

**In Loving Memory of  
CHRISSIE GRAHAM**

*Ridge Road, Portlaoise.*  
18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024



No special day is needed,  
for us to think of you,  
For you were someone special,  
and we thought the world of you.

*Loved and remembered always by  
your husband Jim, son and  
daughters and grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Chrissie*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

**In Loving Memory of  
PAT KEOGH**

*Ridge Road, Portlaoise.*  
60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance; 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024



*Today would have been  
a happy celebration of  
your special day, but we  
can still remember all  
our memories together.  
Although you are not  
here with us physically,  
your spirit lives on in  
our hearts and minds.*

*Wishing you a Happy Heavenly  
60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Pat with all our love,  
from all your loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Pat*

**In Loving Memory of  
MICHAEL McEVOY**

*Late of 1 Mountrath Rd. Portlaoise.*  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



**Forever in our  
Hearts**

*Always remembered by  
all his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Michael*



**In Loving Memory of**  
**MARY McEVOY** (née Houlihan)

*"St. Martin's", Ridge Road and formerly  
43 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurred 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



*The beauty of your memory is that you  
are always there, like a penny in my  
pocket, I can take it anywhere.  
And when my heart is heavy and my  
eyes fill up with tears, I can focus on  
your memory and travel back in years.  
My heart can visit happy times when  
laughter filled the air, the presence of  
your memories can lessen my despair.  
Thanks for the wonderful friendship sis.*

**REMEMBRANCE**

**THE HOULIHAN FAMILY**  
*Formerly 43 St. John's Square,  
Portlaoise.*

*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,  
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

*Always loved, Tina x  
Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of**  
**SUZANNE McALEER**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



*You never said I'm leaving,  
You never said goodbye,  
You were gone before I knew it,  
And only God knew why.  
A million times I've needed you,  
A million times I cried,  
If love alone could have saved  
you, you never would have  
died.*

*In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a place that no one could  
ever fill.*

*It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go  
alone, for part of me went with you,  
The day God took you home.*

*Its been a decade, but feels like yesterday.  
We still miss you, we still love you, and we still  
remember every moment with you.*

*Sadly missed loved and always remembered by  
her children Devin and Sinead, Mam, Philo, Trevor,  
Tracy, P, nieces, nephews, extended family & friends.*

*May Suzanne Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PETER FRAWLEY**

*Lynden Court, Portlaoise.  
1<sup>st</sup> Birthday away from us - 19<sup>th</sup> March*



*We all still talk about you and  
miss you so much and even more  
so today.*

*Happy birthday in Heaven Peter.  
We hope you are surrounded by  
endless love and joy on your  
special day x*

*Love and miss you always  
Mam (Nancy), sister Sylvia,  
brother John, brother-in-law Pat,  
sister-in-law Tanya, Craig, Aine, Becca and Jay.*

*May Peter Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**MARIA GREENE**

*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024*



*Maria's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
was celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.*

*Sometimes when I first awake,  
I think that you're still here,  
And for a fleeting moment,  
The clouds all disappear.*

*For you brought endless sunshine, until you went away,  
And now I miss you desperately, each minute of the day.  
You would not like to see me sad, so what I try to do,  
Is live a bright and happy life, in memory of you.  
For though I'll always miss you, and it's dreadful being  
apart, I haven't really lost you,  
You are still here in my heart.*

*Forever in our hearts, from Daddy, Mommy,  
brothers Stephen and Denis, sister Natalie,  
grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends xxx  
Maria, Away with the Angels*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PATRICIA NORTON**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



*Gone are the days we used to share,  
But in our hearts you're always there,  
Loved with a love beyond all telling,  
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.*

*Patricia's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6.30pm.*

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

*May Patricia Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
ORLA CONROY-KELLY**

**25 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**



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

*Without your kind and gentle smile and sweet familiar face,  
A treasured life is missing,  
And the world's a sadder place.*

*You lived your life so graciously,  
You always did your best, and now you're with  
the angels, it's time for you to rest.*

*As peace surrounds you everywhere in Heavenly  
skies above, here on earth you're deeply missed  
and thought about with love.*

*We see the stars at night time, shining bright  
and clear, and as we say goodnight, God bless,  
we know that you will hear.*

**Loved and missed so much Orla**

From your heartbroken daughter Lydian and  
husband Sean, son Paddy, granddaughters  
Orla-Mae and Emmy, Mammy, Daddy & Brendan,  
Sharon & Jim, Lorena & Shane, Lynda & Damien,  
Olivia & Brian, Geraldine & Rocky and  
your adored nieces and nephews who miss  
you so much.

*May Orla Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
EILEEN ROCHFORD (née Farrell)**

**Lakeglen and St. John's Square, Portlaoise.**

**17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



Anniversary Mass for Eileen will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30pm.

*A day that is filled with sadness,  
Is here with us to stay,  
To mark the time you left us,  
In such a sudden way.  
To us you were so special,  
What more is there to say,*

*We only wish with all our hearts, that you were here today.*

**Sadly missed and always remembered by your  
sisters and brothers, nephews and nieces.**

*Rest in Peace Eileen*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

**In Loving Memory of  
KATHLEEN (Kitty) KERRY**

**1 Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.**

**Birthday remembrance 17<sup>th</sup> March**



*Wonderful memories woven in gold,  
This is a picture I tenderly hold,  
Deep in my heart a memory is kept,  
To love, to cherish, never to forget.*

**Sadly missed and always  
remembered by all her loving  
family, extended family and  
friends xxx**

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
PATRICK (Bumper)  
WHELAN**

**16 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home.**



*Dad,*

*I am sending a dove from Heaven  
with a parcel on its wings;  
Be careful when you open it,  
It's full of beautiful things.  
Inside are a million kisses,  
Wrapped up in a million hugs;  
To say how much I miss you,  
And to send you all my love.*

*I hold you close within my heart, and there you will  
remain; to walk with me throughout my life,  
Until I see you again.*

**Love and miss you Dad, sadly missed by all  
your loving family.**

*May Patrick Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JAMES DELANEY**

**Late of 50 Borris Road, Portlaoise.**

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



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise  
on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm.

*Will those who think of him today  
A little prayer to Jesus say*

**Sadly missed by his wife Teresa  
and family.**

*May James Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of **BREDA HOLOHAN**

*Killeen, The Heath*

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



A day without a thought of you is  
very hard to find,  
I'm always thinking of you and you  
are always on my mind,  
All the things we did together,  
I'll remember them forever.

*Sadly missed by your loving husband  
Michael, sisters Mary & Betty and  
neighbours and friends.*

*May Breda Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **Dr. LIAM HANNIFFY**

*"Pine View", Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Church, Creagh,  
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway on Sunday  
17<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am. Liam will also  
be remembered at the 10am Mass in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise  
on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**A Psalm for the Dying by Edward  
Hays**

*Relatives and friends, I am about  
to leave; my last breath does not  
say "goodbye," for my love for you is truly timeless,  
but I leave myself to your memory with love.*

*I leave my thoughts, my laughter, my dreams to  
you whom I have treasured beyond gold and  
precious gems*

*I give you what no thief can steal, the memories of  
our times together: the tender, love-filled moments,  
the successes we have shared, the hard times that  
brought us closer together, and the roads we have  
walked side by side. I also leave you the solemn  
promise that after I am home in the bosom of God,  
I will still be present, whenever and wherever you  
call on me.*

*My energy will be drawn to you by the magnet of  
our love. Whenever you are in need, call me; I will  
come to you, with my arms full of wisdom and light  
to open up your blocked parts, to untangle your  
knots and to be your avenue to God. And all I take  
with me as I leave is your love and the millions of  
memories of all that we have shared. Fear not nor  
grieve at my departure, you whom I have loved so  
much, for my roots and yours are forever  
intertwined.*

*Loved and missed by all his loving family,  
extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Liam*



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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!



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## Portlaoise Parish



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

16

18

21

22

**No €16,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Thomas Byrne  
Benny Fagan  
Mick Dempsey  
Catherine Claffey  
Michael O'Connor  
Gemma Lalor  
A, R, A, L, C, & Amelia  
Tina Feighery

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

8  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€125  
each

### PROMOTER

Online Lotto  
Nora Walsh  
Kathleen Dunne  
Anthony Preston  
Paddy O'Connor  
Peter Ryan  
Kieran Parnell  
Breda Conroy



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**Next Week's Jackpot is €17,000**

## 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  
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

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

## Stations of the Cross

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

## 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

## Parish Centre



**Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**

**Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722**

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

**Twitter: @portlaoiseparis**

**MANAGER Declan Kelly**

**Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley  
Agnieszka Kaczmarek**

**Accounts Michelle Conroy**

**Sacristans Parish Church**

**Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie**

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

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



**Secretary: Julie Conroy**

**Monday to Thursday**

**11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm**

**057-8692154**

**Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday**

**Subject to availability of space**

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

**PARISH SHOP**

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# 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 will leave Civic Plaza at Laois County Council, turn right up JFL Avenue to the Abbeyleix road roundabout, proceed to Market Square roundabout and down Main Street, before exiting at Bridge Street and back up JFL Avenue to finish at the Civic Plaza (LCC).*
- *Viewing stand for dignitaries will be outside the new Library this year*
- *Children's amusement area in Lyster Square*
- *Two Stages at Top and Bottom Square*
- *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.