

PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
**link  
up**

24th March 2024

Palm Sunday



*Palm Sunday*

*God Most High,  
gracious and glorious,  
blessed is the one who comes  
in your name. Lead us now on  
the road to the cross. May we  
follow with faithfulness and joy,  
shouting Hosanna in the highest  
heaven; through Jesus Christ our  
Savior and Lord.  
Amen.*

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)



## Easter Collection

### For the support of our Priests

Easter Collection for the priests of the parish takes place over the Easter period. Envelopes at the Church porches for those not using an Envelope Box. You may also donate to this collection via our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) or directly to our Clergy Account, details inside the back cover.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## Dawn Mass 6am Easter Sunday



**March 31st  
The Heath**

*Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come  
in your abundant mercy!*

## Trócaire Boxes

Please bring Trócaire boxes to Mass on Holy Thursday. Place them in the basket provided in the Church.

Please do not leave Trócaire Boxes in the Church while unattended. You may return it to the Parish Centre during office hours, Monday to Friday, 9am—5pm. You may also donate to Trócaire online via their website, [www.trocaire.org/donations/now/](http://www.trocaire.org/donations/now/)

## Traditional Eastern European Blessing of Food

by Fr. Piotr Jakubiak on Holy Saturday at 12noon in the Parish Church.

All are welcome.



## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday and Tuesday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

### Wednesday

7.30am & 10am

### Penitential Service, Parish Church at 7.30pm.

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

### Easter Sunday

Easter Vigil 9pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

**Sunday:** 6am (Dawn Mass)

9.30am (in the Church).

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

**Sunday:** 10am

**See Holy week Timetable on the back cover.**



## 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!



Today we welcome  
Bishop Denis, and wish him  
a Happy Easter.  
Celebrant of our 11.15am  
Mass in the Parish Church.



## We welcome into our Parish Community

Faith Buseko Fundulu, Lake Drive

Logan Sean Doheny, Newpark

Lily Ann Gorman, Cherrygrove

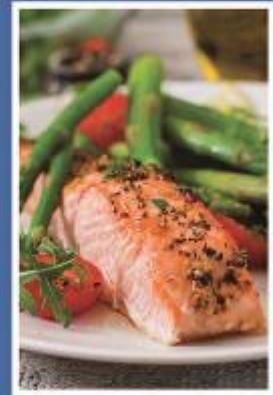
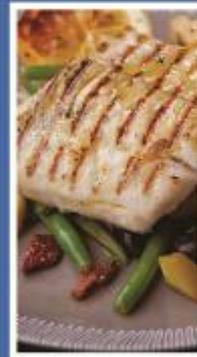
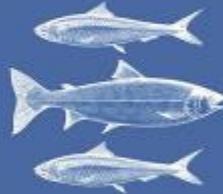
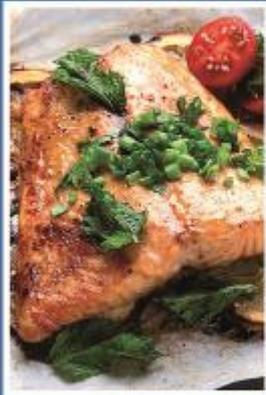
**Who were baptised last weekend.**



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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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## First Solo Art Exhibition

By **Kathleen Gilligan**

At **'The Gallery of Divine Inspirations', Bloom HQ, Mountrath. R32DC58.**



**Opening Day: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7p.m.**

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Wishing you and all your families  
A Very Happy Easter

# Councillor BARRY WALSH

PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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# MENS SUPPORT GROUP



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A diagnosis of cancer can often be one of the most stressful experiences in a person's life. You may feel overwhelmed, anxious, or even depressed. Concerns about physical changes and the ability to work and socialize as before are common. The opportunity to connect with other men living with cancer can help you feel less alone. This group is open to men at any stage of their cancer journey and aims to provide a safe place to exchange support, get information, and receive guidance while discussing the unique challenges of living with a cancer diagnosis.

***Starting Monday, 8th April, 2024***

10am-11am  
Places are limited

*FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING:*

Cuisle Cancer Support Centre,  
Block Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8681492

*The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre is a charity, and all our services are provided free of charge*

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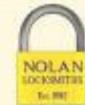
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## CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

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

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>**; Sing along with Caroline | **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**; Cards and chat in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given. We still have some places left for our dinner and big celebrations for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, if anyone from our club has not got a ticket and would like to go, contact Sheila or any member of our committee. Every member of the club can bring a friend with them if they wish. We also have a number of places available on our 3-day holiday to Wicklow on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Happy Easter to all our members. For further information please contact P.R.O. Sheila 087-6204617.

**Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Top Score:** Betty O'Neill | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Molly O'Brien | **2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** P. McEvoy | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Tom Gowing  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** Leslie Hunter | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Christy Fitzpatrick | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** B. Kennedy and M. Dunne | **13 Tricks:** Tom Gowing and Freda Gaynor | **Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> S. Duff, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Dunne, 3<sup>rd</sup> T. Dunne, 4<sup>th</sup> F. Gleeson, 5<sup>th</sup> N. Delaney

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

**Graiguecullen MONSTER EASTER Bingo Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March in St. Fiaccs Hall at 3pm, R93P030:**

Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,780, Double number €530, Lotto €800. Over €8,000 in prizemoney!!

Easter eggs galore!! Bingo as normal Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm.

**Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club, Auto-jumble Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 from 8am in the Community Hall,**

**Ballyfin;** Strictly vintage, veteran and artisanal related stalls and traders. Pre-registration and approval for stalls required. Proceeds in support of local charities. For queries or information on the Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club, please message, text or call 086-3101822.

**Thank You;** Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee would like to thank all who supported and contributed to our recent bake sale. It was a great success and your support is greatly appreciated.

## 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 & Prayer for vocations, every Friday at 3pm in the Parish Church.

**Emmanuel House, Clonfert, Co. Galway;** Day of Prayer including first Saturday Fatima Devotions, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 11am, led by Eddie Stones and team. Adoration, Confessions, Talks, Healing Service and Holy Mass. Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 11am, led by Eddie Stones and team. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Bus to Knock National Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage in Knock Basilica;** Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm to 9.15pm, speaker Fr. Brendan Walsh SAC. Pilgrimage Day Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 9.45am to 5pm. Booking for Sunday bus essential. Cost €25 Adults, €10 Students. Pick-up Sunday Points; Ballylinan 8am, Ballyadams 8.10am, Stradbally 8.23am, Portlaoise 8.38am (Stradbally road side of Church). For further information contact 086-2590366.





## A Joyful Celebration



Today is Palm Sunday. It's a day when we remember how people celebrated when Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a Sunday around two thousand years ago. You may have already heard the story, but let me tell it again.

Jesus was walking with His disciples toward Jerusalem.

As they came near to the city, Jesus told two of his disciples to go on ahead into the town. He told them that they would see a young donkey tied there that had never been ridden. "Untie the donkey and bring it to me. If anyone asks you what you are doing, tell them, 'The Lord needs it. He will send it back to you soon.' "

The disciples did what Jesus told them to do, and it happened just as He had told them. They found the young donkey, untied it, and started to lead it away. Some men were standing nearby, and they said to the disciples, "Where are you taking that young donkey?" They told them what Jesus had said, and the men let them take the donkey.

The disciples brought the young donkey to Jesus, and they put their coats on it to make a soft place for Jesus to sit. As they made their way into the city of Jerusalem, people went ahead of Jesus shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Others followed behind, and they were also shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest!" All the while, people lined the streets cheering and waving palm branches.

It was a wonderful celebration, as people cheered loudly for Jesus.

Just as those people celebrated two thousand years ago, we have come here today to celebrate Jesus. What better day to do that than on Palm Sunday? The Bible says, "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)



Dear God, we celebrate today just as those people celebrated in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. This is the day that You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it! In Jesus' name, Amen.





# The Triumphal Entry



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

Jesus sent two \_\_\_\_\_, saying to them, "Go to the \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of you, and at once you will find a \_\_\_\_\_ tied there, with her \_\_\_\_\_ by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large \_\_\_\_\_ spread their \_\_\_\_\_ on the road, while others cut \_\_\_\_\_.

From the trees and spread them on the \_\_\_\_\_.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed \_\_\_\_\_.

"\_\_\_\_\_ to the Son of David!"



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"



"Hosanna in the highest!"

|                 |                |                  |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>BRANCHES</b> | <b>COLT</b>    | <b>DISCIPLES</b> |
| <b>HOSANNA</b>  | <b>SHOUTED</b> | <b>CLOAKS</b>    |
| <b>CROWD</b>    | <b>DONKEY</b>  | <b>ROAD</b>      |
|                 |                | <b>VILLAGE</b>   |



**Q. Why do bees hum?**  
A. Because they don't know the words.

**LAUGH-A-**  
**Q. When is the best time to go to bed?**  
A. Anytime, the bed won't come to you.

**Q. Why did the young boy take his scooter to bed?**  
A. He didn't want to walk in his sleep.





# Time to Think!

## *Easter - A Time of Grace*

Easter 2024 has arrived very early. This is one of the earliest dates possible for Easter. The great St. Lasarian, established a particular way of calculating the celebration of Easter for the entire universal Church that is, the first Sunday, after the first full moon, following the spring equinox. I love Easter. It's a time when all of us can be touched by God's Amazing Grace.

Easter is a time of hope and new life, an opportunity to begin again in a new way. The Angel said to the wounded followers of Jesus "Why look among the living for the dead". Easter reminds us in a very powerful way that we belong to a place that is so much bigger than whatever situation we may find ourselves in. That place is about gentleness, hope, compassion and love. That sacred place is told through the eyes of faith. Faith is a necessary and wonderful gift. Faith will carry us up any mountain, no matter how overwhelming the climb may be. Faith brings with it a sense of perspective and a deep confidence, that no matter what "All will be well". Easter is about new possibilities and opportunities. Easter is rich in gifts and blessings. There is no recession in the Lords love. Where the shadows of conflict, war, sickness and uncertainty prevail, the Easter message, contains a dawn that promises brighter days ahead.

The opening hymn of Easter Sunday Mass is an extraordinary song. So simple, so surprising -- not at all the song we might expect to celebrate the Joy of Christ rising from the tomb and his victory over death. Its melody is the soul of discretion: no soaring flights of fancy, just a serene restraint that conveys an atmosphere of intimacy and contemplation. It breathes the paschal mystery. The agony and suffering of Good Friday are present, the silence and seeming finality of Holy Saturday linger; neither are forgotten but they are transformed in this song of gladness and love of Christ, who on rising from death, turns to his Father and sings: "*I have risen, and I am still with you, alleluia; you have placed your hand upon me, alleluia; your knowledge has become wonderful to me, alleluia, alleluia*".

This song of resurrection is a song for the three people: Mary Magdalene, Peter and the beloved Disciple. As they make their way to Jesus' tomb in the predawn darkness of that first Easter morning, they are on a journey of faith, each with their own path to follow, each having to change so as to see anew and believe. And all the time they are sought by the risen Lord who knows them intimately, reaching out to each according to their need. They are our inspiration and our encouragement as we also travel on the path to faith in the risen Lord. This song of resurrection is our song too.

First is Mary Magdalene. Her love for Jesus was as strong as death, emboldening her to stand by the cross and remain with him to the very end. But now that Jesus is gone, Mary is overwhelmed by her loss, absorbed in her grief and blinded by her tears. She sees many things --- the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, the burial clothes, the angels, even Jesus whom she supposes to be the gardener - but doesn't see what they mean.



And the Lord reaches out to her in her need and tenderly speaks her name, 'Mary'. It's as if he puts a new song into her heart: *I have risen, and I am still with you*. And Mary is emboldened to change. She must let go, not cling to the old ways of seeing and relating to Jesus. A new day has dawned, and the apostle to the apostles can truly proclaim, 'I have seen the Lord.'

Next comes Peter. Impetuous, imperfect, inconsistent but lovable Peter. He got things so wrong. Fear got the better of him and he denied Jesus, not just once but three times. The one nicknamed the Rock crumbled. He ran away and wasn't to be seen at the cross. And now at the empty tomb he is even more confused than ever. Guilty and ashamed, he realises how deeply he misses Jesus and how much his self-protecting denial had hurt himself. Later in the Gospel we will see how the risen Lord reaches out to Peter to bring healing, forgiveness and reconciliation into his life. He will lift the rock from the mire and on it build his Church. *You have placed your hand upon me*, is Peter's song as he journeys in faith and service to his risen Lord and Master.

And finally there is the beloved disciple. He is the model disciple who shared a bond of deep intimacy with Jesus. He stood by the cross and was entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother. On Easter morning he not only outran Peter in the race to the tomb but surpassed him in belief. 'He saw and he believed', we are told. We may not identify as easily with him as we do with Peter. But he, above all, foreshadows the faith of subsequent generations of believers who do not see Jesus and yet believe. God in his wisdom has arranged it so. *Your knowledge has become wonderful to me*, sings the beloved Disciple.

No one, faltering or steadfast, has an easy journey to the risen Lord. We all take wrong turns. We all make mistakes. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved Disciple were no different. On Easter day they are our companions on our journey to faith in the risen Lord. They assure us that there is room for each of us - for one who sees and believes, for another who sees and is confused, and yet another who needs to hear her own name. These three companions give us hope that despite our weaknesses and failings we too can come to fullness of life and proclaim the joyful news of the Resurrection. With them we sing this Resurrection song "*I have risen, and I am still with you, alleluia; you have placed your hand upon me, alleluia; your knowledge has become wonderful to me, alleluia, alleluia*".

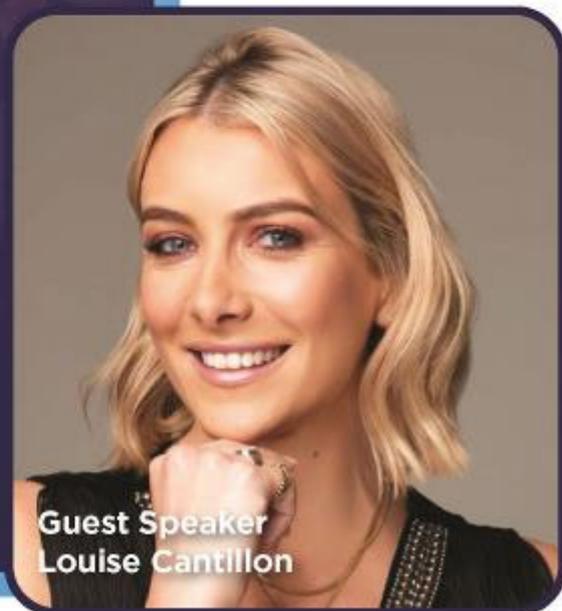
*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*

# FREE

## Practical Information Evening for 5th & 6th Year Students and their Parents

# PREPARING FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE & GOING TO COLLEGE

Hosted by People First Credit Union  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm  
The Killeshin Hotel



Guest Speaker  
Louise Cantillon

### Speakers



#### Guest Speaker

**Louise Cantillon** is a TV and radio presenter with Today FM. Podcast host of 'How to Gael', Junior Eurovision host and former P.E. and Gaelic secondary teacher to name a few of her success stories. Louise will inspire exam students by discussing her life journey and detailing the choices she made to reach her current success, offering valuable insights for their own paths ahead.



**Donnchadh O Mahony** is a secondary school guidance counsellor and runs the popular Leaving Cert Guidance podcast and social media pages. He is a regular educational contributor to the Today with Claire Byrne Show, Ireland AM and the Irish Independent. Donnchadh is on hand to answer all your questions on the CAO, Leaving Cert and life after school.



**Carol Murphy** is the Marketing Manager for People First Credit Union. Carol has seen first-hand in all offices the stress that comes with students and parents worrying about how they will pay for their child's education. "We are hosting this evening to educate both parents and students about how to plan for the future, and how to cope with the emotional daunting change in both the students and parents life". Carol will discuss:

- Student Loans
- Grant Payments and Current Accounts
- Students & their Credit Union in the 21st century.



**Cian Power** is The Union of Students in Ireland Vice President for Welfare. Cian will share his knowledge of securing accommodation, coping with college life, protecting yourself from fraud and the SUSI Grant.

Limited places are available.  
Booking is essential  
Register:

[peoplefirstcu.ie/studentevening2024](http://peoplefirstcu.ie/studentevening2024)  
or scan the QR code



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



**Anne Camon**  
née Fox  
Cois na hAbhainn,  
Portlaoise and  
Belmont, Offaly



**John Molloy**  
Tullamore and  
formerly Summerhill,  
Portlaoise



**Joseph Jin**  
We extend our deepest  
sympathy to Fr. Simon  
on the sad passing of  
his father.  
May he rest in peace.

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**  
*Our sympathy to their families.*

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to  
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**Birthday Remembrance**  
*In Loving Memory of*  
**MICHAEL KERRY**

*Cois na hAbhann, Greenmill Lane, Portlaoise*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday away from Home**  
*You were always there when we  
needed you*

*No task too great or small,  
With a loving heart and willing hands  
For us you did it all .*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered  
by your loving wife Tina, son Declan  
daughter Rebecca, daughter-in-law  
Catriona, son-in-law Ciaran and  
grandchildren, Leah, Eoghan, Alana, Ava and Hannah.*

*Rest in Peace Michael*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

*Precious Memories of a Dear  
Son and Brother*

**MARTIN WALSH Jnr.**

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

**50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance occurs 26<sup>th</sup> March**



*Our lives go on without you Martin  
but nothing is the same,  
The special years will not return when  
we were all together.*

*Thinking of you today and always,  
your ever loving Mother Margaret,  
brother Joseph, sisters Mary, Tina,  
Attracta, Patricia and Colette,  
brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law,  
nephews, nieces and extended family.*

*Also thinking of his Father Martin and Brother Anthony  
at this time.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOHN DEVOY**

*Borris Great, Portlaoise.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
this Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6:30pm.

*Greatly missed and  
fondly remembered by  
family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Dad*

**In Loving Memory of  
TOM WALL**

23 Beladd, Portlaoise.

8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am.



*Your life was one of kindly deeds,  
A helping hand for other's needs,  
Sincere and true in heart and mind,  
Beautiful memories you left behind.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife  
Lily and family.*

*Rest in Peace Tom*

**In Loving Memory of  
My Wonderful Son**

**CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN**

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home - 26<sup>th</sup> March



Of all the special gifts in life, however great or small,  
To have you as my son Craig, was the greatest gift of all.

A special time, a special face,  
A special son I cannot replace,  
With an aching heart I whisper low,  
I miss you Craig xxx and love you so.

*Sadly missed and loved always, your broken hearted Mother,  
Mudas, brothers Brandon, Noah, Junaid and sister Aisha.*

*May Craig Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
Our Dear Mother  
HANNAH TUOHY**

10 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Also Our Dear Brother PA

6<sup>th</sup> Birthday away from us occurred 17<sup>th</sup> March.



*Our family  
chain is  
broken and  
nothing is the  
same, but as  
God calls us  
one by one,*



*the chain will link again.*

*We didn't always tell you, but we always  
hoped you knew, how much we truly loved,  
and thought the world of you.*

*You are both so missed by all your family.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN**

105 Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



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

*Sadly missed and always remembered by  
your loving father Michael, brother  
Brandon and sister Chloe, your niece and  
nephew, Grace and baby Liam,  
extended family and friends.*

*May Craig Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
A Wonderful Wife, Mother and Friend  
ELIZABETH 'Liz' FLYNN**

Clonagh, Ballyfin

17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm.

Sadly missed by her husband Mick, sons, Michael (Calgary, Canada) Darren, Barry, (Vancouver, Canada) Shaun (Australia), her daughters, Leeza, Jenna, Ciara (Australia), her grandchildren Jack, Olly, Tommy, Kayla, Luke, Conor (Calgary, Canada), daughters-in-law Christina and Michelle (Calgary, Canada) and son-in-law Lawrence.

*Never a day without thoughts and memories of you.  
It's true that we never get over our dearest departed, it's just  
a little bit easier to live with it. Your legacies live on in your  
children and grandchildren. Love always X*

*Rest in Peace Liz*

**In Loving Memory of  
THOMAS BROPHY**

Late of Market Sq. Portlaoise.

57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> March. Died 25/3/1967.



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

*Always remembered by his son  
John and family and extended  
families.*

*Rest in Peace Thomas*

**In Loving Memory of  
MAURA PHELAN**

**Killeaney, Kilbricken, Mountrath.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe,  
this Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon.

God looked around His garden  
And found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest  
God's garden must be beautiful  
He only takes the best.  
God knew you were in pain  
And a cure was not to be  
So He closed your weary eye-lids  
And whispered come to me.

With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you slip  
away, although we loved you dearly,

We knew you could not stay.

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.

Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never  
part, God has you in His keeping,  
We have you in our hearts.

**Nanna**

Of all the special gifts in life however great or small,  
To have you as our Nanna was the greatest gift of all.

We love and miss you Nanna, love always  
Nicole, Cayden, Connie and James xxx

Loved, sadly missed and remembered everyday by  
your loving husband James, daughter Lisa,  
son James, son-in-law Tony, daughter-in-law Helen,  
adoring grandchildren Nicole, Cayden, Connie and  
James, sisters Irene and Audrey, brother Neil,  
sisters-in-law Marian and Josephine, brothers-in-law  
Jim and Brendan and extended family.

Miss you every single day  
Forever in our hearts and prayers xxx

*Rest in Peace Maura*

**In Loving Memory of  
KATHLEEN CLEARY**

**St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm.**

*Nothing can ever take away,  
The love a heart holds dear,  
Fond memories linger everyday,  
Remembrance keeps you near.*

*Loved and remembered by the Lambe family  
and the Lalor family.*

*Rest in Peace Kathleen*

**In Loving Memory of  
BRIGID CONNELL née Quigley**

**Tonduff, Abbeyleix.  
Months Mind occurs 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



Months Mind Mass will be  
celebrated in the Church of the  
Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, this  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 5pm.**

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

*Rest in Peace Brigid*

**In Loving Memory of  
JAMES (Jim) MAHER**

**Thornberry, Abbeyleix. - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary.**



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in the Church of the  
Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, this  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.**

*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.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered always by your  
wife, sons, daughter and all your grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Jim*

*Hosanna*

*You are the  
Light  
of the World*





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## 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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Contact Matthew

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David **087-2369887**

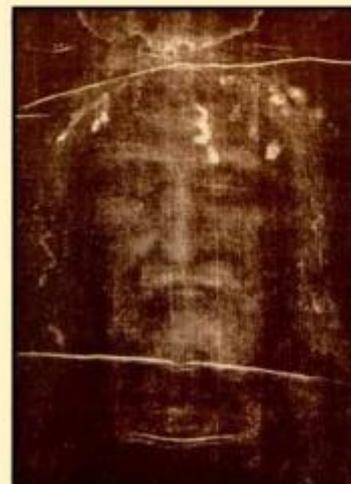
## HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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



## Invitation to The Holy Face of Jesus



**32 County Holy Face Public Vigil  
12 noon to 1pm on Good Friday  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

**Statue To Our Lady, Top Square  
Portlaoise .  
086-0696295**

Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. "Matt 10:32"

**Oksana Rohovska's Art Exhibition**  
(Ukrainian artist)

Currently being held in Mountmellick Library. Well worth a visit and this is the final week. Paintings and other artworks — Easter decorations and wool handbags with accessories. All are welcome.



Mountmellick Library and Art Gallery presents

Oksana Rohovska's exhibition:  
"The Edge of the Heavenly Realms  
through the eyes of my soul"



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## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2024



**One €17,000 Jackpot Winner**

**Congratulations to Marie Dollard,  
Promoter: Online Lotto**

### WINNERS

Anna Maher  
Mary Scully  
Willie Rowe  
The Dunne Family  
Rita Brophy  
Muireann McCann  
Ronan Lesley Keohane

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

**7  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€143  
each**

### PROMOTER

Mary Hennessy  
Lotto Gift  
Kathleen Dunne  
Geraldine O'Neill  
Bernie Lalor  
Browns Shop  
Parish Centre

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**Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000**

## 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**

## 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  
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: @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**

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**PARISH SHOP**

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

# Holy Week Celebrations

## Monday & Tuesday

Holy Mass 7:30am, 10am & 7:30pm

## Wednesday

Holy Mass 7:30am & 10am  
Penitential Service 7:30pm

## Holy Thursday

Morning Prayer 10am  
Confessions 10:15am to 12noon  
and after the 7:30pm Celebration

Mass of the Lord's Supper:  
- Parish Church 7:30pm  
- The Heath & Ratheniska 7pm  
Quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

## Good Friday

Morning Prayer 10am  
Confessions 10:15am to 12noon  
Commemoration of Lord's Passion:  
- Parish Church 3pm  
- The Heath & Ratheniska 7pm  
Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church:  
- in Malayalam Language 1:45pm  
- in English 7:30pm  
Prayer Around the Cross:  
- Parish Church 9pm

## Holy Saturday

Morning prayer 10am  
Confessions 10:15am to 12noon  
Polish Blessing of Food 12noon  
Vigil Mass - Parish Church 9pm

## Easter Sunday

Dawn Mass - The Heath 6am  
Day Mass  
- Parish Church 8:30am, 10am,  
11:15am & 12:30pm  
- The Heath 9:30am  
- Ratheniska 10am