

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

3rd March 2024

**Third Sunday  
of Lent**



*The Theme*

*for this year's Confirmation*

*'This Little Light of Mine'*

*I'm gonna let it shine.*

*This little light of mine,*

*I'm gonna let it shine,*

*let it shine, let it shine,*

*oh let it shine.*

**Congratulations to 326 girls and boys who  
received the Sacrament of Confirmation  
last weekend in our Parish.**

*More photos inside and on our website.*

**The Parish Centre 057 8621142**

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

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[fb.com/portlaoiselinkup](https://fb.com/portlaoiselinkup)**

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





## Living Temples

Once a year at Passover, Jews visited the Temple and offered a sacrifice to God. At this time of year the number of visitors to Jerusalem swelled and the moneylenders, with their eye to business, took to operating a scam. When visitors came to the Temple they were able to purchase animals or doves to offer as sacrifices. Because the Jews considered Roman coinage bearing Caesar's head as idolatrous, they were given the opportunity to exchange their Roman coins for Temple coinage. The idea was originally a good one, but the moneylenders were operating an unfair exchange rate for over-priced animals. What had started out as a good idea had turned into an abuse. .... and this in God's name! Was it any wonder that Jesus was so angry?

To see Jesus angry enough to take a whip and drive out the villainous traders might surprise us. We are brought up with a vision of a Jesus as both meek and mild. In our modern times, where disputes have to be settled over a table and those who display temper are sent off for anger management counselling, the story might even make us raise a disapproving eyebrow. But what this story makes us realise is that there are situations that warrant our righteous anger. Jesus simply could not tolerate injustice, and neither should we.

What injustices do we need to drive out of our society today? We don't have to look far. How can we claim to be Christians yet settle for injustices that Jesus would not have settled for? Can we really sit back and allow rich countries to profit greedily at the expense of poor countries? Can we really condone the unfair distribution of our planet's resources just for our own convenience? Can we continue to let governments ride roughshod over those who cannot speak up for themselves?

What has to be driven out of our lives and communities because instead of bringing us closer to God they prevent us from meeting him? Today's story is not about protecting a sacred building. God after all does not live in a building. Each of us is a living temple. God lives through us.

### LENTEN STATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR PRIESTS

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

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday - Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

### Saturday: 10am

### Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

### Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

### Sunday: 10am

### CONFESSIONS

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



## Stations of the Cross

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



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention March 2024

Pope Francis tells us that we are "to be truly committed to discipleship and prepared to take risks for the cause

of the Gospel." By risks we understand that we should be unafraid of what others might think of us. In certain countries it might even mean risking persecution. Pope Francis promotes that we should have a 'zeal' for promoting the gospel. But how should we do that? How should we promote the gospel with enthusiasm? Catechists are sometimes asked to conduct a simple exercise. We are asked to look back through our lives and identify a significant crossroad and reflect about where we think God was for us during that time. How did God use this change to make us who we are today? Are we willing to share that story and invite others to share their stories too?

This month we are invited to join Pope Francis' prayer intention, **"...for those around the world who risk their lives for the Gospel, to inspire the Church with their courage and missionary zeal."**



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Wed: 9:00am -5:30pm

Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic





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

Some Exciting News Is Coming To The Heath.

- We are reaching out to all local businesses, organisations, and community groups to participate in this historic event.
- To participate, you will need to create/design your own banners, floats and signs, and to really stand out, maybe add costumes and props to enhance the overall parade experience.
- We will begin The Parade at The Heath GAA Community Hall and proceed to The Heath Church for 9.30am Mass, followed by light refreshments in the Church Hall after mass.
- This will be a great opportunity for our local community to come together.
- To confirm your business or group attendance please contact us at [theheathparade@gmail.com](mailto:theheathparade@gmail.com) or Samantha on 086 – 3667583 by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



## Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee

PRESENTS



PÁDRAIC BRENNAN



PÓL RAY KELLY



NÍEL BOLAND



NORMAN BOLAND



BERNIE HEANEY

## MIRACLES OF MUSIC 2



ALISTER FINLAYSON



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Doors 7pm. Show 8pm. | Tickets €20

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PORTLAOISE PARISH CENTRE,  
Or Call Nathan On  
0852179253.



**LADIES GET INTO GOLF 2024**

## PORTLAOISE GOLF CLUB

**COMMENCING APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> FOR 6 WEEKS  
7PM - 8PM**

**COST FOR THE PROGRAMME IS €60**

*TUITION PROVIDED BY GOLF PRO TARA DELANEY  
AND ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED*

**COME ON OUT AND GIVE GOLF A GO!**



## 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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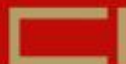
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**PORTLAOISE  
WOMEN'S SHED**

Portlaoise  
Women's Shed  
**First Meeting**

Thursday  
**7<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm**  
Portlaoise  
Parish Centre

Introductory meeting seeking new members to join.  
This group will be a safe and welcoming place for  
women in our community to come together, connect,  
and support each other.

Our goal is to offer a range of activities for everyone to  
enjoy, aimed at improving health and well-being  
through friendship and skill-sharing.  
Our shed will focus on reducing isolation and fostering  
a community of kindness and support.

Come along for a cuppa and a chat.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm, Parish Centre**

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### **ROSARY AT THE SHRINE**

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

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March;** Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm new members always welcome, tuition given. **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March;** Sports Day

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March;** Cards in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

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

### Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February;

**Top Score:** Ann Marie Farrell | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Theresa Mulhare, Kathleen Kennedy and Mary Delaney | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Liam McCarthy | **2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** Frank Keenan

**1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Margaret Flanagan | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** Mary Dunne

**13 Tricks:** Leslie Hunter and Maureen Fitzpatrick

**Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> Angela Brennan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz Cooper, 3<sup>rd</sup> Breda Fitzpatrick,

4<sup>th</sup> Sheila Duff. Whist continues every Tuesday in the Parish Centre, 7.30pm.

### Graigecullen Bingo Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm;

Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,390. Double number €320. Lotto €650. Save the date: Monster Easter Bingo Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm. Easter eggs left and right!

**Tea Dance;** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 11am-12.30pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre.

Admission €5, refreshments, Sequence Dances, Waltz, Quickstep, Foxtrot "to your heart's content", all are welcome. For further information e-mail Maureen seanchistin@gmail.com or cslattery@laoissports.ie

**Thank You so much** from "Pro-Life Campaign" for your generous donations to our collection at Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Total raised €1,122.00.

**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.

### 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).



It is imperative that all practicing catholics  
must make it their duty  
to vote at the referendum on 8th of March.  
Protect the families, go to vote!

Pray together with the **Legion of Mary** for Families every Wednesday @6:30pm in the Prayer Room, in St. Peter & Paul Church, Portlaoise.





## Cleaning House

Spring is such a wonderful time of the year. The temperature begins to warm and the world begins to take on a fresh new look. The trees start to put on leaves, the grass begins to turn green, and the flowers start to bloom. Everything is beautiful! There are other things that tell us that spring is here too. Another sign that spring is here is that many people have started their spring cleaning.

For us to do Spring cleaning we would use a mop, a pail, sponges, floor cleaner, window cleaner, paper towels, and dust cloths. These are great to clean house. Do your parents do any spring cleaning around your house? Spring is a good time to give your house a good going over and clean everything up and get rid of a lot of junk that you don't need.



This morning I want to tell you about a time when Jesus did some spring cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus travelled to Jerusalem. When he arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple. He couldn't believe his eyes. There in the temple area he saw people who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves for the people to use as sacrifices in the temple. There were tables set up for money changers so that people could change their money to pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a carnival than a house of worship.

Jesus did not like what he saw. He was so angry that he made a whip from some rope and he drove the cattle and sheep and those who were selling them from the temple. He went to the tables of the money changers and turned them over, scattering coins all over the temple floor. To the ones who were selling the doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market." Yes, I would say that Jesus did some spring cleaning in the temple that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we should also think about some other cleaning that needs to be done. We are in a season called Lent. At first, the word Lent meant 'the season of spring'. But it has now become much more than that. It is a time to look inside ourselves and see if there is anything in us that needs to be changed. Are there some areas of your life where Jesus needs to do some 'spring cleaning'? I know there are in mine!

### My Prayer

Dear Father, during this time when we think of 'spring cleaning', we ask you to forgive us when we do wrong and to make us clean.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





# CLEANING HOUSE

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

Answers can be found in John 2: 13-16



\_\_\_\_ 1. The Son of God

- A. Jerusalem**      **B. Passover**      **C. Dove**      **D. Jesus**

\_\_\_\_ 2. A place where people gather to buy and sell things

- A. temple**      **B. house**      **C. market**      **D. court**



\_\_\_\_ 3. A small, wild pigeon

- A. cattle**      **B. sheep**      **C. dove**      **D. chicken**

\_\_\_\_ 4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs

- A. table**      **B. chair**      **C. whip**      **D. bed**

\_\_\_\_ 5. Coins or bills used to pay for something

- A. money**      **B. cattle**      **C. sheep**      **D. dove**



\_\_\_\_ 6. A building dedicated to the worship of God

- A. temple**      **B. market**      **C. table**      **D. courts**

\_\_\_\_ 7. An animal raised for its wool

- A. dove**      **B. cattle**      **C. whip**      **D. sheep**



\_\_\_\_ 8. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle

- A. Table**      **B. whip**      **C. money**      **D. dove**

\_\_\_\_ 9. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

- A. Christmas**      **B. Easter**      **C. Passover**      **D. Thanksgiving**

\_\_\_\_ 10. A building where a family lives

- A. market**      **B. house**      **C. temple**      **D. tent**





## Confirmation in our Parish last weekend



Photos courtesy of Agnieszka Kaczmarek. See more photos on our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/galleries/](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/galleries/)





Holy Family Snr School (grp A)



Holy Family Snr School (grp B)







# Time to Think!

## Authentic Faith

What we can see we can achieve. What we can see in the depth of our heart and soul we can materialise in our lives. This seems to be one of the important laws of existence that is expressed in the Lord's Prayer for the Kingdom to manifest on the earthly plane as it is on the heavenly or spiritual level. This ability to envision is what gives us the energy to realise our uniqueness and make our contribution to the world. Each of us is born with a special mission and purpose, the pursuit of which can bring us to full aliveness. *Jesus said, 'Seek first the Kingdom and everything will be given you besides'.* It is our purpose that helps us move towards our safe harbour and provides us with all the necessary means to do so. Not knowing that harbour, no wind can get us there. With our dream we can see the invisible and achieve the impossible.

There is no disguising the fact that the number of Priests in Ireland is declining at an alarming rate. In 2006 there were just over 3,000 priests ministering in Irish dioceses, whereas today, March 2024, there are under 2,000. The average age of Clergy in Ireland is over 70. It is possible that, in five years' time, in the whole diocese of Killala, West of Ireland, there will be eight active priests to serve 22 parishes. Many rural churches are effectively being abandoned. Parts of the traditional 'priestly' functions associated with events such as funerals, are increasingly being carried out by lay people. Even though great efforts are being made to halt the decline in priestly vocations, there seems little confidence among either priests or faithful that the trend can be reversed. Given the average age of the clergy, if the number of priests were to continue to decline at the present rate there would be few active Irish priests in Ireland by the year 2050.

It will be very disturbing for most Irish Catholics to consider the possibility that at some stage there will not be enough priests to say Mass for them. In 1906 the Chief Secretary for Ireland, Augustine Birrell, not himself a Catholic, commented on the faith of the Irish: "It is the Mass that matters. It is the Mass that makes the difference between a Catholic country and a Protestant one". Up to sixty years ago, attendance at Mass on Sunday was the touchstone of Catholic identity, most especially in Ireland. Unless, by the grace of God, there is a new surge in vocations, or unless the criteria of eligibility for ordination is changed in some way, it seems that Catholics will have to find an alternative, or at least a supplementary, source of identity.

Going to Sunday Mass is, in the first instance, an external act, requiring only a walk or drive to the nearest church. Of course, for most Catholics, Mass is much more than an external act. Many who attend will be inspired by receiving communion, finding in it a profound experience of closeness to God. Others may be energised by the words of the priest, or by the singing together of uplifting hymns. For some the experience of meeting their neighbours and worshipping alongside them may be a source of comfort and strength. Of course, there will always be a few who find Mass boring and attend out of habit, or just to meet friends, but even they may feel that going to Mass affirms



their Catholic identity, even if they do nothing else to affirm it during the week. But for them, Mass can remain an external act. If the worst comes to the worst, and priests become very scarce, it is possible that Catholics will create an alternative external form of devotion, such as a prayer service, where they will be able to gather together to worship God and share their faith. But could the difficulty of Mass in their lives also inspire Catholics to take a closer look inwards at their own behaviour and at the inner thoughts and feelings that influence their actions? In the earliest days of the Church, pagans were said to remark: "How these Christians love one another!" It was for this mutual love that they were noticed rather than for their religious observances.

If Mass was not readily available, one positive outcome to be salvaged from this alarming scenario is that Catholics might begin to pay more attention to our manner of living, and try to make it more of a badge of our Catholic or Christian identity. In doing this they might be thought to be just imitating the Quakers. Confessing the Christian Creed is the very foundation of initiation into the Catholic faith. That Creed contains the words "I believe in Jesus Christ". This belief includes, or should include, taking the teaching of Jesus seriously, especially the more challenging passages of his Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7 in Matthew's Gospel). Imagine if one of the badges of identity of Catholics was for them to really take seriously and show in their conduct such sayings of Jesus as "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"; or "Judge not, so that you will not be judged"; or "How hard it is for those who love riches to enter the kingdom of God". Imagine if, when faced with insults and injury, they could pray along with Jesus, as he died on the cross of execution, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing". We believe that God gives himself to us most of all in the Eucharist. But God can also give himself to us in whatever ways and at whatever times he pleases.

*Matthew 25:35-37 - 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*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)*



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



**Mary Dunne**  
née Bennett  
Glendowns,  
Stradbally Road  
Portlaoise



**Ben Thornton**  
Rathleague, Portlaoise  
and Swinford, Mayo



**Mary Phelan**  
née Cavanagh  
Ballyroan Road,  
Abbeyleix



**Brigid Connell**  
née Quigley  
Tunduff, Abbeyleix

*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  
BREDA DUNNE (née Whelan)**

Capoley, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish  
Church Portlaoise,  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 11.15am.

*In God's care you rest above,  
In our hearts you rest in love,  
Never more than a thought away,  
Loved and remembered everyday.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by her husband  
Liam, son Declan, daughter-in-law Maeve, grandchildren  
Cillian and Aoife, sister Mary, brother John, extended  
family and friends.

*May Breda Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
SHARON TOBIN**

9 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

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



*To Our Sister;  
Little did we know that day,  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you did not go alone,  
For parts of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.*

*Deeply missed by your loving sisters and brother,  
nieces and nephews xxx*

*Rest in Peace Sharon*

**In Loving Memory of  
SHARON TOBIN**

9 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

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



*To my dear Angel in Heaven,  
I just want you to know,  
That you are always in my thoughts,  
And how much I love you so.  
I know you are in God's care,  
That is how it needs to be,  
But when I get to Heaven,  
He will give you back to me.*

*Loved and missed always by your loving Mam xxx*

*Rest in Peace Sharon*



**In Loving Memory of  
KAREN COONAN (née Dixon)**

*Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise. Died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.*



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

*Loved and remembered always,  
Joyce, Des, Katie and Ashling,  
Eddie & Mary*

*May Karen Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
KAREN COONAN (née Dixon)**

*Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise. Died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.*



**Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish  
Church, this Sunday  
3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10am**

*Our hearts still ache in  
sadness, and secret tears  
still flow,*

*What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know.*

*Sadly missed by her husband Owen, son Matthew,  
parents Anne and Brendan, brother Alan,  
extended family & friends.*

*May Karen Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
NANCY (Johanna) HORAN**

*Late of 23 Grattan Street, Portlaoise.  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024*



**Mammy**

*You left us beautiful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
Although we cannot see you,  
You are always at our side.*

*Love and missing you always, Hannah, Andy,  
Cian, Pat, Fiona, Jason & Rachel.*

*Also remembering  
Sheila Horan, late of 9 Grattan Street,  
Portlaoise whose anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> March.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**In Loving Memory of  
CARRIE HIGGINS**

**Rossleighan, Portlaoise**



Christy, Kevin, Leo and Pat wish to thank everyone who sympathised with them on the sad loss of Mam.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who attended the wake, Requiem Mass and burial. For those who travelled long distances, telephoned, sent mass cards and messages of condolences or followed the

Mass online we are very grateful.

A special word of thanks to the nurses and care team in St. Mary Theresa's Ward in St. Vincent's Community Nursing Unit, Mountmellick who looked after mam with such care, kindness and dignity.

Thank you to Monsignor John Byrne for the personal Mass to celebrate Mam's life and also to Nuala Kelly for her well chosen hymns and music.

A word of thanks to Michelle in the Parish Office for her kindness and guidance.

Sincere thanks to John Maloney, Undertakers, for their professionalism, courtesy and kindness to us as a family.

Also to Adrian Dunne and his team of gravediggers for preparing Mam's resting place with such care.

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

*Rest in Peace Mam*

**In Loving Memory of  
JAMES MOFFITT**

**Raheen, Abbeylax.**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Fintan's Church Raheen, Abbeylax at 7pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

*A decade without your smile  
Is a dimmed decade*

*Your memory shines brightly,  
Reminding us of the joy you brought.*

*Fondly remembered by all his family.*

*Rest in Peace James*



## In Loving Memory of **MICHAEL LALOR**



*Ballycarnan, Portlaoise.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> March.*

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

Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered every day, no longer in our lives to  
share, but in our hearts you're always there.

*Sadly missed by his wife Peg and family.*

*Rest in Peace Michael*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND MONTH MIND In Loving Memory of **PATRICK DALTON**

Late of St. John's Square, Portlaoise



Paddy's sister Catherine and his  
extended family would like to  
thank most sincerely those who  
sympathised with them in their  
recent bereavement and took the  
time to share their memories of  
Paddy with us.

A special word of thanks to Paddy's great neighbours  
and friends in St. John's Square for their kindness to  
him. We would also like to acknowledge the staff of  
Brown's shop, Harding's Butchers and Café Latte who  
were all so good to Paddy over many years.

Our thanks to Monsignor John Byrne, Fr. David Vard  
and the Priests of our Parish for their support and  
celebrating Paddy's Requiem Mass. We also extend  
deepest gratitude to the staff of Beech Haven Day Care  
Centre and the Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise  
who looked after Paddy over the years, and in  
particular the Critical Care Team who cared for Paddy  
in his final days.

We would also like to acknowledge the kindness of  
David Goode and Matthew Keegan Undertakers and  
thank most sincerely all those who contributed in any  
way to Paddy's Requiem Mass celebration.

There were many other who helped Paddy and our  
family in many ways and we would ask that you please  
accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our  
deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will  
be offered for your intentions.

Month's Mind Mass for Paddy will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March  
at 6.30pm

*Rest in Peace Paddy*

## In Loving Memory of **JOSEPH DEEVY**

*Late of Lakeglen, Portlaoise.  
26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 11:15am.



*Though your smile is gone forever,  
And your hand we cannot touch,  
Still we have so many memories,  
Of the one we loved so much.  
Your memory is our keepsake,  
With which we'll never part,  
God has you in his keeping,  
And we have you in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed by his loving daughter Marie, son-in-law  
Seamus, grandchildren Blaine, Evan, Aoife & Clodagh,  
their partners, great-grandchildren Ellie Mae,  
Heidi Marie, Leah, Molly, Bobby and Tom and families.*

*May Joseph Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT In Loving Memory of **DICKIE MCDONALD**

Cullion House, Mullingar and Abbeyleix



On behalf of the McDonald  
family, we would like to thank  
Dr. Fallon and his team of nurses  
and staff, especially those on  
Medical Ward 3, Mullingar Hospital  
and Palliative Care team.

Special thanks to Liam Dalton for  
all of his dedication and care to  
Dickie down through years.

Martin, Emily, Malcolm, Clodagh, T.J., Céire and Aoife  
would like to sincerely thank the nurses and carers in  
Muiriosa Foundation, St. Mary's Delvin and Cullion  
House, Mullingar for your dedication and the loving  
care given to Dickie for the passed 38 years. We as a  
family really appreciate everything you have done for  
Dickie.

We would like to thank Gilsenan's Funeral Directors,  
Mullingar and Eamon Kelly, Funeral Directors for the  
professional manner in which they carried out Dickie's  
funeral arrangements.

Our gratitude to Fr. Paddy and the choir for the lovely  
Mass and music.

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

Dickie's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Patrick Church, Ballyroan, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois on  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am.

*May Dickie Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of

**LAR DOOLEY**

29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.



*We hold you close within our hearts,  
And there you shall remain,  
To walk with us throughout our lives,  
Until we meet again.*

*Sadly missed and fondly remembered by  
his family, neighbours and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Lar*

## In Loving Memory of

**LILY DARGAN**

31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

**LAURENCE DARGAN**

46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Late of 3 Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise.

Gone, yet not forgotten, although we are apart,  
Your spirit lives within us, forever in our hearts.

*Loved and remembered always by  
Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

*In Loving Memory of  
**ELIZABETH (Lil) BARTLEY***

91 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday away from home; 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024



Today always meant so much  
to us,

Now it only brings me tears,  
I wish that God could have  
spared you,

For just a few more years,  
I'm thinking of you today Mam,  
I know that's nothing new,  
You were my thoughts of  
yesterday and you will be in  
tomorrows too.

The memories I'll cherish forever,  
They always make me smile,  
I just wish I could hold you close again,  
If only for a while.

But until the day that we unite, we'll no longer be  
apart, but until that day remember Mam,  
You are always in my heart.

*Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by her  
daughter Monalisa, son-in-law Donal and  
grandchildren Darryl and Stefan.*

Today is filled with memories, with happiness  
and tears, of birthday celebrations we've shared  
throughout the years.

And though I'll always miss you, the endless joy  
you brought, warms my heart with gratitude and  
fills my every thought.

I feel that you are with me in everything I do,  
So I'll celebrate your birthday,  
But I'll spend it missing you.

*Loved and missed by her sons John, Oliver, Shay  
and Darren, daughters-in-law, grandchildren,  
great-grandchildren and the Conroy family.*

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*

*In Loving Memory of  
**WILLIAM (Mick) FENNELLY***

Late of 30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



Memory drifts to scenes long past,  
Time rolls on, but memories last,  
Sunshine passes, shadows fall,  
Love's remembrance outlasts all.

*Loved and remembered always by  
Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

*Rest in Peace William*

*In Loving Memory of  
**MICHAEL GREENE***

Well Road and St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

*In Memory of a Special  
Brother*



Today is full of memories of a  
brother laid to rest

And every single one of them  
is filled with happiness

For you were someone special  
always such a joy to know

And there was so much pain when it was time to  
let you go.

That's why this special message is sent to Heaven  
above

For the angels to take care of you and give you all  
my love.

*From your heartbroken sister Annmarie,  
brother-in-law Peter, your nieces Tanya  
& Courtney and grandnieces Kelsie and Kayla*

*Rest in Peace Michael*



## In Loving Memory of **KATHLEEN LALOR**

24 Clonrooske, Knockmay.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurred 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024



*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 Elaine, Jason, Shauna, Eimear,  
Shannon, grandchildren, extended  
family and friends.

*Rest in Peace Kathleen*

## In Loving Memory of **BOB MULHALL**

85 Marian Place, Portlaoise. Died 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013.  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



*Dad, our thoughts are always with you,  
Your place no one can fill,  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we love you still.*

**Always loved and remembered  
by your loving family.**

*May Bob Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **DOMINIC DUNNE**

9 Glendowns, Portlaoise. 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 12.30pm.**



*No words can tell, no tears express,  
The love, the loss, the emptiness,  
You are not just a memory or part of the past,  
You are ours to remember as long as life lasts.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his  
loving wife Mary, family and friends.*

*May Dominic Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **LILY KELLY**

Lr. Boley, Abbeyleix.

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024



*Forever in our  
Hearts*

*Always remembered by all  
her loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Lily*

## In Loving Memory of **PATRICK (Fiddler) DELANEY**

8 Clonrooske, Portlaoise.

21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurred 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 6.30pm.

*We thought of you today, but that is nothing  
new, we thought about you yesterday and  
days before that too.*

*We think of you in silence, we often speak  
your name, all we have are memories and  
your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is our keepsake, from which we'll never part,  
God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.*

*Lovingly remembered by Mam, Dad, sister MaryAnn, brothers  
Clement, Alan & Don, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*

*May Patrick Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of **CHRISTY BANNON**

72 Newpark, Portlaoise. Died 4<sup>th</sup> March 2004  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



*Never more than a thought away,  
Deep in our hearts you will always  
stay,*

*Loved and remembered every day.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Pat  
& all his family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Christy*



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*✝  
I am the resurrection  
and the life*

30.03.24





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## PORTLAOISE WOMAN FLYING HIGH FOR KOLBE SPECIAL SCHOOL



Sheila Parker, Portlaoise woman and former Paediatric nurse, will not only celebrate a special birthday on Easter Sunday, but she has decided to take on the challenge of a skydive to raise much needed funds for Kolbe Special School. Having worked for the last year as the bus escort for Kolbe Special School, this is a cause that is very close to Sheila's heart.

She has already surpassed her initial target of €500 and would like to raise as much money as possible, as the money will go towards the equipment needed for the sensory or occupation therapy rooms for the school, once the new building has been built.

The big jump will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> March and if you would like to support Sheila, you can donate online; [www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/SheilaParker](http://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/SheilaParker) or donations can also be left into the school.

## 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  
Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.  
(opposite the E.S.B. and Condell tractors)

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





## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**No €14,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Peggy Murray  
Helena Marum  
Paula Nerney  
Gerald Byrne  
Christopher Mark Bastow  
Margaret Venture  
Patricia Muhrennan  
Geraldine Doran  
Aileen Charleston  
Mary Duggan  
Patrick Doheny  
J D & C Kirwan

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

**12  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€84  
each**

### PROMOTER

Tommy Timmons  
Paul Dooley  
Online Lotto  
Online Lotto  
Online Lotto  
Online Lotto  
Parish Centre  
Lotto Gift  
Lotto Gift  
Frank Cullen  
Betty O'Rourke  
Mary Haslam

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

**Next Week's Jackpot €15,000**

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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

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: 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

**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**





# OPEN DAY MARCH 12TH

MORNING: 11:00 - 13:00

EVENING: 16:00 - 19:30

**Enrolling now for Sept 2024**



abbeyleix@loetb.ie



057 8731127



www.abbeyleixfetc.ie

ABBYLEIX FETC, MOUNTRATH ROAD, ABBYLEIX CO. LAOIS R32 TX30

FREE PLC PLACES



NQF LEVELS 4-8

Scan to  
apply



## DISCOVER OUR COURSES \*

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LEVEL 5 BIOSCIENCES

LEVEL 5 ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

LEVEL 5 BUSINESS STUDIES

LEVEL 5 ART WITH ANIMATION

LEVEL 5 HEALTHCARE SUPPORT

LEVEL 5 NURSING STUDIES

LEVEL 4 FUTURE KICKSTART

NEW BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (HONOURS)

1 ACADEMIC YEAR,  
5 DAYS PER WEEK.

PART-TIME  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE  
IN BUSINESS,  
HEALTHCARE AND  
FUTURE KICKSTART  
MODULES.

COLLEGE  
PROGRESSION  
OPPORTUNITIES.



## OUR FREE BUS SERVICES:



PORTARLINGTON

MOUNTMELICK

PORTLAOISE

MOUNTRATH

RATHDOWNEY