



Third Sunday of Easter



This weekend we begin our First Holy Communion Masses. Over the next few weeks in 9 ceremonies more than 300 young girls and boys will make their First Holy Communion. We do hope it will be a blessed and happy time for them and their families.

Our thanks to the teachers and all who were involved in their preparation.



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Finding the Meaning

Were the other disciples really so very different from Doubting Thomas? When they saw Jesus in their midst, they

took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines four pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. They can look at the marks on his hands and feet, they can touch him to check that he is really flesh and bone, and they can watch him eat a meal that they have prepared. The fourth proof is when Jesus opens their minds so that they can understand the prophecies that were made in the Old Testament, and which he has fulfilled by rising from the dead.

We are not as lucky as the first disciples. Two thousand years down the line we do not have the benefit of their first-hand experience. We cannot look at Jesus, we cannot touch him, or share a meal. The fourth proof though, the prophecies in the Old Testament are still there for us to read. The only trouble is, the Bible isn't always an easy book to read. We read a passage and fail to understand it. Sometimes we think we understand the literal meaning but the words fail to offer any significance. It would be good if Jesus could open our minds up as he did for those first disciples when they had trouble understanding the meaning of his death and resurrection.

One thing is for sure, understanding the Bible isn't going to happen magically, just as it didn't happen overnight for the disciples. We know that everything worthwhile takes effort. Playing a musical instrument takes years of practice. Being good at a sport takes considerable training. Learning a language demands a concerted amount of study and hard work. So too, we have to apply ourselves to understanding what we read in the Bible. We have to consider each passage for some time before we can really grasp it ... sometimes a single verse or phrase. Often we can derive great satisfaction from knowing that those parts we struggled with the longest hold the greatest meaning. The Bible yields up its greatest treasures to those who persevere.

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

Monday - Friday: 7.30am & 10am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

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



We welcome into our Parish Community

Carly Flynn, Kirwan Park, Mountmellick

Clodagh Bebhinn Tucker, The Beeches, Forest Park

Harper May Buggy, College Avenue, Mountmellick

Kate Emma Walsh, Mill Lane, Morette

Eoghan Daniel Cooper, Rockdale, Mountrath Road

Molly Eabha Donoghue Shaw, Hawthorn Way, Esker Hills

Halle Kate Brophy, Lake Drive, Kilminchy

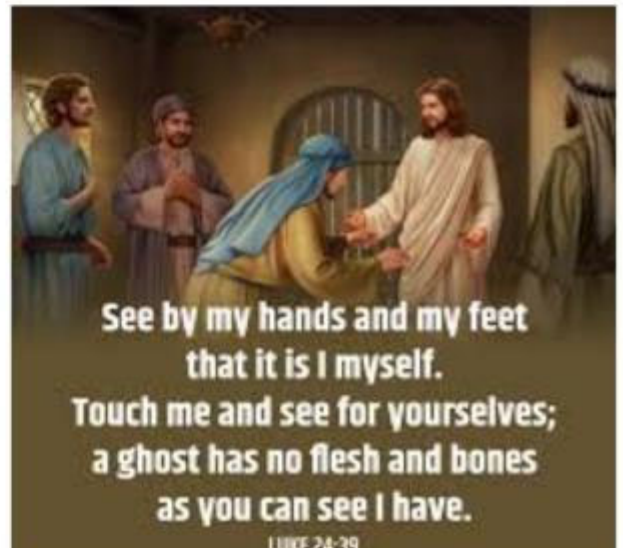
Lottie Patricia Lawless, Castle Mews, Kilminchy

Who were baptised last weekend.

Trócaire

Total amount collected to date €12,007.12
Please bring any remaining Trócaire Boxes to the Parish Centre, and we will then forward the total to Trócaire at the end of next week.

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Thanks as always for your support

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ALL IRELAND CONFINED DRAMA FINALS 2024

- Thursday 18 April "Now and Then" by Sean Grennan (Harvest Moon Theatre Company)
- Friday 19 April "The Outgoing Tide" by Bruce Graham (Glenamaddy Players)
- Saturday 20 April "Same Old Moon" by Geraldine Aron (Siabh Aughty Drama Group)
- Sunday 21 April "Agnes of God" by John Pielmeir (St Patrick's Drama Group)
- Monday 22 April "Faith Healer" by Brian Friel (Dunmore Amateur Dramatic Society)
- Tuesday 23 April "The New Electric Ballroom" by Enda Walsh (Newtownstewart Theatre Company)
- Wednesday 24 April "The Lonesome West" by Martin McDonagh (Enniskillen Theatre Company)
- Thursday 25 April "Hooked!" By Gillian Grattan (Kilrush Drama Group)
- Friday 26 April "Stolen Child" by Bairbre Ni Chaoimh & Yvonne Quinn (Clann Machua)

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Portlaoise Active Retirement meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun and activities.

Monday 15th; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm. **Wednesday 17th**; Quiz

Thursday 18th; 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 on Tuesday, April 9th

Top Score: Paddy Purcell | 1st Lady: Maureen Fitzpatrick | 2nd Lady: Kit Farrell | 1st Gent: Liam McCarthy

2nd Gent: Ann-Marie Farrell | 1st Half: Norah Delaney | 2nd Half: P.J. Cahill

Raffle: 1st Kit Farrell, 2nd Mary Gowing, 3rd P.J. Cahill, 4th Frank Keenan, 5th Mary J. Dunne, 6th Catherine Fitzpatrick

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

Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 16th April in St. Fiacc's Hall, 8.30pm; Jackpot on 50 numbers €3,300

Double number €810 and Lotto €1,000.

Daffodil Day Message of Thanks; Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to make Daffodil Day in Portlaoise this year a big success. Special thanks to the TY group from Scoil Chríost Rí who helped prepare the fresh flowers and collected at some of the locations. Thanks of course to the generous donors to this good cause. We collected over €20,000 on the day.

Found; Green florescent beaded necklace found in the grounds of St. Mary's Hall during the week. Tel. 085-2689767.

Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club, Auto-jumble Sunday 14th 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.

Wellness unLAOISed is a free 12-week online programme which aims to increase physical activity participation rates and health education knowledge in relation to physical activity, nutrition and health. It is designed and delivered by health professionals (clinical exercise physiologists, registered nutritionist and fitness instructors) for adults in Offaly and Laois. The programme is free for participants as it is funded by Laois Sports Partnership, Offaly Sports Partnership and Sport Ireland. Participants will be invited to participate in two 40-minute exercise classes and one 30-minute health education workshop per week. There will be a live healthy eating cooking demonstration every second week. The programme will be delivered online via an innovative app and will start on Wednesday 17th April. To sign up visit <https://edufit.ie/wellness-unlaoised/> or for more info. please email programmes@edufit.ie or phone 083-374-8262.

FREE WEBINAR - Navigating the Transition: Supporting Pupils with additional needs in transitioning to Third Level Education, both pre and post-entry, for Teachers/Parents/Carers/Pupils;

Wednesday 17th April from 7pm to 8pm. Registration: <https://bit.ly/49xyf4>

Looking at appropriate support and resources to help pupils navigate this transition successfully and will look at the current supports available in Higher Education Institutes both pre and post-entry. It will also address the DARE and HEAR access routes to education.

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.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help continues this Monday 15th April at 7.30pm in St Clare's Church, Graiguecullen. Rosary recited at 7.10pm and Novena begins at 7.30pm. We invite people to place their petitions in the petition boxes in St. Clare's Church. During our Novena, through the prayers of our Faith Community and the intercession of Our Lady we will ask Jesus to relieve whatever burdens we carry. Guest Speaker for the night is Rachel Doyle, Founder of Arboretum-Horticulturist and author of a new book 'My Tree of Life'.

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The Fatima Candle will be lit at
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Saturday 13th April in
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Missa em Português Comunidade Católicos em Laois

Dia: 20/04/2024 (Sábado)

Horário: 19h30min

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

R32R684 - Portlaoise

The Brazilian community "Católicos em Laois" invites you and your family to join us for a Mass in Portuguese, which will be celebrated in the Parish Church, on Saturday 20th April at 7.30pm.
All are welcome.

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





Is it Jesus, or a Ghost?

I remember times when I was a youngster when I went on camping trips. One of the favourite activities on those trips was sitting around a campfire at night and telling ghost stories. Even though I kept telling myself, "There is no such thing as a ghost," that didn't keep some of those stories from scaring the daylights out of me, and they often made it difficult for me to go to sleep that night.

Even in Bible times, some people believed in ghosts and were afraid of them. Today's Bible lesson is one example of that.

The story begins after two men had walked along a road to a place called Emmaus. They were discussing the crucifixion of Jesus and all of the events that had taken place in the past few days. They wondered what it all meant. As they walked, they were joined by a man on their walk. They did not recognize that the man was Jesus. There is much more to that part of the story, but it is enough for now that we know that Jesus revealed himself to them. Finally, they recognised that the man was Jesus. They were so excited to see that Jesus was alive that they jumped up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem.

The two men found Jesus' disciples and began telling them what they had seen. The Bible tells us that as they said these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." Do you think the disciples felt peace? No! The Bible says that they were terrified and filled with fear, thinking that they had seen a ghost!

Once again Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."

Still the disciples stood in disbelief, so Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of fish, and he ate it as they watched. That was even further proof that they were not seeing a ghost. A ghost doesn't need food.

The disciples had seen Jesus die. They had seen him placed in a tomb. But now they saw Jesus alive. Not just this day, but for more than 40 days, they saw him and talked with him. They even watched him eat food. They were not seeing a ghost! Those same disciples went all over the world, telling the story of Jesus' crucifixion, his death, and his resurrection. They never stopped telling the story during their whole lives.

You and I have been called to tell the story just like those disciples. We must be a witness for Jesus, too. We must tell the world that Jesus is alive.



Our Father, we serve a risen Saviour. He is alive!

Help us to be witnesses of what he has done in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Jesus Appears to the Disciples

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 16-5-1-3-5 _____
- 8-1-14-4-19 _____
- 4-15-21-2-20-19 _____
- 2-15-14-5-19 _____
- 6-5-5-20 _____
- 6-18-9-7-8-20-5-14-5-4 _____
- 10-5-19-21-19 _____
- 7-8-15-19-20 _____
- 6-12-5-19-8 _____
- 6-9-19-8 _____



PEACE	HANDS	DOUBTS	
BONES	FEET	FRIGHTENED	
JESUS	GHOST	FLESH	FISH





Time to Think!

Seeing Jesus in others....

It is hard to go through a day without feeling negative towards someone who crosses our path. It could be a flippant remark passed in our direction, that we may personalise and then own, or someone walking a dog without a lead, or, if you drive, a motorist who changes lane in front of you without warning. Or it could be someone you don't actually see, such as a commentator on the radio. The trouble is that the negative feelings can stay with us and spoil our day.

Our Christian faith offers us a way that lessens the sense of offence we feel. The Bible gives us a story of two travellers walking away from Jerusalem after the crucifixion of Jesus. They get talking to a man on the road who talks to them inspiringly about the Holy Scriptures. In fact, the man is Jesus, someone they had known well, who is now risen from the dead. The Bible says *"their eyes were held so that they did not know it was Jesus"*. But elsewhere the Bible goes further than that and tells us that, without knowing it, we encounter Jesus in every person we meet. We are all *"members of Christ's body"*. In the story of the King in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus passes judgement on the way we have treated other people in this life and ends by saying, *"As long as you did it to one of the least of my brothers you did it to me"*. The Bible is sprinkled with similar sentiments: *"Whoever receives you, receives me"*, *"Whoever is generous to the poor, lends to the Lord"*.

Jesus had the gift of loving everyone he met, even those who were implicated in his trial, and execution on the cross. *"Father, forgive them"*, he said as he was dying, *"for they do not know what they are doing!"* Elsewhere we find Jesus befriending many members of the *"out groups"* of the time, – lepers and others regarded as *'unclean'* by the Jews; officials who collected taxes for the Roman occupiers; prostitutes and so on. Jesus wants to pass on to us this gift, of loving everyone we meet. This requires a change of perspective. We all know the kind of optical illusions, found easily on the internet, where an image can look like a duck or of a rabbit, depending on how you change your way of looking at the image. It can take a bit of effort. In some countries, the wearing of a headscarf by a woman can trigger a feeling of resentment or even fear, or an assumption that she is a fanatic. The next day the same woman may decide not to wear a headscarf, perhaps because she is going for an



Every day I see Jesus Christ in all his distressing disguises.

— Mother Teresa —

interview, and people see her as a completely different person, maybe simply as kind-looking and attractive, because their perspective has undergone a change.

Mother Teresa said, *"I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene. I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus"*. It requires a mental effort of this kind to look for the positive in people rather than the negative. We could start by giving people the benefit of the doubt. We could see the cross woman in the shop as *"the tired and fed-up Jesus"*, perhaps trapped in a loveless marriage to a weak person who gambles most of the household income. Or on coming across an aggressive driver, *"this is the angry Jesus"* maybe because her boss has just promoted a charming but very lazy subordinate over her head. Crucially, in respect of all those who inspire negative feelings in us, we should think, *"there but for the grace of God go I"*. Jesus constantly told us not to count ourselves better than anyone else. Feelings are neither right nor wrong, it's how we act them out brings consequences.

Lightening the Load

The first thing we have to do is to notice that we've loaded down this camel with so much baggage

We'll never get through the desert alive, something has to go.

Then we can begin to dump the thousand things we've brought along until even the camel has to go and we're walking barefoot on the desert sand. There's no telling what will happen then.

But I've heard that someone, walking in this way, has seen a burning bush.

- Francis Dorff, O. Praem

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



Paddy Macken
Summerhill Lane
Portlaoise



John Sinnott Sr.
Borris Road
Portlaoise

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

**In Loving Memory of
TOM FITZPATRICK**

Pleasant Place, Portlaoise.

32nd Anniversary occurs 14th April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday 14th April at 11.15am.**

*We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care,
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache, as we turn and leave you there.*

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all his loving family

Rest in Peace Tom

**In Loving Memory of
JOE DOYLE**

Maryborough Village, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurred 12th April 2024.



Remember Me

*Remember me when flowers bloom early in the Spring,
Remember me on sunny days in the fun that Summer brings.
Remember me in the fall, as you walk through leaves of gold, and remember me in wintertime, in the stories that are told.*

*But most of all remember each day, right from the start, I will be forever near,
For I live within your heart*

*Always loved, never forgotten, forever missed,
by Clare X*

Also remembered by The Delaney and Doyle families and friends.

Rest in Peace Joe

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN and BILLY CARROLL**

Newtown, Ballyroan.

John's 3rd Anniversary occurs 15th April

Billy's 11th Anniversary occurred 11th April



Rest in peace dear loved ones, thanks for all that you have done.

We pray that God has given you, the crowns you have truly won.



Sadly missed by all their loving families.

May their gentle souls Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

CATHERINE QUIGLEY née Whelan

Rockdale, Portlaoise. **Died 24th November 2022.**

2nd Birthday away from home.



*Deep in the heart lies a picture,
Of a loved one laid to rest,
In memories frame we keep it,
Because she was one of the best.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by your husband Kevin, daughters Selene, Siobhan and Noreen, son Ronan and grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Catherine

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Paddy) CASEY**

*Ballymaddock, Stradbally.
7th Anniversary occurs 26th April 2024.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in the Church of the Assumption,
the Heath, at 9:30am, on
Sunday 21st April.

*God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
He closed His arms around you,
And whispered "Come to me".*

*With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass
away, although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.*

*Always remembered by his wife Christina,
sons Joe and Colm, daughters Claire and
Annmarie and his loving grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Patrick

**In Loving Memory of
BRENDAN DELANEY**

*A dear Husband, Father & Grandfather
Green Mill Lane and St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
Brendan's 92nd birthday occurred 11th April 2024
28th Anniversary occurred 14th April 2024*



*It's lonely here without you,
We miss you more each day,
For life is not the same to us,
since you were called away.
To your resting place we visit and
place flowers there with care,
But no one knows our heartache
when we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed, never forgotten by your loving wife Anne,
Angie, Kelley, Tracy, Brendan, Séan, Laura,
grandchildren and great-grandson.*

*Also remembering his mother Mary Delaney, Green Mill Lane,
whose anniversary occurred 13th April. Rest in peace.*

Rest in Peace Brendan

**In Loving Memory of
MARY (Mollie) KEOGH**

*Ridge Road, Portlaoise,
whose 26th Anniversary
occurs at this time.*



**ALSO HER SON
PAT KEOGH**

*whose 30th Anniversary
occurs 21st April 2024*

*A silent thought, a quiet prayer,
For special people in God's care,
Deep are the memories, precious they stay,
No passing of time can take them away.*

*Loved and remembered everyday by all your
loving family.*

May Mary & Pat Rest in Peace

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

1 Chapel St. Ballyroan - 4th Anniversary

IN LOVING MEMORY

- of -

Mary



*Gone yet not forgotten
Although we are far apart
Your spirit lives within us
Forever in our hearts.*

*Death leaves heartache,
No one can heal.
Memories are treasures,
No one can steal.*

*Some may forget you,
now that you're gone.
But we will remember
no matter how long.*

Rest in Peace, Mary.

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
My Nephew
ROBERT MYERS**

2nd Birthday away from home occurs at this time.



*We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed by your Aunty Anne Marie, cousins Katie,
Rachael & Róisín*

May Robert Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH MARY
McEVOY

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary in Heaven and away from
home occurs Thursday 25th April 2024.



In Loving Memory Mum

Forget me not today,
nor tomorrow too,
Keep me in your memories,
And I will be with you.
Some days the rain will fall,
But things will be just fine,
Remember we need the clouds to
pass, for the sun to shine.
So cherish everything we had,
And hold me in your heart,

And you'll know I'll be with you always,
And we'll never be apart.
I'm waiting on the other side, it isn't that far away,
So remember me forever, forget me not today.

As I sit in Heaven

As I sit in Heaven and watch you everyday,
I try to let you know with signs,
I never went away.
I hear you when you're laughing,
And I watch you as you sleep,
I even place my arms around you,
To calm you as you weep.



I see you wish the days away, begging to have me home,
So I try and send you signs, so you know you're not alone.
Don't feel guilty that you have life, life that was denied to
me, Heaven is truly beautiful, just you wait and see.
So live your life, laugh again, enjoy yourself, be free,
Then I'll know with each breath you take,
You'll be taking one for me.



In Loving Memory

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again,
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye, you gone before I knew it,
And only God knows why.
My heart still aches with sadness and secret tears still
flow, what it meant to lose you, no one can ever know.
But now I know you want me to mourn for you no more,
To remember all the happy times,
Life still has much in store.
Since you'll never be forgotten, I pledge to you today,
A hallowed place within my heart,
Is where you'll always stay.

Mum

I am thinking of you always.
You are a part of my life, heart and soul forever.
Thank you for being my Mother. Love James xxx

Elizabeth's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Thursday 25th April at 7:30am and 10am.

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

In Loving Memory of
ANNIE O' BRIEN

Late of 6 Marian Ave., Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 17th April 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 14th April at 11:15am.

God saw you getting tired,
And a cure was not to be,
So He put his arms around you,
And whispered "Come to me".

With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away,
Although we love you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

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

Rest in Peace Mam xxx

In Loving Memory of
ANNIE O' BRIEN

Late of 6 Marian Ave., Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 17th April 2024.



Mammy
I hide my tears when I say your name,
but the pain in my heart is still the
same. Although I smile and seem
carefree, there's no one who misses you
more than me.

My mind knows that you are gone,
but my heart will never accept it.

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

Rest in Peace Annie

In Loving Memory of
SYLVIA WHELAN

St. Colmans, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 14th April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this
Sunday 14th April at 12.30pm.

Greatly missed and fondly remembered
by her family and friends.

Rest in Peace Sylvia

In Loving Memory of

UNA TYNAN *née McEvoy*

Old Road Ballydavis, The Heath, Co. Laois.

4th Anniversary occurs 14th April 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 14th April at 12:30pm.

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

We cannot forget the face we loved, or the memory of your smile, Or the countless things you did for us, to make our lives worthwhile.

Remembered always by her loving husband JJ, her children Stephen, Eddie, Glen, JJ and Sylvia, their partners and grandchildren, great-granddaughter, all the McEvoy family and her many friends.

May Una's gentle soul Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

JAMES McEVOY

32 Upper Beladd, Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise.

30th Birthday - 24th April 2024.



James, it's especially difficult today, not to have you here, to celebrate the times we've shared, over another joyful year.

We wish we had just one more chance, to see your happy smile, To laugh and celebrate with you, for just a little while.

We would hold onto you forever, Deep within our hearts,

And though you are not here with us,

Know that we'll never be apart.

This day was always special, so we just want to say,

That we're thinking of you with love,

On this your 30th Birthday.

Love you always, Dad, Mam, Keith, Eve, your beautiful niece Aoife, aunts, uncles and cousins xxx

Mass to celebrate James 30th Birthday will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Sunday 21st April at 12.30pm.

May James Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

ESTHER HEFFERNAN *née Tynan*

Esker Hills, Portlaoise. Died 28/1/2024

1st Birthday away from Home - 14/4/2024

Predeceased by her Mother Una, daughter Angel Marie and Mother in Law Anne R.I.P.



The Heffernan and Tynan families would like to thank all those who sympathised with them on the sad loss of Esther. To all those who sent Mass and sympathy cards, telephoned, called to the house, attended the rosary, Requiem Mass and burial and to those who uploaded messages of support and condolences online, we are truly grateful. Heartfelt thanks to Msgr. John Byrne, Fr. Paddy Byrne and Eugene Keyes for the beautiful Requiem Mass and to all of the

Priests of the Parish for their support and kindness to our families at such a difficult time. Special thanks to Aishling Rohan and James O'Connor for the beautiful music.

Our thanks also to the first responders who attended Esther and to the staff and doctors of the emergency department Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise for their excellent care and support.

We would in particular like to thank Matthew Keegan and David Goode from Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors for their professionalism and kindness throughout the days of the funeral and to the gravediggers for preparing Esther's final resting place with such care.

Thank you to Michael Ryan for hosting the families after the funeral and to Boscos catering for providing the refreshments.

As it would be impossible to thank all who helped us through this difficult time individually, please accept this acknowledgement on behalf of our families as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to you all. The Holy Sacrifice of Mass has been offered for all your intentions.

Always loved and missed by Mark, Kayleigh, Tianna, her father JohnJoe, brothers Stephen, Eddie, Glen and JJ, sister Sylvia and all her loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Esther

In Loving Memory of MICHAEL (Mick) GRIFFIN

19 Marian Place, Portlaoise.

33rd Anniversary occurs 17th April 2024



*Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
And we will always remember you.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Wednesday 17th April at 10am.

Sadly missed and always loved, Mary & Tommy, Ger & Olive, Geraldine & Tommy, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-granddaughters.

Rest in Peace Michael

In Loving Memory of Our Son

CATHAL CLOONEY

Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix.

3rd Anniversary occurs 11th April 2024



*Time cannot heal the heartache,
Or stop a silent tear,
It won't take away the memories,
Of one we loved so dear.*

**Missing you always Cathal
Forever in our hearts
Love Mam and Dad xx**

Brother

*I wish I could have you back a while,
I miss your laughter, I miss your smile,
I would hold you tightly and never let go,
And tell you how much I miss you so.*

Love Liam x

May Cathal Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of BREDA WHELAN

Late of Ralish, Abbeyleix.

2nd Anniversary occurs 13th April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, on **Saturday 13th April at 5pm.**

A day without a thought of you is very hard to find, we're always thinking of you and you're always on our minds.

We cannot have the old days back when we were all together,

But deep within our hearts you will remain forever.

Loved and missed by Ned, Ron, Debbie and all the family.

May Breda Rest in Peace



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Portlaoise Parish



Results for

11th April 2024



One €12,000 Jackpot Winner

**Congratulations to Tom Hilliard,
Promoter Liz Hilliard**

WINNERS

Sarah Phelan
Ciera Tobin
Maura Troy
Peter Doolin
Margaret O'Loughlin
Mary Gordon
Anita Tierney
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Lisa O'Brien
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James Dunne
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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: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley

Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

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



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 | Psalm 4:2, 4, 7, 9
1 John 2:1-5 | Luke 24:35-48

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*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

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- * Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
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