

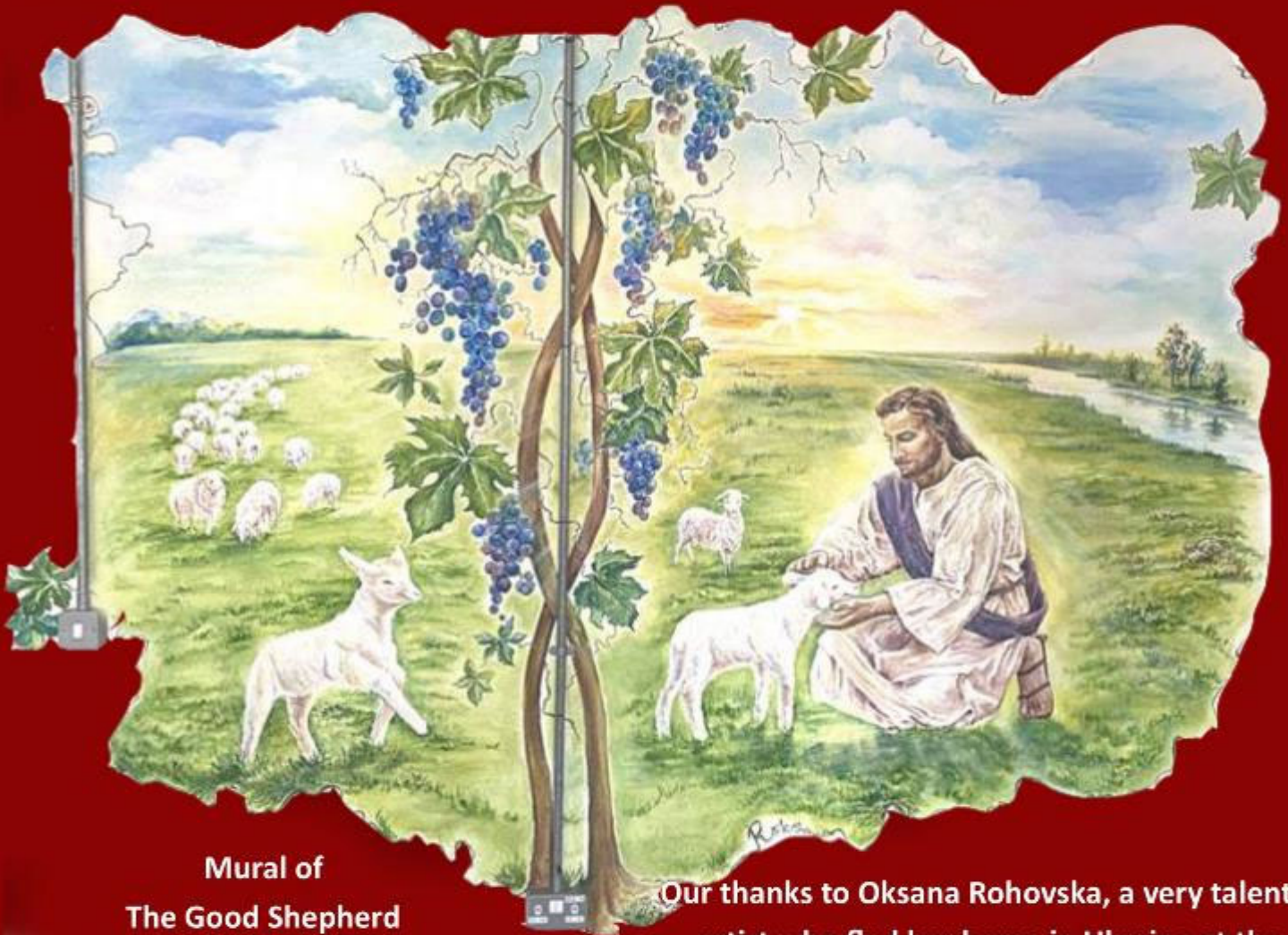
**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**  
**link  
up**

21st April 2024

# Good Shepherd Sunday & Vocations Sunday

This 4th Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel (John ch10) Jesus speaks of himself as a caring Shepherd. It is also a day when we traditionally pray for Vocations. In that we fulfil the instruction of Jesus himself who told us to 'ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest'.

See more on Vocations Sunday on page 18.



**Mural of  
The Good Shepherd  
In the former Sacristy at the  
Parish Church now used for  
the children's liturgy at our  
10am Sunday Mass**

**Our thanks to Oksana Rohovska, a very talented  
artist who fled her home in Ukraine at the  
outbreak of the Russian invasion,  
who painted the mural.**

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

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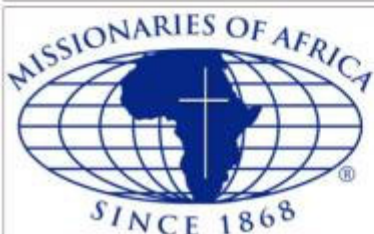
## The Good Shepherd

Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much.

At some time or another that probably means most of us.

In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after - to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.



The Missionaries of Africa will speak at all Masses next Sunday and will take up a collection for their Missions.

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.



## Saint Mark

**April 25th**

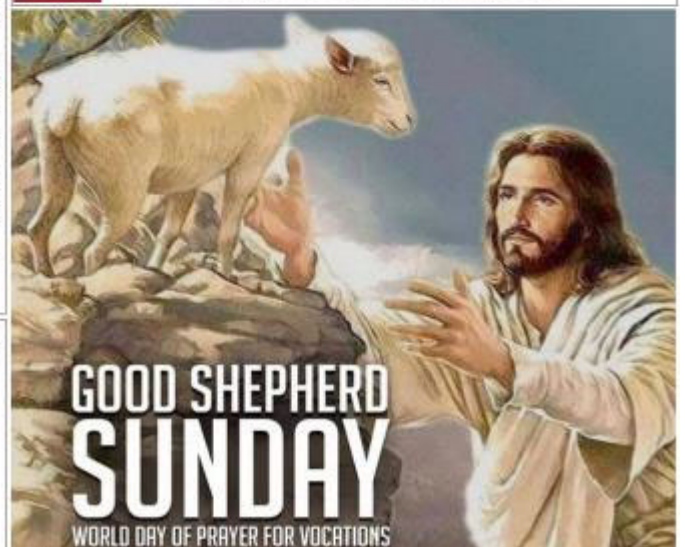
Most likely Mark's is the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Saint Mark is brief and to the point. Saint Mark has one goal, to present Jesus as God's crucified messiah, and he fulfils that goal concisely. This is the shortest of the gospels. You could sit down and read it in under an hour and a half. Give it a go!

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 4:8 -12

Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29

1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18



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Wed: 9:00am -5:30pm

Thanks as always for your support

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## **Mondays**

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## **Tuesdays**

### **MINDFULNESS FOR MEN**

11.30am-12.30pm  
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## **Wednesdays**

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### **THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME**

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**24th September**  
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### **MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE**

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**SEPT 2024**

## **FRIDAYS**

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### **BULLAUN STONE KILLONE**

**Laois County Council to move to Church of the Assumption, the Heath.**

Bullaun Stones were associated with early Christian Church sites within Ireland. Several theories for the function of Bullaun Stones included the following: holy water fonts, baptismal fonts, for crushing herbs for medicinal purposes, crushing grain, crushing furze for animal foodstuffs, or crushing metal for smelting. The natural rainwater that accumulates within the basins are believed to have several curative properties, which is often how they are used today.

The bullaun stone in Killone is currently located on a verge along the roadside approx. 1½ km from the Church of the Assumption on the Heath. It is listed as a National Monument, which is legally protected. Recently representatives from the National Monuments Service and the National Museum visited the stone and have advised that it should be moved to the Church of the Assumption on the Heath.

#### **Reasons for moving the bullaun stone:**

- Its current location is certainly not its primary location as bullaun stones were associated with ecclesiastical sites and no ecclesiastical site is recorded in its current location. This means it was moved previously.
- In its current exposed location it is at risk from being damaged by passing traffic.
- Moving the stone to a Church site is a more appropriate location for the bullaun stone and will allow safe access for all to the stone.

**For any queries related to this, contact Laois Heritage Officer Thomas Carolan  
[tcarolan@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:tcarolan@laoiscoco.ie) or 087-6624865**



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

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April;** Bowls in St. Marys Sports hall at 3pm, all welcome, tuition given.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>;** Bowling blitz in St. Marys Sports hall from 11am to 6pm.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>;** Our club will start at 2pm as the fraud squad are coming to talk to us at that time and then we have sing along with Caroline at 3pm.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>;** Training day for go for life games in D.C.U. 8<sup>th</sup> June in St. Marys Sports hall, 10am to 1pm.

Also cards in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm, new members always welcome, tuition given.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April;** 3-Day Holiday to Wicklow, monies need to have been payed.

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



Portlaoise Active Retirement Group who are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the club this year. They kicked off with a celebratory dinner and entertainment on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, the very date the club was founded in 2004. The day was a great success and enjoyed by all, more celebrations to come!

**Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>;**



**Top Score:** Catherine Brennan | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Molly O'Brien | **2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** Margaret Flanagan

**1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Frank Keenan & Leslie Hunter | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Catherine Galvin, Berry Murphy, Maureen Fitzpatrick

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** Paula McEvoy | **13 Tricks:** Molly O'Brien & Leslie Hunter | **Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Jacob

2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Dunne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Jacob, 4<sup>th</sup> Mary Dunne, 5<sup>th</sup> Freda Gaynor, 6<sup>th</sup> Betty Murphy 7<sup>th</sup> Mary Dunne

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

**Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm;**

Jackpot on 50 numbers €3,430. Double number €880 and Lotto €1,050.

**Bealtaine Tea Dance;** We earnestly look forward to Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm for our Bealtaine Tea Dance in the auditorium of Dunamais Theatre, Portlaoise, where we will dance the afternoon away to mighty music from Danny Webster. What a treat? Free admission. Refreshments. All are welcome - Maureen Culleton.

**Sequence Dancing Lessons** continue each Monday at 11am in Portlaoise Parish Centre. All are welcome. Come alone or bring a partner. Great music, dancing, fun, friendship and gentle exercise guaranteed.

Contact Catriona Slattery, Laois Sports Partnership or Maureen Culleton at seanchistin@gmail.com.

**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).

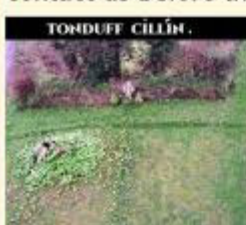
**St. Joseph's Prayer Group;** Holy Hour, Adoration & Prayer for vocations, every Friday at 3pm in the Parish Church.

**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help** continues this Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen. 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. Rosary recited at 7.10pm and Novena begins at 7.30pm. Guest Speaker Ben Scallan, Political correspondent with @GriptMedia - Irish Journalist and Commentator.

**Come and learn about the life of the Poor Clares;** Poor Clares in Carlow invite women from age 22 to 40 years for a cuppa and a chat to find out more about our life, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. If interested please contact us before the event by e-mail to poorclaresvoc@gmail.com

**Abbeyleix Cillin;** Fr. Paddy will celebrate Mass at 7pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. All are welcome.

**Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community - Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat;** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise from 10am to 1.30pm. Holy Mass 10am, Confessions available. Retreat continues in the Parish Centre from 10.45am to 1.30pm. Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P. All welcome. Tel. Michael Nerney 086-8157305 or visit [www.spioraidnaoimh.com](http://www.spioraidnaoimh.com).



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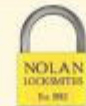
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## TEACHERS REQUIRED

For the Summer Programme at St. Francis School, Borris Road Portlaoise.

There are vacancies for the week 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, and 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Please indicate if you are interested in both weeks or in one of the weeks.

We have also two summer placement vacancies for teachers in their final year of training, May 13<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please e-mail your interest and contact details to

**office@stfrancisschool.ie**

**Earth Day 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Theme: Planet Vs Plastics;** Plastics are a danger to humanity and to the whole earth. They disrupt the delicate balance of life on Earth. We should honour and celebrate our remarkable planet. We need to take action for a healthier planet and a brighter future. Let us rapidly phase out all single use plastics. Let us build a plastic free planet for generations to come. Make every day Earth Day!

**Whist Abbeyleix;** Whist is now being played every Sunday night at 8pm in Abbeyleix Community Hospital. All are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE

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## Taking Care of the Sheep

Do you know what a shepherd is? Of course you do. A shepherd is one who takes care of sheep. A shepherd uses a shepherd's crook. The crook is very useful to the shepherd in taking care of the sheep. If the sheep tries to go in the wrong direction, the shepherd can reach out with the crook and gently pull it back onto the right path. The shepherd also uses the crook to help protect the sheep from a wolf or some other wild animal that

might try to harm them. You see, it is the shepherd's responsibility to care for and protect the sheep.

How many of you know who the priests of the parish are? We have 5 priests in Portlaoise parish. Fr. John Byrne, Fr. Ciprian Matei, Fr. Adriano Oliveira, Fr. Simon Jin and Fr. Eric Ebot.

In Abbeyleix, Raheen and Ballinakill we have Fr. Paddy Byrne, Fr. Sean Conlon and Fr. Petru Medves. The Parish priest of Portlaoise Parish is Fr. John Byrne and for Abbeyleix, Raheen and Ballinakill is Fr. Paddy Byrne. Did you know that the word we use for the one who leads our church means the same thing as the word that is used for someone who takes care of sheep? So if Fr. John and Fr. Paddy and the priests of the parish are the one who takes care of the sheep, what do you think that makes us? Right! We are the sheep! It is the priest's job to take care of us just as it is the job of a shepherd to care for the sheep.

The priests in our parish doesn't use a shepherd's crook. The Bible is the priest's crook. When we stray away and go off on the wrong path, the priests uses the teaching of God's Word to reach out and gently pull us back and get us going in the right direction. The priests in our parish also uses the Bible to protect us from our enemies. When Satan attacks us and tries to get us to do things that would harm us, the priests uses the Bible to teach us what God wants us to do.

Fr. John, Fr. Paddy and the priests of the parish have a good guide to follow in knowing how to take care of the sheep. That guide is Jesus. Listen to what Jesus said about himself, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me -- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep."

The Bible also says, "The LORD is my shepherd," but God has also called the priests of our parish to help him in caring for his sheep. We are thankful for Jesus, "the Good Shepherd," and we are thankful for Fr. John and Fr. Paddy and the priests of the parish too!



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.



# THE GOOD SHEPHERD



"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" John 10:11

P E P F E L D W S R L G F T T  
T B F L O C K P K M I U W E J  
Q V C Q K N O W F L F R I A Y  
L N B F O O H P J O E Q U T I  
Z G N L Q R I D Q V U C W N S  
A A I G O O D S T E T S A L S  
O S T M S J C N H S S D M L T  
B F G S R C Y Y Z E V R S I K  
D W E O H C A R E S E K H S A  
A O Q J B E O T M V C P C T K  
P L D V E F P Q T A R E T E T  
E F O O D H E H T E P K H N V  
N B G I S C U T E Q R A Y B S  
K G E C G B A O T R L S C V V  
U M R E Q O A T H D D D K X W

**LISTEN**  
**SHEEP**  
**LOVES**  
**WOLF**  
**FLOCK**  
**ATTACKS**  
**CARES**  
**PEN**  
**GOOD**  
**RUNS**  
**SCATTERS**  
**VOICE**  
**SHEPHERD**  
**LIFE**  
**KNOW**

## The Good Shepherd



Jesus taught the crowd about shepherds. He said a shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. The sheep know the shepherd's voice and they follow him.

The shepherd knows each of the sheep by name. The sheep do not follow a stranger because they do not recognise the stranger's voice. Then Jesus compared himself to a shepherd and his followers to sheep. Jesus said,

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I know my sheep and my sheep know me. I lay down my life for the sheep".





# Time to Think!

## Finding God

We have become accustomed to bad news. Images on our screens of immense burden placed on vulnerable people. The horrendous conflict in the middle-East. Recent flooding in many parts of Asia, destroyed the crop harvest and left millions of farmers and families penniless. Did God cause the war in the Holy Land, famine or the flooding? Of course not. No one, still less God, would wish to inflict such suffering on people. If God did not cause them, did God perhaps permit them? Of course not. We live on a planet where physical, chemical and biological processes determine what happens. Nature, not God, produces some wonderful and awesome events, and some terrible tragedies. No one could, or should, believe in a God who would be responsible for, or even permit, such tragedies.

Some years ago, during a TV interview with the late Gay Byrne on RTÉ's *"The Meaning of Life"*, Stephen Fry, a renowned atheist was asked what he would say to God on arrival at the pearly gates. He replied, 'I'll say, "Bone cancer in children? What's that about?" How dare you? How dare you create a world in which there is such misery that is not our fault? It's not right. It's utterly, utterly evil. Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world which is so full of injustice and pain? That's what I'd say.' There are many people, like Stephen Fry, who lose their faith in God because of a mistaken understanding of God. Many believe that God is a person, though admittedly a super, super person - who thinks like us, makes decisions like us and is controlling everything that happens in our world. They pray for healing for a loved one who is dying of cancer, but they don't get healed, and wonder why God would allow the person to die if God could have saved them, or they conclude that God just doesn't care.

It is not God, but our false images of God that we need to get rid of. God is not a puppeteer who is pulling the strings on everything that happens in our world. God is three persons in one being. John's Gospel tells us that God is love, three persons madly in love with each other, and that their love has been shared with us human beings. Jesus prayed to the Father that 'the love, with which you loved me, may be in them, so that I may be in them' (Jn 17:26). And that divine love has been given to us so that we can share it with others and so witness to the presence of God in our world today. So where is God in the midst of war, violence and human suffering? God is not the cause of such devastation, but God is the response to the Challenges often by heroic resilient and courageous people. God is present in the love, kindness and caring of people for those who have suffered. Jesus, after the Resurrection, sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples. The Holy Spirit is now. Jesus, in his life, witnessed to the love of God by healing the sick, feeding the poor and eating with those who were rejected by his society.



Today, we, through the Holy Spirit acting in us, are called to witness to the love of God in the world. God's presence and action in our world, and in our hearts, inspiring us to love, to care and to share, and disturbing our conscience when we fail to do so. Jesus, in his life, witnessed to the love of God by healing the sick, feeding the poor and eating with those who were rejected by his society. Today, we, through the Holy Spirit acting in us, are called to witness to the love of God in the world. 'When the Paraclete (the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, he will be my witness' (Jn 15:26).

As the beautiful poem, attributed to St. Teresa of Avila, says: 'Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.' What is the 'Good News to the poor' (Lk 4:18) that Jesus announced? It is you and I. And if we are not the good news to the poor today, then today the poor have no good news.

### Pope Francis Prayer for Peace

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness. Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,170 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*

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BEDDING



First Holy Communion in our Parish last weekend



St. Francis, Educate Together & other schools



Scoil Bhride grp A



Scoil Bhride grp B





## THE PRAYER OF TODAY IS THE PRIEST OF TOMORROW



*"The Harvest is rich...  
so pray the Lord of the harvest"*

Contact Kildare & Leighlin Vocations Director:  
Fr. Ruairí Ó Domhnaill PP  
Email: ruairiodomhnaill@gmail.com  
Phone: (045) 431 741

**KANDLE**  
KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest' (Mt. 9:38)



Pope John Paul II's  
prayer for  
Vocations

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your son as priests, brothers and sisters. You know the difficulties, struggles and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their "yes" to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the angel.

## A Prayer for Favourable Weather

God our Father,  
we turn to you, the source of all goodness and grace.  
We come before you with humble hearts,  
seeking your divine intervention in the rhythm of the seasons.

Bless us with the favourable weather which we so badly need at this time,  
especially for our farming community and all others whose livelihoods depend on it.

Grant them strength and perseverance in their work.  
In their labour may they find solace and fulfilment,  
knowing that their efforts contribute to the well-being of our communities.

Bless them with resilience in the face of challenges  
and grant them moments of peace amidst the storms of life.  
Help us, as faith communities, to support and uplift them,  
recognising the vital role they play in sustaining life.

Guide us, Lord, to be mindful stewards of the earth  
and compassionate neighbours to those who cultivate it.  
May your loving presence be a beacon of hope and strength for all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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



**Josie Taylor**  
Hillview Drive and formerly  
Mountrath Rd. Portlaoise



**Liam Adams**  
Glenlahan, Stradbally Road,  
Portlaoise and Tullamore



**Frances Cripps**  
née Carroll  
Triogue Court, New Road,  
Portlaoise



**Michael McDonald**  
St. Jude's, Dublin Road,  
Portlaoise



**Phyllis (Phil) Culleton**  
née Bowe  
St. Martin's, Rossleighan,  
Portlaoise



**Mark Walsh**  
Hawthorn Way, Esker Hills,  
Portlaoise and Daingean



**Mary Carroll**  
née Moore  
Knapton, Abbeyleix

**Bernie Marum** - Kilkenny Road, Ballinakill

**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  
ELIZABETH MARY  
McEVOY**



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



**To a Wonderful Mum, on this your  
9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Heaven  
and away from Home**

*God holds you in His care  
I hold you in my heart My Dear Elizabeth*  
If raindrops fall in Heaven Lord, please  
take my Mother's hand, and dance with  
her upon a cloud so high.

Then when the storm is over,  
If a rainbow should appear somewhere off in the distant sky,  
Gently take her by the hand and lead her on her way,  
so that she might find the rainbows end.

Then as she smiles in wonder at the treasures Heaven holds,  
Wrap her safely in your arms and dance with her again.

For you see she was an angel Lord here upon this earth,  
And though I'll be forever grateful she was mine,  
I simply was not ready when I had to let her go.

And I still think about her all the time,  
So tell her that I love her Lord more than she'll ever know,  
Then gently place a kiss upon her cheek,  
For though she is Heaven now I want her to know,  
She still means the world and all to me.

**Peace in Heaven**

You're peacefully now sleeping, in a world of purest light,  
Where angels sing their sweet refrain and where everything  
shines bright.

Beside the tranquil waters you walk along each day,  
Where the blossoms are so beautiful with the colours they  
display.

You're so very dearly thought of and every precious memory,  
Has left a lovely rainbow that will last eternally.

**Goodnight.....God Bless**

Without your kind and gentle smile and sweet familiar face,  
A treasured life is missing, and the world's a sadder place.  
You lived your life so graciously, you always did your best,  
And now you're with the angels, and it's time for you to rest.  
As peace surrounds you everywhere, in Heavenly skies above,  
Here on earth you're deeply missed and thought about with  
love.

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

You are near even if I don't see you,  
You are with me even if you are far away,  
You are in my heart, in my thoughts, in my life always Mum.

Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered everyday,  
No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you are  
always there. Love James xxx

*May you Rest in Peace My Dear Elizabeth*



**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**DAVE WALSH**

68 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. Died 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 12.30pm.

*Words are few, feelings are deep,  
 Memories of you we will always keep.*

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

*Also remembering his Mother, Patricia Walsh, Dublin whose anniversary occurs at this time.*

*May Dave Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**LENA CONNOLLY**

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise  
 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm.**

*We thought of you with love 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,*

Now all we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part, God has you in His keeping and you are forever in our hearts.

**Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your loving husband Paddy, sons, daughters and grandchildren.**

*Rest in Peace Lena*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**CATHERINE FINGLETON**

The Tocker, Grange, Stradbally.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.

*How we miss the welcome footsteps,  
 Of the one we loved so dear,  
 Oft we listen for her coming,  
 Fully sure that she is near.*

*Thou are gone but not forgotten, fresh our love will ever be,  
 For as long as there is memory, we will always think of thee.*

**Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and extended family.**

*Rest in Peace Catherine*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**DANIEL FITZPATRICK KERRY**

11 Clonrooske view, Portlaoise.  
 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Anniversary in Heaven occurs  
 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024



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

**Together or apart  
 You are always in  
 our hearts**

*Missed and loved by Mammy, Daddy,  
 Clodagh, Roisin, and all your family xxx*

*Rest in Peace Daniel*



**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOE DUNNE**

"Silverdale", Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.  
 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



*A Dad's love is special,  
 A gift beyond compare,  
 You only know the meaning,  
 When he is no longer there.*

*With an aching heart,  
 We whisper low,  
 We miss you Dad,  
 And love you so.*

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

**Missing you lots, from your loving family.**

*Rest in Peace Joe*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PADRAIG McGOVERN**

Lynden Court, Portlaoise and Glangevlin, Co. Cavan.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 12.30pm.**

*We talk about you all the time  
 Padraig and miss you every day*

**Loved always by Siobhan,  
 Daniel, Aidan, Liam & Laura,  
 Ciara & Kevin.**

*Rest in Peace Padraig*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT &  
FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

*In Loving Memory of*  
**PHYLLIS SANDGROVE** née Brophy  
Derrygarron, Portlaoise.



As we lovingly remember Phyllis on her first anniversary, her husband Peter, daughter Nicola, sons Lloyd, Briain, Simon and family, would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with us on our emence sad loss. To all our friends and to all Phyllis' friends who helped us, sharing stories and fun times, we will be forever grateful.

Thank you to all who travelled to be with us and to everyone who sent Mass and sympathy cards, and uploaded messages of support and condolences online.

Heartfelt thanks to the Priests of the Parish for their support and kindness to our family at such a difficult time and to all who assisted in the Requiem Mass and burial; to the Funeral Directors for their compassion and professionalism in carrying out the funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing Phyllis' final resting place with such care. Our thanks also to the doctors and palliative care staff and to Hughes Pharmacy.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to you all. The Holy Sacrifice of Mass will be offered for all your intentions.

Phyllis' 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 12.30pm.

*In Loving Memory of Our Beautiful Mother*

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be,  
So He put His arms around you and He whispered "Come to Me",  
With tearful eyes we watched you, we watched you fade away,  
Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands at rest,  
God broke our hearts to prove to us, He chose to take the best.  
It's lonesome here without you, we miss you more each day,  
Life doesn't seem the same since you have gone away.  
When days are sad and lonely and everything goes wrong,  
We seem to hear you whisper "Cheer up and Carry on".  
Each time we see your picture, you seem to smile and say;  
"Don't cry, I'm in God's hands, we'll meet again someday".

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**In Loving Memory of  
MAURA FARRELL**

62 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurred 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, this  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 12.30pm.

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

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by Maureen,  
William, Siobhan, Fionnuala and extended family.*

*Rest in Peace Maura*

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

*In Loving Memory of*  
**PHYLLIS SANDGROVE** née Brophy  
Derrygarron, Portlaoise.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.



*When nights are cold and stars are few,  
We close our eyes and think of you,  
A silent hope, a silent tear,  
A silent wish that you were here.*

*Sadly missed by your loving brother John,  
sister-in-law Rita and family.*

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

*In Loving Memory of My Dear Aunt*  
**PHYLLIS SANDGROVE** née Brophy  
Derrygarron, Portlaoise.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.



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

*Missed always by your niece Caitriona (Kate),  
Adrian, Dylan and Abi.*

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**† In Loving Memory of †  
Martin Conroy**

Late of Rath Gailline, Dublin Road, Portlaoise  
and also 35 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise

Who died 22nd April, 2022 RIP.  
2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

*You are missed so dearly  
now you're no longer here,  
When we're thinking of you  
sometimes we shed a tear*

*We will always treasure you,  
You were so gentle and kind,  
Your love lives on within our hearts  
with memories of you in our mind*



*You were such a blessing so thoughtful and so true  
We feel eternally grateful to have had a dad like you*

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by  
your daughter, Catherine; son, Martin; son-in-law, Eoin;  
daughter-in-law, Caroline; grandchildren, Evan, Aideen,  
Colin, Conor and Eimear.

**† Rest in Peace Dad †**

**In Loving Memory of  
PHIL McCORMACK**

16 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.**

*A wonderful Mother, only lent,  
One of the best God ever sent,  
You shared our joys,  
You shared our tears,  
Thank you Ma for those wonderful  
years.*

*Loved and missed always by  
your daughter, son, son-in-law,  
daughter-in-law, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Phil*



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**May the Month of Mary**



Traditionally May is dedicated to Mary,  
the Mother of God. As we honour Mary,  
join us each evening at 8pm for  
Rosary at the Grotto. Our Lady - Pray for Us.



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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



## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2024



**One €10,000 Jackpot Winner**

**Congratulations to Eilish Cashin**

**Promoter: Betty Brophy**

### WINNERS

Lilly Cahill  
Louise Conroy  
Sylvia Moylan  
Sarah, Maeve & James  
Geraldine Cahill  
Claire Cunningham  
Martina Scully  
Sarah Bowe  
Elizabeth Dowling  
Mrs Hennessy  
D H M N R Hynes  
Angela Byrne  
Liam & Willie Clooney

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

**13  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€77  
each**

### PROMOTER

Tony Cahill  
Stefan Crabb  
Ross Moylan  
Richard Phelan  
Online Lotto  
Online Lotto  
Mary Flanagan  
Kathleen Dunne  
Elizabeth Dowling  
Peter Ryan  
Greg Keenan  
Evan Byrne  
Paul Dooley

Play PARISH



[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

**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**  
Monday to Thursday  
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm  
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday  
Subject to availability of space

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

**PARISH SHOP**

057 8621142 - Claire Scully



# Laois Garden World

For all your Garden and Timber needs Tel: 057 8621075  

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3 TRAYS FOR  
**€9.00**



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**€10.00**



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COMPOST**

3 BAGS FOR  
**€15.00**



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BARK**

3 BAGS FOR  
**€15.00**

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