

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Congratulations to the girls and boys from Gaelscoil Phortlaoise, The Heath and Ratheniska Schools, who received their First Holy Communion last weekend.



*See photos on pages 16 & 17, and on our website.*

This weekend it is the turn of Holy Family Junior School. We hope the occasion has been an enriching and enjoyable one for the over 300 girls and boys and their families who have received their First Holy Communion in our Parish this year. Our thanks to the Schools, teachers and all involved in their preparation.



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

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





## ***I am the Vine you are the branches***

'There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything.

We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principle. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to bring the whole country to a stand-still and sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome .... the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual ..... striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone, we branch out as a team.



This weekend we welcome Priests from the Missionaries of Africa who will speak at all our Masses They welcome your prayers and support for their missionary work.

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

**Monday - Thursday:** 7.30am & 10am

**Friday (First Friday):** 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

**Saturday:** 10am

**Sunday**

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

**Sunday:** 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

**Sunday:** 10am

**CONFESSIONS**

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



**We welcome into our Parish Community**

Harry Anthony Ozols, Dunmasc

Maci Lee Dunne, Berryridge Avenue

Chloe Centenaro Gdowska, Heathfield

**Who were baptised last weekend.**

*The priest of the parish will do their communion rounds during the week,*

**St Joseph the Worker**

**'For human work' 1st May**

"May Day" has long been dedicated to labour and the



working man. It is fitting that St. Joseph, a working man who became the foster-father of Christ and patron of the universal Church, should be honoured on this day.

On this day we are asked to pray for all who work, that they may earn a just wage and be treated with dignity. We also pray for those who are under-employed or unemployed, and we pray for the stewardship of the earth's resources so that all may benefit for generations to come.

**Visit our website: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)**



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

Wed: 9:00am -5:30pm

*Thanks as always for your support*

*Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic*





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- ✓ By sharing your experiences, you can make the road easier for others setting out on their return journey
- ✓ Recently returned, finding it hard to settle ... or facing challenges?
- ✓ Find out more about Safe Home Ireland and how we can assist



**Saturday 4th May 2024 - 2pm to 3.30pm**

Portlaoise Parish Centre, Stradbally Rd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 FH67

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
KAREN AT SAFE HOME IRELAND

Tel: 098 36036 / 087 977 5080  
Email: [karen@safehomeireland.com](mailto:karen@safehomeireland.com)

Safe Home Ireland is a charity that works with the Irish diaspora. It provides a range of services to Irish abroad thinking of returning home to Ireland. It also offers outreach support to those who have recently returned.



Registered Office: St. Brendan's Village Mahon, Co. Mayo, F28 A186  
Web: [www.safehomeireland.com](http://www.safehomeireland.com) CIF: 2034929

# MARCH FOR ARCH



Laois Arch Club  
Awards Club for People  
with Special Needs



**SPONSORED WALK ON THE  
WALKING TRACK AT EMO GAA  
SUNDAY 28TH APRIL STARTING AT 2PM**

FOLLOWED BY A DISCO WITH MUSIC PROVIDED BY OUR OWN ARCH CLUB DJ, P.J. DEMPSEY UNTIL 4PM

AS THIS IS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE, ALL-ABILITIES EVENT, YOU CAN CHOOSE YOURSELF HOW MANY TIMES YOU WANT TO GO AROUND THE TRACK..THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE SO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN.  
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email: [info@cuislecancersupport.ie](mailto:info@cuislecancersupport.ie)



## **Mondays**

### **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**

10.00am-11.00am  
(Fortnightly)  
Fully Booked

### **MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME**

11.30am-12.30pm  
4 Week Course  
Booking Essential

### **EXERCISE CLASS**

Gentle strengthening exercise for cancer patients  
12.45-1.30pm  
Places Limited  
4 Week Course

### **CREATIVE ARTS CLASS**

Booking Essential  
2.15pm-4.15pm

### **COUNSELLING**

By appointment only

### **SUPPORT NURSE AVAILABLE**

By appointment only

### **ENTITLEMENTS**

A Cuisle Information Adviser will give you advice about the financial help you may be entitled to and will help you to navigate the process. e.g., medical card application etc

## **Tuesdays**

### **MINDFULNESS FOR MEN**

11.30am-12.30pm  
Booking Essential

### **ENTITLEMENTS ADVISOR**

Available at Centre  
10am-1pm  
By Appointment Only

### **PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY**

Spaces Available.  
Booking Essential  
28th May

### **GARMENT FITTING**

Serra Nova  
14th May  
Sleeve/Leg Garments  
For Lymphoedema  
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### **"LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER"**

Date to be confirmed  
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## **Wednesdays**

### **CHAIR YOGA**

10am-11am  
Booking Essential  
4 Week Course

### **BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

11.30am-12.30pm  
Booking Essential

### **ART**

From 2-4pm

### **BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING**

By appointment only  
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### **MANUAL LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE**

A specialised gentle massage for patients with Lymphoedema, which may result from surgery or radiotherapy.  
By Appointment Only  
Part Funded by Laois Hospice

### **REFLEXOLOGY REIKI**

By appointment only

## **Thursdays**

### **THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME**

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

**10am-12 noon**  
**24th September**  
Booking Essential

### **MINDFULNESS IN MENOPAUSE**

11.30am-12.30pm  
Booking Essential  
4 Week Course

### **CLIMB PROGRAMME**

Helping Children Understand Cancer. This programme is fun and creative, using drama, arts and play and aims to help children cope with a cancer diagnosis in the family

**SEPT 2024**

## **FRIDAYS**

### **TAI CHI**

Tai Chi improves quality of life, balance, agility, flexibility and muscle tone in cancer survivors. It may also help reduce fatigue, anxiety, depression, and stress.

**9.30-11am**

## **AQUA AEROBICS**

**EVERY TUESDAY**

**from 12.45-1.30pm - Booking Essential**  
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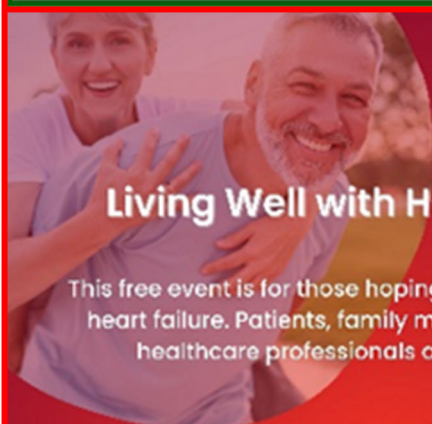


## Cllr. Caroline Dwane Stanley

- Peace Commissioner
- Chair of Laois County Council Housing Committee

*I am available to meet Constituents by arrangement from the following areas:  
Portlaoise, Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Ballinakill, Spink and Raheen*

**Tel: 05786 62851**



### Living Well with Heart Failure

This free event is for those hoping to learn more about heart failure. Patients, family members, carers and healthcare professionals are all welcome.

- ✓ Living and Coping with Heart Failure
- ✓ Self-Management
- ✓ Irish Heart Foundation Support Services
- ✓ Take 3 Beats - New Resource

SCAN TO REGISTER  
ON EVENTBRITE



12pm - 4pm  
Tuesday, 30th April 2024

Killeshin Hotel Portlaoise



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# GO PURPLE DAY

3RD MAY 2024

## #GOPURPLE

HELP RAISE

# DOMESTIC ABUSE

AWARENESS

Please contact  
Garda Arianne Graham  
portlaoise.community@garda.ie  
for more information



Please contact  
Marina Ryan  
at Laois Domestic Abuse Services  
marina@laoisdomesticabuseservice.ie  
for more information



**Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla; 087-2068972 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/seandoylelightengineering) seandoylelightengineering**

Clothes line poles, covered clotheslines, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle stands.

**Portlaoise Active Retirement Club** meets every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for afternoon of friendship, fun and activities. We have had a great celebration on 7<sup>th</sup> April and another great day on 23<sup>rd</sup> with a bowls blitz in celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>; Bowls in St. Mary's Sports hall at 3pm, new members always welcome.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>; We are going on a mini-holiday to Arklow for 2 nights and 3 days.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>; No club as we will be on holidays.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>; 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 the Parish Centre on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>:**

1<sup>st</sup> Lady: Kathleen Kennedy | 2<sup>nd</sup> Lady: Theresa Mulhare | 1<sup>st</sup> Gent: Angela Brennan

2<sup>nd</sup> Gent: Tom Keenan & Stevenson | 1<sup>st</sup> Half: Catherine Galvin, Berry Murphy & Maureen Fitzpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> Half: Frank Keenan, Sadie Chester & Bernie Cahill | 13 Tricks: Veronica Kearns & Peter Stevenson

Raffle: 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Dunne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Dunne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maureen Fitzpatrick, 4<sup>th</sup> Liam McCarthney, 5<sup>th</sup> Lena Kelly, 6<sup>th</sup> Tom Keenan

7<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Kennedy. Whist continues every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

**Whist Abbeyleix:** Every Sunday night at 8pm in Abbeyleix Community Hospital. All are welcome.

**Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm:**

Jackpot on 50 numbers €3,560. Double number €950 and Lotto €1,100.

**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.

**Shanahoe Community Hall Progressive 25 Card Night** continues first Friday of the month at 8pm, next night Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Results Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Joint winners Paddy Walsh and Jim Welsh, Katie Ryan and Eoin Drennan, Percy Phelan and Caoimhe Williamson. Congratulations to spot prize winners! All are welcome.

**Coming May 24-25:** "The Country Boy", not to be missed, a date for your diary, more details next week.

**'Let's Talk About Suicide'** is a free online suicide prevention training programme which aims to provide participants with the knowledge and confidence to have a conversation with another person who may be thinking about suicide. The programme helps participants (anyone over the age of 18 years), to identify people who are at risk, confidently ask about the topic of suicide and connect them with resources that can help them stay safe. It will also provide participants with a sense of hope and reassurance that suicide prevention is possible. This online programme uses a mix of guided online content, video and interactive questions. Participants can pause and recommence the programme at their own convenience. On average the programme will take 60 minutes to complete, but participants can work at their own pace. To enrol visit: NOSP Training Hub / [www.traininghub.nosp.ie](http://www.traininghub.nosp.ie)

### **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.



## **Congratulations**

To Eilish Cashin, winner of last week's  
€10,000 Parish Lotto Jackpot

*Pictured below;* Claire Scully presenting  
Eilish with the winning cheque and  
Betty Brophy, promoter of the winning  
ticket with a cheque for €1,000.

You too could be as lucky as Eilish -  
play lotto online at  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)  
Or purchase a lotto membership in the  
Parish Centre.

*If you aren't in, you can't win!!*

The lotto draw takes place in the foyer  
of the Parish Centre every  
Thursday evening after 5pm and is  
live streamed on the Portlaoise Parish  
facebook page;  
[fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois](https://www.facebook.com/portlaoiseparishlaois)



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- The night before the exam
- Exam week structure
- Nerves and anxiety
- Relaxation tools and meditation
- Resources provided
- 1 hour parents' session; how to best support your child

**FULLY QUALIFIED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER, COUNSELLOR, LIFE COACH & MEDITATION TEACHER**

**Dates; Every Sunday From May 11<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Place; Online**

**Time; 5pm to 7pm**

**Cost; €180**

Payment plans available

Free Parent Session in week 2  
Option to attend parent session without course; 1 hour session €50

**For details e-mail; [teachertutor42@gmail.com](mailto:teachertutor42@gmail.com)**



**Ray 085-2055198**

## WANTED

Person to upcycle a number of furniture items. Contact Lily; **087-7696318**

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[davecunninghamdrom@gmail.com](mailto:davecunninghamdrom@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:office@stfrancisschool.ie)**

## TUTOR REQUIRED

For special needs 6<sup>th</sup> class student to help catch up with curriculum due to period of absence. Tutoring in students own home, Portlaoise. Contact;

**087 969 2108**



The Class of 1990 Restoration Project  
**TABLE QUIZ**  
**ST. PHILOMENA'S HALL MOUNTRATH**  
**THURSDAY 2ND MAY @8PM**  
( DOORS OPEN 7PM )  
TABLE OF FOUR €40  
**TROPHIES AND CASH PRIZES TO BE WON !!**  
**MONSTER RAFFLE !!**  
**PRIZES GALORE !!**  
**Book Now on Eventbrite and on [1990restproject@gmail.com](mailto:1990restproject@gmail.com)**

## **PLEASE NOTE**

### PORTLAOISE PARISH LOURDES COMMITTEE

We would like to advise that the savings scheme for Lourdes will end on 16<sup>th</sup> May. All fares must be paid in full prior to this date.  
Thank you.



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**Martley's Bus**  
Gaelscoil Phortlaoise  
**GOLF CHAMPAGNE SCRAMBLE**

All proceeds go to Gaelscoil Phortlaoise Comhairle na dTuismitheoiri

**SATURDAY MAY 11 THE HEATH GOLF CLUB**

TEE TIMES AVAILABLE FROM: 7:30AM TO 4:30PM

PRIZES ON THE DAY:  
OVERALL 1<sup>st</sup> PLACED TEAM  
OVERALL 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACED TEAM  
TEAM BEST FRONT 9  
TEAM BEST BACK 9  
INDIVIDUAL LONGEST DRIVE; CLOSEST TO THE PIN

COMPETITION FEE: TEAM OF 4 PLAYERS: €90 (€40 PER PLAYER) (BURGER & CHIPS INCLUDED)

TO REGISTER: CONTACT REALTIN 0862413602





## The True Vine

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

**John 15:5**

In today's Gospel, Jesus told his disciples a story to teach them the importance of staying connected to him. Jesus used the example of a vine. A vine is a plant with

a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches should have grapes on them. Have you ever seen a branch that has been broken off a tree or a vine? What happens to it? It withers up and dies. It can never have any fruit on it again.

Jesus said, **"I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will have much fruit, but apart from me, you can do nothing."**

Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit like being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, he wants us to love others as he has loved us. To do this you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us.



Dear Father, help us to remember that we need to stay plugged in to Jesus if we are going to produce the kind of fruit you expect. Amen

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Gifts:** The first part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is about preparing the gifts that we bring to the altar.

The most important gifts that we bring are the **bread and wine**.

The other gift that you will notice being prepared is money. People put money in baskets and this money is used to run the parish.



### **The Priest offers the gifts to God.**

The Priest holds up the bread and says a prayer of blessing. Next the Priest pours wine into a chalice and adds a drop of water. He then holds up the chalice and says a prayer of blessing to God again.



## Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show onto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Amen



## May is the month of Mary.

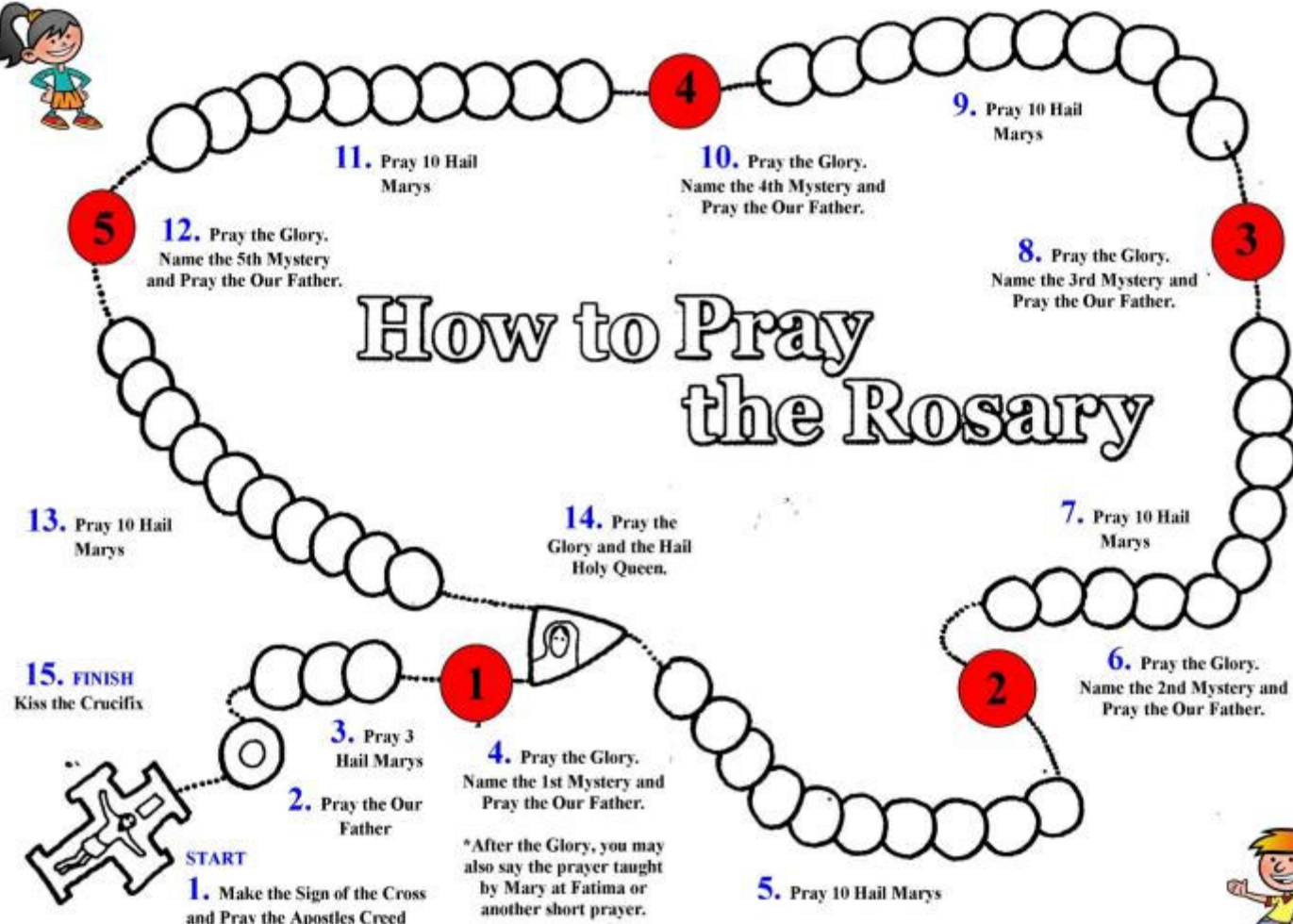


To celebrate the month of May you can make a May altar in your home and pray the Hail Mary.

While watching their sheep, Lucia (age 10) and her cousins Francisco (age 9) and Jacinta (age 7) saw our Lady of the Rosary.



The Rosary is a prayer that we often associate with Mary. The Rosary is divided into 5 decades (sets of ten). Each decade represents an event in Jesus life.







# Time to Think!

## Amazing Grace

After a long period of grey clouds and heavy rainfall, it was such a joy to welcome blue sky and sunshine. I hope that farmers who desperately sought this blessing, will have time to plant the harvest. We all respond positively to light and fine weather. It's proven, even psychologically, that light is a stimulus for better mental health. God's grace, is abundantly felt in the awakening of nature this springtime. The foliage has reappeared reminding us that God's light is brighter than any winter darkness. The following narrative speaks about God's Amazing Grace.

John Newton was a cruel and vile man who seemed beyond hope, but he became an example of God's amazing grace. His true story gives me hope, because his heart and life were so radically changed. The same amazing grace that transformed Newton brought hope to his contemporaries and still reaches our generation with hope today. Newton was a man of whom I could believe that if God would give him a hope and a future, then He will do the same for us all.

*In Newton's own words from his diary...(March 21, 1748): "On that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." And 57 years to the day later... (March 21, 1805): "Not well able to write; but I endeavour to observe the return of this day with humiliation, prayer, and praise."*

Of Newton and his ministry... from Christianity.com:

"Only God's Amazing Grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God. Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life. In 1764, at the age of thirty-nine, John Newton began forty-three years of preaching the Gospel of Christ. In 1779 Newton left Olney to become rector of St. Mary Woolnoth in London. His ministry included not only the London poor and the merchant class but also the wealthy and influential. William Wilberforce, a member of Parliament and a prime mover in the abolition of slavery, was strongly influenced by John Newton's life and preaching. Newton's 'Thoughts on the African Slave Trade,' based on his own experiences as a slave trader, was very important in securing British abolition of slavery. Missionaries William Carey and Henry Martyn also gained strength from Newton's counsel. For the Sunday evening services, Newton often composed a hymn which developed the lessons and Scripture for the evening. In 1779, two hundred and eighty of these were collected and combined with sixty-eight hymns by Newton's friend and parishioner, William Cowper, and published as the *Olney Hymns*.

The most famous of all the *Olney Hymns*, 'Faith's Review and Expectation,' grew out of David's exclamation in 1 Chronicles 17:16-17. We know it today as 'Amazing Grace.' Newton lived to be eighty-two years old and continued to preach and have an active ministry until

beset by fading health in the last two or three years of his life. Even then, Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and told his friends, 'My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.'" The words of the beloved hymn penned by John Newton acknowledges God's amazing grace as he experienced in his own life.

### AMAZING GRACE

*"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. Thru many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come, 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."* (John Newton)

Hope is a powerful energy that allows us to breathe with confidence and resilience. To celebrate hope we must first experience despair and desolation. Peace of Mind is a most important gift that we must never take for granted. The following prayer is full of spiritual and life giving hope.

## A New Serenity Prayer



God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God.

At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.

*Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,300 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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Gaelscoil



The Heath NS



Ratheniska NS







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



**Mary Fitzpatrick**  
née Timmons  
The Hermitage,  
Portlaoise



**Claire Tuohy**  
née Kelly  
Beladd, Portlaoise  
and Portarlington



**Tommy (Tom) Kelly**  
Portlaoise Road  
Abbeyleix



**Vincent Saxton**  
Dickinson  
North Dakota

**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  
PETER & AGNES LALOR**



*Peter's 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
occurred 6<sup>th</sup> April*

*Agnes' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
occurred 14<sup>th</sup> April*



*Also thinking of their  
daughter  
RITA LALOR  
Rita's 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
occurs 26<sup>th</sup> April*



Life is a beautiful memory, death is a silent grief,  
You sleep now in God's beautiful garden,  
In sunshine and perfect peace.

I miss you oh so very much, but I trust that God  
knew best, He let us have you for many years,  
And then gently let you rest.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by their  
daughters, sons, extended family and friends.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
RITA LALOR**

57 Hillview Drive, Portlaoise.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

*Our Mom*

Our Mom gave us the world,  
Put it right at our feet,  
And with her at our side,  
There is nothing we cannot beat.

Our Mom was a woman who taught us  
never to lose sight, though times may  
seem helpless, she taught us how to fight.  
She has shown us how through times of  
much sorrow, to look to the future,  
And new days of tomorrow.

Even though times may be hard, and all we feel is pain,  
Remember, this too shall pass, even the clouds and the rain.  
So it is with heavy hearts and tears in our eyes,  
That we lay her down to rest and say our last goodbyes.

*Loved always by Terry, Lisa, Nicola, Derek, Keith,  
Ciara, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers,  
sisters and extended family and friends xxx*

*Grandmother*

God looked around His garden and found an empty space,  
Then He looked down upon this earth and saw your tired  
face, He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best.

*From your loving grandkids xxx*

*May Rita Rest in Peace*

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

Mill Lane, Killone.

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024



*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday,  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed, and very dear.*  
*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by your loving wife Anne, son Jim,  
grandchildren, great-grandchildren,  
family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace*





## In Loving Memory of ARON GING



4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home occurs 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024



Our hearts still ache with sadness and many tears still flow, what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know.

We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, To walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.

Loved and remembered by Dad, sisters Lisa and Emma, brother Ross and nephew Michael J.J.

*Rest in Peace Aron*



## In Loving Memory of ARON GING



Formerly 51 Borris Little, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home; 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



Life is but a stopping place,  
A pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road,  
to sweet eternity.  
We all have different journeys,  
Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things, but never meant to stay.  
Our destination is a place,  
far greater than we know,  
For some the journey's quicker,  
For some the journey's slow.



And when the journey finally ends,  
We'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord.

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

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.  
Loved and remembered by all your loving family.

*Rest in Peace Aron*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & FIRST ANNIVERSARY



*In Loving Memory of*

### PATSY FRAYNE née Keogh

Ballyfin Road and formerly Borris Road, Portlaoise.



Patsy's daughter Patricia, son-in-law Des Mulhall and grandchildren Clodagh and Fergus wish to thank all who sympathised with us on our recent sad loss.

We would particularly like to thank all those who attended the funeral home, Requiem Mass (either in person or via the Parish Webcam) and burial; sent Mass cards, letters, phone calls or uploaded messages of condolence on RIP.ie - we deeply appreciate your kindness.

We were grateful for the support of Msgr. John Byrne, the Priests of Portlaoise Parish and the sister sacristans who ensured the celebration of Patsy's Requiem Mass was as she would have wished.

A special word of thanks to her friend and old neighbour, Fr. Tom O'Reilly, for concelebrating her Requiem Mass and for his visits to her over the years, both in Oakdale Nursing Home and on the Ballyfin Road.

Our sincere gratitude to Sarah Troy for providing such beautiful and uplifting music during the ceremony and to Michelle in the Parish Centre for her assistance when finalising the funeral arrangements.

Heartfelt thanks also to Matthew Keegan and David Goode of Keegan's Funeral Directors for their understanding and professionalism in making the funeral arrangements. We also acknowledge the work of the gravediggers in preparing Patsy's final resting place with such care.

Our thanks to the staff of Oakdale Nursing Home, Portarlinton who looked after Patsy with care and kindness and to her G.P., Dr. Gerry White and his team, who looked after her so well over a long number of years. Please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Patsy's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise, this Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.

*"She has gone no further from us than to God and God is very near"*

*Rest in Peace Patsy*



## In Loving Memory of ANTHONY EGAN



New Road, Portlaoise.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.**

*Our thoughts are ever with you,  
Though you have passed away,  
And those who have loved you dearly,  
Are thinking of you today.*

During his lifetime, Anthony got great inspiration from his faith and his many pilgrimages with family and friends.

*Sadly missed by all the Egan family and his friends.*

*Rest in Peace Anthony*





**In Loving Memory of  
MARGARET "RITA" SCULLY**

*174 St. Brigids Place Portlaoise.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*



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

It's been six years since you slipped away, that day seems just like yesterday, Today, we tell you softly, you are still so wonderful to think of and so hard to be without.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure,  
Loving you always, forgetting you never,  
In Heaven you rest, no worries, no pain,  
In God's own time, we will meet again.

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

*Sadly missed by your loving family; John, Patrick, Teresa,  
Peter, Jacinta, Roch, Margaret, Kathleen, sons-in-law,  
daughters-in-law and grandchildren.*

**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm.**

*Rest in Peace Margaret*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY (Minnie) DELANEY**

*Derryroe, Mountrath.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe,  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.**

*Of all the special gifts in life,  
However great or small,  
To have you as our mother  
was the greatest gift of all.  
A special time, a special place,  
A special mother we cannot  
replace.*

*With an aching heart we whisper low,  
We miss you Mother and love you so.*

**Forever in our hearts  
Jer, Mary, Rita and all the family and  
extended family**

*We also remember her husband Matt,  
sons Joe and Matt and sister-in-law Sarah.*

*Rest in Peace Mary*

**In Loving Memory of  
TONY KAVANAGH**

*Colt, Ballyroan, Portlaoise.  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024.*



*Your resting place we visit,  
We place some flowers with care,  
But no one knows the heartache,  
As we turn and leave you there.  
Sadly missed and never forgotten  
by his wife, family and friends.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Fintan's Church, Raheen on  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.**

*Rest in Peace Tony*

**In Loving Memory of  
Our Dear Daddy and Grandad  
CHRISTOPHER (Christy) O'BRIEN**

*Late of Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



*If we could visit Heaven just for one day,  
maybe for a moment the pain would go  
away.*

*We would put our arms around you and  
whisper words so true, that living life  
without you is the hardest thing we do.  
No matter how we spend our days,  
No morning dawns and no evening falls,  
that we do not think of you.*

*Loved, missed and always remembered by your girls,  
Yvonne and Sandra, also John and your grandchildren  
Gordon, Evan, Teagan and Grace xxx*

*Rest in Peace Dad*

**In Loving Memory of  
MICHAEL COLLINS**

*Subur, Newpark, Portlaoise*

*A Dear Husband, Father and Grandfather.*

**7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**



Michael's Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm.**

*Lonely is our home without you,  
Life is not the same,  
The world would be like Heaven,  
If we could have you back again.*

*Loved and sadly missed by your wife Sally, son Alan,  
daughter Ruth and family.*

*May Michael Rest in Peace*



**BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY  
REMEMBRANCE**  
*In Loving Memory of*  
**JAMES DUNNE**

35 Dr. Murphy's Place, Portlaoise.  
18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.



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

*Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently we gather and treasure them all,  
Unseen, unheard, you are always near,  
So missed, so loved, so very dear.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your  
loving family.*

*Rest in Peace James*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**LIAM CONROY**

10 New Row, Green Rd. Portlaoise.  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024.  
Also remembering Liam's birthday - 18<sup>th</sup> May.



*Daily thoughts and silent tears,  
Always wishing you were here,  
Life goes on, we know that's true,  
But never the same since losing you.*

Liam's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.**

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Mary, son Brian,  
Louise, Jake and Stephen.*

*Silently we grieve and brush away our tears,  
The memories he left behind, will last throughout the years.  
From his daughter Shirley, son-in-law John and  
grandson Conor, extended family and friends.*

*May Liam Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PATRICK O'CONNOR**

3 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024



*Dad;*

*We miss your smile, your loving ways,  
We miss the things you use to say,  
And when old times we do recall,  
It's then we miss you most of all.*

*Loved and missed everyday by all  
your loving family*

*May Patrick Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**ANNE HARDING and**  
**her daughter PATTY**

46 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.  
17<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries occur respectively.

*There is a path of beautiful memories from here to Heaven  
above, that keeps us very close to you and it's called the path  
of love. Your shadows walk beside us ever since the day you  
died, oh angels take this message to our Mam and Sister up  
above, tell them we miss them and give them all our love.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 10am.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by their loving  
family.*

*May Anne & Patty Rest in Peace*



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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.





# Portlaoise Stone Centre

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Sean Wood (Scotland)

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The Story  
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Date: Fri, 17th May

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Balcony Cinema  
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## Portlaoise Parish



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



No €10,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

MATCH 3s €1,000

Craig O'Loughlin  
Teresa Timmons  
Bartle & Lauren  
Carmen Fernandez  
Brendan Whelan  
Paul Hyland  
John & Una McEvoy  
James & Agnes Gleeson  
Linda Murphy  
Mick Corcoran  
George Fitzpatrick  
Betty Rochford  
Stephen Dwane  
Susan Hartford  
Ritchie Lyons & Claire Scully  
Derek McGinn  
Ray McNamara  
Martin Dunne  
Philip Fagan  
Mary Forristal  
Steve Kelly  
Ava & Jack Westin  
Bridget Dunne  
Bernie Rice



### PROMOTER

Rita Conroy  
Tom Timmons  
Richard Phelan  
Online Lotto  
Lily Whelan  
John Loughlin  
John McEvoy  
Browns Shop  
Bernie Lalor  
Margaret Comerford  
Tony Fitzpatrick  
John O'Reilly  
Thelma Brown  
Geraldine Greene  
Ritchie Lyons  
Derek McGinn  
Paul Dooley  
Mary J Dunne  
Philip Fagan  
Martley's  
Martleys  
M T Burke  
Bernie Tynan  
Bernie Rice



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Next Week's Jackpot is €11,000

## Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.  
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.  
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. Simon Jin  
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira  
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes  
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:  
Parish Centre during office hours  
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142  
Outside office hours  
in emergency only Tel: 0852134285

## Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can  
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

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

## 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

## FIFTH 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

## 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





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BARK**

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**€15.00**

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