

Twenty—Second Week in Ordinary Time

The painting of the perimeter walls and the exterior at Holy Cross Church, Ratheniska, brings to completion the major work on our oldest Church (1800). It looks very well inside and out and is complemented by the recent painting of the neighbouring St. Aongus Hall. Well done to the Hall committee and our thanks for facilitating the celebration of Mass during the renovation.

All looking very well and awaiting the ploughing!



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie



How Not to Impress God!

It's easy to be fooled. Mr and Mrs Devout are always in church, always to be seen praying, always lighting votives, always

to be found kneeling in their favourite pew. Are Mr and Mrs Devout good people? Well very possibly, but outward appearances can be deceptive. Perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout are the salt of the earth, but not necessarily. Despite their Sunday best, perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout spend the rest of the week, complaining about the refugees next door, gossiping about other parishioners and ignoring the plight of the beggar sitting on the church doorstep. Outward appearances are no indication of what lies beneath.

Today the Pharisees complain to Jesus, that his disciples do not wash their hands before eating. Their complaint does not stem from food hygiene. The Pharisees had very many rituals intended to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and one of these rituals was washing before eating. The ritual in itself is not so very wrong. We ourselves have a ritual of saying 'grace before meals', but where Jesus finds fault is in their flawed grasp of what is important. Jesus uses their complaint to teach a lesson, and the lesson isn't really anything to do with washing. What do we think pleases God? The Pharisees were not bad people, but they had strayed a long way from pleasing God. To the Pharisees, religion was all about abiding by hundreds of rules and regulations. Many of these rules were about keeping themselves segregated from anything in the world that would make them unclean. They had become so obsessed by this that they no longer engaged well with the world and all its suffering. They lived by lofty and judgmental ideals that Jesus totally rejected. Jesus didn't deliberately set out to disregard tradition, but at the same time, he had come to engage with the world and its needs. Jesus' main concern was for the poor the sick and the marginalised, and he went out of his way to associate himself with them. He saw the Pharisees placing barriers between man and God, and he wasn't having it!

We do not become unacceptable to God by failing to follow a set of outward rules. We become unacceptable to God when our hearts become cold. God is not impressed when we turn up for Mass in our Sunday best. God is best pleased when we show the world a loving and sincere heart.

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.



Communion Calls

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds during the week.

We welcome into our Parish Community

Connie Ann Carroll Doheny, Bianconi Way
Rhea Josie Dixon, Lake Glade, Kilminchy
Éabha Ellen Scott, Capoley

Who was baptised last weekend.



Creation Time

1st September - 4th October

The Season of Creation begins today (September 1st), the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology

in many traditions.

There is an urgent need to find solutions to the crisis facing our common home. Together, we are fulfilling our role as stewards of God's creation.



Blessed Carlo Acutis

Friars from Assisi will bring a relic to Ireland this month (September) and we have been selected as a parish to facilitate this visit, September 12th and 13th. We look forward to this honour. See page 18.

Visit our website: www.portlaoiseparish.ie
Diocesan website: www.kandle.ie

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Wed: 9:00am -5.30pm

Thanks as always for your support

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CHAIR PILATES

8 week programme



Where? St. Mary's Sports Hall, Portlaoise

When? Starting Thursday September 5 for eight weeks

Time? 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Price? €3

Register? Contact Caroline at 086 885 2503

Accessible for those with limited mobility.

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Laois



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EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT

Healthcare to the Home
Health Service Executive



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AQUA AEROBICS

8 week programme



Where? Club Vitae, Maldron Hotel Portlaoise

When? Starting Wed. 11th September for 8 weeks

Time? 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Price? €5

Register? Contact Caroline at 086 885 2503

Arthritis
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Laois



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Healthcare to the Home
Health Service Executive



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CHAIR YOGA

6 week programme



Where? Rathdowney Community Hub

When? Starting Monday September 9 for eight weeks

Time? 6.30pm-7.30pm

Price? €3

Register? Contact Caroline at 086 885 2503

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Energy Awareness Week
SEPT 2ND - 6TH
Come and Visit Our Rig
at Laois Shopping Centre (upper car park)

Monday
Afternoon **At the Rig: All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB**
Green Loan advice*

Tuesday
All Day **At the Rig: All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB**
Green Loan advice* **Evening Launch at the Old Fort**

Wednesday
All Day **At the Rig: All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB**
Green Loan advice* **2 hour Circular Economy Course**

Thursday
All Day **At the Rig: All day Drop in Clinic SEAI & LOETB**
Green Loan advice* **All day NZEB Course at The CUSE**

Friday
Morning **Drop in Clinic SEAI LOETB**
Green Loan advice*

Green Loan advice*
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SEAI **seai** Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

LOETB **loetb** Local Enterprise Training Centre

MOUNT LUCAS **mountlucas** Local Enterprise Training Centre

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ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK
FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES

SEPT 2ND - 6TH
Come and Visit Our Rig
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(upper car park)

Providing guidance and technical assistance
to build or renovate homes/businesses with
energy efficient technologies

SEAI **seai** Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

LOETB **loetb** Local Enterprise Training Centre

MOUNT LUCAS **mountlucas** Local Enterprise Training Centre

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HHC Baton Twirlers Portlaoise (Happy Hearts Club)

Fun, fitness dance club suitable for both boys and girls aged 4-18 years
Activities include: Baton Twirling, Pom Poms, Zumba Kids, Hip Hop ,
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The classes are a fun sociable place for children and teens who love to dance and want to be part of a team. Classes are taught by a qualified NCEF , Zumba Zin, Bodyhoops Instructor and Twirl Ireland Coach.

Classes run every Tuesday

Time: Lil Starz 4-6 yrs, 3.30-4.30pm

Super Starz 7-17 yrs, 4.30-6.30pm

Venue: Gaelscoil PE Hall , Portlaoise.

New 8 week term commencing 27th August.

Enquiries and full details, contact Marian on 086-8857116
For bookings scan the QR code

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Mondays in Mountrath
Commencing 2nd Sept @ 7.30pm.
Venue: BloomHQ (R32 DT9F).

Tuesdays in Portlaoise
Commencing 3rd Sept @ 6.45pm
Venue: Gaelscoil PE Hall (R32YA66).

Wednesdays in Monasterevin
Commencing 4th Sept @ 8.00pm
Venue: Community Council Hall (W34 NY52)

Booking Essential:

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HHC Baton Twirlers Portlaoise, dance fitness

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🕒 9:15am-10:00am Mondays & Thursdays

📍 Portarlinton Community Centre (R32 D797)

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Mirrored Circuit 6am
Dumbbell HIIT 9.30am
Bodypump 7.00pm

TUESDAY

S&C & Core Blast 6am and 9:30am
HYROX 7PM

WEDNESDAY

METCON 6:00am
METCON 9.30am
METCON 7:00pm

THURSDAY

S&C Core Blast 6:00pm
HYROX 7PM

FRIDAY

Timed Circuit 6am
HYROX 9.30AM
Cross Training 7pm

SATURDAY

Cardio Killer 8:00am

SUNDAY

Ultimate HYROX Race Format 8:00am

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TUESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER

at 6.30pm

Places are limited

FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

Cuisle Cancer Support Centre,
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Choir Director: Sarah Troy



International Literacy Day Sunday 8th September - Adult Literacy for Life (ALL): Do you know that in Ireland, 1 in 6 adults struggle with reading and writing, 1 in 4 adults struggle with maths and 1 in 2 adults struggle with digital skills? Do you or a family member need to improve your reading, writing, maths or digital skills? We can help. All courses are free. Contact: Laois Adult Learning Service (LOETB) 057 866 1338 or Offaly Adult Learning Service (LOETB) 057 934 9444 or freephone 1800 20 20 65 or e-mail tlatham@loetb.ie

Retired Nurses AGM will be held in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise at 12 noon on Monday 9th September. All retired nurses are welcome. Guest speakers at 2pm. Open to ALL retired HSE workers.

Portlaoise Literature Studies Group: Do you enjoy reading and talking about good books? Join our group for stimulating discussions on a chosen text, from classics to modern fiction. We meet every Wednesday morning in the Parish Centre from 10.45am to 12.45pm. Our first meeting for this term will be held on 18th September. New members always welcome. Contact 086-4002171 for further information.

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). Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

Vocations Society of St. Joseph: Holy Hour, Adoration, Prayer for vocations, 3pm Friday in the Parish Church.

Bus to Knock: Stradbally, Timahoe and Vicarstown Bus to Knock, 8th September for Our Lady's Birthday. Contact: 085-7482558.

Invitation to retreat for Young Adults (18-40 years): 6th to 8th September in Mt. St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea. Prayer with the monks, inspiring talks, friendship in the faith, Holy Mass, confession, magnificent walks in the beautiful grounds, a great opportunity to discern one's path in life. Cost €150 (Full board, own room, concessions for students). Contact Sr. Úna 090-648166 or Michael 086-2453123 or e-mail; youthretreats@gmail.com

Emmanuel House, Clonfert, Co. Galway: Day of Reflection including First Saturday Fatima Devotions, led by Eddie Stones and Team, Saturday 7th September at 11am. Talks, Music, Adoration, Confessions, Healing Service and Holy Mass. Please bring a packed lunch.

Walk the Cross 2024 - 10th - 14th September 2024: 125km Walk from Clonmacnoise to Dublin, 4 Provinces, meet and walk the final 25km into Dublin. We walk for our faith to unite our hearts to Jesus and Mary. Register your interest by e-mail to walkthecross33@gmail.com

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before 17th September. Find out more on our website, www.prioryinstitute.com



SHALOM WORLD

Shalom World is a media apostolate based in Portlaoise, Co. Laois, which actively supports the dissemination of the Gospel through its various media initiatives. Bishop Denis Nulty is the patron of Shalom Media in Ireland.

Adhering to the teachings of the Catholic Church, Shalom World, believes in the transformative power of media to spread God's love, peace and truth, to every corner of the globe. Through its broadcasts, publications, and digital

platforms, they strive to uplift, inspire, and encourage individuals in their faith journey. Shalom World TV channel has something for everyone, from toddlers, children, teenagers and adults of all ages. We need a trusted source of Catholic Media today, to help our children and youth to come to know 'the Truth' that will set them free (Jn 8:32).

During the upcoming weekend Masses (September 14th/15th), representatives from Shalom World will be here in this Parish to introduce the ministry in detail and to make a donation appeal in order to advance their mission in Ireland.

This is a high-cost project which needs our help for it to come to fruition. To know more, please visit: shalomworld.org | shalomtidings.org

ROSARY AT THE SHRINE, MARKET SQ. PORTLAOISE

This Sunday and the First Sunday of every month
Time: 2:30pm. All are welcome.



CONCERN worldwide

Concern Collection 17th/18th August '24

Concern would like to thank all collectors who gave their time so generously to the cause, and to all who contributed.

Portlaoise Parish C2,371.00

The Heath Parish €487.30

Thanking you, Helen Corbett

Portlaoise Concern Group

Pictured Left;

Msgr. John welcoming our visitors from the UK, Louise Finkle and Fiona Slaven

The ladies travelled to Portlaoise Parish to say thank you for all the Masses they and their late

Mum May Finkle, celebrated with us virtually during Covid. May passed away in February R.I.P.

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of the curriculum that they
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Dyslexia or struggling to read.
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FOURTH WALL LAOIS THEATRE GROUP AGM

Monday 9th September, 8pm
In Doogue's Pub, Raheen
New members most welcome for
the new drama season. For info.
Tel. Kevin 087-9614235

Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla; 087-2068972 | seandoylelightengineering

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

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

Monday 2nd September; Bowls in St. Mary's hall at 3pm, new members welcome.

Wednesday 4th; Our club reopens after our Summer break with a sing along with Caroline and we have new song books, hope everyone had a nice Summer and are looking forward to resuming our fun and activities.

Thursday 5th; Cards in Sue Ryder Centre at 3pm, tuition given, new members always welcome.

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

Results of Whist Drive held in Parish Centre on Tuesday, 27th August:

Top Score: Mary Gowing | **1st Lady:** Kit Farrell | **2nd Lady:** Paddy Purcell | **1st Gent:** Christy Fitzpatrick
2nd Gent: Ann O'Dowd | **1st Half:** Patty Murphy | **2nd Half:** P.J. Cahill

Raffle: 1st Mary Dunne, 2nd Bernie Cahill, 3rd Theresa Mulhare, 4th Paula McEvoy, 5th Christy Fitzpatrick
6th Mary Conway, 7th Margaret Flanagan, 8th Mary Killeen.

Whist continues every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm, new players welcome. Lessons available, please leave your name and number at Parish Centre reception.

Graiguecullen MONSTER Bingo; Tuesday 3rd September in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,780. Double number €2,210. Lotto €600.

Shanahoe Community Hall Progressive 25 Card Night; Shanahoe Community Hall welcomes back our patrons to our monthly Progressive 25 card night resuming Friday 6th September at 8pm in the hall. New players welcome.

Mary's Meals; Sincere thanks to all those who came out to show support for our walk from Kilkenny/Thurles to Knock, donated, helped with collections, walked, offered accommodation or provided food and refreshments and prayed for us and the children we feed. Your kindness and generosity have touched our hearts, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Line Dancing will commence on Tuesday 10th September at Sean Chistin, Ire, Ballyfin, Co.Laois, R32X5D6 at 11am. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. For further details contact Maureen 087-6482038 or e-mail seanchistin@gmail.com. Let's enjoy great company, music, dancing, friendship and fun.

Sing for Joy Choir commences on Wednesday 11th September in St. Mary's Hall, Dublin Rd. Portlaoise at 11am. New members very welcome.

St. Joseph's Embroidery Group recommences in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 3rd September, 7.30-9.30pm.

Alanon Family Group for family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with Alcoholism.

Alanon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further info. contact; 086-8706017.





Clean Hands – Clean Heart

I remember times when I was a child that my mother would call out, "Dinner is ready!" and we would all gather at the dinner table. Many times I had been outside playing and my hands were quite dirty. As I sat down at my place at the dinner table, my mother would almost always ask, "Did you wash your hands?" I must confess that sometimes I would answer, "Yes" when the truth of the matter was that I had come straight to the dinner table without washing my hands.



Do you always wash your hands before you eat? Clean hands are one of the most important ways to help us stay healthy. Even when our hands look clean, they have germs on them that can make us sick. It is a good idea to use soap or a hand sanitizer to make sure we get rid of those germs you can't see. It is important to have clean hands before we eat, isn't it?

One day a group of Pharisees noticed that some of Jesus's disciples were eating without first washing their hands. They asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples follow our tradition? They eat without first following our hand-washing ceremony." Jesus responded to the people who questioned him, but his answer was not what they wanted to hear.

Jesus knew the hearts of the people who were complaining about his disciples' unwashed hands. He answered them by saying, "You hypocrites! You are the people the prophet Isaiah wrote about when he said, 'You ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition.'"

Jesus wasn't saying that washing our hands is not important. He was saying that the Pharisees thought that clean hands were more important than a clean heart. They were more concerned with following the traditions of men than they were with following the Word of God.

Jesus called the crowd to gather around and listen to what he had to say. "All of you listen. It's not what goes into your body that makes you unclean, it is the bad words that come out of your mouth. Out of your hearts come evil thoughts, greed, cheating, and envy. This is what makes you unclean."

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we know that it is important to have clean hands, but even more important to have a clean heart. Create in us a clean heart so that all that we say and do will honour you. In Jesus' name we pray.

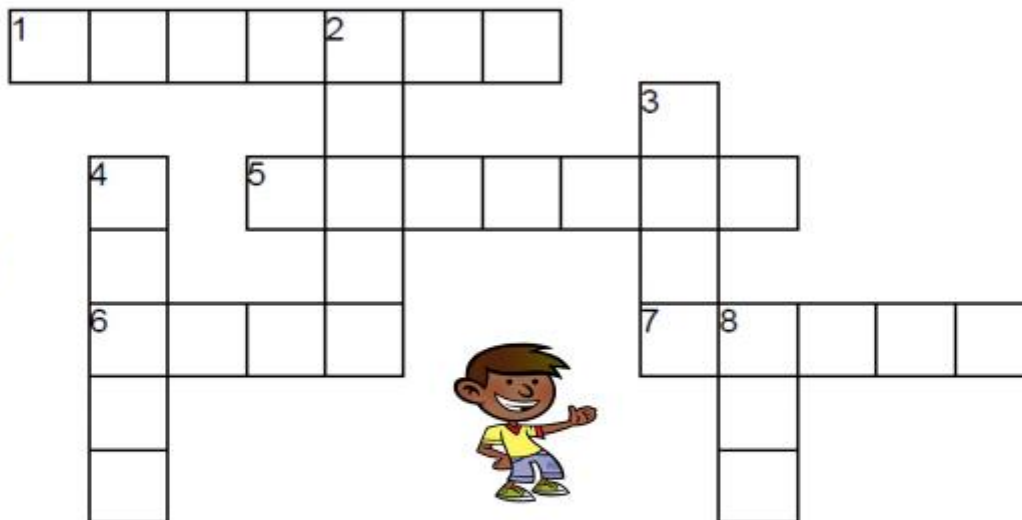
Amen.





Clean Hands – Clean Heart

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus,
 "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders
 instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"



ACROSS

1. To express love and adoration towards God
5. Something that is dirty or soiled
6. The two edges of flesh around the mouth
7. The centre of your emotion, I love you with all my _____.

DOWN

2. The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
3. To make something clean using soap and water
4. The accepted way that things should be done
8. To take food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow.

LIPS

EAT

WASH

UNCLEAN

HEART

WORSHIP

HANDS

RULES

Back to School Prayer



Dear God,

Thank you for holiday times
 For freedom, family and friends.
 Help me to keep these happy times
 in my heart.

I am excited to start school.
 To spend time with my teacher
 and school friends.

Help me to settle back
 into this school year!

Help me to learn,
 to grow in confidence
 And to have lots of fun.

Amen.



**Blessing of school bags will take
 place in the
 Parish Church
 at 6.30pm Mass
 next Saturday
 (7th September).**



Jokes for today!



What is a snake's favourite subject in school?

Answer: Hissstory



Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school

Answer: Because her students were so bright.



Time to Think!

Don't Quit



world of sporting millionaires, they bring us to the very essence of sport and the character and resilience it inspires at its best. In life we all find our path as we make our own journey. It was also lovely, to be inspired by Irish Times sports journalist, Joanne O' Riordan's personal philosophy "No limbs no limits" reminds me of this powerful poem that perhaps we all need to read and absorb frequently.

Don't Quit

When things go wrong,
As they sometimes will,
And the road you're trudging seems
all uphill,
When the funds are low and the
debts are high,
And you want to smile,
but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he
stuck it out,
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than it seems
To a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up when he
Might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night
slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar.
So stick to the fight when you're
hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that
You mustn't quit.

There was once a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants.

The race began...No one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. They shouted, "Oh, way too difficult!!! They will NEVER make it to the top" and "Not a chance. The tower is too high". The tiny frogs began collapsing, one by one except for those who, in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It's too difficult! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up... But one continued higher and higher. This one wouldn't give up! And he reached the top. Everyone wanted to know how this one frog managed such a great feat. His secret? This little frog was deaf!! The wisdom of this story is, ignore the pessimism of others. It can take your dreams from you. Stay positive.

Paralympians, currently competing in the Paris 2024 Paralympics, are a source of deep inspiration. Their task is not just to compete at the highest level possible but to struggle past greater challenges than most as they cope with a range of disabilities. To the rest of us, it seems an impossible task and yet their triumphs delight at an instinctive level because we sense that, in a



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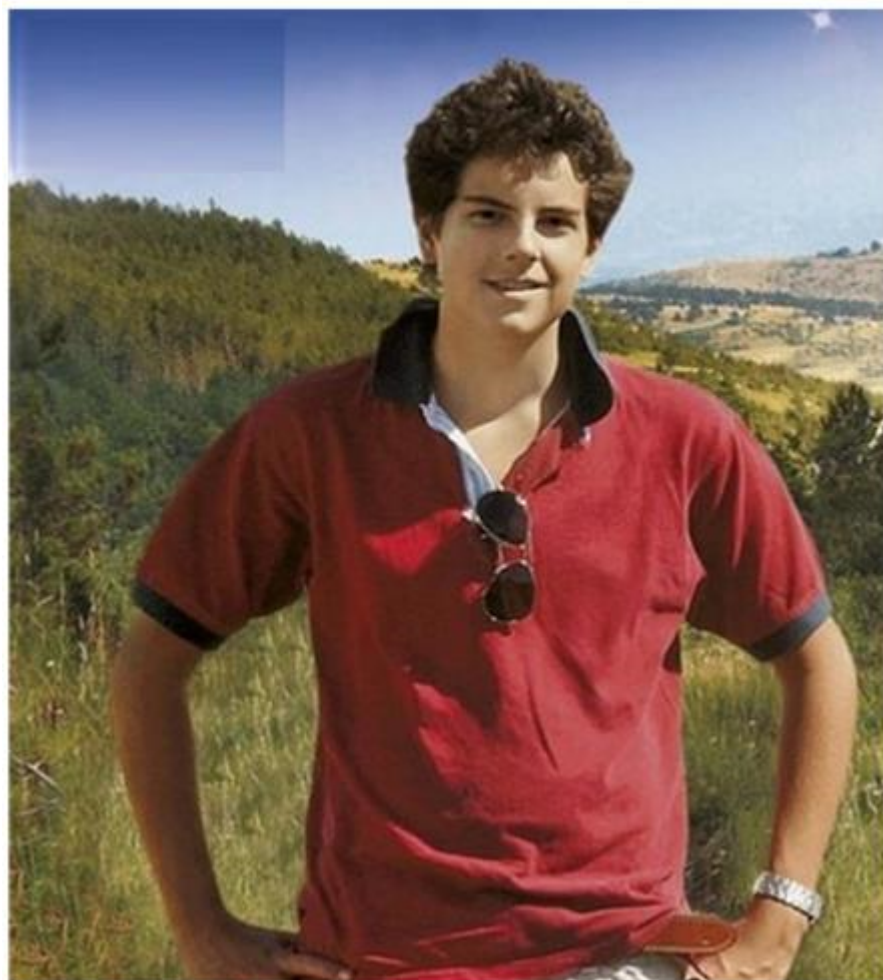
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Portlaoise Shopping Centre

RELIC OF CARLO ACUTIS TO VISIT OUR PARISH CHURCH



Wednesday 11th September 8pm

To

Friday 13th September 3pm

Who is Carlo Acutis? Born in London on 3rd May 1991. He died in Monza, near Milan on October 12th 2006. Only 15 years of age. But he is soon to be the first Millenium Saint. What could so easily be a sad, depressing incomprehensible story of a good young man taken from his family and friends at such a young age has become a story of hope for so many around the World. Carlo said 'I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God. He also said that 'our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite'

Carlo was the son of Italian parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonio Salzano, living in London at the time of his birth. They moved back to near Milan while Carlo was an infant. During his lifetime Carlo remained an only child. Precisely 4 years to the day after his death, his mother, then aged 44, gave birth to twins, Michele and Francesca. She attributes this event to her son's intercession. Carlo's parents weren't particularly religious. Both had been baptised and confirmed and were married in the Church but did not regularly practice. Carlo's interest in the faith and his constant questions but also his witness to an extraordinary relationship with Jesus and his devotion to Mary brought both his parents to a new awakening of faith themselves.

From a young age Carlo had an extraordinary devotion to Our Lady and the Eucharist. A gifted student with a particular talent around computers and computer programming. He developed a website which catalogued Eucharistic miracles and was the genesis of *The Eucharistic Miracles of the World*, an international exhibition which highlights such occurrences. On 1st October 2006 this pious young man developed an inflammation of the throat by Sunday 8th October he was too weak to get out of bed and was diagnosed with a very aggressive Leukemia. He died on 12th October.

The relic of Carlo which comes to our parish church on Wednesday 11th September will be accompanied by three Friars from Assisi where Carlo's body lies. We look forward to a programme of events in association with the visit which will involve young and old in prayer and contemplation of this extraordinary soon to be Saint.

Heath Cemetery Mass



Medjugorje, August 2024

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES
MONTENEGRO OFFICE FOR TOURS, TRANSPORTATION & STAY



Portlaoise Pilgrimage to Medjugorje August 2024



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



John Walsh
Mernu, Abbeylax Rd.
Portlaoise and
Ballinakill



William (Billy) Tuck
Killamuck, Abbeylax

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
HENRY TOBIN**

Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 30th August 2024.



*Remember him with a smile today,
He was not one for tears,
Reflect instead on memories,
Of all the happy years.
Recall to mind the way he spoke,
And all the things he said,
His strength, his stance, the way he
walked, remember these instead.
The good advice he'd give us,
His eyes that shone with laughter,
So much of him will never die,
But live on ever after.*

*As we loved you, we miss you, in our memory you are near,
Loved, remembered, longed for always,
Bringing many a silent tear.*

*Dearly loved and missed each and every day, from Mammy,
Susan, Catherine, Tracey, Nicola, Ciera, Henry, Rachel and
Aideen, your grandchildren and your brothers and sister.*

Rest In Peace Henry

**In Loving Memory of
HENRY TOBIN**

Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 30th August 2024.



*If I could have a wish come true,
A dream that's come to pass,
I'd ask to spend a day with you,
And pray that it would last,
I'd run to you and hold you close,
We'd laugh and smile again,
I'd listen so intently, as you told me
How you've been,
When time was up I'd hold you close,
not wanting to let go,
You'd smile and tell me, "see you soon", and somehow I
would know, that while tis very hard to wait,
One day the time will come,
I'll join you there forevermore, when I too am called home.
My wish may go ungranted, but it will always be true,
I'd trade many tomorrows for one yesterday with you.*

Loved and missed by your loving wife Mary.

Rest In Peace Henry

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN SCULLY**

Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 2nd September 2024



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Saturday
31st August at 10am.

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

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
TOMMY KEOGH**

Ridge Rd. Portlaoise

24th Anniversary occurs 1st September 2024



*A Golden Heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands laid to rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us that
He only takes the best.
Will those who think of Tommy today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.*

*Always remembered and sadly missed
by all his loving family.*

May Tommy Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
JOE CUNNEEN

Rathleague, Portlaoise, who passed away on
2nd June 2024



The family of the late Joe Cunneen would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those who shared in our sad loss.

We wish to thank all of those who shared in Joe's wonderful, long and happy life, in particular our extended family, friends and lovely, ever-present neighbours.

We are particularly thankful to those who looked after Dad's health and well-being over so many years, especially Dr. White, the nurses and receptionists, the team of nurses at the Warfarin clinic and the helpful team in Hughes's pharmacy. Thank you to his carers who took such good care of Joe in his final months.

We are truly grateful to everyone who sent messages, condolences, Mass cards, those who visited our home with much welcomed refreshments, those who travelled long distances and those who attended the wake, the removal or funeral, either personally or virtually. Your kind words, comforting presence, and thoughtful gestures have provided us with immense comfort during this difficult time.

Thank you to Mons. John Byrne, Mons. John McEvoy and Father Willie Hennessy for concelebrating Joe's beautiful funeral Mass and all of the Priests in Portlaoise Parish and Fr. Paddy Hennessy for their presence. To Sarah for accompanying the Mass with her lovely singing and music. Also to our sister sacristans for preparing the Church for Mass and the staff at the Parish Centre for all of their help.

Heartfelt thanks to Matthew and David of Matthew Keegan's Funeral Directors for the kindness shown to our family and for their guidance and professionalism in carrying out all of the funeral arrangements. We also acknowledge the work of the grave diggers in preparing Joe's final resting place. Thank you to the GAA for the use of their land for parking during the wake and funeral and to all of our friends who helped to direct traffic. For the help of the Garda Síochána in escorting the funeral cortege from the house to the church.

As it is impossible to express thanks to everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our heartfelt appreciation.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all of your intentions.

Rest in Peace Joe

PSALM 14:1

**THE JUST WILL LIVE IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL (Mick) GING

Green Road, Portlaoise.

2nd Birthday away from Home occurs 30/8/24



Mick, Today is your birthday, my sweetest delight, my heart's still filled with memories shining bright. Of all the moments we spent together, Your love, your kindness, they'll last forever.

I look up to the sky, with tears in my eyes, to see the stars shining brightly, so wise.

And I know you're there, as an angel above, watching over me, showering me with love.

You were my soulmate, my best friend, my life, It's hard to believe that you're no longer by my side,

But I know you're in a better place now, Free from pain, free from worries, free somehow. Happy birthday to my angel, my husband, my king, May your soul rest in peace, and your heart sing, With all the joy, the love, and the good cheer, For you're forever in my heart, so near and so dear.

All my love, Breda.

Dad, On this day of your birth, we gather to remember, The joy and love you brought,

In every moment we shared together. Though you are no longer here, your spirit lives on strong, Guiding us through the dark, Reminding us that we still belong.

Happy Birthday in Heaven We raise our voices high to celebrate the life you lived, And the love that will never die

Love from Yvonne, Pdraig, John and Antoinette x

Rest in Peace Mick

In Loving Memory of
ALLAN WRIGHT

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs 1st September 2024



I am still with you

If it seems that I am far away, on this empty and solemn day, just open your heart and know its true, that I am still right here with you.

Sadly missed by your loving wife Iva, children Janet, Barbara, Alan, Teresa and Siobhan, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all your loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Dear Allan

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH HOWARD

née Styles
3rd Anniversary occurs 4th September 2024



*A few more steps along life's road,
Perhaps a few more years,
Then by God's grace we'll meet again,
Beyond the vale of tears.*

*Sadly missed by her sister Mary,
Wally and family.*

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

In Loving Memory of DOLORES FAHY

55 Beladd, Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise.
20th Anniversary occurs 17th September 2024



*Mam, you were the most truly wonderful
Mam,
A treasure that can never be replaced,
You nurtured us with your tender love and
supported us in every way.
One in a million, we will never forget,
The precious times we shared,
Memories of you we will always cherish,
Knowing how deeply you cared.*

*Mum, our special bond was priceless, you were our dearest
friend, we never doubted your compassion, right until the
very end. Your love meant the world to us, we miss your
warmth, so gentle and kind, your spirit will live on forever, in
our hearts and in our minds.*

*Love you always Mam, James, Ber, Sharon, Elaine, Dor,
sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and
great-grandchildren xxx*

JAMES McEVOY

32 Upper Beladd, Stradbally Rd.
Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary occurs
6th September 2024



*James, every time we look at the stars,
we know that's where you'll be, shining like
you always do, and watching over us.
Although the pain we're feeling is with us
everyday,*

*The love you left inside our hearts will never go away.
Life goes on without you, but it will never be the same,
And if we had our time once more, we'd do it all again.
So when our days are darkest, and we just can't see the light,
we'll look up at the brightest star, and you'll be shining
bright.*

*Love and miss you so much, Daddy, Mammy, Keith,
Eve, your adorable niece Aoife, aunts, uncles and
cousins xxx*

Anniversary Mass for Dolores and James will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 8th September at 12:30pm.

May Dolores & James Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of JOHN MURPHY

The Hermitage, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 4th September 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 7th September at 6.30pm.

*Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Sadie, son John, Esme,
granddaughters Emmy and Amy, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace John

Birthday Remembrance MICHAEL & PATRICK TIMMONS

24 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.



*We who love you, sadly miss you,
As it dawns another year,
In our lonely hours of thinking,
Thoughts of you are ever near.*

*Sadly missed and always
remembered by your sister
Marian and family.*

May They Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of RITA CONROY

Beladd, Portlaoise.



Rita's family wish to express our heartfelt
thanks and gratitude to all who sent
messages of condolence, attended the
house and the memorial service.

Our sincere thanks to Msgr. John Byrne,
Keegan Funeral Services, Hughes
Pharmacy, the Community and Palliative
Care Nurses who attended Mammy

during her illness, Maryborough Family Practice and the
MRHP and the Oncology team at the MRHT.

Our heartfelt thanks to our extended family, friends,
neighbours and work colleagues for their kindness,
expressions of sympathy, food, and all the ways you have
supported us over the past few weeks.

A special mention to all of Mam's friends for your
unwavering support and keeping in touch with Mammy
throughout her illness.

Thanks to you all for your compassion and support in
remembering and celebrating Rita's life.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Tuesday 3rd September at 10am.

Rest in Peace Rita

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH & MARTIN DOWLING

Audville, Dublin Rd. Portlaoise.
Whose 25th and 3rd Anniversaries occur 7th September
and 14th June 2024.



*Missed in the morning
of every day,
Missed in the evening
as light fades away,
Missed in a thousand
and one little ways,
You left us lovely
memories, we treasure
through the years.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 8th September at 12.30pm.

*God Grant them Eternal Rest.
Love Martina, Mary, Anna, Claire and families.
May Elizabeth & Martin Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of OWEN McDONALD

16 Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs at this time.



3rd Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, Portlaoise, on
Friday 6th September at 10am.

*You always had a smile to share,
A laugh, a joke and time to care,
A good life came to an end,
You died as you lived....
everyone's friend.*

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

Rest in Peace Owen



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Legion of Mary- Annual Pilgrimage to

KNOCK

On Sunday 29th September 2024



Coach Departs

from: Lyster Square, Portlaoise Time: 9:00 AM

from: Mountmellick Time: 9:15 AM

from: Tullamore Time: 9:30 AM

Price: Adult € 25 Child € 12 (accompanied by a parent)

To book please phone: Una; 086 239 2997

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
29th August 2024



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Kate Guilfoyle
Jacqueline Crossan
Annmarie Candon
Michael Comerford
Mary Maher
Declan O'Loughlin
Paddy Lalor
The Dandy Man
Conor O'Brien Snr
Mark Ryan
Eimear Leahy
Beth Kelly
Brigid Whelan
Breda Russell

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Ross Moylan
Online Lotto
Online Lotto
Parish Centre
On Line Lotto
John Loughlin
Jennifer McEvoy
Rocky Kehoe
Lisa O'Brien
Richard Phelan
Lil Gleeson
Beth Kelly
Parish Centre
Heather Mortimer



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Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deut:4:1-2, 6-8 | Psalm 14:2-5
James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27 | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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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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- * 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

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Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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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 be 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

Lana Lebedieva

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



DON'T BUY FURNITURE

HOLD BACK UNTIL WE LAUNCH OUR...

CLEARING & UPDATING GRAND SALE!

**€ 1,250,000 STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL
MASSIVE 3 DAY PUBLIC SALE!
STARTS NEXT FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER AT 10^{am}**

It has been our privilege to serve so many customers and all the people of the area since we opened our doors to the public. Now to improve the showrooms for the future and clear excess stock, we will proceed with a major refurbishing and re-merchandising programme. All this to make room for new ranges in bedroom, living, dining and all categories. **The CLOUD9 Store will be temporarily closed from Saturday 31st while we reduce prices and prepare the display for the launch of our € 1,250,000 CLEARING & UPDATING GRAND FURNITURE SALE.**

EVERY SINGLE PRICE WILL BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED!

THIS WILL BE OUR BIGGEST EVER SALE!

We must urgently sell all our furniture, all suites fabric and leather, sofas, sofa beds, chairs, recliners, dining sets, wall units, sideboards, beds, bunk beds, mattresses, dressing tables, chests, coffee tables, all accessories, pictures, ornaments, mirrors, rugs and much more...**ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD OUT A.S.A.P.**



"All showroom goods plus warehouse stock and all new factory orders will be clearly marked and available to you with bigger savings than ever in our history"
Ray Quegan, Manager

FULL DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED

Zone 3, Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Eircode: R32PP30

IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

**THE STORE IS BRIEFLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FROM SATURDAY 31st TILL
6th SEPTEMBER, WHILE WE COMPLETE ALL SALE PREPERATIONS**