

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**

**link  
up**

**17th August 2025**

**Nineteenth Sunday  
Ordinary Time**

**Jubilee of Youth!**



**Rome 2025**

Pope Leo celebrated Mass with over 1 million young people on 3rd August. The culmination of a week long celebration of faith and pilgrimage.

The Jubilee of Youth, a vibrant celebration held in Rome as part of the Holy Year, brought together over one million young people from across the world to deepen their faith, share in fellowship, and experience the universality of the Church.

(inset) The group of 20 Kildare and Leighlin pilgrims (including 4 from Portlaoise parish, 2 from both Raheen, and Stradbally) with Bishop Denis and Fr. David.

More photos on page 13



**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)**





## Keeping the Fire Kindled

If Jesus came back today and joined one of our parishes how would he behave? Could we imagine him on the finance committee, submitting articles for the Link Up, joining our baptismal team, taking charge of our Prayer group or volunteering to decorate the Church for Christmas? Everything we do for the church is

important, but on a scale of one to ten, we are probably not reaching our full potential as Christians...not by a very long chalk! Christianity has become all too comfortable. We've inherited our Catholic culture from our parents and our grandparents and it comes packaged in nostalgia and sentiment. We tend to visualise Jesus the way he was depicted in our religion books in school, and think of him as permanently gentle meek and mild. The uncomfortable truth is that if Jesus joined one of our parishes today he would probably not be doing any of the things we consider important. It's likely he would shake everything up big time! Could it be that as Christians we have become complacent and comfortable? Today we are reminded that Christianity is not just about joining Church groups and reading at Mass. Christianity is about real life and death issues, it is about more than looking good and doing the 'right thing.' Every job we do to help others is important no matter how small, but Jesus had a burning desire to change the world in the face of great opposition, and it's our job to keep that fire alive.



**St. Bernard of Clairvaux  
(1091-1153)**

**Wednesday 20th August**

Bernard's life was characterised by a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. His sermons and books about Mary are still the standard of Marian theology. "In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from

your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may more surely obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favour, you shall reach the goal".

(St. Bernard)

Mass times for the coming week  
ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

**Monday—Friday: 7.30am & 10am**

**Saturday: 10am**

**Sunday**

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption, The Heath

Sunday: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska

Sunday: 10am

**CONFESSIONS**

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



**We welcome into our Parish Community**

Kai Patrick Moore, Ballymorris Manor

**Who was baptised last weekend.**

The Christian must not be lukewarm. The Book of Revelation tells us that this is the greatest danger for a Christian: not that he or she may say 'no,' but that they may say a very lukewarm 'yes.' Lukewarmness is, as the late Pope Benedict emphasised, what discredits Christianity most. Therefore it is one of the biggest problems facing the Catholic Church as a whole and therefore every Catholic diocese and every Catholic parish including our own. We need to confront it straight on.

The greatest way of all God has established to inflame us is at Mass. *Whoever draws near Christ draws near the fire*, Origen said in the third century. If that's true, then all the more Christ says to us, *'Whoever receives me, receives the fire.'* Whenever we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we ingest Fire. Christ has come to ignite that fire and how he wants each of us to become truly enkindled! St Catherine of Siena used to say in the 1300s, *'If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze!'*

Mass is the place where Christ helps us to become who we should be. As we prepare to receive him today, we beg the great cloud of witnesses surrounding us now to pray for us that we may be enveloped by fire, always burn with love to the glory of God, and bring that flame of faith out to warm others hearts and fill our parish and the whole world with the fire of God's amazing love.

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**ALL CLASSES IN THE PARISH CENTRE  
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CLASSES WILL RESUME IN THE CENTRE  
IN EARLY SEPTEMBER**



- Osteo class on a Monday morning with John at 9.30am
- Beginners and Intermediate Pilates with Laura on a Monday evening from 6-8pm

*If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive information regarding the classes resuming please call or email our clinic and we can email you when we roll out our new class email, this helps to secure your place!*

***We wish everyone a nice, safe summer!***





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## Class of 2025

An exhibition of  
**Mountmellick Embroidery**  
by the class of 25 will be held on  
**August 20<sup>th</sup> in the  
Parish Centre, Portlaoise.**

Created about 1825 to provide an income for distressed ladies this white on white work is the only embroidery that can be said to be truly Irish. It gets its name from the nearby town where it originated.

Meeting held each Monday Night in Parish Centre, this group of extremely talented ladies toil away stitching and ripping to create these exceptional pieces.

There will be a display of Quilts, Tablecloths, Table Runners, Ring cushions & Framed Pieces. Ladies will be on hand to demonstrate a stitch or two.



Taking place in National Heritage week the exhibition is open to everyone all are welcome to come along

**between 10am-6pm on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>**

We wish to acknowledge the great help of staff of Parish Centre for facilitating this exhibition and our Heritage Officers Oisín & Thomas with Laois County Council.



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**Scoil Fionntáin Naofa,  
Shanahoe**  
will host their annual  
Truck, Tractor & Vintage  
Road Run

**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Registration from 1pm

Shanahoe Community Hall R32E3FR

departing at 2pm sharp

Registration Fee €20

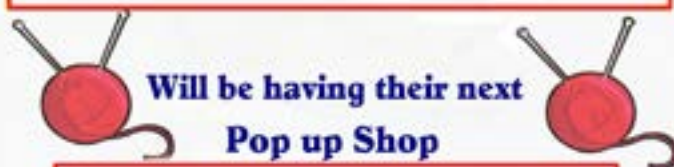
Vintage all the way to new are welcome!

~Kids' Big Wheely Fun Run~Food~Refreshments~



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## CLEANER REQUIRED

**Heywood Community School** is looking for expressions of interest for Cleaning Positions that may arise during the Academic Year 2025-26.

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**Every Thursday and Friday Night in St. Mary's Hall**

**Starts 8pm**

Buses collecting from their usual pick-up points in the Portlaoise area at 7:30pm.



# Time to Think...

## When did you last say your prayers?



When did you last say your prayers? This question makes all kinds of presumptions. Not least that people don't pray. Or that prayer has any value. Or that there's a consensus on how we define what prayer is, which of course there isn't. One man's meat . . . and so forth.

But what I'm trying to get at, I suppose, is the way that society has changed, the way we've all changed. The sense that something peculiar has been going on and suddenly we come round a bend in life and there it is staring us in the face. Like coming to a clearance in the middle of a great forest. Part of what has happened, I think, is that the religious enterprise has been sidelined in Irish life. And just as, in the past, we went along with the crowd going to weekend Mass, now we find ourselves almost discernibly, making a U-turn and following the crowd going in the opposite direction. It has something to do with time. Once we had no labour-saving devices and yet we had plenty of time. Now everything we use saves time, but we seem to end up with less time than we ever had. We have become part of a bustling world where time - time for ourselves, time for our families, quality time - all seem to be in short supply.

With less time comes less space. Less room for attending to ourselves and the questions that try to surface in our lives: What is my life for? What does it all mean? Where does God fit in? What's it all about? How can I put some shape on the twists and turns of my life?

With less time and less space comes less context. Because without time and space it's not possible to stand back and see the subtle patterns in the tapestries our lives weave. Without context we can end up imagining that we know it all, that what is past has no value, that maturity and wisdom can come from the pages of a book or the advice of a guru rather than out of the distilled wisdom of a lived life.

Without context we end up on a merry go round of activity and movement that never seems to get us where we want to be. Without context we end up living and working for the future, forgetting the present and letting the happiness of the present moment slip through our fingers. Even though we all know that waiting to live is a fools' charter. Love, as the poet Seamus Heaney said somewhere, 'love the life you're shown'.

How many parents, for example, are trying to survive their children's childhood rather than enjoying even savouring those short magical years? How many parents imagine that beyond the frustrations of the teenage years there is some Nirvana without worry or unreason? How many people on their deathbeds regret they didn't spend more time at work and less time with their families? (Very few I'd imagine!)

How many of us will in future years look back on the lives we live now and realise that these are the great and happy days that we will look back with great fondness? How many of us live as if, beyond the limitations of our present lives, there is a tranquil sea that we will live forever to enjoy?

There isn't. There's just death . . . and resurrection. We may not go there yet but that's the ultimate context.

Life, no matter how long, is always limited. There comes a point beyond which none of us will go and there is a wisdom that comes from holding that reference point in our heads - not in any morose way but as a way of distinguishing the important from the peripheral.

Giving ourselves time and space and context is, I believe, ultimately about giving ourselves a context for reflection and prayer. It's about

welcoming the essential questions scrambling for attention just under the surface of our lives. It's about facilitating a religious quest that can enrich the lives we live now.

Hands up all those who believe that our recent prosperity, great as it is, has made us any happier as individuals, families or society? Why then do we allow the quest for more to colonise large portions of our lives and leave us scraping around for time and space to feed the relationships that are the bread and butter of human fulfilment? How many spouses will one day see clearly the potential for happiness in a relationship that they now take for granted? How many former children will one day stand at a parent's grave, overwhelmed with love and appreciation for a dead father or mother and who will spend the rest of their lives trying to forgive themselves for not seeing before what's so obvious now?

Why is it that we must live so long before we learn so little? Why is it that we can only appreciate what we have when we experience its absence?

We know it all now of course. The past is a distant country. We've nothing to learn now. So we get caught pushing life to its limits because we imagine that the more we get or eat or drink or own or enjoy, the happier we will be. And then when something mind-changing happens, someone is seriously ill or a loved one is dead and we find ourselves kneeling in the backseat of some church asking a God we scarcely believe in to come to the rescue of a life that ignores his presence. Something within us resonates with the beyond but we've forgotten the words.

So, after asking so many questions - and forgive me if you find them intrusive - let me return to that question I posed at the start: When did you last say your prayers?

**Fr Laurence Freeman, internationally renowned as an expert on the subject of prayer, helpfully explains contemplative prayer in five simple lessons:**

- 1. To pray go into your inner room and close the door. If you don't believe that God is with you where you are, you won't find him anywhere.**
- 2. Be silent. You don't need to babble prayers - as Jesus said about pagans, God knows what you need. You don't have to ask him. Jesus tells us.**
- 3. Let go of your worries and anxieties. Contemplation, is essentially about letting go. Put your worries in a boat and let it down the river.**
- 4. Be attentive, it is the heart of contemplation. (This is why mindfulness is now so popular).**
- 5. Stay in the present moment. Don't worry about the past or the future. Contemplation is about sitting still and doing nothing - though sometimes doing nothing, is the hardest thing to do.**

**Prayer is the language of the soul. I pray, you all will know how fond God is of you.**



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST.

**Top score:** Catherine Brennan. **1st Lady:** Catherine Fitzpatrick **2nd Lady:** Tied; Patty Murphy, Catherine Bowe & Betty O'Neill. **1st Gent:** Mary Delaney. **2nd Gent:** Terry Dunne. **1st Half:** Betty Murphy. **2nd Half:** Kit Farrell

**Raffle:** 1st Liz Cooper, 2nd Sadie Chester, 3rd Agnes Holland, 4th Billy Jackson 5th Ann Marie Farrell.

*Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new members always welcome, lessons available if required. Special Age Friendly Whist* in the Parish Centre on Wednesday August 20th; commencing with Mass at 1pm followed by Refreshments and Whist. All players welcome and both events in the same venue.

## PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 9-13 SEPT

Mass Bouquets for special intentions. Mass Cards or Candle requests. Available from Kitty Timmons 087-9506634 or Mary Byrne 085-2829231. Petitions will be brought and left at the Shrine. Contact Kitty or Mary.

## M. NERNEY MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

Oct. 9th to Oct. 16th €855 pp sharing, Single Suppl. €170. Contact Ml. Nerney 086-8157305

## LOVELY LAOIS HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

FREE WORKSHOP in Sean Nos & Brush Dancing. Sat. 6th Sept. 11am at Sean Chistin, Irej, Ballyfin. To book text 087-6482038 or email seanchistin@gmail.com

## AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

For family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with alcoholism. Al-anon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further information contact 086-8706017.

## BREAKTHROUGH CANCER RESEARCH

Family Fun and Fashion Day dedicated to supporting Breakthrough Cancer Research!

Your participation is vital in our mission to make more survivors of cancer Sunday 17th Aug. Fitz of Inch, Stradbally.

Info and free tickets on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)

**GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO** – Tuesday 19th August 2025. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €3040. Double number € 880 Lotto €500.

**SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA:** Call 087-2068972 | [seandoylelightengineering](http://seandoylelightengineering.com).

Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

**PORTLAOISE PIONEER ASSOCIATION** Celebrating its CENTENARY MASS on Fri. 10th Oct 7pm in the Parish Centre. Presentation of Jubilee Pins and Certificates for pioneers who have reached 25, 50 & 60+ yrs of membership. Open to all Pioneers. If any Pioneer would like to receive a pin contact Jennifer on 085-1354959. Closing date for receipt of applications Mon. 1st Sept 2025.

**FESTIVAL OF THE MOUNTAIN** Glenbarrow, Rosenallis Sun. 17th Aug. 12pm. Entry is €10. U12s Free. Fun for all the family.

**FATIMA INVALID FUND** – annual church gate collection Sat. 30th/ Sun 31st in Abbeyleix, Shanahoe, Raheen, Knock & Ballyroan. Your generosity greatly appreciated.

# RELIGIOUS NOTES

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** Every Sunday at 3 PM in the Parish Church.

**ROSARY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH:** Daily 2pm (Monday to Saturday), Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

**ROSARY** will be recited in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, every evening at 7pm.

**VOCATIONS SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH:** Holy Hour, Adoration, and Prayer for Vocations Every Friday at 3PM in the Parish Church.

**LEGION OF MARY** invites you to join us every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Prayer Hall as we come together in prayer and service to Our Lady.

**COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp. For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome

**RADIO MARIA IRELAND** is an Irish-run Catholic talk radio station offering commercial-free prayer, catechesis, music, talks, and interviews. Listen anytime on Saorview Channel 210, our free app, online at [radiomaria.ie](http://radiomaria.ie), or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

**RECOLLECTION WEEKEND: 22<sup>ND</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025** in Cluain Chiarain Prayer Centre, Clonmacnois. A retreat for adult Catholics seeking to deepen their spiritual life and grow in holiness. A time for silence, reflection and fellowship with talks from various guest speakers. €180 - all meals and accommodation provided with custom welcome pack. For more details and booking visit [www.thecollect.ie](http://www.thecollect.ie)



# CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish

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

HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## Run the Race

In our second reading today says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Have you ever run a race? Have you ever won a medal or a trophy for running a race? It is a thrill to run a



race and hear the voices of the people who are watching as they shout words of encouragement. It is an even greater thrill when you finish the race and win a medal or a trophy.

In 1992 when the Olympics were held in Barcelona, Spain, the world saw one of the greatest moments in Olympic history. Derek Redmond, a young man from England, had dreamed all his life of winning a gold medal in the 400 meter race. He had worked hard to get to the Olympics and his dream was within his reach. He was in the semi-finals and was running the race of his life. He could see the finish line just ahead as he rounded the final turn. Suddenly, he felt a sharp pain in the back of his leg and he fell to the track with a torn muscle in his right leg.

As the medical attendants ran toward him, Derek struggled to his feet. He started to hop toward the finish line on one foot in an attempt to finish the race. Suddenly, a large man came out of the stands, pushed aside a security guard and ran to Derek's side. It was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek. "Well, then," said his father, "we're going to finish this together." And they did. They stayed in Derek's lane all the way to the end. At first, the crowd watched in silence. Then they rose to their feet and cheered - and wept.

Derek Redmond didn't win the gold medal, but he walked away with the incredible memory of a loving father who, when he saw his son in pain, left his seat in the stands to help him finish the race.

That is what reading is about today. It teaches us that life is like a race that has been set before us. We may struggle and face many obstacles, but we have a great crowd of witnesses who are cheering us on. We have a Heavenly Father who loves us and will help us when the pain is too great. We have a Saviour, who left his place in heaven and came to earth to show us how to run the race. If we will keep our eyes on him, how can we help but finish the race?

### A Safe and Welcoming Church Children and Young Person's Art Competition 2025.

The NBSCCCI invites children and young people to participate in this competition by submitting a piece of art that depicts what

'A Safe and Welcoming Church' looks like or feels like to them. The piece may be a painting, sculpture, photograph or a written piece and is open to



everyone who is under 18 years of age.

Dates: The competition opens on the 1st of September 2025 and closes on the 30th of September 2025. Lots of prizes to be won.

For Further details including rules of the competition go to <https://www.safeguarding.ie/news-events/a-safe-and-welcoming-church-art-competition-2025>

### PRAYER

Father, help us to be faithful in running the race which you have set before us. We pray that we will keep our eyes on Jesus and follow the example he set for us. Keep us from the sin that will keep us from faithfully running our race. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

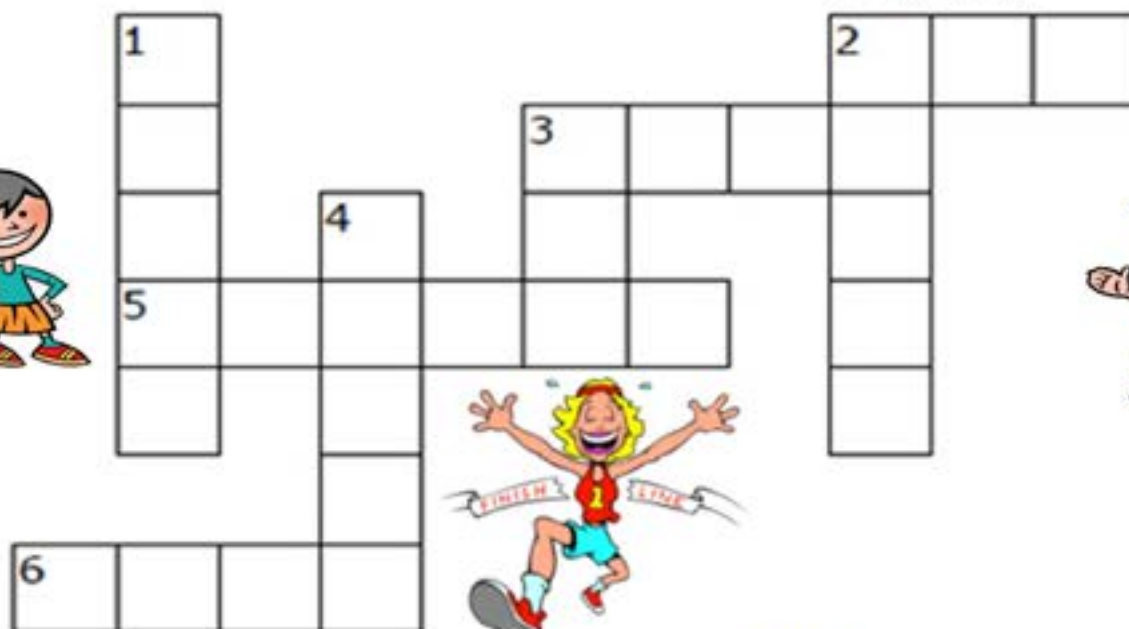




**Let us run with perseverance the  
race marked out for us.  
Hebrews 12:1b**

**This puzzle is based on Hebrews 12:1-2**

<b>CROSS</b>	<b>JESUS</b>	<b>RUN</b>	<b>THRONE</b>
<b>FAITH</b>	<b>JOY</b>	<b>EYES</b>	<b>RACE</b>



**ACROSS**

2. A feeling of great happiness
3. A contest of speed
5. The place where a king or queen is seated.
6. The organs which are used to see

**DOWN**

1. A strong belief in God.
2. The Son of God
3. To travelling on foot at a fast pace.
4. The wooden structure on which Jesus was crucified;

**Word Search**

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

**GREAT  
RACE  
JESUS  
WITNESSES  
THROW  
MARKED  
FIX  
THRONE  
HINDERS  
JOY  
EYES  
CLOUD  
FAITH  
RUN  
SIN**



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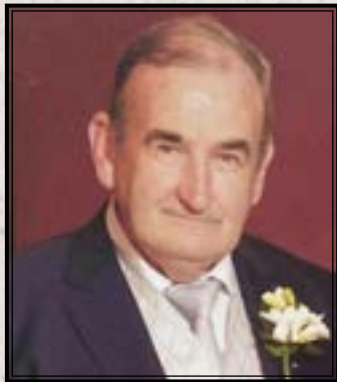


# JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE - ROMA AUGUST 2025





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



**John Kelly**  
*Durrow. Laois*

*May They Rest In Peace,  
Our Sympathies Are  
With Their Families*



**In Loving Memory of  
ALICE O'REILLY**  
46 Borris Road, Portlaoise.  
27th Anniversary occurs 16th August  
2025.

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

*Fondly remembered by her family;  
John, Tom, Margaret and all her grandchildren.  
Also remembering our Dad and sister Ella.  
Rest in Peace Alice*



**In loving memory of  
ANNA O'BRIEN**  
59 Hillview Drive, Portlaoise.  
4th Anniversary occurs 21st August 2025  
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Saturday 23rd August at 6.30pm.

*Always cherish your wife and Mother,  
Because ours is gone forever, and we miss her everyday.  
Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her loving  
husband Paddy and family.  
Rest in Peace Anna*

**Acknowledgement & Anniversary Mass**

**In Loving Memory of**

**ANTHONY  
(TONY) DUNNE**

**8 St. Brigid's Place Portlaoise**  
1st Anniversary occurs 15th August  
2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sat. 16th Aug at  
6.30pm in the Parish Church.

Anthony's family wish to express their heartfelt gratitude  
to everyone who shared in their deep loss.

We are immensely grateful to all our relatives, neighbours  
and friends for their unwavering support and kindness.

We are truly touched by everyone who sent Mass cards,  
text messages, online condolences, floral tributes, travelled  
long distances, and attended the wake and funeral.  
Your support and kind words in remembrance of  
Anthony brought an immense comfort to us all.

A sincere thank you to Fr. Ciprian Matei, Monsignor  
Byrne and Fr. Fallon for the beautiful and meaningful  
requiem Mass in Anthony's honour. Also, Matthew &  
David (Keegan's Undertakers) for their kindness and  
professionalism in handling the funeral. Thank you to  
Ashling Walsh for the lovely music for Anthony's  
requiem Mass.

We are deeply appreciative to all staff in Portlaoise  
Hospital, for their dedicated care, kindness and ability to  
bring a smile to Dad during his time spent with them.  
A special word of thanks to all the staff in the Emo Court  
Ward, who went above and beyond, caring for Anthony  
in the most dignified, caring and empathetic way.

To Dr. Perera and her team in the Diabetic Clinic, who  
constantly worked to ensure that Anthony received  
the best possible care. A sincere thank you to Dr  
David Booth and all the staff of the Cedar Clinic and  
to Laois Pharmacy for their continuous kindness and  
professionalism in handling Dad's care and wellbeing.

*As it would be impossible to express our 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 your intentions.**

*Rest in Peace Anthony*





*In Loving Memory of*  
**A Kind, Funny, Loving Mother,**  
**Nanny & Sister**  
**ANNIE GREENE**  
**St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise**  
 9th Anniversary away from home  
 occurs 21st August.

*Today you're heavy on my mind  
 And speaking to my heart  
 I knew that when you took your leave  
 We'd never really part.  
 So many moons have come and gone  
 And still I miss you so  
 But when love's strong, it's natural that  
 The heart fights letting go.  
 If you were still on earth with me  
 Instead of paradise  
 I would ensure I gave you thanks  
 For all your sacrifice  
 I hope you know how hard I tried  
 To make you feel your worth  
 No thanks could ever be enough  
 For she who gave me birth  
 I'll always wish that I'd done more  
 Right up until the end  
 For you were so much more than Mom  
 You truly were my friend  
 I never will stop missing you  
 Our memories fill my day  
 I thank God for the years we had  
 When I kneel down to pray  
 I know you're watching over me  
 That's just what mothers do  
 And 'til we can embrace again  
 I'll be here loving you.*

**Love and miss you today and always from your**  
**daughter Mary, sons Christopher, Joe, Paul.**  
**Daughters in law Esther, Caroline. Grandson**  
**Keelin and Joe. Granddaughters Leanne and Delal.**  
**Sister Ellie and the Greene family.**

*Also remembering our father*  
**THOMAS GREENE**  
*whose 16th Anniversary away*  
*from home occurred 12th July.*



*Rest in Peace*  
*Mammy and Daddy*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**KATHLEEN**  
**DOYLE**

45 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.  
 4th Anniversary occurs 17th August 2025.  
 Though your smile is gone forever, And your  
 hand we cannot touch,  
 Still we have so many memories of one we  
 loved so much.



Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part,  
 God has you in His keeping, And we have you in our hearts.

*Miss you always and forever*  
**Anne, Mick, Karen, Rachel, Eoin and girls xxx**  
*Rest in Peace Cait*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**TOM BERGIN**

66 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
 26th Anniversary occurs at this time.  
 Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
 Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 17th  
 August at 12:30pm.



Time passes, memories stay,  
 Quietly remembered every day.

*From his loving wife Mary & family.*  
*Rest in Peace Tom*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**ANTHONY (TONY) DUNNE**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
 1st Anniversary occurs on 15th August.  
 Also remembering my Mam Anne (Nancy)  
 Dunne whose 23rd anniversary occurs on  
 August 19th.



Those we love never go away,  
 They walk beside us everyday,  
 Unseen, unheard but always near,  
 Still loved, still missed & very dear.  
**Sadly missed, loved & remembered by**  
**your loving daughter Natalie & Colm.**

*Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**CATHERINE (KITTY) SIDES**

6 Ridge Road, Portlaoise.  
 19th Anniversary occurs 14th August  
 2025.



Your presence we miss,  
 Your memories we treasure,  
 Loving you always,  
 Forgetting you never.  
**Sadly missed and always remembered by**  
**her daughter Ann, son-in-law Noel and**  
**granddaughters Aoife and Aine.**

*Also remembering her husband Dick at this time R.I.P.*

*May Kitty Rest in Peace*



*Acknowledgement & Month's Mind*  
*In Loving Memory of*  
**ELIZABETH (BETTY)**  
**ROWAN (NÉE HEARNS)**



Betty's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated on Sat. 16th August at 6.30pm in St. Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise.

*The family of the late Betty Rowan would like to express our sincere thanks to all who supported us during our sad loss.*

*We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended the Funeral Home, Rosary, Funeral Mass and Burial. To those who sent Mass cards and messages of condolences, thank you.*

*We wish to thank Doctors, Nurses and Staff in C.C.U and Dunamaise Wards for their great care and attention given to Betty during her stay in the Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise.*

*Thanks to Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors for their compassion, help and professionalism. It was very much appreciated by the entire family.*

*A special thanks to Fr. Simon for visiting Betty during her stay in Kilminchy Nursing Home and for officiating at her beautiful Mass celebrating Betty's life.*

*A warm thank you to Aishling Rohan for her singing at the Funeral Mass.*

*We also wish to thank the staff at Kilminchy Lodge Nursing Home for the care and kindness to Betty throughout her time with them.*

*We hope everyone accepts this acknowledgement as a token of our gratitude.*

*Rest in Peace Betty*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**CONOR MURRAY**

16 Parnell Crescent, Portlaoise.  
 Died 13th August 2023.  
 2nd Year away from Home.

Your presence might be missed,  
 But your memory will always be cherished,  
 Second year has passed, yet it still feels like yesterday.

*Loved and missed so much.*  
*Mam, Aoife, Kayleigh, Mollie, Sean, Chris,*  
*Gavin and Craig.*

*Rest in Peace Conor*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**MAURA**  
**SHEERAN**

26 Balladine,  
 Abbeyleix and  
 formerly  
 of Graceswood,  
 Durrow.

8th Anniversary occurs  
 18th August 2025.

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

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your son*  
*Joe Jacob, relatives and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Maura*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOHN (SON)**  
**WALSH**

Late of Summerhill, Portlaoise, whose 21st  
 Anniversary occurs 12th August 2025.

Anniversary Mass Sat. 16th Aug at 6.30pm.

Though time may pass, the impact you had on our lives remains as strong as ever. Remembering you with love and gratitude on this special day, Dad.

*Sadly missed and loved always by Deirdre, Jacinta, Niall, Mark, Aisling, Alan, Ciaran, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandsons, granddaughters, great-granddaughter, great-grandson, sisters, extended family and friends.*

*Also remembering our late Mum Rose at this time R.I.P.*

*Rest in Peace Dad*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOSEPH DOWNEY**  
 7 Harpurs Lane, who died 18th August  
 2005.

20th Anniversary.

As each day dawns, we think of you,  
 As each night falls, we pray for you,  
 And throughout our lives, no matter where,  
 In our hearts you are always there.

*Always remembered by his family and grandchildren.*

*May Joseph Rest in Peace*







*In Loving Memory of*  
**MARY WALLIS**  
 Stillbrook, Mountrath  
 1st Anniversary 20th August 2025

We didn't know that morning  
 That God was to call your name;  
 In life we loved you dearly,  
 In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you, You did not go alone;  
 For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.  
 You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide;  
 And though we cannot see you, we feel you at our side.  
 Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same;  
 But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

*Loved and remembered always by her loving family*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**MICHAEL BOWE**  
 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.  
 25th Anniversary occurs on 20th  
 August 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
 Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday**  
 17th August at 12:30pm.

To us you were someone special  
 Someone set apart  
 Your memory will live forever  
 Engraved within our hearts

*Sadly missed and always remembered by Sean, Patricia,  
 grandchildren and great grandchildren  
 Rest in Peace Michael*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**MARY CLOONEY**  
 Shanahoe Rd, Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix.  
 12th Anniversary 20th August 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the  
 Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix,  
 Sunday 14th Sept. 11am.

Memories are like threads of gold,  
 they never tarnish or grow old  
 You still live on in the hearts and minds,  
 of the loving family you left behind.

*Always remembered never forgotten by her loving  
 daughters Anne & Patricia, sons-in-law Eamon  
 & Aidan and grandchildren Roisin Tommy,  
 Sean & Conall.  
 Also remembering her beloved husband Paddy.*

*Rest in Peace Mary*



*In Loving Memory of*  
**MICHAEL BOWE**  
 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.  
 25th Anniversary occurs on 20th  
 August 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
 Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday**  
 17th August at 12:30pm.

Those we love don't go away  
 They walk beside us every day  
 Each of us in our own way  
 Have special thoughts of you today.

*Always remembered by Paula, Mary & families.  
 Rest in Peace Michael*



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## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

06

10

17

27

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

Fergal O'Reilly  
Marcella O'Shea  
Kristine Cachila  
Brian Allen  
Eamonn O Connell  
Pat & Cillian Phelan  
Barry O'Loughlin  
Alan Dillon  
Roisin & Maeve Byrne  
Ger & Sue  
Beth Kelly  
Goggin Family  
Sean & Gemma

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13  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€77  
each

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Ericka McCarthy  
Online Lotto  
Maura Buggy  
Barbara Dowling  
Betty Lynch  
Betty Lynch  
Greg Keenan  
M Fallon  
Geraldine Greene  
Beth Kelly  
Betty O'Rourke  
Liam Phelan

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## Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. Simon Jin  
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira  
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes  
Tel: 057 8621142

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

## Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can  
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.  
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person  
Alish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

## Pray for our Examinees

Best wishes to all students receiving their Leaving Certificate  
Results this week. We pray that the Lord will bless all our  
young students with courage and hope and guide them in  
their life choices.

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10  
Responsorial Psalm 39:2-4, 18  
Hebrews 12:1-4  
Luke 12:49-53

## 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

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Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

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E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

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