

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**

**link  
up**

**14th September 2025**

## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



*Happy Birthday Pope Leo*

Wishing every blessing on Pope Leo  
as he celebrates his 70th Birthday  
today 14th September.



Pope Leo XIV carries the Jubilee Cross as he walks to the altar  
before the start of the vigil with young people gathered in  
Tor Vergata in Rome this summer during the Jubilee of Youth.

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)





## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Sunday 14th September**

Have you ever pondered why Christ, the pure embodiment of Love, had to endure the Cross? Could there have been another way? Perhaps the answer lies in the very nature of love. True love isn't

simply about joys and comforts; it's also about sacrifices, about giving without counting the cost. The Cross, in its raw, unfiltered brutality, became the canvas upon which the greatest love story was painted.

'For God so loved the world...' These aren't mere words, but a profound declaration. It's as if Love itself, in its infinite wisdom, chose the Cross to prove its depth. In the eyes of the world, the Cross may appear as a symbol of humiliation, but in the eyes of faith, it's the ultimate symbol of love.

Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel is a profound one. He speaks of belief, of eternal life, of salvation. It's a reminder that the Cross is not the end but a bridge – a bridge to resurrection, to eternal life.

But there's another layer here: a call to action for each of us. How often do we lift our personal crosses? Do we see them as burdens or as bridges to a deeper communion with Christ? Just as the bronze serpent brought healing, can our crosses, when united with Christ's, bring about transformation within us?

Today, let us gaze upon the Cross, not with sorrow but with gratitude. For in its shadow lies the promise of hope, the assurance of love, and the path to eternal life. In a world often marred by hatred and division, may the exalted Cross remind us of the lengths Love will go to embrace and heal us all.



## Our Lady of Sorrows

**Monday 15th September**

Mary, standing by the Cross, 'suffered intensely with her only begotten Son and united herself as his Mother to the sacrifice, consenting with love to the offering of the victim who was born of her', whom she also offered to the eternal Father.

**Rosary at the Grotto on Monday at 8pm.**

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

Skyler Leigh McEvoy-O'Neill, Roselawn

Freya Hollie McEvoy-O'Neill, Roselawn

Patrick Songaonye, Carnody Way, Fairgreen

Hugh Roert McPartlan-Lawless, Silverglen

Jasmine Noella Fitzpatrick, Newpark

Evie Mai Condon-McCormack, Ashley Gardens

Aleazandr Patrick Comerford, Green Mill Lane

Maggie Noelle O'Connor, Acragar, Mountmellick

**Who were baptised last weekend.**

## Thought for the Day!

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

John 3:16 'God so loved the world...' is arguably one of the best-known and most often quoted Bible verses. This verse is so beloved because it is the core of our faith: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life.' When we meditate on this and repeat it to ourselves, we come to a deeper understanding of God's very personal and intimate love for each one of us. We should repent, confess our sins, and always strive to do better. However, we can hold tightly to Jesus's promise: He does not want to condemn us; he wants to save us.

[epriest.com/reflection](http://epriest.com/reflection)



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**1st September - 4th October**



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**BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES  
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BEGINNERS 7-8PM AND INTERMEDIATE  
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AVAILABILITY ON BOTH CLASSES.**

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*If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to  
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**Take  
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Pilgrimage to Knock

## Annual Legion Day at Knock

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SUNDAY

9 AM

LYSTER SQUARE

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MAURA : 087 121 0263

UNA : 086 239 2997

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Thursday: Adults Only 8pm - 9pm



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(National Champ), Thomás O' Reilly (National Champ),  
Rosaletta Casey (National Champ), Gerry Casey (Coach)



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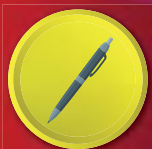
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# Memory Walk



Together, we walk.  
Together, we remember.

Sunday  
21st September  
2025

TIME: **11am**

LOCATION: **Ballyroan Abbey GAA- Club Grounds**

Take a step, to help  
fund our dementia  
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Call us on **01 207 3833**  
or go to [memorywalk.ie](http://memorywalk.ie)  
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**REGISTER NOW.**

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NOW!



CONF NO: CONFIRM 0000 20250921

## Autumn Programme

# FREE Water Safety Classes for all Emergency Service Workers

With Water Safety Ireland Laois

Water Safety Ireland  
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Come  
and Try  
It Out  
on Wed 24th  
September at  
9pm



Bronze  
Gaisce Award  
Approved



## Emergency Services Classes

**Beginning: Wednesday 24th Sept 2025 (10 weeks)**  
9pm - 10pm

Open to members of the Civil Defence, Fire Services,  
Gardai and Defence Forces

Must be able to Swim 25m Continuously

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise

**These Classes are completely FREE!**

Improve your swimming technique,  
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## Autumn Programme

# Water Safety Classes

With Water Safety Ireland Laois  
Water Safety Ireland Certified Exams



Bronze  
Gaisce Award  
Approved

Free  
"Come and Try  
Session"  
on Wed 24th  
September at  
9pm

## Senior Classes Adult and 16+

**Beginning: Wednesday 24th Sept 2025 (10 weeks)**  
9pm - 10pm

Optional Progression to National Pool Lifeguard for  
Rescue 2 - 4 participants & Revalidation\*  
\*Requires Additional cost & attendance at extra  
weekend course in Nov/Dec 2025

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise  
Cost: Adults €75 Students €60

\*Subject to achieving minimum standard and previous  
participation in Water Safety Ireland classes

Places are limited and booking is essential.  
Please email [sports@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:sports@laoiscoco.ie) or call 057-8664058



## Autumn Programme

# Water Safety Classes

With Water Safety Ireland Laois  
Water Safety Ireland Certified Exams



Bronze  
Gaisce Award  
Approved

## Junior Classes (10 Weeks)

**Starting Saturday  
September 20th**  
12-15yrs  
11.45am - 12.45pm

Venue: Laois Leisure Portlaoise  
Cost: €60

Free  
"Come and Try  
Session"  
on Sat 20th  
September at  
11.45am

Places are limited and booking is essential.  
Please email [sports@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:sports@laoiscoco.ie) or call 057-8664058





**Scoil Chríost Rí**  
Welcomes you to our

# OPEN NIGHT

Thursday September 18th, 2025

5pm – 8pm



Borris Road, Portlaoise,  
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Tel: (057) 86 68002

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Website: [www.scoilchristriportlaoise.ie](http://www.scoilchristriportlaoise.ie)



## WE ARE HIRING Meals on Wheels coordinator

The coordinator will be responsible for liaising with the Steering Committee to establish a Meals on Wheels service in Portlaoise.

Forward a cover letter and CV to

[info@laoispartnership.ie](mailto:info@laoispartnership.ie)

Scan QR code for job description or visit

Careers section of [www.laoispartnership.ie](http://www.laoispartnership.ie)

Closing date  
September 24th



## WE ARE HIRING ASSISTANT COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SUPERVISOR (CHILDCARE TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT)



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Responsible for recruiting people who are unemployed for work placements in community childcare settings across Laois.



Co-ordinate training



Manage budgets

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Scan QR code for job description or visit Careers section of [www.laoispartnership.ie](http://www.laoispartnership.ie). Closing date September 19th

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The Laois Alzheimer Café will provide a warm, welcoming space for people with dementia, their family and friends, social and health care professionals, to meet, exchange ideas and learnings. All are welcome.

For further information please contact  
Grainne Roche Duff **087-6075037**  
[grainne.rocheduff@alzheimer.ie](mailto:grainne.rocheduff@alzheimer.ie)



Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise

**WEDNESDAY SEPT 17TH 6.30PM TO 8PM**

This meeting is a support for carers and families who are living with someone with dementia in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

For further information contact Grainne Roche Duff  
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## THE SHINY RESCUE ROPE



One day, Jesus was talking to a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus wanted to understand how to be close to God.

One day, Jesus was talking to a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus wanted to understand how to be close to God.

Jesus said, "No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man."

Nicodemus looked puzzled, so Jesus told him a story:

"Long ago, God's people were in the desert. They were bitten by snakes and were very sick. But God told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it high on a pole. Whoever looked at it would be healed and live.

In the same way, the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have life forever."

Then Jesus said something wonderful:

"God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son. Whoever believes in Him will not be lost, but will live forever.

God did not send His Son to punish the world, but to save it."

It's like when you're stuck in a hole and someone throws down a shiny rescue rope. You don't climb out by yourself—you grab the rope, and the rescuer pulls you up. Jesus is that rescuer! God sent Him down from heaven because He loves us so much.

### PRAYER

Dear Jesus,  
Thank You for coming from heaven to save us.  
Thank You that God loves me so much.  
Please help me to always believe in You,  
and to share Your love with others.  
Amen.





## The Shiny Rescue Rope

You're stuck in a hole and someone throws down a shiny rescue rope. You don't climb out by yourself—you grab the rope, and the rescuer pulls you up. Jesus is that rescuer! God sent Him down from heaven because He loves us so much. **John 3:13-17**

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



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ROPE  
GOD  
SON  
LIFE



### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters) - The person who came from heaven to save us.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (4 letters) - What God feels for everyone.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (4 letters) - The shiny rescue thing in the story.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (8 letters) - The friend who talked to Jesus at night.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (4 letters) - What Jesus gives forever to those who believe.

N I C O D E M U S   R O P E   L I F E  
L O V E   J E S U S

### Unscramble each word.

1. SJEUS \_\_\_\_\_ (Who came from heaven?)
2. VLEOE \_\_\_\_\_ (What God has for the world)
3. ESSAV \_\_\_\_\_ (What Jesus does for us)
4. ONS \_\_\_\_\_ (Short for "son")
5. PERO \_\_\_\_\_ (Shiny rescue thing in our story)
6. EILF \_\_\_\_\_ (What Jesus gives forever)
7. EEBLIEV \_\_\_\_\_ (What we are asked to do)
8. NIDEOCUSM \_\_\_\_\_ (The man who talked to Jesus)
9. HAENEV \_\_\_\_\_ (Where Jesus came from)
10. GD O \_\_\_\_\_ (The one who loves the world)



### In 3rd Class and above and interested in becoming an Altar Server?



If so, we invite you to fill in an enrolment form which includes a permission slip for your parents/guardian. You may collect the form from the Parish Centre or you can download it from our Parish Website - [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) Training will be provided.



# Time to Think...

## Daniel O'Connell, the Great Liberator.



This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Daniel O'Connell, the "Great Liberator". Daniel O'Connell (1775–1847) changed the face of Irish history. A brilliant orator, political organiser and advocate for non-violent reform, O'Connell led the campaign for Catholic Emancipation and founded the Repeal Association to challenge the Act of Union. He was born on August 6th, 1775, at Carhan House, near Cahersiveen, County Kerry. A program of events to mark the 250th anniversary of O'Connell's birth was launched by Patrick O'Donovan, Minister for Culture, Communication and Sport. A State-led commemoration was held in Derrynane House, O'Connell's ancestral home on 6th August last (the day of his birth). The keynote address was given by Taoiseach Micheál Martin.

It is indeed fitting that O'Connell should be commemorated as his legacy is immense. Both Church and State today have much to learn from the Great Liberator. One of O'Connell's greatest achievements was in forcing the British government to concede Catholic Emancipation in Britain and Ireland in 1829. He campaigned for decades so that Catholics would have civil and political equality with Protestants. This included the right to sit in parliament without prejudice to Catholic beliefs and the opening of state and judicial offices to Catholics on an equal basis with Protestants. O'Connell highlighted the fact that Catholics were excluded from over 30,000 offices in parliament, in law, in the army and in the navy. He campaigned for an end to the parliamentary oath (which all MPs were obliged to take) but which described the Catholic religion as superstitious and idolatrous.

Such flagrant sectarianism and discrimination seem incomprehensible to the 21st century mindset steeped as it is in democratic principles.

However, they were rooted in the prevailing ideology which was enshrined in the Protestant Constitution of the day. The Constitution provided for the establishment of the Church of England, which Parliament felt was necessary to guard the public conscience. Most Protestant politicians found it difficult to conceive of a State which did not profess a single well-defined religious conscience. The Constitution was thought to depend on underpins the organisation of Church and State. So how could Catholics be accommodated within the framework of the Protestant Constitution? The demands of the Church of Rome seemed to be intrinsically irreconcilable with the very essence of Christianity. It was widely felt that Catholicism was destructive of civil liberty and tolerance. Moreover, it was felt that Catholics owed their allegiance to the Pope.

O'Connell challenged this doctrine. He pursued Emancipation because he believed religious liberty was a right for all people. He was convinced that it was possible to combine the fullest religious liberty with the utmost fidelity to the faith and doctrine of the Catholic Church. O'Connell vehemently opposed the idea of a theocratic state. He wanted complete separation of Church and State. His aim was to reconstruct a self-governing Irish nation which would include Catholics, Protestants, dissenters and others living in harmony with full religious liberty for all. He sought to

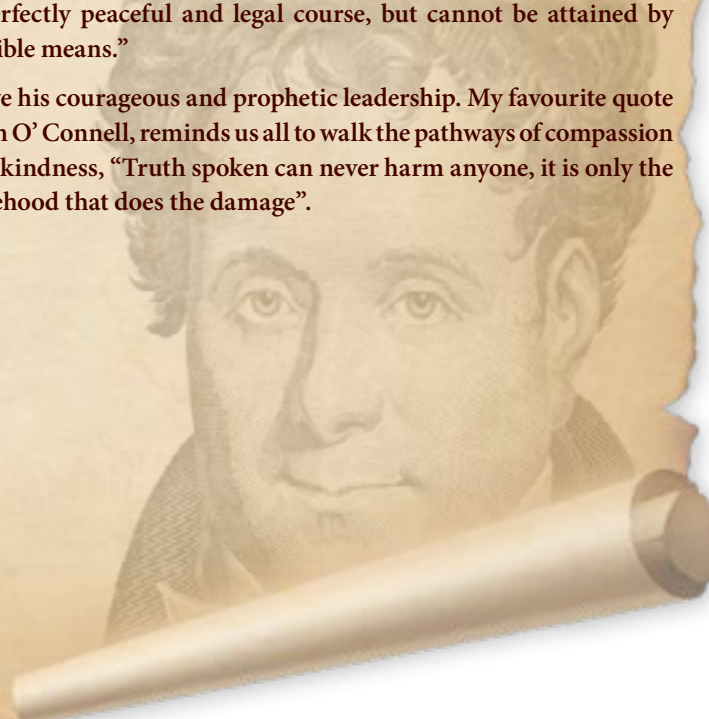
build a liberal Irish State. He would guarantee to all denomination perfect religious freedom and freedom of conscience. All citizens would enjoy universal suffrage; a free vote would be guaranteed.

If only the Church remained faithful to O'Connell's vision! It took until the Second Vatican Council in 1965 before the Church espoused the right to freedom of religion for all and accepted the principle of the separation of Church and State. We could have avoided the abuse of power and control exercised by the Church in 20th-century Ireland. Perhaps Church and State might reference O'Connell for guidance as both institutions attempt to forge a new relationship.

O'Connell was very positive in his views on the role of the Church. He believed that the Church was to be on "the side of the poor, the mitigator of poverty, the comforter of the distressed, the opponent of aristocratic selfishness, the true guardian of the gospel values." O'Connell himself was an exemplary Catholic Christian, dedicating his life to defending the rights of the oppressed. The gospel value of the unique dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God was what motivated him to seek liberty for all: - declaring "I am a friend of perfect liberty to every man of every colour, caste, and creed" He believed himself to be the equal of any man and he tried to instil in Catholics of his day that they were not inferior to the Protestant ruling class. In his own words, he wanted to "take the subdued demeanour and almost crouching walk out" of his Catholic followers. He helped them believe in their true qualities and to be proud of their great Irish heritage.

He also played a significant role in humanitarian movements in Europe and America, supporting the abolition of slavery and opposing the persecution of Jews. His political movement was based upon popular support and the mobilisation of the mass of the people. O'Connell's political causes were best pursued by bringing 'people power' to bear on public policy. He abhorred militarism and violence, believing "that rights can be secured in a perfectly peaceful and legal course, but cannot be attained by forcible means."

I love his courageous and prophetic leadership. My favourite quote from O'Connell, reminds us all to walk the pathways of compassion and kindness, "Truth spoken can never harm anyone, it is only the falsehood that does the damage".





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER.** Top score: Ann Marie Farrell. 1st Lady: Kit Farrell, 2nd Lady: Tied; Paraic Dowling & Pattu Murphy 1st Gent: Catherine Galvin, 2nd Gent: Sheila Duff & Ann O'Dowd. 1st Half: Tied; Rita Arrigan, 2nd Half: Tied; Sadie Chester. Raffle: 1st Mary Dunne, 2nd Sadie Chester, 3rd Peter Stevenson, 4th Christy Fitzpatrick 5th Ann O'Dowd. *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.*

**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.

**SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA:** Call 087-2068972 | seandoylelightengineering. Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

**VOLUNTARY ORGANIST** required for St Brigid's Church SHANAHOE from the area – aged 18-75. Volunteers also required to clean Church Grounds. Ph. Pat Kirk 087-9282753.

**LINE DANCING** with Maureen Culleton, St. Mary's Hall, Mon Sept 15th, 29th Oct 6th, 13th 11am-12noon. *FREE ENTRY and all welcome!*

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** takes place October 1st-31st. For further information, please log onto [www.breastcancerireland.com/](http://www.breastcancerireland.com/)

**CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** in aid of Portlaoise Panto next weekend Sat 20th and Sunday 21st September masses in St Peter & St Paul's church. All support greatly appreciated

**CARING IN OFFALY CE SCHEME:** Home Respite Care Worker, Vacancy No. 2409270, Portlaoise area 19.5 hours per week. Please contact Alison Hackett for more info on 086-0213711 / ahackett@familycarers.ie

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT:** Mon. 15th.Sep. Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4 pm. Wed 17th. in Parish Centre afternoon with Moez from 3pm. Thurs. 18th - Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy. Cards & chat from 3pm. New members welcome further info contact Maria 0879187157

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK:** Come along and be part of our Annual Legion Day Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, 28th Sept. We'll gather at Lyster Square - leaving at 9am for a special day of prayer & community. Seats €25 for adults. €13 for children. To book your place, call Maura on 087 121 0263 or Una on 086 239 2997. We'd love to have you join us.

**SEANCHISTIN, IREY, BALLYFIN, R32X5D6 ACTIVITIES:** Tues. Line Dancing, 11a.m. We dance to our favourite country music star. Wed, Set Dancing 8p.m. Come alone or bring a partner. Thursday, for persons living with Parkinsons, 11a.m. movement to music, dancing, singing, poetry, refreshments & chat. Ph. Maureen 087 6482038

**SING FOR JOY CHOIR:** We begin for the new season on Wed Sept.17th at 11a.m.in St. Mary's Hall, Dublin Rd, R32DW73. This choir offers an inclusive opportunity for persons, (teenagers to older adults) with additional needs, their carers and family to celebrate, through song, talent, friendship and fun in a non-judgemental environment. Contact Maureen 0876482038 for further details.

**FREE LINE DANCING** supported by Laois Sports Partnership every Mon (except Mon.22nd) 11a.m in St. Mary's Hall, Dublin Rd. Contact Maureen 087 6482038

## 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.

**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. *Apologies to Pioneers who applied for Jubilee Pins 2 yrs ago. Due to unforeseen circumstances that presentation could not go ahead on the date.*

**RETREAT AND MINISTRY OF HEALING** St. Mary's Parish, Irishtown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary Eircode E91FD28 Sat. Sept 20th & Sun 21st. Led by international Priest Fr. Rozo Palić. Bring the sick, family, friends. Further info: Patricia 089 9466193 or Imelda 089 9558283.

**ROSARY AT THE GROTTO** Rosary at the Church Grotto on Monday, September 15th at 8pm in honour of Our Lady of Sorrows. Rosary 1st Sunday of the Month at 2.30pm at the Shrine at Top Square.



# The Parish Shop



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- \* Essential Oils/Incense
- \* Happy Days Soy Candles, made locally in Portlaoise
- \* Inspirational Books and Gifts
- \* Sacred Art items for your home
- \* Bibles & Spiritual Books for adults and children



**At The Parish Centre**

**Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm**

**057 862 1142**

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



*Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died*



**Geraldine  
Marum-Crossan**  
Kilminchy,  
Portlaoise



**Martin Powders**  
Ballyteagan,  
Portlaoise

**Agnes Mary Whelan**  
(née Lawless)  
O' Moore Place / Castletown /  
Stradbally, Portlaoise, Laois



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

*Rest in Peace*



## 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of  
**JIMMY HINEY**



Time may pass and fade away,  
But silent thoughts and memories stay,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts, you're always there.

*Remembering you always,  
Your loving wife Josie and Family*

*Rest in Peace Jimmy*

In Loving Memory of  
**PATRICK (PAT) MILLS**

Formerly St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
10th Anniversary occurs 15th September 2025.



Anniversary Mass **Sat. 13th Sept at 6.30pm** in St. Peter & Paul's Church  
Daddy..... A quiet thought, a silent tear  
A constant wish you were still here  
Sadly missed everyday since  
*Your loving son daughters and family*  
Papa..... We think of you today,  
but that is nothing new  
For in our hearts you will live forever  
Because we thought the world of you  
*With love, your grandchildren.*

In Loving Memory of  
**CHRISTINE FARRELL**

39 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.

18th Anniversary occurs 16th September 2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the  
Parish Church, **Sunday 14th September at 12:30pm.**

You left behind some aching hearts that loved  
you most sincere, we never shall and never will  
forget you, Mother dear.

*Loved and sadly missed by her sons, daughters,  
daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren  
and great-grandchildren.*

*May Christine Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of  
**BRIDGET POWDERS**

18 Grattan Street, Portlaoise

29th Anniversary occurs 16th September 2025.



*To a wonderful mother*

A beautiful image of an Angel is what I see  
when I think of you. You have been my  
Guardian Angel each day my whole life  
through. Thank you for being my hearts first  
home, for all the laughter and all the fun and  
all the journeys Mam.

*May they continue on.*

*Love you to the moon and back – together forever.  
Love your daughter Betty, great grand-daughter Emily Rose,  
grandsons Pierce and Cole. Xx*

*Rest in Peace Mam*

In Loving Memory of  
**JEMEEL WALSH**

Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs 17th September 2025.



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

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

*Loved and remembered by her husband Gerry,  
children Matthew, Alex and Sarah and extended  
family.*

*Rest in Peace Jemeel*



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In Loving Memory of

## CHRISTINE COUGHLAN

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurs 14th September 2025.

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

Your presence we miss,  
Your memory we treasure,  
Loving you always, forgetting you never.  
*Sadly missed by all her loving family and  
friends.*

*Rest in Peace Christine*



In Loving Memory of

## THOMAS (TOMMY) DARGAN

3 Abbeylax Rd., Portlaoise.

17th Anniversary occurred 11th September 2025.

Gone are the days we used to share,  
But in our hearts you are always there,  
The gates of memory will never close,

We miss you more than anyone knows,  
With tender love and deep regret,  
We, who loved you will never forget.

*Loved and always remembered by Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

*May Thomas Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of

## THOMAS CARROLL

72 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

15th Anniversary occurred 12th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Saturday  
13th September at 6.30pm.**

The thoughts we held most dearly, are the times  
we spent with you. The laughs, the jokes and  
silly things, are memories fond and true.

*Forever in our thoughts.*

*Sadly missed by all his loving family, extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Thomas*



In Loving Memory of

## PETER CULLEN

6 Oaklawn, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurs at this time.

14th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise,  
**Sunday 21st September at 11.15am.**

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,  
we have you in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.*

*May Peter Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of

## ALAN (TOM) RYAN

Kilminchy & late of Beladd, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs Thursday 19th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on **Saturday 20th September at 6.30pm.**

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

*Love always from your wife Kate, son  
Tommy, daughter Lucy, parents Angela &  
Tommy, sisters Sharon, Linda and Tracey,  
brother Mark extended family and friends.*

*May Alan Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of

## DAMIEN DOHENY

Liogard, Portlaoise, (formerly Castletown, Co Laois).

1st Anniversary occurs on the 17th of September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
Peter & Paul's Church on **Saturday 20th  
September 2025 at 6.30pm.**

I close my eyes and see your face  
Smiling at me from a beautiful place  
You tell me you are never far away  
And that we will meet again someday  
I ask if you could stay a while  
I miss your laugh, I miss your smile  
Then you whisper sweetly into my ear  
I never leave you, I'm always here.

*Sadly missed, deeply loved and always remembered  
by your loving wife Edel.*

*Rest in Peace Damien*



In Loving Memory of

## KATHLEEN (BRIGID) DEEVY

Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

Whose 9th Anniversary occurs 12th September 2025.

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

God knew that she was suffering,  
That the hills were hard to climb,  
So He closed her weary eyelids,  
And whispered, Peace be thine.  
Away in the beautiful hills of God,  
By the valley of rest so fair,  
Some day, we know not when,  
We will meet our loved one there.

*Will those who think of Mam today,  
A prayer to our Blessed Mother say.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by her daughter Marie, son-in-law  
Seamus, grandchildren Blaine, Evan, Aoife, Clodagh and partners and great-  
grandchildren Ellie-Mae, Heidi-Marie, Leah, Molly, Bobby, Tom, Teddy and  
Jack, extended family and friends.*

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*







In Loving Memory of  
**THOMAS (TOM)  
LAWLESS**

Newpark, Portlaoise  
1st Anniversary occurs on 16th  
September 2025.

The moment that you died our hearts were torn in two  
One side filled with heartache the other went with you.

No words or verse can really say

How we feel on this sad day.

The happiest we ever knew  
were as a family complete with you.  
To hear your voice and see your smile,  
To sit and talk with you awhile  
To be together in the same old way  
Would be our dearest wish today.

*Always loved and sadly missed by your loving wife Kathleen  
your heartbroken children Siobhan, Thomas, Barry,  
Fiona, Caroline, Seamus and Cori-Anne, your treasured  
grandchildren and your extended family and friends.*

*Also remembering his dear Mother "Molly" late of Marian  
Place whose 30th anniversary is 15th September.*

*Together again in Heaven.*



In Loving Memory of  
**JOHN BURKE**

13 Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.  
10th anniversary occurs 13th Sept 2025.

To a husband, father, grandfather,  
with love.

10 years John have come and gone  
since you were called away.

But in our hearts your love remains

As strong as yesterday.

The lessons that you taught us,

Sill shape the path we take

Your kindness, courage, steady hands-

All gifts you helped us make.

We miss your voice, your warm embrace

The twinkle in your eye

But we still feel your presence near

Each sunset, star and sky.

So on this day we send you

Our love to heaven above

Forever proud, forever grateful

*Loved always Mary, Conor, Kate,  
Maeve, Ruairi and grandkids xxxx*

*May John Rest in Peace*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  
ANN GORMAN**

Cherry Grove

Whose 1st birthday away from  
home occurs on 17th September.

Heaven holds our Mother

On this her special day

Lord I ask this of you

To give her a bouquet

Of beautiful scented flowers

And tell her they're from us

Please tell her that we love her

And miss her very much



*Love and missed by her 8 children, grandchildren, great  
grandchildren extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Ann*

**MONTH'S MIND**

In Loving Memory of

**LIAM LOUGHNANE**

Rathnamanagh, Portlaoise

Whose Month's Mind occurs 22nd September.



Mass will be celebrated for Liam on  
**Saturday 20th September 6.30pm**  
in St. Peter & Paul's Church.

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

*From your loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Liam*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

In loving memory of our beautiful Mother

**MARGARET HARDING  
(NÉE CONROY)**

St. Brigid's Place

4th Birthday in Heaven – 11 September 2025.

Whispering to the heavens

On your special day,

Hoping our love reaches you

In some magical way.

*We love & miss you everyday.*

*David, Paul, Ray, Jennifer, Tracy  
and all our families x .*

*May Margaret  
Rest in Peace*







In Loving Memory of  
**KATHLEEN GRANT**  
 (NÉE DELANEY)  
 Colt, Ballyroan.  
 1st anniversary occurs  
 20th September 2025.

1st Anniversary Mass will be at 7pm on  
**20th Sept 2025** in St. Fintan's Church Raheen.

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane,  
 We would walk right up to heaven  
 and bring you home again.  
 No farewell words were spoken,  
 no time to say goodbye  
 You were gone before we knew it  
 and only God knows why.  
 Our hearts still aches in sadness  
 and secret tears still flow,  
 What it meant to lose you,  
 no one will ever know.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving  
 children, PJ, Martin, Sheila, Nicola, Cathal, Cathariona,  
 Carl, Michael and Annette, Grandchildren, Great  
 Grandchildren, Sons in law and Daughters in law.  
 May Kathleen Rest in Peace*

**40TH ANNIVERSARY**  
 In Loving Memory of our Dad  
**JOHN (BARNEY)**  
**BRENNAN**

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

Died 18th September 1985.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
 Peter & Paul's Parish Church for John on  
**Thursday 18th Sept. at 7.30am and 10am.**

Mass for Oliver will be celebrated  
 on **Thursday 25th Sept. at 7.30am and 10am.**

He never looks for praises, He's never one to boast,  
 He just goes on working quietly For the ones he loves the most.  
 His dreams are seldom spoken, His wants are very few.  
 And most of the time his worries go unspoken too.  
 He's there, a firm foundation, Through all our storms of life,  
 A sturdy hand to hold onto in stressful times of life.  
 A true friend we can turn to when times are good or bad  
 One of our greatest blessings the man that we call Dad.  
 We love you Dad.

And our Brother  
**OLIVER PATRICK BRENNAN**

Died 25th September 1963.

Our time together was special, so were the memories we made  
 And although you live in Heaven now those memories never fade  
 We bow our heads in silence and remember our brother with love  
 And know that you are up there watching from above.

*Sadly missed by all their loving family and extended family.  
 May Barney & Oliver Rest in Peace*



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**Contact Matthew**

**087-2549195**

**David 087-2369887**



# LITURGY CONFERENCE

‘It is Good for Us to be Here’(Mark 9.5)

Come and join us for a day of personal enrichment as we explore many aspects of the celebration of Mass and Liturgy in our parishes

20 September 2025

Cathedral of the Assumption & Carlow College

Conferences and Workshops 9am to 5pm

With Mass at 6:15pm



Bookings can be made online at  
[www.kandle.ie/Liturgy/Conference](http://www.kandle.ie/Liturgy/Conference)  
or via the QR code by 17th September



An opportunity for the children to receive a child friendly explanation of the Sunday's Gospel and Liturgy, in a fun and prayerful way.





# Cuisle Centre Timetable

T: 057 868 1492

E: [info@cuislecancersupport.com](mailto:info@cuislecancersupport.com)  
[cuislecancersupport.com](http://cuislecancersupport.com)

## MON

### Mindfulness Programme

10:30am - 11:30am

Starting 6th Oct

### Reflexology / Reiki

By Appointment Only.

### Counselling

By Appointment Only.

### Support Nurse Available

By Appointment Only.

### Creative Arts Therapist

Available to children who have been affected by a cancer diagnosis.

By Appointment Only

## WALK IN SERVICE

Cancer Information & Support.

No Appointment Needed.

## TUES

### Thrive & Survive programme

(Developed by Stanford University)

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

Next programme starting Nov 2025

### Mindfulness for Men

2:30pm - 4:00PM

Starting Date TBC

### Citizen's Information Adviser

Will give you advice about the financial entitlements you may receive and help you with the process. e.g., medical card application etc.

### Aqua Aerobics

Please give the centre a call if you would like to attend this class.

Starting 23rd Sep 2025.

## WED

### Chair Yoga

Class 1: 10.00am - 11.00am

Class 2: 11.30am - 12.30pm

### Booking Essential

Starting 24th Sep

### Bereavement Counselling

By Appointment Only.

Funded by Laois Hospice

### Manual Lymphatic Drainage

A specialised gentle massage for patients with lymphoedema, which may result from surgery or radiotherapy.

By Appointment Only.

### Art

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Starting 1st Oct

### 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.

Starting Feb 2026

## THURS

### Creative Arts

10:00am - 12:00pm

### "Look Good, Feel Better"

11:30am - 1:00pm

Places limited

Date TBC

### Play Therapist

Available for children from 3 years upwards who have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis in the family.

### Garment Fitting

Serra nova sleeve/ leg garments for lymphoedema.

20th Nov

Spaces Available

Booking Essential

## FRI

### Prosthesis & Bra Fitting Day

28th Nov

Spaces Available

Booking Essential

The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre is a charity, and all our services are provided free of charge.



## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
11<sup>th</sup> September 2025



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

Paul Dooley  
Dooley Family  
Seamus Tarleton  
Paul Keenan  
Katie Reidy  
Catherine McEvoy  
Martin Parkinson  
Tony Fitzpatrick  
Claire Scully  
Fintan & Sylvia  
Liam Greene  
Tony Flanagan  
Mia, Millie & Kadi Cuddy

### MATCH 3s €1,000

13  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€77  
each

### PROMOTER

Paul Dooley  
Paul Dooley  
Online Lotto  
Lotto Gift  
John Loughlin  
Catherine McEvoy  
Barbara Dowling  
Tony Fitzpatrick  
Parish Shop  
S O'Brien  
Parish Centre  
Paul Dooley  
E Phelan

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

Sunday's Gospel.

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Number: 21:4-9  
Responsorial Psalm 77:1-2, 34-38  
Philemon 2:6-11  
John 3:13-17

### 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: IES3AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

Scan this QR Code to take you directly to our Donate facility



Thank you  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. Simon Jin  
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira  
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes  
Tel: 057 8621142

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

### Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person  
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

## 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 Secretary Michelle Bartley

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



LINK UP

Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm or  
12 noon Wednesday (subject to availability of space)

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully



# SHANÓRÉ GOSPEL CHOIR WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**REHEARSALS EVERY  
TUESDAY**

**20:00-21:00PM**

**ST BRIGID'S CHURCH,  
SHANAHOE**

**0877004903**