

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

5th October 2025

Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time



**POPE JOHN PAUL II
AWARD**



Congratulations to our John Paul II students from St. Mary's CBS and Scoil Chríost Rí who proudly received their awards last Friday night in Carlow Cathedral. A wonderful recognition of their commitment, service, and faith—well done to all!

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

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



1. Faith can move mountains... well it can certainly get us moving. Recall a time when you were full of self-doubt, skepticism about a project, or lacking trust in God. What was that like?

Contrast this with times when you believed in yourself, or in the value of a project you had undertaken, or when your faith and trust in God was strong. What kind of faith have you found enriched your life?

2. Faith is like a mustard seed, small, and sometimes we may be tempted to wait till our faith grows. Part of the message in the gospel is to use the faith we have, even though it may be small. That is how we grow in belief in ourselves and in God's presence in our lives. Does your experience back up this?

3. It is nice when what we do is recognised and acknowledged, but the desire for recognition leaves us vulnerable. It is not always forthcoming. It can be helpful if our main motivation in doing something is the value of the action itself. Have you experienced this?

4. This is particularly true when it comes to love. Love is a free gift. What is given lovingly is not given because of a claim. What is your experience of the freedom of love given and received?

Faith is not measured by its size but by its surrender. When the disciples pleaded, 'Increase our faith!' Jesus replied that even faith as small as a mustard seed could uproot mountains. Yet true faith is not about spectacular displays – it's about humble obedience. 'When you have done all you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants''. God doesn't demand grand achievements but faithful steps. Today, trust Him with what little faith you have, and let obedience – not applause – be your motive. The smallest seed of faith, planted in surrender, moves heaven's hand.

**THOUGHT
FOR TODAY**

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.

October Collection for the Priests of the Parish

Envelopes for the October Collection for the priests of the parish are in the Development Boxes or in the Church porches.

Thank You for your support.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Aodhán Matthew Mann, Aghnaharna Drive

Who was baptised last weekend.

Prayer for strength Saint Pope John XXIII Feast 11 October

Every day I need you,
Lord, but today especially,
I need some extra
strength to face whatever
is to come.

This day, more than any
other day,

I need to feel you near me to strengthen my
Courage and to overcome any fear.
By myself I cannot meet the challenge
of the hour.

We are frail human creatures
and we need a Higher Power
to sustain us in all that life may bring.
And so, dear Lord, hold my trembling hand.
Be with me, Lord, this day and stretch out your
powerful arm to help me.
May your love be upon me
as I place all my hope in you.
Amen.



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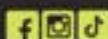
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THE FATIMA CANDLE

will be lit at 10am Mass
in the Parish Church

MON. 13TH OCT

in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for
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will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm.

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PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2026/2027

Enrolments will be accepted from Oct. 6th 2025—Oct. 24th 2025. Enrolment forms are available directly from each school or via school websites:

*Gaelscoil Phortlaoise
Holy Family Junior School
Holy Family Senior School
Ratheniska NS
Scoil Bhride*

Scoil an Fhraoich Mhóir, The Heath

Enrolment to a school for a Special Class Placement:

We have been asked to remind parents who are considering a special class placement for their child from September 2026 that they must apply to the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) for an eligibility letter in line with Circular 39/2025.

OTHER SCHOOL ENROLMENTS 2026/2027

ABBEYLEIX Oct. 6th 2025—Oct. 24th
Scoil Muire Ballyroan Rd.

SHANAHOE Oct. 6th 2025—Oct. 24th
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*Holy Mass in Honour
of Our Lady Aparecida*
Patroness of Brazil!

Day: Sunday,
12th of October of 2025.

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter & Paul's
Roman Catholic Church.

R32R684 - Portlaoise

Join us as we come together to
celebrate in honour of our Blessed
Mother, Our Lady Aparecida.
The Mass will be in English.
Everyone is welcome.



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6.30 – 8.30

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Forward-Thinking Education at Dunamase College / Coláiste Dhún Másc

As Principal of Dunamase College, I am proud to lead a school that is not only preparing students for examinations, but also for life. Education today must be forward-thinking, adaptable, and responsive to the world our young people will inherit. At Dunamase College, this vision shapes everything we do.

Being a one-to-one digital school ensures every student is equipped with an iPad that transforms how they learn. Technology for us is an integral tool for collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. From podcasting to coding, our students are learning the skills that tomorrow's world demands.

Alongside innovation, we place a strong emphasis on the arts and creativity. Through our unique partnership with Music Generation Laois, students have opportunities to explore music at every level, while drama, visual arts, and design provide further outlets for imagination. Creativity is not confined to the arts alone; our STEAM focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) fosters problem-solving, teamwork, and curiosity in equal measure.

Sport and wellbeing are central to school life. From traditional team games to new and emerging sports, every student is encouraged to participate, belong, and thrive. We believe that education is at its best

when it develops both the mind and the body.

We are also deeply proud to be the first school in Laois to receive the Champion School of Sanctuary Award, recognising our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all. Student voice, leadership, and wellbeing are central to our ethos. Our young people are encouraged to be ambitious, resilient, and compassionate – values that will serve them throughout their lives.

We are also proud to offer students the opportunity to complete their education through Irish with our Aonad Lán Gaeilge. It is a community where students experience their subjects, friendships, and school day through Irish.

Studying in the Aonad allows young people to become confident, fluent speakers while also opening doors to future opportunities in education, media, business, and public service.

Our Open Evening will take place on Thursday, October 9th, from 6.30–8.30pm. We warmly invite all parents and pupils in 5th and 6th class to visit, meet our teachers and students, and experience first-hand what makes Dunamase College such a vibrant and innovative place of learning.

CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

HANDING ON
THE FAITH



A Mustard Seed Faith

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? The mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds. The mustard seed is so small that you can hardly even see it. Some people wear a necklace that has one of these tiny mustard seeds inside of a piece of glass. They wear this necklace as a symbol of their faith in God. Do you know why the mustard seed is considered a symbol of faith?

One day, Jesus was talking to his disciples when one of them turned to him and said, "Lord, increase our faith." Jesus answered and said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Can you imagine what it would be like to have that kind of faith?

I heard a story about a man who read this verse in the Bible and decided to put it to the test. There was a large tree in his front yard, so he went out to that tree and said, "In the morning when I wake up from my sleep, I want you to be gone." That night the man went to bed. When he woke up the next morning, he went to front door, opened it, and looked out into his front yard. "Just as I thought!" the man said. "It's still there."

Well, first of all, the man didn't have mustard seed sized faith, did he? In fact, he didn't have any faith at all. When he told the tree to be moved, he never expected it to happen. In the second place, I think that the man misunderstood what Jesus was trying to teach his disciples.

Jesus was not suggesting that you and I go around trying to move trees just to prove that we have faith. What Jesus was trying to teach his disciples - and what he wants you and me to learn - is that it doesn't take a great faith to produce great results. Why? Because the results don't depend on us, they depend on God. If the results depended on the size of our faith, I have no doubt that we would probably go around bragging about our great faith.

What have we learned about faith today? This is what I hope we have learned: Don't ask for a great faith so that we can do great things — ask for faith the size of a mustard seed so that we can see God do great things!

God is still sending "wake up" calls to people today. Let us pray that they will listen to his voice and follow him before it is too late.



Mission Month Activity Calendar 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is the month when we celebrate the missionary work of the Church around the world. During this month, we ask young people to share hope and solidarity with the world's poorest children through prayer and little acts of kindness that they can carry out each day.			1 Today is the feast of St Thérèse the Little Flower. She is the patron saint of the missions!	2 Gai ar son ár misineir! go léir!	3 Be thankful that you have clean water to drink. Try not to waste it. Turn off the tap!	4 Today is the feast St. Francis of Assisi. Do something nice for your pet if you have one.
5 Tell someone you love how great they are!	6 Make friends with someone new today.	7 Ask your teacher if your class can take part in Children's Day of Mission Prayer on Friday.	8 Why not go to the library today and get your head into a good book.	9 Pray for children who are sad and lonely.	10 It's Children's Day of Mission Prayer. Is your class taking part?	11 Turn off the TV and hang out with a friend.
12 Cheer an elderly relative up with a chat on the phone.	13 Don't be afraid to ask questions, that's how you learn!	14 Make someone SMILE!	15 Love the world you live in.	16 Pray for Peace.	17 Be grateful for the food you get and pray for children who are always hungry.	18 Bring your neighbour's wheellie bin back in for them.
19 Today is World Mission Sunday. Can you give some pocket money to help missionaries?	20 Eat some fruit today instead of sweets.	21 Say a prayer before bed for children who have nowhere safe to sleep.	22 Today is the feast of St Pope John Paul II. Ask an adult about him today.	23 Replace the toilet roll when it's gone. It makes a difference!	24 Thank your teacher and say a prayer for them today.	25 Help to tidy the house for mid-term.
26 Wash up for dinner tonight because every little helps at home!	27 It's mid-term break so have a lie in, but thank God for your home.	28 When you visit an elderly relative, ask them about their hobbies.	29 Clean out your schoolbag so there's no sticky surprises next week.	30 Invite your family to pray together.	31 Prepare breakfast for your family today.	

A Mustard Seed Faith



He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Luke 17:6



Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- _____ 1. Twelve disciples chosen by Jesus to preach the gospel.
A. pharisees **B. apostles** **C. angels** **D. troops**
- _____ 2. To make greater or larger
A. obey **B. shrink** **C. seed** **D. increase**
- _____ 3. Belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person or idea.
A. obey **B. deny** **C. hope** **D. faith**
- _____ 4. A small kernel that is buried in the ground to grow.
A. leaf **B. branch** **C. seed** **D. twig**
- _____ 5. A thick, yellow liquid that tastes spicy and is eaten in small amounts on meat and sandwiches.
A. honey **B. pickles** **C. jam** **D. mustard**
- _____ 6. A tall plant with a wooden trunk, branches, and leaves.
A. tree **B. flower** **C. bush** **D. ivy**
- _____ 7. A large area of salt water partly or completely surrounded by land.
A. river **B. sea** **C. pond** **D. pool**
- _____ 8. To do what you are told or expected to do
A. tattle **B. gossip** **C. lie** **D. obey**



My Prayer

Dear Father, we ask for a mustard seed sized faith. Help us to believe and never doubt your mighty power. In the name of Jesus we pray.
Amen.



The Rosary

October is the month of the Rosary but in October we also remember all those who work as missionaries. While reciting Prayers, you think about certain stories in the lives of Jesus and Mary. These stories are called Mysteries: A Mystery is a story about God. Rosary beads are used to keep count of the Prayers and Mysteries. The word Rosary means garland of roses. The complete Rosary consists of five decades. There are four sets of mysteries and five stories in each set.

The Mysteries are:

- ◆ The Joyful Mysteries (Prayed Monday and Saturday)
- ◆ The Sorrowful Mysteries (Prayed Tuesday and Friday)
- ◆ The Glorious Mysteries (Prayed Wednesday & Sunday)
- ◆ The Luminous or Light Mysteries (Prayed Thursday)

Hail Mary

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
The Lord is
with thee.
Blessed art



thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now, and at the hour of our
death. Amen.

Time to Think...

Slowing Down ...



Pope Leo's, first 100 days in the Petrine Office recently took place. His ministry is fuelled with deep discernment and prayer. Two qualities stand out: calmness and confidence. The calmness seems to come from his overwhelming belief that most problems are less intractable the more people can really listen to one another. (It's a conviction that dove-tails nicely with the importance of listening to others which is at the very core of the synodal approach as the best and only way being church developed by Pope Francis). Before debate or discussion or discerning solutions, he suggests, we need to listen, really listen by giving others our full and undivided attention.

Leo's confidence too is truly remarkable. Even before he became pope, he had the confidence to correct Vice-President J. D. Vance (who only became a Catholic in 2019) when he used Catholic teaching to justify Trump's draconian immigration policy. That said, it must have been a surreal moment of holy bewilderment when the reality dawned on Cardinal Robert Prevost in the conclave as the votes began to dictate the possibility and then the probability and then the reality that though he entered the conclave as a cardinal he would be leaving as pope.

Another surreal moment was to follow when the eyes of the world were trained on the balcony of St Peter's, that small narrow space where dramas have unfolded for centuries as pope after pope, inevitably shell-shocked and cautious, was introduced to the millions and now billions of Catholics and Christians, those of faith and no faith and all who were captivated by the extraordinary event emerging before their eyes. And then as the first actors in the holy frame emerged from the shadows and the cardinal designated to announce a new pope to the world cleared his throat and, as tradition demands, proclaims in Latin – the official language of the Catholic Church – the same words *Habemus Papam* (We have a Pope) and revealed the new pope's own name and his chosen name as pope.

Then Cardinal Prevost emerged as Pope Leo XIV on the balcony of St Peter's and spoke in English, Italian and Spanish, first slightly faltering words as if the emotion of the occasion was in danger of overwhelming him then extraordinarily confident words to the massed thousands in St Peter's Square and to the billions around the world. His first words to the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square were words of peace, directed to all the world: "Peace be with you all! Beloved brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who has given his life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, reach your families, to all people, wherever they may be, to all peoples, to all the earth. Peace be with you!"

In the 100 days that followed, his calmness and his confidence indicated a serious man with a clear sense of the balance needed in his new role. If Leo appeared to be deliberately walking a tightrope by reaching out to both the liberal and conservative wings of the Church, it was fully intended. If the question hanging in the air was whether Leo was a pope like Benedict XVI or Francis I, the answer Leo was proposing was that he was a bit of both. So, the first image of him was in the traditional vestments that Benedict loved

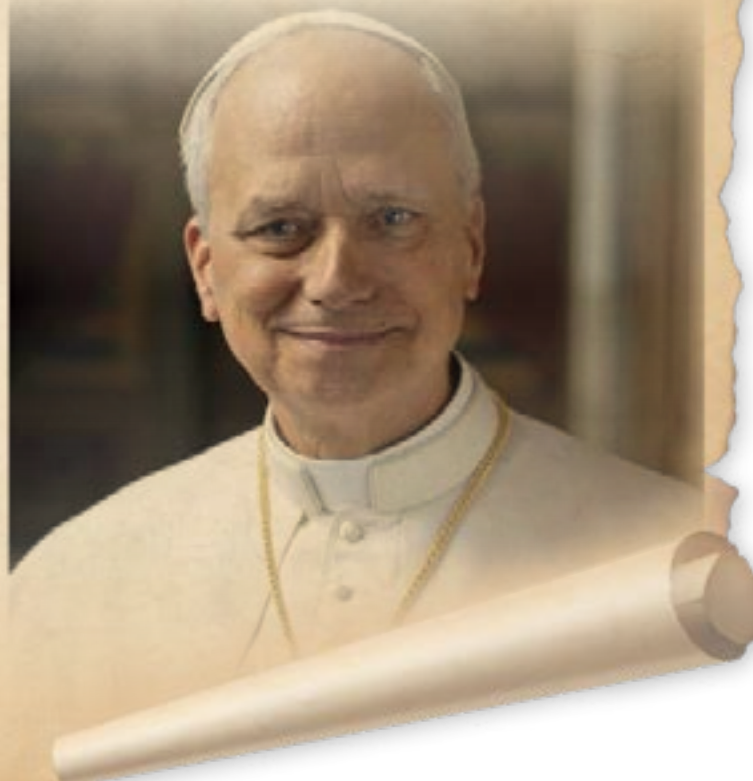
and this was balanced by a clear statement that the Francis reform would continue. In Irish-speak, he is going to bring both sides of the road with him.

Another example of that balance was the publicity given to two churchmen he invited to meet him. One was the Jesuit priest and LGBTQ+ advocate, Fr. James Martin, with whom he echoed Pope Francis' words that 'everyone is welcome in the Church' and encouraged Martin to continue his ministry. The meeting and the message, as one commentator expressed it, 'reassured progressive circles of continuity in pastoral inclusion'.

He also invited Cardinal Raymond Burke, a staunch traditionalist, to celebrate the Latin (Tridentine) Mass at St. Peter's Basilica – a practice restricted under Francis. The gesture is seen as an olive branch to conservatives, helping to reassure conservative Catholics who felt marginalized during Francis's reforms.

Two other straws in the wind encourage confidence in Leo's leadership. One is his measured and assured touch in calmly arguing for peace in a world at war. Gaza and Ukraine in particular, have elicited a focus on the need for hostages to be released from Gaza, the plight of the exhausted civilian population in Ukraine and for immediate humanitarian assistance in Gaza. The other is his repeated identification of himself as 'a son of Augustine'. He sees himself as an Augustinian friar, thus highlighting the importance of fraternity and community, indicative of his commitment to shared leadership in the way of Francis. Colm McCann of the Sunday Independent who spent some time with Leo reached this reassuring verdict: 'One thing is clear; he (Leo) doesn't want to be the centre of attention . . . he realises that if you want to speak out, first you have to listen'.

A listening pope is surely a good omen for the building of a synodal church, a People's Church.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER. Top score: Breda & Betty. 1st Lady: Margaret Flanagan, 2nd Lady: Molly O'Brien, 1st Gent: Tom Kearns, 2nd Gent: Frank Keenan, 1st Half: Terry Dunne, 2nd Half: Ann Pearson, Sixteen Tricks: P McEvoy & L McCarthney. Raffle: 1st S Bennett, 2nd P Stevenson, 3rd M Dunne, 4th S Bennett 5th B Kennedy. *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.

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, Oct 6th, 13th, 20th 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/

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

LAOIS COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB, PORTLAOISE. Morning bridge every Wednesday morning at 10.15am in Portlaoise Enterprise Centre. Beginners are welcome and lessons given to improve your skills. Contact William on 087-0929898.

PARACHUTE JUMP – 18th Oct "Johnny One Leg" raising funds for the Fatima Pilgrimage Group to bring sick people to Fatima. The Pilgrimage will be 11th June 2026. Full information from Maura O'Brien 087 - 1210263

THE PORTLAOISE PANTO COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone who gave so generously at the church gate collection last weekend. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Panto Production this year is 'Goldilocks and the 3 Beours' and is on in Dunamais Theatre from Sat 17th -Sat 24th January 2026. Tickets on sale soon.

WANTED ACTORS AND ACTRESSES for on and off stage for Fourth Wall Laois Theatre group. All ages required for acting and backstage and front of house. Contact Kevin on 087-9614235.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO Tuesday 7th October 2025 St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 45 numbers €1350 Double number €370 Lotto €600.

ACTIVE RETIRED Monday 6th October bowls in St Mary's hall from 2-4pm. Wednesday 8th. Quiz. From 3pm. Parish Centre. Thursday 9th. October in Sue Ryder Kilminchy cards and chat from 3pm. New members welcome to any/all. Further info - Maria at 0879187157.

PORTLAOISE ACTIVE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

have arranged a day visit to Drogheda on Wednesday 22nd October to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Canonisation of St. Oliver Plunkett.

LAOIS TRADITIONAL SINGERS' CIRCLE: First Thursday of every month. Next session 6 November 2025. 9pm Humes' Bar Portlaoise. Folk songs, sean nós, ballads, stories and recitations welcome. contact Niall 087231093.

PORTLAOISE TOASTMASTERS Portlaoise Toastmasters meeting at Kavanagh's Bar (upstairs) on Monday, 13th October 2025 at 8pm. All welcome.

NEW LINE DANCING CLASS: Commencing Thurs Oct.9th for six weeks ,at 8p.m. Seanchistin Ballyfin,Co.Laois R32X5D6. €50 Further info ph. Maureen 0876482038.

TEAM HOPE – CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL Volunteer Meeting Wednesday 8th October 7pm in the Parish Centre. We are seeking a suitable SPACE to gather and store the shoeboxes. If you know or anywhere that might be freely available, please contact 087-9144992. Table Quiz to support the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal – Deadman's Inn, Ballyfin. Fri. 17th Oct at 8pm. All welcome for a Fun Night.

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, or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

ROSARY AT THE GROTTO 8pm on the First Friday 03rd Oct. and Sunday 5th at the Grotto at the Top Square at 2.30pm.

EMMANUEL HOUSE, CLONFERT H53 ESN6 - DAY OF REFLECTION, including First Saturday Devotions, led by Fr. Eddie Stone & team. Sat. 4th Oct. 11am. Talks, Music, Adoration, Confession, Healing Service and Holy Mass. Bring a packed lunch.

FEAR. HOPE. MERCY. A RECOLLECTION WEEKEND ON THE FOUR LAST THINGS Date: 31st October-2nd November.

Location: Tí Chulainn Centre, Mullaghbawn Co. Armagh. Retreat leader: Fr Patrick Desmond OP. Fully residential with full board - non residential rates available also - all details online. Early bird closes Mon. 29th Sept. For more info visit www.thecollect.ie or email info@thecollect.ie

THE GUILD OF ST PHILIP Portlaoise, provides a befriending service for prisoners in Portlaoise and Midlands, who have no family visits. This experience greatly affects their ability to adjust to life 'outside' as law abiding citizens. The Guild is a positive force in the lives of prisoners visited. If you are interested in becoming a Guild member please contact 0860462405.

*Our Prayers are asked for those
who recently died.*



*Anna Melia
(née Lyons)
Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise*

*Nora (Noreen) Twomey
(née Keating)
Renard, Cahersiveen, Kerry /
Portlaoise, Laois*



*Seamus O'Reilly
Tipperary, Late of Portlaoise*

*Margaret O'Connell
Capoley, Portlaoise*



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

**In Loving Memory of
TERESA SHIELS**

1st anniversary occurs 4th October 2025.



In loving memory of my one true friend Teresa.
As I count my blessings there is one thing rings true.
I'll always be so grateful for the special times we have
shared throughout the years. Times that brought us
closer though the laughter and the tears.
And when I look upon my life what matters in the end.
That I was very lucky to find one true, faithful,
forever friend.

*Loved always, missed, never forgotten.
Your forever faithful friend Ellen xxx*

**In Loving Memory of
ANNE GRIFFEY**

32 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
27th Anniversary occurred
24th September 2025.



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 Anne*

**In Loving Memory of
BOSCO BARTLEY**

Whose first anniversary occurs
6th October 2025.



Anniversary Mass **Sat. 4th Oct. at
6.30pm** in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church.
We send our love to you in Heaven
You are deeply missed
And your memory remains a beautiful
gift we hold dear.

*Sadly missed by his sisters Frances, Josie, Pauline,
brother PJ, nieces and nephews.
Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET CULLEN**

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise. 4th Anniversary occurs 9th October 2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Thursday
9th October at 10am.**

Just a prayer from the family that loved you,
just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your
loving husband Frank, family and friends.
Rest in Peace Margaret*

**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN GORMAN**

11 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
62nd Anniversary, 3rd October, 2025.



Along the road to yesterday
That leads us straight to you
Are memories of happy days
Together we once knew.

*Sadly missed by your loving family and extended family.
May Martin Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL GAYNOR

Whose 51st Anniversary occurs 4th October 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Sat 4th Oct. at 10am / Sun 5th at 12.30pm**

You are with us dad when the morning breaks and as the day departs,

For God has left a special gift of footprints in our hearts.

*Lovingly remembered Dad today avnd forever,
by all your loving family xxx*

May Michael Rest in Heavenly Peace

In Loving Memory of

NED PARKINSON

Cromogue, Kilbricken. 5th Anniversary occurs 12th October 2025.

And his brother Fint

8th Anniversary occurs 24th October 2025. Formerly of Cromogue, Kilbricken and Kent, England.

You're not just a memory silently kept,
You are both part of a family that will never forget.
Deeply missed and always in our hearts.

*Remembering at this time all deceased members
of the Parkinson & Campion families.*

*May Ned & Fint
Rest in Peace*

In Loving Memory of our Dad

PATRICK (PADDY) DOYLE

Formerly 37 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
Died 7/10/1978.

47th Anniversary occurs 7th October 2025.

Dad

If roses grew in heaven Lord, pick a bunch for us.
Place them in our Dad's arms,
and tell him they're from us.

Tell him that we love him, and miss him every day
And when he turns and smiles, place a kiss upon face
And hold him for awhile.

*Loved always, never forgotten by your loving
daughters Ellen, Guggie, Mary and son Joe and families xxx*

Rest in Peace Dad

In Loving Memory of

EOIN FINGLETON

Sallins and formerly of Ballytegan, Portlaoise.
Died 11th October 2019.

6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Sunday 12th October at 12.30pm.**

Never more than a thought away,
Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered every day.

Sadly missed by his Dad, Mam, sisters Aoife and Ciara, brother Brian, nephews Cillian and Oisín, nieces Áine and Éabha, extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Eoin

In Loving Memory of

JOHN BYRNE

St. Martins, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 6th October 2025.

God saw you getting tired,
and so it was to be.

He put his arms around you
and whispered, "Come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you and saw
you pass away, and although we loved you
dearly, we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
working hands at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

*Also remembering at this time Our Mother Helen Byrne
Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving family.*

Rest in Peace John

In Loving Memory of

KAY WALSH

Oaklawn, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurred 30th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Saturday 4th October at 6.30pm.**

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile,
if only I could have you back for just a little while,
Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do,
you always meant so very much and always will do too,
The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain,
but you're forever in my heart until we meet again.

*Sadly missed by your daughter Catriona, sons John & Tony,
daughter-in-law Lisa, grandchildren, brothers & sisters. Also
remembering Kay's late husband Anthony R.I.P.*

Rest in Peace Kay

In Loving Memory of

KEVIN CULLETON

Brittas Lodge, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise, whose 6th Anniversary occurs on the 10th October 2025.

Anniversary Mass for Kevin will be held on **Saturday 11th October at 6.30pm** in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise.

*Loved and missed by his wife Gemma, daughters Ailbhe and Eve, sons Kevin and John, grandchildren Aoife, Páidí, Peigí and Beauden.
Sons-in-law Gearóid and Keith.*

Kevin's partner Sandra and John's partner Jodie.

Brother Mike and Sisters Mary, Ber and Monica. Sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, extended family and friends.

Forever in our thoughts



In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN DEEVY
 24 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
 Whose 13th Anniversary occurs 6th
 October 2025.
 Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
 in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Sunday 5th October at 11.15am.

It's an everlasting sadness, that you're no longer here,
 But every year on this day, we like to think you're near.

Your love for us was constant,
 Your devotion had no end,
 You filled our lives with sunshine, as a Mother and a friend.
 So may you know forever, that to us you were the best,
 And may you find a gentle peace in sweet eternal rest.

*Sadly missed by her sons Pat and Brendan, daughter
 Hannah, daughters-in-law Sylvia and Maura, son-in-law
 Paddy, Grandchildren Craig, Rebecca and Paddy.
 Great Grandson Páidí.*

*Also remembering her dearly departed
 husband Patsy at this time.
 May Kathleen Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of
PETER LANHAM
 Late of Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise
 23rd Anniversary occurs today,
 5th October 2025.
 Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 5th October at 10am.

We often come and visit you just to say hello
 We touch the stone where we
 laid you, can you feel it?
 we don't know,
 we wonder can you see us,
 when we are at your resting place
 can you tell how much we miss you,
 by the look upon our face,
 we tell you all that's happened,
 and just before we go
 we tell you that we miss you, as if you didn't know,
 and as we walk away from you feeling very sad
 we turn around and take one more look,
 and say we love you, Dad.

*Always loved and remembered by his children,
 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

May Peter Rest in Peace



Acknowledgement for
**WILLIAM (BILLY)
 MULHALL**

Coolnacarte, Mountrath, Co.Laois
 Billy's months mind will be held in
 St. Fintan's Church, Raheen on
Saturday the 11th of October at 7pm.

Billy's sons Ger, Declan & Des & families wish to thank all those who
 sympathised with us on our recent loss.

Thanks to our friends, family & neighbours for all their support
 and prayers, and to those who travelled from far & near to attend
 the funeral.

A special word of thanks to Father Paddy Byrne and Father Petru
 Medves for celebrating the funeral Mass.

Thanks to John Hosey for the beautiful music and singing.

We also express our appreciation to Seamus Burke, undertaker and to
 the gravediggers for their kindness and sensitivity.

Thanks to Raheen Vintage club and Colt G.A.A for their assistance
 during Billy's wake and funeral.

Our heartfelt thanks to Billy's carers, the staff of Droimnin nursing
 home and Portlaoise hospital, thanks also to the public health nurses in
 Abbeyleix and the doctors and staff in the health centre, Mountrath.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually,
 please accept this notice as a token of our deepest gratitude.

Rest in Peace William

In Loving Memory of
TERESA SHIELS

28 Beladd, Portlaoise.
 1st Anniversary occurs on 4th October 2025.



Teresa, today, like many other days
 brings special thoughts of you
 Of happy times we shared and the
 caring things you used to do.
 For you were someone special,
 who was thought so highly of,
 You'll always be remembered with
 affection, warmth and love.
 So, sending thoughts to Heaven,
 on the day you went away
 And hope you know you're missed
 Teresa more than words could ever say.

*So sadly missed but always remembered by Chris, Anthony,
 Ian and Caoimhe xxx*

In Loving Memory of

TERESA SHIELS

28 Beladd, Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary
occurs on 4th October 2025.



The stars called you home Teresa,
up high, so far away
I think they missed your brilliance,
they just couldn't let you stay.
You shone that light of yours, Teresa,
on all the lives you touched
We knew your joy for years and years,
I guess they thought enough.
The stars called you home Teresa,
we miss you every day
So every night we scour the skies,
to watch you where you lay.

*Loved and missed always from
Isabelle, Michael and Emily xxx*

In Loving Memory of

WILLIAM (JOE) FITZPATRICK

The Hermitage, Borris Rd. Portlaoise.
10th Anniversary away from home
occurred 2nd October 2025.



We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again xxx

*Sadly missed so much by your sons Mark and William,
daughter Julie, grandsons Colin and Craig,
granddaughters Emma and Amy and
daughters-in-law Elaine and Mary.*

May Joe Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

MAY DUNNE

Clonad, Meelick, Portlaoise.
Died 2nd October 1993.

32nd Anniversary occurs on 2nd October 2025.



We hold you close within our hearts
And there you shall remain
To walk beside us throughout our lives
Until we meet again
So rest in peace dear loved one
And thanks for all you've done
We pray that God has given you
The crown you've truly won.

*Deeply missed by Sean, Denis, Pat, Mary, Bridget,
Tom, Terry, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and all your
grandchildren, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace May



In Loving Memory of

JOHN BRENDAN SHIELS

51 Fielbrook, Portlaoise.

John Brendans 1st Anniversary Mass will
be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church on **Saturday 4th Oct at 6.30pm.**

The family would like to thank all extended family and
friends who supported and sympathised with them during
the loss of Brendan.

We wish to thank Fr. Ciprian and all the priests of the parish for
their help and support organising the funeral mass, and to Sarah
Troy for the beautiful music for the mass.

Special thanks to the nurses and doctors of Portlaoise General
Hospital & Abbeyleix District Hospital for the care and
compassion shown to Brendan, also a special thanks to
Dr. Simon Honan for his care to Brendan.

We would also like to thank funeral Director Matthew Keegan
and David Goode for their professionalism and help through
this difficult time.

To all our neighbours in Fielbrook for their help and support.
As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually,
please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere
appreciation and gratitude.

Rest in Peace John

In Loving Memory of

PATRICK DOORLEY

Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurred 14th September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, on **Sunday 12th October at 12.30pm.**



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

*Sadly missed and much loved by
your loving wife Carmel, Derina,
Caragh, Edel and Pierce,
extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Pat



In Loving Memory of
**PHYLLIS
 FITZPATRICK**
 14 Borris Road, Portlaoise.
 Died 14/10/2004.
 21st Anniversary occurs
 14th October 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
 Parish Church on **Saturday 11th October at 6.30pm.**

Your photo stands in pride of place,
 A gentle smile lights up your face.
 You always seem to be so near,
 Oh how we wish you were still here,
 But trust in God to meet again.

*Always remembered by your loving husband Mick, sons
 James, Thomas and Damien, daughter Theresa, daughters-
 in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

Also remembering at this time her
 loving granddaughter

LEONA CUDDY
 Meelick Road, Portlaoise

*May They
 Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of
TERESA SHIELS
 28 Beladd, Portlaoise. 1st Anniversary
 occurs on 4th October 2025.



Of all the special gifts in life –
 however great or small
 To have you as our Auntie was the
 greatest gift of all
 May the winds of love blow softly
 and whisper in your ear,
 We love and miss you Teresa and
 wish that you were still here
 Tho you sleep in Heaven now, you're
 not that far away
 Our hearts are full of memories that
 stay with us every day.

Loved and missed always from Nora Ann, Logan and Patrick.



In Loving Memory of
JOHN DOHENY
 Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, Co. Laois
 Who died on the 5th October 2024

John's first anniversary Mass is at
 St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on
Saturday 4th October at 7pm.

His life was one of kindly deeds,
 A helping hand to those in need.
 A pleasant smile, a heart of gold,
 No better husband and father a world could hold.

The Doheny family would like to express sincere gratitude
 to everyone who attended the wake and funeral. To those
 who travelled near and far, sent messages of condolences,
 Mass cards, Sympathy cards, and those who sent letters
 which were of great comfort and support to us.

To the consultants, nurses and staff of the William Stokes
 Unit, Tallaght Hospital for providing such compassion to
 us and John in his final days.

To our family, neighbours, friends, work colleagues, and
 those who brought food and helped in any way, we would
 like to express our sincere thanks for your kindness and
 support we received following the passing of our Husband
 and Father John. Words cannot convey our gratitude to all.

Our thanks to St. Fintan's GAA Mountrath for providing
 a guard of honour.

To Fr. PJ and Fr. Joe, thank you for calling to house and
 for your support in planning and officiating John's funeral.

To the undertakers, Seamus and Mary Theresa Burke,
 for your kindness, compassion and support,
 we are forever grateful.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually,
 we hope this message will be accepted as a sincere
 token of our appreciation and gratitude.

*Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by his wife
 Margaret, sons David and Paul, daughter Carol and
 daughter in law Karen.*

Rest in Peace John

In Loving Memory of
ALAN MCEVOY

Esker Hills, Portlaoise

2nd Anniversary occurs on 7th October
2025.



Two years have passed, yet still we feel
The love you gave, so warm, so real.
Though heaven called, you're never far
Your light still shines like a guiding star
In quiet moments, we hear your voice,
A whisper of comfort, a reason to rejoice.
Rest in peace, dear Alan, so kind,
In our hearts, your spirit forever intertwined.
*Deeply missed by her sisters Majella and
Mary and his nieces and nephews.*



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Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026

29th June 2026-3rd July 2026
(4 nights / 5 days)

Full board €700p.p. sharing in
Hotel Sainte Rose.

Single supplement €35 per night.
€100 Deposit secures your place.

Direct flights from Dublin.

Accompanied by a Spiritual Director.
10kg Bag / Optional Travel Insurance.

Savings Schemes for any
pilgrim wishing to avail.

BOOKINGS Open Thursday 9th October at
7pm in the Parish Centre. Booking forms will
be available in the Parish Centre.

Please contact Seán 086-3633785 or Frances
085-8142666 for further information.

The Parish Shop



For Your Special Day

Stocking a wide selection of Wedding Candles, Gifts and Cards



ALSO STOCKING

- * Large selection of Baptismal Candles, Cards and Gifts
candles may be personalised
- * Essential Oils/Incense
- * Happy Days Soy Candles, made locally in Portlaoise
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- * 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

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
2nd October 2025

06

20

21

28

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Gemma Lawlor
Niamh Tarleton
Frank Cullen
Sean Whelan
Alison Ballesty

MATCH 3s €1,000

**5
Match
3s
Receive
€200
each**

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Online Lotto
Frank Cullen
Carmel Whelan
Parish Shop

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Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie



Try not to become a person of success,
but rather become a person of value.
Albert Einstein

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Responsorial Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10



Supporting our Parish

*Each one must give as he or she has decided in their heart, not reluctantly or
under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver' 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

- * Making your offering in the boxes at the Church entrances
- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes
available at Church porches and Parish Centre
 - * Direct payment by cheque or cash
 - * Cashless tap facility at Parish Church
 - * Donation facility on our website
- * Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre
- * Or Transfer directly to our Account

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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 Thursday

9am to 5pm

Contact: Mary Schwer

057-8692154

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Laois Climate Action Festival



COMEDY

The Accidental Activist
Fri 10th Oct | 8pm



WORKSHOP

Sustainable Art Workshop
Sat 11th Oct | 2pm



SWAP

Art, Craft, Supplies & Books
Sat 11th Oct | 2pm - 5pm



FAMILY EVENT

Bee is For Bingo
Sun 12th Oct | 3pm



CABARET

Climate Change Cabaret
Sun 12th Oct | 7pm



TALK

Urban Gardening Talk
Tues 14th Oct | 7pm



CINEMA - €8/€5

Film & Panel Discussion
Wed 15th Oct | 7.30pm



WORKSHOP

Climate Action Zineez
Sat 18th Oct | 2pm



BOOK NOW!

Book on dunamaise.ie or Tel: 057 86 63355

