

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
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up**

16th November 2025

**Thirty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**



World Day of the Poor

The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel. **Pope Leo**

**God of compassion, give us eyes
to see the poor and a heart to
serve them. Inspire us to offer
friendship and generosity, and to
work for a world where all can
live with dignity. Amen**



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Weeding Life's Garden

St. Francis of Assisi was asked one day as he was weeding in the garden, "What would you do if you knew the world was about to end?" St. Francis replied, "Continue weeding my garden of course." The implication was that Francis didn't have to rush around like a headless chicken putting his house in order. Francis was already living his life in a state of readiness, and he had no need to worry himself about the end of the world.



Today we are told what it might be like at the end of time. There might be wars, earthquakes famines plagues and Christian persecution. In fact it doesn't sound too dissimilar to the state of affairs on our daily news programmes. Should we be concerned? Jesus points to the end of history and declares that the future holds a time of reckoning. Like the disciples in today's reading, we are tempted to ask when that time might be, only to be told that it's something that shouldn't concern us. We mustn't listen to those who claim, "The end is nigh..." Instead we must always focus on what there is left to do. The basic premise is that we should keep on doing right, regardless of the circumstances.

Like the people in today's gospel who were so pleased with their temple, we are often pleased with what we build up here on earth. Jesus takes the opportunity to point out that everything man made will come to an end. We would be much better off focusing not on a material agenda but in developing a faith that will endure great adversity.

If we are ready for God's final judgment then we shouldn't be afraid of anything that is ahead of us. Global disaster, wars and earthquakes should hold no terror if we trust completely in God. Our lives are like a garden filled with good things we must nurture, and bad things we must weed out. When the end of time comes, we must face our mortality as Francis suggests, weeding life's garden and living in readiness.

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday - Friday: 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption, The Heath, Sunday: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska, Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

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



We welcome into our Parish Community

Páidí David Murphy, Carmody Walk, Fairgreen

Amara Ellie Okonkwo, Lake Drive

Who were baptised last weekend.



World Day of the Poor

Drawing near to the poor in our midst will touch our lives. It will remind us of what really counts: to love God and our neighbour. Only this lasts forever, everything else passes away. What we invest in love remains, the rest vanishes. Today we might ask ourselves: 'What counts for me in life? Where am I making my investments?' In fleeting riches, with which the world is never satisfied, or in the wealth bestowed by God, who gives eternal life? This is the choice before us: to live in order to gain things on earth, or to give things away in order to gain heaven. Where heaven is concerned, what matters is not what we have, but what we give.

Pope Francis



Happy Presentation Day

Friday 21st November

Mary,
Living from that sacred place
Where earth meets heaven,
Your heart discerned the Holy One
In stars, in sun,
In lives of men and women,
In wind, in rock in miracle of loaves
In sacred Word proclaiming Israel's story,
In all the darkness of life. (Reynold Connolly)



As we celebrate this feast of Our Lady we wish
our Presentation Sisters a happy feast day.

This week Masses for the Dead List will be celebrated on:

Monday at 7.30am

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Thursday at 7.30am



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LAOIS ALZHEIMER Family Support Group Meeting



Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Wednesday 19th November, 6.30pm-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
087-6075037 | grainne.rocheduff@alzheimer.ie

LAOIS ALZHEIMER CAFÉ



Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Thursday 27th November, 11am-1pm

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

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CONGRATUALTIONS TO OUR PARISH LOTTO WINNER!



Monsignor John presenting Chris Holohan with a cheque for €22,000 (€20,000 jackpot & €2,000 promoters prize). Also in photo is Chris's nephew, Conor Brennan. Congratulations to the Holohan family.

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Time to Think...

Elizabeth Barrett A life of Love and Hope



She was dying slowly in her father's house, forbidden to leave—until a poet's letter changed everything and she risked it all for a love that would become immortal. Elizabeth Barrett was born in 1806 into wealth built on Jamaican sugar plantations. She was brilliant from the start—reading Homer in Greek at eight, writing epic poetry at twelve. Her father privately published her first work, “The Battle of Marathon,” when most girls her age were learning needlepoint. Then her body began to fail. A spinal injury. Lung disease. Pain so severe she could barely move. Doctors prescribed opium—laudanum—and she became dependent on it just to function. For years, she lived as a semi-invalid in her father's London townhouse, confined to darkened rooms, watching life happen outside her window.

But her mind never stopped burning. She wrote. Obsessively. Furiously. By the 1840s, Elizabeth Barrett was one of the most celebrated poets in England. Her 1844 collection “Poems” was a sensation. Critics compared her to Shakespeare. She was considered for Poet Laureate when Wordsworth died. And then, in January 1845, she received a letter that would change everything. “I love your verses with all my heart, dear Miss Barrett...”

Robert Browning. A younger poet, six years her junior, writing to tell her that her words had moved him beyond measure. She wrote back. He replied. And suddenly, these two people who'd never met were pouring their souls onto paper. For months, they only knew each other through letters. When they finally met in person in May 1845, something extraordinary happened. Robert saw past the invalid. Past the opium. Past the woman everyone had written off as too sick, too fragile, too ruined for real life. He saw her, and he wanted to marry her.

There was one massive problem: her father. Edward Barrett was a tyrant wrapped in Victorian propriety. He'd forbidden any of his twelve children from marrying. Not for religious reasons. Not for financial ones. Simply because he wanted total control. Any child who married would be disowned completely. Elizabeth was 40 years old. Sick. Dependent on opium. Living under her father's roof and his rules. Most women in her position would have accepted their fate. Elizabeth Barrett was not most women. On September 12, 1846, she walked out of her father's house, married Robert Browning in secret, and fled to Italy. She was 40. He was 34. Her father never spoke to her again. And then? She came alive.

The sunshine of Florence. The freedom of her own life. The love of a man who saw her as an equal. Elizabeth flourished. Her health improved. She even had a son at 43—something doctors had said was impossible.

She wrote the most famous love poems in the English language. “Sonnets from the Portuguese”—Robert's pet name for her—captured what it felt like to be truly seen, truly loved, truly free. Sonnet 43 opens with words that still make hearts stop: “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...” But Elizabeth wasn't just writing love poems. She was furious about the world. And she used her poetry as a weapon.

“The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point” confronted the horror of slavery with brutal honesty—shocking for a white Victorian woman. “The Cry of the Children” exposed child labor conditions so graphically that it helped change British law. “Aurora Leigh,” her novel in verse, argued that women deserved independence, education, and creative lives of their own. She wrote about Italian independence. About corrupt power. About women trapped by society's expectations. She didn't just observe injustice—she attacked it. Critics were scandalized. Proper Victorian ladies weren't supposed to write about slavery, politics, or—God forbid—women's desire for autonomy. Elizabeth didn't care. She'd already defied the biggest authority in her life. She wasn't about to be silenced now.

For fifteen years, she lived in Florence with Robert, writing, loving, raising their son, championing causes that mattered. She was happy. Free. Fully

alive in ways she'd never been in England. On June 29, 1861, Elizabeth died in Robert's arms. She was 55. Her last word was “Beautiful.” Robert never remarried. He kept her room exactly as she left it. He published her final poems and spent the rest of his life protecting her legacy. Here's what makes Elizabeth Barrett Browning's story extraordinary: She was told her life was over. That she was too sick, too old, too ruined to have love or adventure or freedom. Society had written her off. Her father had locked her away. Her body was failing. And she said no. She chose love over security. Freedom over approval. Life over slow death in a gilded cage. She transformed personal pain into universal poetry. She used her privilege and platform to fight for people who had no voice. She refused to let illness, age, or society's expectations define what was possible for her.

Every woman who's been told she's too sick, too old, too damaged, too much, or not enough—Elizabeth's story is our story! Every person who's chosen authenticity over approval, love over fear, freedom over safety—you're living her legacy. She didn't just write “How do I love thee?” She showed us: with courage, with defiance, with absolute refusal to accept a diminished life. Your body might be fragile. Your circumstances might be limiting. The people who should support you might try to cage you instead. But your voice? Your spirit? Your right to love and create and fight for what matters? Those are yours. And nobody can take them unless you let them.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was dying in a darkened room until she chose to live in the full light. She wrote herself free. She loved herself whole. She made her life matter. That's not just history. That's a blueprint.

Be brave enough to walk away from what's killing you, even if it looks like safety. Love fiercely, even if it seems impossible. Use your voice, even if it makes people uncomfortable. Because the world will always have opinions about what you should be, what you can do, who you're allowed to love. But you get to decide who you actually are. Elizabeth did. And her words still echo across centuries: “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...” All of them. Every single one. Without apology. That's not just poetry. That's freedom.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning 1806 –1861

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight

For the ends of being and ideal grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's

Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for right.

I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use

In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose

With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,

Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,

I shall but love thee better after death.

How do I love thee?
Let me count the ways.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



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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.

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.

ABIDE IN HIS LOVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE NOV 21-23. The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran Co. Donegal. A beautiful event for women exploring the beauty & gift of their feminine identity in Christ. Guest Speakers include Sr. Mary Madeline Todd OP (USA), Megan Madden (USA/UK), Fr. Barry Braum, Fr. Mark Wharton (UK), Fr. Francesco Mary Gavazzi, CFR, the Nashville Dominican sisters, & Mass with Archbishop Eamon Martin. Check Eventbrite for tickets & more info.

THE ANNUAL PRAYER SERVICE to remember deceased staff and members of Laois County Council will be held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Portlaoise at 6pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Please note that people of all faiths are welcome to attend to remember our colleagues and friends.

ROSARY AT THE GROTTO – 8pm Friday November 21st for the Feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER

Top score: Catherine Fitzpatrick. 1st Lady: Sadie Chester. 2nd Lady: Paula McEvoy. 1st Gent: Liz Cooper. 2nd Gent: Ties; Liam McCarthney & Ann O'Dowd. 1st Half: Tied; Billy Jackson & Betty Murphy. 2nd Half: Peter Stevenson. Best of 3 games: Margaret Flanagan. Raffle: 1st A M Farrell, 2nd T Mulhare, 3rd M Dunne, 4th L McCarthney, 5th M Malone, 6th S Chester, 7th L Cooper, 8th P Stevenson. *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.

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.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT Monday 17th bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. Wednesday 19th November.no club. Thursday 20th November in Sue Ryder kilminchy cards and chat from 3pm new members welcome tuition given For further information contact Maria at 0879187157.

LINE DANCING FREE, FESTIVE, FUN continues each Monday 11a.m.St.Mary's Bingo Hall, Dublin Rd.Portlaoise. All welcome. Maureen Culleton 0876482038 or Catriona @Laois Sports Partnership.

LAOIS TRADITIONAL SINGERS' CIRCLE First Thursday of every month. Next session 4 December 2025 . 9pm Humes' Bar Portlaoise. Folk songs, sean nós, ballads, stories and recitations welcome. contact Niall 0872313093

NIGHT VIGIL TO KNOCK – Sunday 7th December leaving Lester Square at 7.30pm. All seats - 25 euro - must be paid for at time of booking and will be non-refundable. Contact Maura 087-1210263 or Helena Corbett 087-9611331.

MISSING DOG Pixie missing from the Marian Avenue / Abbeyleix Road area in Portlaoise on 31st October. Ph. 087-9121942

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO Tuesday 18th November 2025 St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm Jackpot on 48 numbers €2,260. Double number €1,860. Lotto €50. Bonus Ball €800.

BOOK OF REFLECTIONS & SONGS By JAMES YORK. For sale in the Parish Centre & Shop.

ANNUAL STREET COLLECTION & FAST FOR CONCERN – Friday 28th November at the usual venues in Portlaoise. Your support would be greatly appreciated supporting Concern Projects overseas including GAZA.

A FUN FUNDRAISING TABLE QUIZ in aid of Portlaoise Pantomime will take place in Delaney's Bar, Main Street, Portlaoise on Friday 28th November at 8.00pm (Registration at 7.30pm). €40 Table for Four. The 41st annual production will be "Goldilocks and the Three Beours", to be staged in Dunamais Theatre, Portlaoise at the end of January 2026.

CHESS GAMES FOR ADULTS in Portlaoise in Kavanagh bar every two weeks. More information about our chess club: <https://www.meetup.com/social-chess-club-in-portlaoise/>

DANCE WORKSHOP (Day Long) Saturday November 22nd at 11a.m.Maureen Culleton will conduct a at Seanchistin, Ballyfin R32X5D6.The dance will be a traditional jig called "The Priest and his Boots" which originated in Co.Clare. Maureen dances it on YouTube with Michael Tubridy of The Chieftains. It's an ideal party piece for adults and children. No special shoes or costume necessary. All are welcome. Further details.0876482038.

VOLUNTEER WITH IRISH GIRL GUIDES: Recruitment Day – Wed. 19th November – 1-7pm at Portlaoise Library. Parent meeting at 6pm. Contact Anita 089-4509277

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Volunteer Drivers in your
area!

**Irish
Cancer
Society**

The Irish Cancer Society's Transport Service
are seeking compassionate volunteer drivers
in your community.

Why Volunteer?

Your time can help to continue the vital service of providing transport for patients attending cancer treatment appointments. Your generosity can ease the journey for many during a challenging time, offering comfort and support when it's needed resulting in a hugely rewarding volunteer experience for you.

What is required?

If you have a minimum of 2 days per month to spare, a valid driving license, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you're the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. Full training will be provided.



I absolutely love volunteer driving – meeting new people all the time, having a chat and helping ease their burden at the same time is a great feeling - *Pauline*

Does this sound like you?

For more information or to become a volunteer driver, scan the QR code or contact Monica at volunteer@irishcancer.ie



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HE HOLDS THE FUTURE

Do you like Chinese food? I love it! When we go out to eat, one of my favourite places is a Chinese restaurant. After you finish eating, they always bring some fortune cookies. When you break them open they have a little strip of paper with your fortune on it. Here are some examples of what they might say:

Good things are coming your way.



Success will be yours at school and at play.

You will have a pleasant surprise soon.



You will make very good choices today.



The time is right to make new friends.

Something you lost will turn up soon.



You will do something soon that will make your family proud.

When you read your fortune from a fortune cookie, do you believe it? We might get a good laugh out of some of them, but it is foolish to think that a piece of paper in a fortune cookie could tell what is going to happen in your future.

In the gospel today, Jesus had some things to say about people who claimed that they could predict the future. Jesus and his disciples were in the temple and the disciples were talking about how beautiful it was with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. Jesus said to them, **"The time is coming when all these things will be completely destroyed. Not one stone will be left on top of another; every one of them will be thrown down!"**

The disciples were frightened by what Jesus said. **"When will these things happen?"** they asked. **"What signs can we look for that will let us know that these things are about to take place?"**

"Don't let anyone mislead you," Jesus answered. **"Many will come in my name, claiming to be the Messiah, and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them."** You see, Jesus knew that these people could not see into the future. Only God can do that!

There are some people today who think that they can see into the future. They may say some frightening things, but we need to remember what Jesus taught his disciples. **"Don't worry!"** he said. **"Not a hair on your head will be harmed. You will be saved by being faithful to me."**



Next Saturday, 22nd November
St. Peter & Paul's Church
at 6.30pm
All are welcome

My Prayer

Heavenly Father, we don't know what the future holds, but we know that you hold the future. We know that we will be safe when we put our faith and trust in you. Amen.





He Holds the Future

He said: "Take care not to be deceived, because many will come in my name, and saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near at hand.' Refuse to join them. Luke 21:8



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

EARTHQUAKES
WARS
TEMPLE
NEAR
PRISON
STONES
FRIGHTENED
KINGDOM
TIME
WATCH
LIFE
WORRY
HEAVEN

Choose the word that matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A building used for religious ceremonies or worship
A. gift B. prison C. life D. temple
- ___ 2. Something that is given without compensation
A. worry B. stone C. temple D. gift
- ___ 3. A piece of rock used in construction of the temple
A. wisdom B. stone C. life D. prison
- ___ 4. A country; a large group of people living in one area with their own government.
A. nation B. prison C. gift D. fear
- ___ 5. A building where people are kept as a punishment
A. nation B. life C. prison D. fear
- ___ 6. A feeling of worry caused by something dangerous
A. worry B. fear C. nation D. prison
- ___ 7. To think about problems or unpleasant things that might happen
A. wisdom B. prison C. worry D. gift



The Parish and Parish Centre Accounts have been considered by the Parish Finance Committee and submitted to and examined by the Diocesan Accountant and audited by the Diocesan external accountants. They form part of the Diocesan consolidated accounts which are reported to the Charity Regulator in October each year. Our Parish Finance Committee: Justin Brown, John Dunne, Betty Brophy, Bridie O'Reilly, Imelda Monahan and Philip Moran have approved their publication. There was considerable capital expenditure during 2024, Renovations to Holy Cross Church Ratheniska, €302,903 in 2024 (€271,907 in 2023 in total €574,810)

SUMMARY OF PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2024

RECURRING INCOME

	2024	2023
	€	€
Development Fund	77,875.00	69,478.00
Basket Collection	189,950.00	180,517.00
Shrines	119,164.00	104,422.00
Parish Lotto Income	115,700.00	105,048.00
Tax Refunds/Rebates	15,565.00	28,370.00
Sundry Income	11,346.00	25,114.00
Rental Income	147,937.00	161,488.00
	€677,537.00	€674,437.00

RECURRING EXPENDITURE

Wages and salaries	69,275.00	72,531.00
K&L Retired Priest Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
Insurance	21,103.00	17,317.00
Light and heat	102,007.00	80,133.00
Telephone, Broadband & Internet Related Expenses.	9,143.00	8,631.00
Computer Hardware/Software & Servicing Costs	6,875.00	6,956.00
Repairs and maintenance	27,490.00	27,945.00
Postage, Stationery and Office exes	7,135.00	12,332.00
Collection Envelopes & Missalettes	2,399.00	2,551.00
Rates- Water, LPT, Waste Collection	3,929.00	4,664.00
Altar Shrine Requisites	45,167.00	45,175.00
Pastoral Programme Expenses	3,377.00	3,066.00
Music & Choir Expenses	4,341.00	4,108.00
Youth and Community Expenses	260.00	550.00
Diocesan Levy	48,000.00	48,000.00
Legal & Professional Fees	23,335.00	10,549.00
Accountancy Fees	365.00	345.00
Bank charges	4,694.00	3,813.00
Sundry Expenses	5,514.00	4,102.00
	€388,409.00	€356,768.00

Ordinary Income v Expenditure

€289,128.00	€317,669.00
	..

The complete accounts for the Parish & Parish Centre may be inspected at the Parish Centre by arrangement.

Supporting the Parish

Not passing "the baskets" for the Offertory and Development Fund collections is now established as the norm at our Masses. It is good not to have the Liturgy interrupted. We can only continue to do this because of your generous support and please God that will continue. Elsewhere in the linkup (inside the back cover) the various ways to support the parish are outlined. You choose - we feel this is a more adult way of seeking your support. St. Paul tells us *'each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'* (2Cor.9:7). We are grateful to those who support us and encourage everyone to play their part. How the money is spent is outlined in our annual accounts published on the previous page and also in the work to our Churches and other parish properties. All due to your support!

Tax Back for Charities: Our Parish can claim tax back from the Revenue which has already been paid by you on money donated. The tax refund for donations is set at a blended rate of 31% regardless of the rate of tax which the donor pays. This means the parish can claim an additional €112.32 for every €250 donated. Please see the form overleaf and if we have recorded donations from you of €250 or over in a year we can benefit greatly. Our tax back in 2024 netted €15,565. Very welcome, but we know we can benefit even more from your generosity to the Parish if we can get the forms signed by those who contribute €250 or more in a year.

Payments to Priests:

Collections for the support of the priests are separate from payments made to Parish Funds. There are 4 collections for the support of the Priests taken up during the year. Christmas, Lent, Easter, and October. They are lodged to the Parish Clergy Fund from which the priests are paid an agreed salary. If there is a surplus in the Clergy Fund at the end of the year (which invariably there is) it goes to the Diocesan Retired Priest Fund. The priests thank you for your continued generous support.

Parish Centre:

There is a separate set of accounts for the Parish Centre which we will post on the notice board at the main entrance to the Parish Church. Thank God the negative effects of the pandemic seem to be in the past as activities have resumed to pre pandemic levels. The Centre is at the heart of the Parish and its services are vital to our vibrant parish. The 2024 accounts show a deficit of €8,655 compared to a deficit of €69,000 in 2023. We expect in this current year the Centre will return to creating a surplus. The Linkup, which prints 2,800 copies each week is part of the Centre activities and is also recovering from the effects of the pandemic.

Parish Lotto:

The Parish Lotto, our regular weekly fund raiser, continues to be a very important contributor to the financial wellbeing of the Parish. Our thanks to all who support it and a special 'thank you' to our promoters. It has a very attractive prize fund structure. Yearly and half yearly membership gift cards are available at the Parish Centre. An ideal gift for Christmas, birthdays etc. You may also participate on-line via our website. Gamble responsibly.

Developments:

The Parish has purchased 'The Coach House' - it was part of Rosetta House and is adjacent to the Parish Centre - it will provide much needed storage space which we lost with the sale of the Old Parochial House. We will also explore the possibility of putting an apartment in the Coach House. We will keep you posted on developments.

Thank You:

I take this opportunity to thank the many people who help to sustain Portlaoise Parish, our generous parishioners and contributors; our lotto promoters and members; our parish staff - those employed by the parish as well as our community employment scheme personnel and our valued volunteers. We are truly blessed in the support and good will we experience. Long may it continue.

John Byrne, P.P.
November 2025

**ENDURING CERTIFICATE
DONOR CONSENT FOR DONATION OF INCOME TAX RELIEF TO CHARITIES
AND OTHER APPROVED BODIES**

This form should be:

- completed by donors who are individuals who wish to allow charities to claim their tax relief on donations
AND
- once completed, given directly to the charity / approved body

NB: If you complete and submit this form to a charity or approved body, you are allowing the charity / approved body to claim part or all of your personal tax relief for the relevant years (see Guidance Notes hereunder)

COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS

Name of Donor:

PPSN:

Address
(incl. Eircode):

Phone No.:

Email Address:

Name of eligible charity or other approved body (referred to as an approved body):

First tax year to which this certificate applies:

I understand the following,

1. There is no obligation on me to complete this form in respect of my donations of €1,000,000.
2. This certificate is valid for the above tax year and each of the four following tax years, unless I notify the approved body of its cancellation.
3. The approved body may apply to the Revenue Commissioners for my personal income tax relief in respect of my donations during the lifetime of this certificate and any tax repaid to the body cannot be claimed by me, or repaid to me, or to any other approved body. *see example below
4. I grant permission to the approved body to use my PPSN solely for the purpose of claiming my personal income tax relief on my donations during the lifetime of this enduring certificate or a renewed enduring certificate.
5. I must be resident in the State for each tax year in which I make a donation.
6. My donation, or donations, must amount in aggregate to at least €250 in a tax year and be in the form of money and / or designated securities and that income tax relief will not apply to the aggregate of my donations to an approved body or bodies in a tax year in excess
7. Neither I, nor any person connected with me, can receive a benefit from the approved body in consequence of making a donation.
8. My donation cannot be subject to a condition as to repayment nor can it be conditional on, or associated with, the acquisition of property by the approved body other than by way of gift, from me or a person connected with me.
9. The amount of my aggregate annual donations to an approved body or bodies with which I am associated (see Notes) will be restricted to an amount equal to 10% of my total income for the tax year in question and that income tax relief will not apply to any donations in excess of that amount.
10. I must pay income tax for any tax year in which I make donations of an amount equal to the income tax on the grossed up amount of the donations in order for the approved body to receive a refund of tax (see Notes).
11. Relief under this scheme for donations by individuals is relief from income tax.

Please tick ☒ the box if you are associated with the approved body named in this certificate (see note 6 hereunder)

You are associated with an approved body if at the time you make a donation you are an employee or member of the body, or of another approved body which is associated with the body.

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR COMPLETED CERTIFICATE TO THE APPROVED BODY

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
- * 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

Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died



Monica O'Brien
The Hermitage, Portlaoise



Pauline Dunne
Clonrooske House, Portlaoise



Sarah Ann Mallon
(née Owen)
Oakleaf Place, Portlaoise



Seamus Dwyer
Moyadd, The Swan, Wolfhill,
Co. Laois



Andrew (Andy) Phelan
Kyle, Durrow, Co. Laois



Martin Holohan
Limerick & late of Rathmoyle,
Abbeyleix



Mary Kennedy
(née Deeley)
Abbeyleix / Loughrea



Andy Walsh
Birmingham,
Formerly of Portlaoise



Pauline Conroy
Marian Ave, Portlaoise

May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



In Loving Memory of
ANN LACUMBER

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
34th Anniversary occurred
14th November 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Sunday 16th**
November at 11:15am.

Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered everyday,
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you're always there.
Always remembered by Bridie and grandchildren.

May Annie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
THERESA
O'CONNELL
(NÉE KELLY)

Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary 14th November 2025.

Anniversary Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, this **Sunday 16th November at**
12.30pm.

Sadly missed by your loving Husband, family,
relatives and friends.

May Theresa Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
FINT GORMAN

84 Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs
16th November 2025.

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.

Loved and missed always by your
8 Children, Grandchildren, Great
grandchildren, extended family and
friends.



Christmas Memorials

The Link Up office is currently taking bookings
for Christmas Memorials

N.B. PLEASE NOTE:

As the Link Up is now collated externally

ALL MEMORIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
5PM THURSDAY DECEMBER 11TH

for inclusion in the Christmas edition of the Link Up
(December 21st), this will be the last Link Up of 2025.

The First Link Up of 2026 will be Sunday January 11th.
Thank you for your support and co-operation.

In Loving Memory of



**MARGARET
HARDING
(NÉE CONROY)**

St. Brigid's Place,
Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary - 16th
November 2025.

And her Partner

GER YOUNG

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

17th Anniversary occurred 12th November 2025.

Today's the Anniversary
of the day we lost you,
And for a time, it felt as though
our lives had ended too.

But loss has taught us many things
And now we face each day,
With hope and happy memories
to help us on our way.

And though we are full of sadness
That you're no longer here,
Your influence still guides us
And we still feel you near.

What we shared will never die
It lives within our hearts,
Bringing strength and comfort
While we are apart.

*Love always David, Paul, Ray,
Jennie, Tracy and families xxxxx*

May they Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
ANN O' LOUGHLIN
Clonad.

10th Anniversary - 15th November
2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Saturday 15th Nov. at 6:30pm.

Mam

Though your smile is gone forever, and your hand we cannot touch,
We have so many memories of a Mam 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.

Loved and remembered by all her loving family and friends.

May Ann Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

BRIDGET SEXTON

"Padua", Clonminam Road, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs 24th
November 2025.

Anniversary Mass for Bridget and her late
Husband Jim whose anniversary occurred
on Nov 3rd will be celebrated in Sts. Peter
& Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 22nd
November at 6.30pm.**



Our loved ones leave behind a light that will never dim or fade,
It's kept bright by the love we feel and the memories we made.

*Sadly missed by and always remembered by Pat, Mary, Frank,
daughter-in-law Hilda, grandsons, great-granddaughters, her
sister Mary and extended family and friends.*

May Bridget and James Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

**MARY KELLY
(NÉE BERGIN)**

Durrow and formerly
66 St. Brigids Place Portlaoise.

Whose Months Mind occurs at this
time.

The Months mind Mass for Mary Kelly
is in Holy Trinity Church Durrow on
**Sunday 16th November 2025
at 11.15 am.**

You left us beautiful memories
Your love is still our guide
And though we cannot see you
You're always by our side.

Always loved and remembered by her family and friends.

May Mary Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

**MICHAEL
CONROY**

Cooltoran, Ridge Rd, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 17th
November 2025.

He left us quietly, his thoughts unknown,
But left us a memory we are proud to own.
So treasure him Lord in your garden of rest,
For when on earth he was one of the best.

*Loved and missed today and always, your loving wife
Margaret, daughters Louise and Denise,
and their partners, son Michael and your adored
grandchildren Leila, Eve and Charlie.*

Rest in Peace Michael



In Loving Memory of
**KATHLEEN (KITTY)
CAMPBELL**

86 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
Died 19/11/2008.
17th Anniversary occurs
19th November 2025.

Each time we look at your picture,
You seem to smile and say,
Don't be sad but courage take,
And love each other for my sake.

*Loved and remembered by all her loving family.
Rest in Peace Kathleen*



Birthday Remembrance of our dear brother
PETER LALOR
18th November 2025.
Happy 60th Birthday in Heaven.

Today is filled with memories,
With happiness and tears,
Of birthday celebrations,
We've shared throughout the years.

And though we'll always miss you
The endless joy you brought
Warms our hearts with gratitude
And fills our every thought

Wherever you are resting
We hope that you can see
How precious and uplifting
Your memory is to us.

We feel that you are with us
In everything we do,
So we'll celebrate your birthday
But we'll spend it missing you.

Loved and remembered always.

*Ger, Dáithí, Marie, Mags, Christy,
Kyle, Finn, Cillian, Oisín & Shauna xxxxxx*

Happy Heavenly 60th birthday Peter



In Loving Memory of
PATRICK FENNELLY

30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary
15th November 2025.

No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts is
always kept for you.

Always remembered by Bee and family.

Rest in Peace Patrick



In Loving Memory of
JIM LALOR

The Heath.
1st Anniversary – 19th November 2025.

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

*Sadly missed and lovingly
remembered by all his family.*

May Jim Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
PATRICK FENNELLY

30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary
15th November 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 15th
November at 10am.**

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.

Sadly missed and loved always by Mary, Eugene, Seán and Ronan.

Rest in Peace Patrick



In Loving Memory of
ANN PAISLEY

41 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
32nd Anniversary occurred
13th November 2025.

Silent thoughts of times together,
Hold memories that will last forever.

*Sadly missed and remembered always
by all her loving family.*

May Ann Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
MARGARET RYAN

Grattan Street / later Limerick.
21st Anniversary occurs 18th November.

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

Always loved and remembered by all her loving family.

Rest in Peace Margaret



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND
MONTH'S MIND

In Loving Memory of

**MICHAEL (HAR)
FITZGERALD**

Glenbarrow Portlaoise, Co. Laois
*formerly Ballytarsney, Ballyhale,
Co. Kilkenny.*

Har's months mind Mass will take place on
Saturday the 15th of November at 6:30pm
in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church Portlaoise.

The family of the late Michael (Har) Fitzgerald who passed away on the 13th of October, would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported us during this difficult time.

Thank you to our wonderful friends and neighbours who called to sympathise with us, and to all who attended Har's Funeral Mass and Services. Thanks also to those who travelled long distances from Kilkenny, Cork to Birmingham and all places in between to sympathise with us. Our thanks to those who expressed condolences online, by phone or in person, and to those who thought of us in any way we are so grateful to you.

A sincere word of gratitude to those who played a part in the Funeral Mass and made it so special and personal to Har. Our sincere gratitude to John Hosey for the beautiful hymns, and to Fr. Adriano Oliveira CC for a very special Requiem Mass. We extend our thanks to Keegan's Funeral Directors, for their professionalism and to Adrian Dunne for preparing Har's final resting place. Thank you also to Michelle Bartley in the Parish Centre for your kind and thoughtful assistance.

Thank you to all the medical staff who attended to and looked after Har; in particular the staff of the Cedar Clinic, McElwee's Pharmacy, Portlaoise, Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore, St James's Hospital, and the Dialysis Unit in Portlaoise (BBraun Wellstone Midlands Renal Care Centre).

When we think of Har, we cannot help but smile, no matter how we feel. Har left each of us with a special piece of himself — a kind and happy person who loved company and made everyone feel welcome.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a sincere expression of our appreciation.

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

*With heartfelt thanks
The Fitzgerald Family*



In Loving Memory of

**MARGARET
HARDING
(NÉE CONROY)**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurred 16th
November 2025.

Always in our hearts.

*Forever loved, cherished and
never forgotten by all your brothers.
Rest in Peace Margaret*



In Loving Memory of

MARTIN LALOR

No. 1 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 17th November.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church,
Monday 17th November at 10am.

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

Rest in Peace Martin



In Loving Memory of

GEORGE BUGGY

9 Green Rd., Portlaoise.

13th Anniversary

19th November 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
19th November at 10am.

Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
We will always remember you.

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

May George Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

PETER LALOR

32 The Green, Kilminchy.

5th Birthday away from home
occurs 18th November.

Missing you my dearest husband

Today is truly filled with

Memories of happiness and tears

And of birthday celebrations

That we have shared throughout the years.
Happy birthday in Heaven my love.



In my heart always and forever. Your loving wife Jean xx

Rest in Peace Peter



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND MONTH'S MIND

In Loving Memory of

NANCY FRAWLEY

Borris Little, Portlaoise.

Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church Portlaoise. on **Saturday 22nd November at 6.30pm**

The family of the late Nancy Frawley, her daughter Sylvia Deevy, son in law Pat, son John, daughter in law Tanya, grandchildren Craig and his wife Áine, Becca and partner Jay, and great grandson Páidí would like to express our sincere appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbours for the immense support given to us following Mam's passing.

Thank you to all who visited, sent Mass cards and many messages of condolences.

Our heartfelt gratitude to the Emergency Services, A&E staff and staff at the Dunamaise Ward, Portlaoise Hospital for their special care and kindness they gave to Mam.

To Fr. Adriano thank you so much for visiting Mam over the last 2 years and getting to know her. Thank you for the support and beautiful Funeral Mass you celebrated for Mam. Your kind words touched our hearts.

Thank you to the Palliative Team especially Olive Delaney. All the health nurses especially Carla Stanley, Doctors & Staff Clann Medical Centre.

To Aishling who sang so beautifully at the Mass.

Thank you to Keegan Funeral Directors, Matthew & David, for their professionalism and kindness at this difficult time.

Also thank to the grave diggers at St Peter & Paul's cemetery.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Rest in Peace Mam



In Loving Memory of My Dad

DAN RAFTER

Ballymacken, Portlaoise.

Whose 2nd Anniversary occurs
November 17th 2025.

Of all the moment's in my life
Of which you were a part,
The one that stands out most of all
Is the one that broke my heart.

When the time had come to say goodbye
Farewell's were not to be.

You fell into a gentle sleep,
You left this world and me.

Words were seldom spoken
We held on until the end.

I felt your last breath leave you,
Death took my dearest friend.

In the silence of that moment
An emotion I still can't express,

It was not loss or sadness
Not even that of happiness.

All your pain and suffering over,
Your soul is on its way.

Heaven's gates have opened,
It's there we'll meet again someday.



*Loved and remembered by
his Son Daniel & Daughter-in Law Kathy.*



In Loving Memory of **JOHN O'NEILL**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise &
Adamstown, Wexford.

2nd Anniversary occurs
20th November 2025.

Those special memories of you Dad
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 use to do.

You always meant so very much to me
And always will do too.

The fact that you are no longer here
Will always bring me pain.

You are forever in my heart
Until we meet again.

*Dearly loved and sadly missed everyday by
your Son Tommy, Daughter-in-law Jennie,
Grandchildren Ger, Amy, James, John
& Great-Grandchild Mandy xxx*

In Loving Memory of
MARGARET HARDING



St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurred 16th November
2025.

A beautiful smile,
A heart of gold,
One of the best
This world could hold.

*Lovingly remembered and missed by Mary.
Rest in Peace Margaret*



In Loving Memory of
ANNE SWEENEY

Late of 26 Coote St. Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurs 16th
November 2025.

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

*Sadly missed by her daughter Olive
and sons-in-law Frank and Paddy.
May Anne Rest in Peace*



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Rest in Peace



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Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

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Meet Santa, browse festive crafts &
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The Fitz Christmas Festival 2025

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www.FitzOfInch.com

MONAFERRICK, STRADBALLY,
CO. LAOIS, R32 P382

Portlaoise Parish

Results for

13th November 2025



06

09

29

32

No €10,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Paddy O'Connor

Liam & Una McNamara

Peter, Breda & Anna May

Pat Mackey

Owen Kelly

Dermot Murphy

MATCH 3s €1,000

6
Match
3s
Receive
€167

PROMOTER

Paddy O'Connor

Online Lotto

Peter Ryan

Carmel Whelan

C. J. Kelly

Mai Murphy



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €11,000

Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Bitesize

A man sooner or later discovers that he is the master-
gardener of his soul, the director of his life.

James Allen

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 3:19-20

Responsorial Psalm 97:5-9

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

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

Patient Coffee Morning

Join us for coffee & conversation
on Thursday 27th November
10.30am – 12noon

**We look forward to
seeing you!**



Cuisle Cancer Support Centre
Block Road, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois, R32 Y8P2
Tel: 057 868 1492

