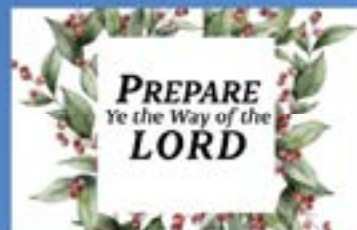


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up**

30th November 2025



A very big 'thank you' to Portlaoise Fire Brigade who once again help us to 'prepare a way for the Lord'.

Inset photo—James Brown firefighter with his assistant Jack Bracken.



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

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

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Hope



50th Anniversary Mass for Boards of Management

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the CPSMA. To honour this milestone, a special Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in the **Parish Church** on **Monday, December 8th at 7.30pm.**

We warmly invite all who are currently serving, and all who have served, on Boards of Management in our Catholic primary schools across the diocese to join us for this celebration. Together, we will give thanks for the generosity, dedication, and quiet service that have supported our school communities for five decades.

All are most welcome.

Visit our website: www.portlaoiseparish.ie

ADVENT

It might seem odd that Advent begins, not with preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but his coming for us at the end of life's journey. Yet life is a journey from God our Creator back to God our final destiny. When this large circle of life is forgotten, life becomes a directionless succession of unconnected moments. The digital watch represents the mind of many today as it shows no past or future but only the dancing digit of the present moment. Without roots in the past or vision of the future, one lives only for the present moment. And if this collapses, as in a broken relationship or some defeat, everything falls apart.

capuchinfranciscans.ie



THE WREATH

Today we light the first of our Advent candles. The traditional use of Advent candles originated in eastern Germany prior to the Reformation. There are three purple candles and one pink candle. Purple for the royalty of the coming **King** the pink candle is the third candle to be lit on what is called **Gaudete Sunday** and represents '**joy**'. The gradual lighting of the four candles symbolises the coming **Light** into the world. The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represent everlasting life.

Mass times for the coming week
(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday — Thursday: 7.30am & 10am
Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm
Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

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



Friday (First Friday)
Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition at 6pm

Benediction at 7pm

followed by Mass at 7.30pm

Communion Calls

The priests of the parish will attend their communion rounds during the week. If anyone would like to receive a house call on the First Friday of each month, kindly contact the Parish Office on 0578621142.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Dylan Patrick O'Meara, Colliers Lane

Filipe Ávila-Simões, Old Grange Wood

Thomas Lucas Barroso, Chantiers Gate

Grace Emily Carey, Ashewood Walk

Ashley Sile Carroll, Grenville

Who were baptised recently.

A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
Give us hope as we wait
For your coming again.

When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you

While others are lost,
Send us out into the darkness
In search of those who need you most.
Amen.



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CANCER AND DEMENTIA STUDY

CALL PEOPLE WITH CANCER AND
DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS
AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

We need people living with dementia and a diagnosis of cancer and their caregivers and/or family members to take part in our study. This also includes people living with dementia that have had a concurrent diagnosis of cancer.



WHAT'S INVOLVED

If you have both cancer and dementia or care for someone who does, we would like to speak to you and conduct a confidential 1-hour interview (online or in person) at a time that suits you.



WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This is the first Irish study to explore the supportive care needs of people living with both cancer and dementia, as well as their caregivers. It is part of a PhD project at Dublin City University and is funded by the Irish Cancer Society.



WANT MORE INFO?

Please contact the researcher **Jane Gaffey**
Email: jane.gaffey4@mail.dcu.ie
Phone: 0892163991



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Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th Dec.

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Sunday 14th Dec. 2pm-4:30pm

Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th Dec.

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#HaveYourSay about your Catholic School

For Attention of Parents of children attending Primary Schools or have yet to start: The Department of Education is currently conducting a Primary School Survey that will determine the future provision of Primary Schools and crucially could lead to lasting changes in your school. In simple, direct terms, you are being asked if you want your school to stay a Catholic school or if you want that to change. Don't leave it to others, have your say before **16th December 2025.**

See Link Below

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>

First Friday Devotion 5th December 2025

6:00pm Adoration
6.45pm Divine Mercy
7.00pm Rosary
7.15pm Benediction
7.30pm Mass

St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise



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DUNAMASE COLLEGE / COLÁISTE DHÚN MÁSC

CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN SPOTLITE STUDENT VOICE PROGRAMME.

Dunamase college/coláiste dhún másc was recently chosen as one of twenty schools to participate in a training day for the spotlight programme, an initiative developed by st aidan's community school, tallaght, during the 2022/2023 school year.

On Tuesday 18th November, two student council representatives, accompanied by deputy principal clár mhic gheairilt and lead teacher siobhán holland, a travelled to dublin to take part in the training.

Spotlite (student perspectives on teaching and learning in the educational space) is an innovative programme designed to strengthen student voice in education. It provides a meaningful and structured way for students to share their experiences of teaching and learning, ensuring their voice helps shape improvements within the school community.

The programme centres on the idea that students are best placed to express what works well in the classroom and how they learn most effectively. By capturing student perspectives, schools can identify strengths in current practice and highlight areas where further development may be beneficial. Teachers, in turn, are supported in adapting their approaches to meet the needs of the individual learner.

Dunamase college/coláiste dhún másc principal, dympna kelly believes the initiative supports strongly the school's ongoing commitment to elevating student voice and the unlocking learning programme, which is run along with the learner leaders committee for parents and students.

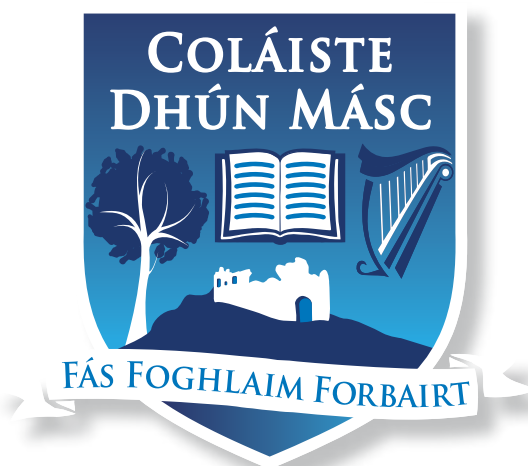
"We believe students have the right to express their views, feelings and wishes about the things that matter to them. They are the ones who truly



understand what helps them to learn effectively. We have many initiatives in the school where students can use their voice, such as the student council, le chéile committee but this is one focused entirely on the classroom. "

By implementing spotlight, dunamase college / coláiste dhún másc hopes to promote deeper professional conversations between students and teachers and develop recommendations from the students that will benefit the entire school community.

Dympna said that we are "excited to be part of this journey" and we are looking forward to the seeing the impact the programme will bring.





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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

Top score: Molly O'Brien. 1st Lady: Mary Gowin. 2nd Lady: Bernie Cahill. 1st Gent: Terry Dunne. 2nd Gent: Ties; Tom Gowing. 1st Half: Tom Jacob. 2nd Half: Peter Stevenson. Raffle: 1st B Kennedy, 2nd F Dunne, 3rd R Arrigan, 4th M Flanagan, 5th K Bennett. *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.

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.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO Tuesday 2nd December 2025. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €2,520. Double number € 390. Lotto € 1050. Bonus Ball €900

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/>

BOWLS IN ST MARY'S HALL Monday 1st December Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm new members welcome. Wednesday 3rd December afternoon with Moez from 3pm in Parish Centre New members welcome Thursday 4th December cards and chat in Sue Ryder centre Kilminchy from 3pm new members welcome tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 0879187157.

CARING IN OFFALY CE SCHEME: Home Respite Care Worker, Vacancy No. 2421828, Portlaoise area, 19.5 hours per week. Please contact Alison Hackett for more information on 086-0213711 / ahackett@familycarers.ie.

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.

PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - accompanied by a Spiritual Director – 24th to 28th August 2026. €700 pp sharing. €200 deposit secures your place – paid before Dec. 31st 2025. Savings Club available to pay your balance. 4 nights in hotel Agena. All flights/transfers/meals included. Fully escorted pilgrimage. Contact: Mary 085-2829231 or John 087-1254841

EMMANUEL HOUSE CLONFERT, Day of Prayer including the Five First Saturday Fatima Devotions led by Eddie Stone & Team – Sat. 6th Dec. 11am. Talks, music, confessions, Mass and healing service. Bring a packed lunch.

PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA – visiting Portlaoise Parish Centre on Monday 1st December from 11am-1pm in the Maryborough Rm. (behind the desk) Talk, Video, and Rosary. All welcome. Ph. 086-3149610. Also visiting St. Francis Community Building, Gort na Noir, Abbeyleix R32 VH6V – WED 3rd Dec. 11am-1pm. Visit lasts about 2hrs includes short talk, 20min video on the message of Fatima and the Rosary. Visit begins with Crowning our Lady. Ph. 086-3149610. 100th Anniversary of the First Saturday Devotions. Bus to Knock – for a celebration of 100 years of First Saturday Devotions. Pick up in Abbeyleix. Contact Laura 086-8469011

ROSARY AT THE GROTTA: First Friday 5th December at 8pm & Monday 8th December for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Rosary at the Top Square on the First Sunday 7th December 2.30pm at the Top Square.

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THE FAITH



Jesus is coming again!



Christmas is coming soon. It is easy to tell. We see the signs all around us. What are the signs? We see Christmas decorations in the stores and on houses, we hear Christmas songs on the radio, we see ads on television and in the newspapers. What if we didn't have all of these things to remind us that Christmas is coming? How would we know? I guess we would just have to look at the calendar.

Two thousand years ago, there was no television or radio. There were no newspaper ads announcing that a child would be born and that he would be the Saviour of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it, but it was an event which God had promised and which had

been foretold by prophets many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, they just didn't know exactly when he was coming.

This Sunday marks the beginning of a very special season called Advent. Do you know what Advent means? The dictionary says that advent is "the coming of something very important." What is it? Is it Christmas? Yes, we are looking forward to that, but we are also looking forward to the coming of another very important event. The return of Jesus!

Jesus promised to come again. You won't hear much about it on the television or radio and you won't read much about it in the newspapers, but he promised he would return and we believe it! We look forward to it just as people two thousand years ago looked forward the coming Messiah. We don't know exactly when he will come, it isn't marked on the calendar, but we are watching and waiting.

As we look prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, let's also be sure we are prepared for the day that he will come again.



Our Prayer

Dear Father, we thank you for this special time of year and what it means to us. We thank you for keeping your promise to send a Saviour - and we thank you for the promise that he will come again.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Today is the
First Sunday of
Advent also
known as
**THE SUNDAY
OF HOPE**

We light one
purple candle
today.
Did you see the
Advent Wreath
on the Altar
today?



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

30 November

First Sunday of Advent

Rise & Shine!
The Lord is coming!

1 December

Do something nice for your teacher.



2



Is there something you could donate to St Vincent de Paul?

3

Invite someone who has been left out, to play with you.

7

Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

8

The Angel visits Mary

The Annunciation

Read
Luke 1:26-38

14

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord!

15

Make Christmas Cards for your friends.



21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Be not afraid!

22

Have your parents take you to Church today so you can visit Jesus. Thank Him for giving you life.

23

Help Mummy and Daddy prepare for Christmas



24

Say a prayer for all who are expecting a baby at this time.



18

Draw a picture of your crib.



11

Smile at everyone, you meet today



12

Pray for your grandparents today



13

Give someone a hug.



20

Surprise your Mam or Dad by making breakfast for them.



25

Happy Birthday Jesus!



ADVENT 2025
Activity Calendar

Time to Think...

In an Instant Culture Waiting is very Challenging



There is a story of six people who froze to death around a campfire on a bitterly cold night. Each had a log of wood they might have contributed to the fire, but for reasons satisfactory to themselves, each person refused to give what they had. A woman would not give because she said she hated men. A homeless man would not give because there was a rich man in the group. The rich man would not give because he did not want to warm someone who was obviously shiftless, lazy, and drunk. Another would not give up his log because he recognized someone not of his race or religious faith. And the fire died, as each person withheld their piece of fuel for reasons justifiable to themselves, and so, they all died. This story was originally told in a poem that ends with these tragic lines: six logs held fast in death's still hand were proof of human sin; they did not die from cold without; they died from cold within.

We find ourselves very much deep in the belly of winter. Darkness seems to have descended and nature falls asleep. Yet there is something beautiful in this season, this time when we are called to wait, in the promise "When winter comes, can spring be far behind"

The weeks leading up to Christmas, in the Christian liturgical life are called advent. Advent is a time of preparation when we anticipate with a sense of expectancy and patience the birth of new life and the eternal invitation to begin again. Advent by its very nature is countercultural. In an instant culture waiting is very challenging in 2025.

The Advent Season is a time to get ready for the approaching feast of Christmas. Liturgically this is a time when we prepare for the joyful celebration of the Lord's birth at Christmas. These dark and chilly days can indeed be a challenging time, where often our vulnerable selves can experience a sense of struggle. Yet, where there is darkness there is also a burning light of hope and healing. Advent is a time to be open for the blessings of God's gifts that will be given abundantly to us this Christmas.

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope. This is a real good news story that is a daily reality but often is unrecognised and truly appreciated. One of the greatest and most powerful gifts available to us all is the gift of Hope. In a time when we can be consumed by the negative, hope is an invitation to constantly embrace the possible. Hope is that gentle presence calling us every day, to begin again. Advent is a Season of hope.

Every year the Christmas season seems to visit us earlier. This is true in terms of decorations and streetlights well visible in all Towns and shops by now. This time of year, is both welcomed and dreaded with the same amounts of childhood enthusiasm and perhaps adult anxiety, excitement, fear and stress. Christmas is much more than a winter holiday. In a secular world Christmas can become as superficial as Black Friday sales, concluding with heartburn after too much stuffing on Christmas Day! The Christian story of simplicity and new life can be as life changing in 2025 as it was in an unknown village called Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

Advent is a time of preparation and indeed a time for all of us to grow in our hope that God wants us to possess in our heart. The Prophet Isaiah foretold "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," Advent is a time for all of us to grow in hope and to avail of the spiritual gifts that are truly greater than any we may long for and may not afford. Advent is the great gift for anyone who has experienced

darkness and vulnerability, which in truth is perhaps all who may read this article. Jesus whose birth we prepare for during this time of Advent is often forgotten in the busy run up to Christmas. Perhaps if we ponder more on Jesus our lives will change for the better in a very real way this Christmas.

Jesus wants to plant his light and hope in the places of our stories that may be darkened and overshadowed by the bruises of life that we all carry and indeed feel at times. Where sickness, addiction, bereavement, separation, depression and anxiety prevail Christ the lord of light, wants to heal and transform. Just as his birth happened in a place of poverty and humility, so too in this time of winter darkness, the light of Christ wants to shine firstly in the places of pain and uncertainty that are felt in our lives.

The more we long for God, the greater his birth will be in our hearts. The more we are in need of his presence and relevance, the greater the gift of faith and fulfilment. Jesus will bless us in our lives. Christ's light is a bright source of love and joy that is freely available for all people. The heart of Christ is firstly open to the places where we may be lost and broken. My prayer is that all of us will grow in a peace and joy this advent that God wants us to enjoy. Ask God with confidence every day to be born again in my heart. The great prayer of Advent is simply, Maranatha, "Come Lord Jesus".

Celebrating the Birth of Christ is a wonderful opportunity. There is just abundance and plenty in God's love for us all. Jesus is the reason for the season. We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become a vessel of God's compassion for others.

Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

COME LORD JESUS





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Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died



Patrick (Paddy) Langton
Rathnamanagh, Portlaoise

Kathleen Evans
(née Murphy)
Formerly Lakeglen, Portlaoise



John Costigan
Clonad, Portlaoise

Anne Gaffney
Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
Funeral took place in Devon
during the week.



May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MONTHS MIND

In Loving Memory of

EDWARD (NED) HASLAM

Watergrass Hill Cork, and Formerly Portlaoise Co. Laois.

Ned's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter's and Paul's Parish Church this **Saturday the 29th of November at 6:30pm**

The family of the late Edward (Ned) Haslam who passed away on the 1st of November, 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 Ned's Funeral Mass and Services. Thanks also to those who travelled long distances 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 Ned. Our sincere gratitude to James O'Connor for the beautiful songs and hymns, and to Msgr. John Byrne for a very special Requiem Mass. We extend our thanks to Keegan's Funeral Directors, for their professionalism and to the grave diggers for preparing Ned's final resting place.

Thank you to all the medical staff who attended to and looked after Ned, in particular the staff of the Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore and Cork University Hospital.

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 Haslam Family.

May Ned Rest in Peace



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

**PETER DORAN, MAUREEN
DORAN & OLIVER DORAN**

Campclone, Ballyfin, Portlaoise.

Peter's 29th Anniversary – 9th December 2025.

Maureen's 15th Anniversary – 7th August 2025.

Oliver's 8th Anniversary – 20th May 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, **Sunday 7th December at 10am.**

God saw you getting tired,
And a cure was not to be,
So, He put His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come to me".
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you fade away,
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
Golden hearts stopped beating,
Your tender hands at rest,
God took you home to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

Loved and remembered always by Orla, her brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren.

May They Rest In Peace



In Loving Memory of
**PEGGY & PADDY
BRENNAN**

Pallas Big.

5th and 2nd Anniversaries at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be offered
in St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on
Sunday 30th 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 treasure you.

*Heavenly Father, grant them eternal rest
in your holy presence.*



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, MONTHS MIND
& BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

In Loving Memory of

**CHRISTINE LEAHY
(NÉE CARROLL)**

Clonkeen Portlaoise.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter's and
Paul's Parish Church this **Saturday 29th at 6.30pm.**

Christine's family would like to thank most sincerely all
who supported them on their recent loss.

We are grateful to everyone who attended Christine's
wake, funeral Mass and cremation.

To those who sent Mass cards, phone calls, condolences
online. Thank you to our neighbours and friends in
Clonkeen who helped with parking and were great support.
A special word of thanks to the staff of the Midlands Prison
who were great support during the wake and
during Christine's illness.

We would like to thank the staff of the Mater Private
who cared for Christine during her illness. Thanks to
the Palliative care staff from Laois/Offaly for the care for
Christine during the last two months of her life.

Thank you to the staff of Maryborough Clinic and
of Hughes Pharmacy who looked after Christine over
the years.

We extend our thanks to the Priests of the Parish for
her funeral Mass. Also, thanks to Michelle Bartley for
her kindness and support.

To Matthew Keegan and David Goode for their helpful
guidance throughout this time.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please
accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our
appreciation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been
offered for all who helped and supported us.

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Birthday Remembrance

*Remembering Christine on her 1st Birthday
away from home on the 4th of December.*

Deeply loved and missed by her loving family and friends.

Happy 1st Heavenly Birthday Christine



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MONTHS MIND

In Loving Memory of

JAMES McCORMACK

St. Martin's, Borris Little, Portlaoise.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church Portlaoise on **Sunday 30th November at 12.30pm.**

The family of the late James McCormack, his wife Mary, his sons Ian, Jimmy and Trevor, his daughters Lorraine & Pauline, his son in law Michael and his daughters in law Geraldine & Anne, grandchildren Mark, Sarah, Luke and his wife Laura, Rachel, Amy, Shaun, Kallum, Jamie, Emma Jane, Ben and Anna, would like to express our sincere appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbours for the immense support given to us following Dad's passing.

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

Our heartfelt condolences to the staff of the Dunamais Ward, Portlaoise Hospital, Sarah and the Palliative Care Team, Carla Stanley and the Public Health Nurse Team, Dr. Gerard White and his team, Bluebird Care Team and Owen and Tom O.T.s for their special care and kindness they gave to Dad.

Thanks to John Paul at Mi-Health Pharmacy for his kindness to James over the years.

Thank you to Frs. Erick & Simon for the support and beautiful Funeral Mass you celebrated for Dad. Your kind words touched our hearts.

To Heather who sang beautifully at the Mass.

Thank you to Moloney Funeral Directors, for their professionalism and kindness at this difficult time.

Thank you to the gravediggers at St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery.

Also thank you Coco & Thomas Browne for their generosity.

Thank you to the Parish Centre Staff & Bosco's Catering.

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, Dad



In Loving Memory of

MARGARET BERGIN

Mill House, Boley, Abbeyleix.

3rd Anniversary occurs

30th November 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe on **Sunday 30th November at 12 noon.**

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved and missed and very dear.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her loving husband Jimmy, sons James, John and Owen, extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Margaret



In Loving Memory of

JEAN FITZPATRICK

(NÉE MCEVOY)

The Hermitage, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs

28th November 2025.

It's lonely here without you,
We miss you more each day.
For life is not the same to us
Since you were called away.
To your resting place we visit,
Place flowers there with care.
But no one knows our heartache
When we turn and leave you there.

*Sadly missed and always remembered.
From Mary, Thomas & Geraldine, Michael, Davy & Anthony.*

In Loving Memory of

MARGARET LYNCH

(NÉE DOHENY)

St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

16 years gone Mam

Your life was a blessing Mam,

Your memory a treasure.

You are loved beyond words

And missed beyond measure.

Though you are gone from sight

Your spirit lives with us.



*Forever in our hearts Mam for all eternity.
Love from your husband Michael, Son Michael, Daughters Kathleen & Esther and your three grandsons Laurence, Lorcan & Logan.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MONTHS MIND

In Loving Memory of

PATRICIA (TRISH) WHELAN

Mountmellick and Clonkeen, Portlaoise.



Trish's Month's Mind Mass will be in St. Peter & Paul's Church **Saturday 6th December 10am.**

We, the family of Trish, would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Muiríosa Foundation and Derrycappagh House, Mountmellick for the loving care given to Trish and making it a home with care, companionship and kindness.

We very much appreciate the kindness shown to us as a family from Derrycappagh. You stood with us every step of Trish's final days.

We would like to express our appreciation to Monsignor John Byrne for celebrating Trish's funeral mass with such kind words and warmth. Thank you to Michelle Bartley for organising the mass. Thank you to Sarah Troy for the beautiful singing in the church and all who played a part in the funeral mass.

Thank you, Keegan's Funeral Director's, Matthew and David, for their professionalism and kindness. Thank you to the grave diggers at St. Peter and Paul's cemetery.

We very much appreciate the kindness of our neighbours and friends who called to sympathise with us and attended the funeral mass. A special thank you to Tony and Statia for always being there.

Finally, Carol, thank you for being Trish's great friend and becoming a part of our family.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere gratitude and appreciation, and the holy sacrament of mass will be offered for your intentions.

Duine le Dia



In Loving Memory of

TONY CURRAN

Liogard, Portlaoise, (formerly

Dungarvan, Co. Waterford)

1st Anniversary occurs on the 5th
December 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Peter & Paul's Church on **Saturday
6th December 2025 at 6.30pm.**

Another leaf has fallen

Another soul has gone

But still we have God's promise

In every Robins song

For he is in his heaven

And though he takes away

He always leaves to mortals

The bright suns kindly ray

He leaves the fragrant blossoms

And lovely forest, green

And gives us new found comfort

When we on him will lean.

*Sadly missed, deeply loved & always remembered by your loving
wife Sheila, daughter Edel, son Adrian, daughter in law Mary,
grandchildren Oisín, Liam and Brian.*

Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

KEVIN YOUNG

34 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise &
formerly Derreen, Cloneygowan,
Co. Offaly.

7th Anniversary

29th November 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
**Saturday, 29th November
at 6:30pm.**



Seven years have passed since you left us in November,

Treasured memories still fill our hearts,

Fond times we all remember.

Seven years away from home you are,

and missed dearly every day,

to have one last minute to sit with you,

"I love you", I would say.

*Thinking of you always, from Rosie, Marc,
Nicole, Lauren, Oisín and Fionn.*

Rest in Peace Kevin



In Loving Memory of
JIM GORMAN

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

18th Anniversary occurred 27th November
2025.

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

We think of you every day,
You are in our hearts forever,
For nothing loved is ever lost
and you were loved so much.

Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving family and friends.

May Jim Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
ELEANOR WALSH

Capoley Lane, Portlaoise.

13th Anniversary occurs
3rd December 2025.

"The best way to feel better is to make
someone else feel good".

- Eleanor Walsh

Dearly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Eleanor



In Loving Memory of
JOHN BRENNAN

Rathleague, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurred
Thursday 28th November 2025.

Think of him as living in the hearts
of those he touched,
For nothing loved is ever lost,
And he was loved so very much.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving
children, grandchildren, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Dad



In Loving Memory of
PAT DWYER

20 Grenville, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurred
28th November 2025.

Gone are the days we used to share
But in our hearts you are always there.
The gates of memory will never close.
We miss you more than anybody knows.
With tender love and deep regret,
We who loved you will never forget.

*Fondly remembered always by Joan, Martina, Paul, Isabel,
extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Pat



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MONTHS MIND

In Loving Memory of

PAULINE DUNNE

Clonrooske House, Portlaoise.

Pauline's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in
St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on
Sunday 7th December at 10am.

The family of the late Pauline Dunne would like to thank
sincerely all those who sympathised and supported us on
our recent loss.

Thank you all who called to the house and attended
Pauline's funeral Mass.

We are deeply grateful to all those who sent Mass cards
and messages of sympathy.

Our thanks to Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald.

We would also like to thank Heather Fogarty who sang so
beautifully, also the Sacristans in Ballyfin Church.

Our sincere thanks to the wonderful carers Pauline had
from the H.S.E. and Connected Health for their care and
compassion over the years. To Dr. Simon Honan and all
the staff in the Maryborough Clinic. To the staff in
Portlaoise, Tullamore and St. Luke's Hospital. To Adams
Pharmacy and Chemco Pharmacy for their wonderful care
and assistance. Thanks to Olive Delaney and the Palliative
Care Team and the Night Nurse Service.

Thank you to Keegan Funeral Directors, Matthew and
David for their professionalism and kindness at this
difficult time. Also, to the gravediggers in St. Peter & Paul's
Cemetery. Thank you to Portlaoise GAA and Ballyfin
Parking committee for their help with parking. A special
thanks to our kind neighbours and relatives and friends
for their wonderful support.

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

Rest in Peace Pauline



In Loving Memory of
RITA COSTIGAN

Carrick Hill, Portlaoise.

Whose First Anniversary occurs on Saturday 29th
November 2025.

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on
Saturday 29th November at 6.30pm in the Parish
Church and in the Templo Ecumenical, Playa del Ingles,
Gran Canaria **at 8.00pm.**

Rita's husband Jackie, and daughters Marita and her
husband Mark, Michelle and her partner David, her
brothers Jimmy and John, her sister in laws Sadie and
Kathleen, would like to thank all who attended the Funeral
Mass, burial and prayers at the house, all who sent Mass
cards, texts, phone calls.

Thank you to our nephews, nieces, cousins whose
friendship down through the years was greatly appreciated.

To the wonderful staff in St. Vincent's Community
Nursing Unit, Mountmellick who looked after Rita so
brilliantly while in their care. To the retired nurses from
the Co. Hospital for their guard of honour. To Rita's carer
Jenny who was so good to her with her care and friendship.

Thank you to Fr. Michael Connell, Rita's school friend
and neighbour, for his many visits to her down through
the years. It was a particularly great consolation to us that
he was with her saying the prayers when she died RIP.

To Sarah for her beautiful singing at the Mass.

To Matthew and David for looking after all the funeral
arrangements.

Thank you, Monsignor Byrne, Fr. Tom O'Reilly and Fr.
Michael Connell for the lovely Mass and sermon.

May Rita Rest in Peace



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MONTHS MIND
In Loving Memory of

MONICA (MON) O'BRIEN

87 The Hermitage Portlaoise.

Mon's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in
St Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise on
Saturday the 6th of December at 2 PM.

The family of the late Monica O'Brien, her siblings Fr John,
Paschal, Mary, Tony, Kieran, Ann, Noel, Pat and David.

Her nieces and nephews, her sisters and brothers in law,
would like to express their sincere appreciation to all her
neighbours, work colleagues, customers and large circle
of friends for their immense support given to us
following Mon's recent passing.

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

Thank you to all who travelled long distances to attend
the funeral home on the Friday evening and the Funeral
the following day.

Thank you to the palliative care team and especially Olive
Delaney. To all the health nurses and care workers who
made Monica's life coping with her illness a lot easier.

To Dr. Sinéad Burke and all the staff at the Cedar clinic
for their great work in looking after Monica throughout
her illness.

To Sarah Troy for the beautiful singing at the ceremony

To Frs Ger Ahern, Liam Merrigan and Tomás O'Byrne
for assisting at the ceremony.

To her work colleagues at BWG (4 Aces) who provided
a Guard of Honour.

Thank you to Keegan's Funeral Directors, Mathew
and David, for their professionalism and kindness at
this difficult time.

Also, thanks to the gravediggers at St Peter and
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 Mon



In Loving Memory of
**WILLIAM
(WILLARD)
DOWNEY**

Formerly 8 Triogue Place, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurs

4th December 2025.

Mass at 10am Thursday Dec. 4th.

Will those who think of Willard today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

Thinking of you always, your good friend Andy.

Rest in Peace Bill



In Loving Memory of A Special
Mum and Gran

ALICE HILLIARD

63 Marian Avenue Portlaoise.

12th year away from home.

And her Husband

JIMMY HILLIARD

On his 6th Birthday away from home.

Our love is forever and although we are apart,
Our love only grows stronger, deep within our hearts.

*Sadly missed by her son Noel, daughter Elizabeth, son-in-law
Diarmuid, grandchildren Faith, Brooke, Jennifer, Nicole,
Bernard, Rebecca and their partners, great-grandchildren
and Alice's brother Andrew.*

May They Rest in Peace



Rest in Peace



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R32 T2V9**

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre



**OPEN
SATURDAYS
IN DECEMBER**

**Call in and browse our
large selection of;**

- Cribs/Nativity Sets
- Christmas Ornaments and Gifts
- Cards for all occasions
- Diaries and Calendars
- Bibles and Books
- **Christmas Mass Bouquets €3**

Christmas Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Saturdays 6th, 13th & 20th Dec. 10am-1pm





*LOOKING FOR THE
PERFECT GIFT
THIS CHRISTMAS?*

*PORTLAOISE
PARISH
LOTTO GIFT
VOUCHERS
NOW AVAILABLE*

1/2 Year (25 draws)

for only €50

Full Year (50 Draws)

for only €100

*Other Lotto voucher
denominations also available.*

FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

*You may also join the parish lotto online at
www.portlaoiseparish.ie*

Portlaoise Parish

Results for

27th November 2025



One €12,000 Jackpot Winner

Congratulations to Eimear Murphy, Promoter Mai Murphy

WINNERS

Emma Lewis
Michael Kirwan
Veronica Hyland
Kathleen Dunne
Paul & Kathleen Dunne
Yvonne & Brody Breen
Gabrielle Manton
Edel Percy
John Moore
Aidan Lynch
Margaret McGrath & Emer Bredin
Sean Byrne
Ann Farrell
Bridie Phelan
Margaret Hetherington
Mary Kirwan

MATCH 3s €1,000

**16
Match
3s
Receive
€63**

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

PROMOTER

Richard Phelan
Michael Kirwan
Maura Hyland
Kathleen Dunne
Kathleen Dunne
Carol O'Shea
Nora Walsh
Greg Keenan
Peter Ryan
Paul Dooley
Mgt McGrath
Catherine Byrne
M Farrell
Mary Therese Burke
M Keegan
Frances Byrne

Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000

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

**Stay awake! Of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two
women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.'**

Sunday's Gospel Matthew 24:41

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

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

Christmas Cards

**Designed by the
Cuisle Centre
Art Group**

1 Pack €7.00
3 Packs €20.00
(8 Cards Per Pack)

The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre provides information & support to people diagnosed with cancer, their families, and carers.

**All our services are provided
free of charge.**

**Cuisle Cancer Support Centre
Block Road, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois, R32Y8P2
Tel: 057 868 1492**

CUISLE CENTRE

cancer support group

