

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

11th January 2026

**The Baptism
of the Lord**



Ringing in the New Year 2026 at St. Peter & Paul's. Candles lighting in memory of loved ones. The Light of heaven to all our departed and a bright and blessed New Year to all.



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

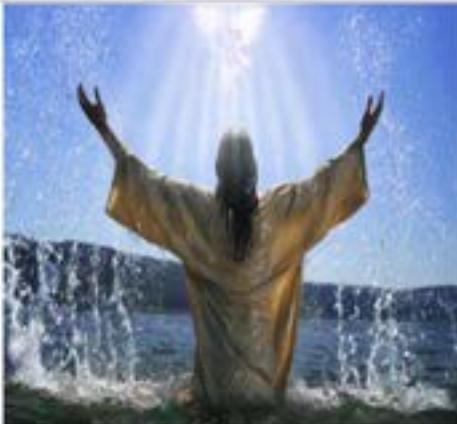
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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie



All God's Children

Has anyone ever told you that they're proud of you? It's a good feeling it's a feeling that empowers a feeling that makes you believe you can do anything. Imagine for a moment that day on the River Jordan at Jesus' baptism. Consider how Jesus must have felt when the heavens opened and the Spirit of God spoke the words, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Remember that this significant event took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry before he had gone out into the world to teach or to heal. Before Jesus had done anything at all, God was already well pleased with him.



As baptism identified Jesus, so too are we identified in our baptism as children of God. So what significance does baptism have in our lives? Do we feel proud at God's affirmation? Do we feel empowered to carry out God's plan? In truth most of us would be confounded if we had to provide an answer to these questions. To most of us, our baptism is an old photo in a forgotten album of childhood memories, or a neglected christening mug collecting dust on a high up shelf. In our own baptism we do not have the obvious benefit of God speaking directly to us from the heavens. Nevertheless, we have made promises in baptism and confirmation, and like any other promise we have to work at keeping them. Baptism isn't a one off event. Baptism is a sacrament that we have to work at daily setting aside time to think about what we are meant to be doing and having the faith that God is supporting us in our efforts.

Jesus said of his baptism. "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus didn't explain what he meant by this, but in biblical context, the word 'righteousness' is often used to express a good relationship with God. By this, we understand that our own baptism sends us off on the road to building a good relationship with God and with others, and by believing in God's backing, we are empowered to do more than we can imagine.

'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

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

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESIONS

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



Blessing of Babies will take place in the Parish Church Today (Sunday) at the 12.30pm Mass

ALL ARE WELCOME



We welcome into our Parish Community

Avery Eilish Arendse, Rossleighan
Chantal Basilio Fitzpatrick, Rinuccini Ct.
Olanna Ariel Ahiaghene, Lime Tree Ave.
Jack Edward Phelan, Clonin Curragh
Chidumaga Ebuka-Chigbo, An Lochan
Amiah Lily Doyle Morrin, Lake Glade
Who were baptised recently.

Thought for the Day

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-In-one;
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart, the Father speaks,
the Spirit and the Son reveal to us the single loving heart.
That beasts behind the bring of all things and calls and
keeps and kindles us to light. The dove descends, the spirit
soars and sings

'You are beloved, you are my delight' In that swift light and
life, as water spills And streams around the Man like
quicken rain,

The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river, to die and rise and
live and love for ever.

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ALL OUR CLASSES WILL RESUME THE WEEK OF THE 12TH OF JANUARY 2026

In Clinic:

Senior exercise class Tues at 11am.

Online Pilates every Weds at 9.30am.

Osteoporosis class every Weds at 10.30am

Osteoporosis class every Thurs at 4pm.

Men's health and fitness class every Thurs at 10am.

In Parish Centre:

Mon morn Osteoporosis class at 9.30am

Intermediate Pilates class Mon eve at 6pm

Beginners Pilates class Mon eve at 7pm.

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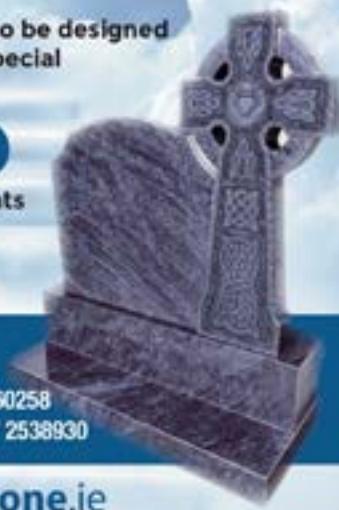
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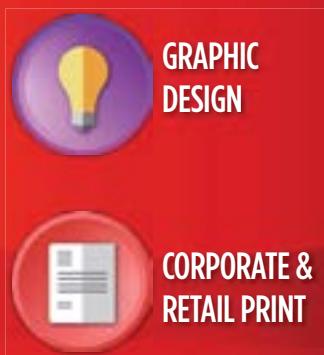
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Email: cdwane@laoiscouncillors.ie

Calling All History Lovers in Abbeyleix, Ballinakill & Ballyroan!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !!!



Abbeyleix

St. Columbanus Historical Society

Abbeyleix, Ballinakill & Ballyroan

Calling All History Lovers in Abbeyleix, Ballinakill & Ballyroan!

In 2026, we're bringing our three communities together to form a brandnew Historical Society—an open, welcoming group for anyone with an interest in local stories, old photographs, family histories, archaeology, heritage buildings, or simply a love of where we come from. Thanks to the Abbeyleix Men's Shed, we already have a home in St. Columbanus Hall, complete with a warm kettle and a warm welcome. This new society will be open to everyone—men and women from all three areas—working together to research, explore, preserve and celebrate the rich history of our towns and villages. If you'd like to learn more, help shape the committee, or be part of something meaningful for 2026 and beyond, we'd love to hear from you. Our past is full of stories worth keeping—let's gather them together.

Announcing our First Meeting

The first meeting will be held in the St. Columbanus Hall on Thursday evening the 15th of January at 7pm sharp.

Parking available at the Abbeyleix Church car park.

Goldilocks and the Three Beours
Written by Rory Chadwick

17TH-24TH JANUARY 2026

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER

Top score: Theresa Mulhare. 1st Lady: Betty O'Neill. 2nd Lady: Ties; Margaret Flanagan & Catherine Galvin. 1st Gent: Frank Keenan. 2nd Gent: Liz Cooper. 1st Half: Mary Malone. 2nd Half: Tom Kearns. Raffle: 1st B Kennedy, 2nd A Pearson, 3rd M Gowing, 4th C Fitzpatrick, 5th L. Cooper 6th B Murphy 7th S Chester, 8th B Jackson, 9th L Kavanagh. *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.

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/>

ACTIVE RETIREMENT Monday 12th January Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. Wednesday 14th Chair Yoga with Tara from 3pm in Parish Centre. Thursday 15th in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy - cards and chat from 3pm new members welcome to any/all events. Tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 0879187157.

PANTO PRODUCTION "Goldilocks and the 3 Beours" Dunamaise Theatre Sat. 17th to 24th January. Tickets on sale at the Theatre. An ideal Christmas gift!

GRAIGUECULLEN Bingo Tuesday 13th January 2026. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €3300. Double number €460. Lotto €1400. Bonus Ball €700.

SOCIAL DANCING Come join us for 6 weeks of Social Sequence Dancing at Seanchistin, Ballyfin, R32X5D6 commencing Monday Jan.12th at 11a.m. Waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, jive, tango etc. supported by Laois Sports Partnership...total cost 20 euro...contact Maureen 0876482038 or cslattery@laoissports.ie. All are welcome.

PORTLAOISE & DISTRICT PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION TABLE QUIZ Deadman's Inn Saturday Night 17th January 2026 @ 8.00pm Table of 4 €40. Great Prizes: Fun for all the family. Please Support.

PARKINSONS BOXERCISE Last year a group of people with parkinson got together to partake in an exercise workout in the Portlaoise Boxing Club facilities under the guidance of Pa Ryan, to be named Boxercise in the Portlaoise Boxing Club facilities under the guidance of Pa Ryan this workout takes place every Saturday morning between 10.00am, and 11.30am if you have been recently diagnosed or already have Parkinson this could be of great benefit to your wellbeing as people with Parkinson only know too well that movement is all so important to slow the progression of this disease, Currently we have 12 people taking part if you think this is of benefit to you come along any Saturday and look and see what takes place, at the moment some of our clients travel as far as Kildare, Wicklow and Kilkenny, look forward to seeing new faces for 2026 eircode 32K7TX for more information ring 087 2776450.

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.

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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.

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE RDS 21st February 2026. Day return from Portlaoise to Dublin by bus. Cost €70 includes bus and entry ticket. Contact via Whatsapp only Karen 087-4160385 or Séamus 087-2752578. Deposit of €40 secures your place.

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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



New Beginnings

January is an exciting time. It is the beginning of a brand new year. Some people like to make New Year's resolutions or promises to themselves about what they plan to accomplish in the new year. The number one resolution that people make is, "I am going to lose weight." I don't think too many people succeed, since it seems to be the number one resolution year after year. I know that it usually makes my top ten list of things I would like to accomplish in the new year.

Even if you don't make any New Year's resolutions, this is an exciting time. It is a time that we can forget our past mistakes and look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is a time of new beginnings.

Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in his life too. One of those times was when he was baptised. There were a couple of very important things that happened when Jesus was baptised. First of all, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and landed upon him. The second thing was that God spoke and said, "You are my Son. I love you and I am well-pleased with you."

This event marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry here on earth. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God upon him, Jesus began to perform great miracles. From this new beginning, many people began to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and they began to follow him.

Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. When we are baptised, it shows the world that just as Jesus rose from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we also live a new life in him. (Romans 6:4) God may not always be well-pleased with us, but I think that He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus.

New beginnings — God gives us opportunities for new beginnings. Let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.



OUR PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for new beginnings. Help us to make the most of them - not through our own strength - but through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. Amen.

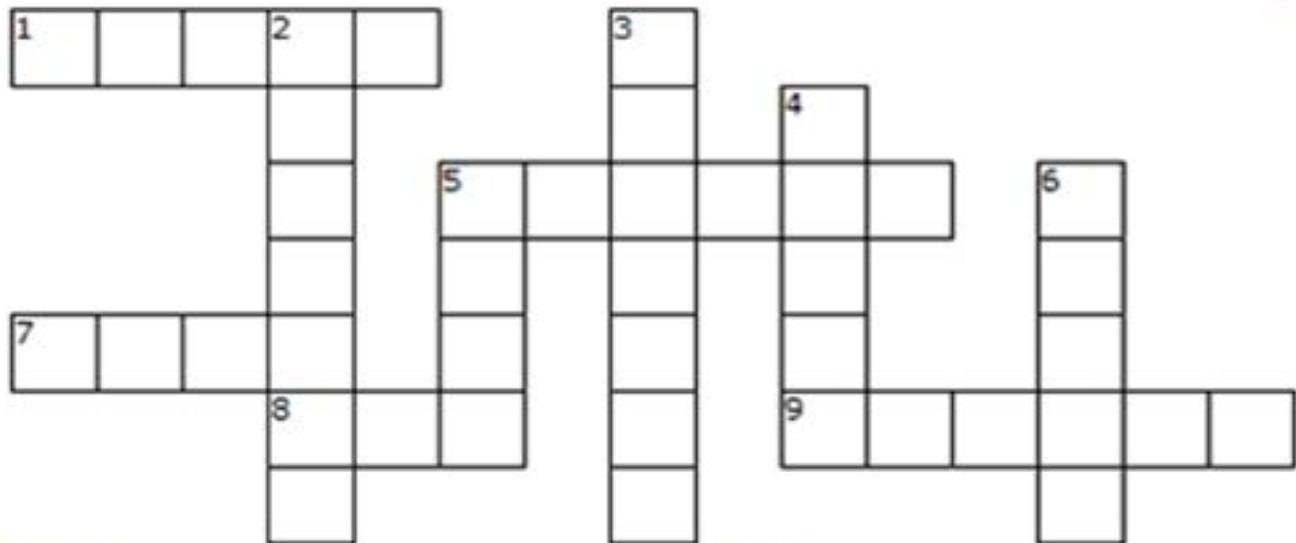


A gentle Reminder for Portlaoise Schools.

First Holy Communion Preparation ceremony will take place in the Parish Church, next Saturday 17th January at 5pm. Looking forward to seeing you there.

The Baptism of Jesus

'As soon as Jesus was baptised.... The heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him'. Matthew 3:16-17



ACROSS

- What was heard when Jesus was baptised.
- The river where Jesus was baptised
- The Spirit cam down from heaven like a .
- To break one of God's commandments.
- To turn away from sin.

DOWN

- To admit that you have done wrong.
- To pardon for sins.
- The liquid used to baptise someone.
- Name of the man who baptised Jesus.
- A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE
CONFESS

JORDAN
WATER

JOHN
SIN

DOVE
VOICE

REPENT
HONEY

Thank You!

Ratheniska children's choir at their Carol Service. A big thanks to Anna and Caroline who put in all the hard work to make this choir so successful. Well done!

Portlaoise Children's Choir at their Carol Service. A huge thank you to Sarah, Midland Strings, and Mary Wisely, who put in tremendous hard work to make the Carol Service such a wonderful success. Well done to all involved!



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HAPPY AND HEALTHY
2026

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MULLIGAN**

**YOUR INDEPENDENT FOR
PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**
Cllr. Tommy Mulligan M.C.C Non Party
087 995 4785
tmulligan@laoiscouncillors.ie

SCIENCE SUCCESS GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH AT DUNAMASE COLLEGE

Four students from Dunamase College have qualified for the prestigious STRIPE Young Scientist Exhibition, which will take place in the RDS, Dublin, from January 7th to 10th.

In a remarkable achievement, this is only the second year Dunamase College has entered the competition, yet students have already progressed to the national stage, reflecting the school's rapidly developing culture of scientific inquiry and innovation.

Three Transition Year students, Melissa Barcoe, Leo Bennett and Cian Bonnie, will present a project investigating whether the mineral content of mains and well water affects taste to such an extent that families spend between €800 and €3,000 annually on bottled water. Their research explores the relationship between water quality, taste perception and consumer behaviour, raising important economic and environmental considerations.

Fifth-year student Angela Babikanga has also been selected for the exhibition with her project examining the mentality behind overconsumption among young people, which will be showcased and judged at the RDS this January.

Teachers Aisling McAuley and Grace Fanning praised the students for the exceptionally high standard of their work, noting that the success of these projects in only the school's second year entering the competition is a testament to the students' commitment, curiosity and scientific thinking.

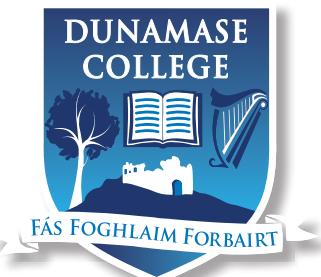
This achievement further strengthens Dunamase College's reputation as a school with a strong STEAM focus, building on recent

successes as winners of the LOETB STEAM Competition for innovative work in Minecraft Education and Podcasting, as well as strong performances in the Laois County Council LEGO League Competition. These initiatives, alongside strong uptake and outcomes in science subjects, highlight the school's commitment to excellence in science and future-focused education.

Speaking about the achievement, Principal Dympna Kelly said:

"We are incredibly proud of our students and staff. To reach the national stage of the STRIPE Young Scientist Exhibition in only our second year of participation is a significant milestone for Dunamase College. It reflects our strong emphasis on STEAM education, critical thinking and innovation, and our belief that students learn best when they are curious, creative and challenged. These successes demonstrate the quality of teaching and learning in science across the school and our commitment to excellence for every student."

The STRIPE Young Scientist Exhibition is a highly competitive national event celebrating innovation and scientific inquiry among secondary school students across Ireland. The entire Dunamase College community has expressed immense pride in the students' achievements and wishes them every success as they prepare to represent their school on the national stage.



Time to Think...

2026 A Time To Slow Down...



As we begin the early pathway of a new year, wisdom suggests walking easy, taking each step at a time. 2026, like every new year, brings an invitation to begin again. The biggest challenge in life is to live in the present moment, to breathe in the here and now, to be grounded in the present reality. How many of us carry burdens belonging to past years? too many faces a new year filled with anxiety about what might happen and unfortunately far too few can breathe easily in the here and now. To live in the present moment, is both gift and blessing and perhaps the most challenging and beneficial resolution as we begin 2026. The great prayer of Saint Padre Pio very beneficial this time of year. "By past life I give to your mercy O Lord, tomorrow I hand into your Providence, today let me live in your love"

Random Tales of Wisdom...

Sleep When the Wind Blows

How do you handle adversity? What are you thinking when the sun goes down on those cold, windy nights, when you're trying to get to sleep, and the wind keeps swirling and howling through your bedroom windows?

Sleep Soundly When the Wind Blows

Years ago a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer.

"Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him.

"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man. Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him.

The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work. Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore.

Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters.

He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot.

Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured.

Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away.

The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

Can you sleep when the wind blows? When you're prepared,

spiritually, mentally, and physically, you have nothing to fear.

A Cat Goes To Heaven

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, 'you have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask.' The cat says, 'Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, 'All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?' The cat yawns and stretches and says, 'OH, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!

A prayer to help live in the present moment for 2026

Slow Me Down Lord

Slow me down, Lord.

Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations—of slowing down to look at a flower,

to chat with a friend,

to pat a dog,

to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise, that I may know that the race is not always to the swift—that there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny.

Amen.



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Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died

May They Rest In Peace

Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



Alan Byrne
Ballyroan formerly
Tallaght



Andy Dowling
Borris Rd, Portlaoise



Christy Foran
New Road, Portlaoise



Helen Casey
(née Balfe)
Lower Main St.,
Abbeyleix



Mary Fitzpatrick
(née Walsh)
Crubbin, Ballyroan



Margaret Dooley
Thornberry, Abbeyleix



Marjorie
Fitzsimons
Ballyfin Rd. Portlaoise



Meta Cooke
(née McEvoy)
Mosse Lane, Portlaoise



Michael Doherty
Rathleague, Portlaoise /
Enniskillen, Fermanagh



Michael (Mikey)
Devoy
Ballyruin, Ballyroan



Senan (Sonny)
Phelan
Ballyroan



Theresa Greene
Maryborough Village,
Portlaoise



In Loving Memory of
MARY LALOR
Ballycarroll, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs
22nd January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the
Church of the Assumption, The Heath,
Sunday 11th January at 9.30am.

“Those we love we never lose, for always they will be,
Loved remembered, treasured, always in our memory”

Sadly missed and always remembered by
Paddy, Patricia, Jennifer, Seamus, Carol, Padraig,
Mary and families.

“Our thoughts are ever with you,
though you have passed away,
And those who have loved you dearly,
are thinking of you today.

Your memories are so precious, your presence missed so
much, Forever remembered and missed by all of us”.

*Also remembering Paddy's parents Ellen & James Lalor
whose anniversaries occurred 1st and 24th January,
And Mary's Mother Christina Lalor, Green Grove,
Portlaoise, whose 40th Anniversary occurs 15th January.*



Tommy Gorman
Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix



Willie Kirwan
Rabeenabrogue,
Ballyroan

May They All Rest in Peace



Remembering my much adored
and treasured father
JOHN BURKE
(SEAN / JACK)
Ballyknocken.

On his 1st Anniversary away from us.
Missed beyond measure for your quiet
unassuming kind and jovial way
with a head full of great knowledge,
a love of the Latin Mass and
so many memories,
sparking endless conversation,
your absence creating a void now
which can never be filled.
So blessed to have you as my father
and the children's grandfather.
'Semper Desiderari'
Alice, Jack and Tara xxx

Rest in Peace John



In Loving Memory of
AGNES CARROLL
ROONEY

43 Liogard, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurs at this time.



In our Hearts Mammy

We thought of you today, but that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday and days before that too.
We think of you in silence, we often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories, and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part
God has you in his keeping, we have you in our heart.

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

May Agnes Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
ROSANNA KERRY
(NÉE PHILLIPS)
61 Knockmay Estate.
8th Anniversary away from home
occurs 12th January 2026.

We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.

*Sadly missed by your sons, daughters, grandchildren,
great grandchildren & extended family.*

May Rosanna Rest in Peace



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT &
MONTHS MIND
In Loving Memory of
WILLIE KIRWAN
Raheenabrogue, Ballyroan,
Co. Laois.

Willie's Months Mind will be celebrated in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary Abbeyleix on **Sunday 18th January at 11am.**

The family of the late Willie Kirwan would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who supported us during this difficult time.

Thank you to extended family, relatives, friends and neighbours for their support.

Thanks to all who expressed condolences in person, by phone, online, sent Mass cards and those who kept us in their thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to all who attended Willie's reception of remains and requiem Mass.

We would like to express our appreciation to Fr. Paddy Byrne, Fr. Petru Medves and Monsignor John McEvoy for celebrating Willie's funeral Mass.

We extend our thanks to Laura and the choirs from Abbeyleix and Ballyroan for the beautiful music and the Guard of Honour for Willie.

Thanks to the Tirlan members for their Guard of Honour for Willie.

Thanks to the Kelly funeral directors for their professionalism and to the grave diggers for preparing Willie's final resting place. A sincere word of gratitude to the staff of St James hospital who looked after and cared for Willie so well.

As it is not possible to thank everyone else 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 Kirwan family.

Rest in Peace William



In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (PAT)
BOWLER

6 The Cottage, New Road, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurred
9th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday 11th January at 11.15am.**

Will those who think of Patrick (Pat) today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Patrick



In Loving Memory of
**FR. THOMAS
BROWNE**
*Parish Priest
Portlaoise
1941 to 1976*

*Who died
5th January 1982*

May he Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
A Cherished Husband, Father and Grandfather
WILLIAM (WILLIE) O'REILLY

28 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

Whose 79th Birthday occurs on 13-01-26.

8th Birthday away from home.

For someone who meant so much

And was loved by all he knew

Who left behind a trail of tears

And precious memories too

We loved the sunshine in his smile

And the kindness in his eyes

But heaven saw that he was tired

Which meant we had to part

And now that it's his special day

Dear angels hear our prayer

For he was someone wonderful

And words just can't convey

How much we wish that he was here

Once more with us today.

Happy 79th Birthday Daddy

Loved and remembered always,
Never more than a thought away.

*Your loving wife Anne, sons and daughters,
son-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren xxxx*

Rest in Peace William



In Loving Memory of
LILY BYRNE
*Late of Capoley, Portlaoise.
(Died 7th January 1981)*

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”

Sadly missed by your son Martin, daughter-in-law Jacqueline, grandchildren Lorraine, Michelle, Sarah and her great-grandchildren Danny, Joe, Maeve and Rosie.

May Lily Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
JAMES DEMPSEY
*8 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
Died 1st January 1997.*

A loving husband and father so true,
No one on this earth we'll find like you,
For us you always did your best,
God grant your soul eternal rest.

Also remembering our mother Sadie at this time.

From all your loving family.

Rest in Peace James



In Loving Memory of
MARTIN BRENNAN
*54 Borris Little, Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2026.*

Anniversary Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 10th January at 6.30pm.

Along the road of suffering, you found a little lane,
That took you up to Heaven and ended all your pain,
You may be out of sight, we may be worlds apart,
but you are always in our prayers and forever in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Ann,
Helen, Mark & Eve and granddaughter Iris.*

Rest in Peace Martin



In Loving Memory of

MARTIN (MURT) KIRWAN

Anngrove, Kilbricken, Mountrath.

4th Anniversary occurs 17th January 2026.
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St.
Brigid's Church, Shanahoe,
on Sunday January 18th, at 12 noon.

God saw you were getting tired,

When a cure was not to be,
He closed his arms around you,
And whispered "Come to Me".

In tears we watched you sinking,
We watched you fade away;

And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go, God only takes the best.

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

Also remembering Murt's son John Paul at this time.

Just a prayer from the family who loved you,

Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.

*Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife
Ann and his sons Martin, Anthony, James, daughters Mary, Martha,
Noirin, his adoring grandchildren and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Martin



In Loving Memory of

FR. EDDIE LALOR

Kiltegan Fathers,
former C.C Portlaoise
and native of Raheen.

2nd Anniversary occurs
9th January 2026.

"A Blessed Life Well Lived"

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.



In Loving Memory of

FRANCES DUNNE

'Silverdale', Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise.
16th Anniversary occurs
14th January 2026.

It's 16 years since we lost our lovely Mother,
We still miss her.

She was a wonderful Mother
And a great Friend to us all.

Missed by her loving family xx

Rest in Peace Mam



In Loving Memory of

FRANCES DUNNE

Late of 'Silverdale',
Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise.

16th Anniversary of a dear sister and
best friend on 14th January.

To hear your voice, to see your smile,
To sit and talk to you a while,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.

*Loved and remembered always Chrissie, Yvonne, Jack &
Áine xxxx*

May Frances Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

MARY FARRELL

20 Mountain View Square, Portlaoise.

Those we love never go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her loving husband
Patrick, daughters Martina, Mary, Sheila, grandchildren
and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Mary



PATRICK & ELLEN MAHER

Grange, Stradbally whose anniversaries
occur at this time.

Also remembering their sons & daughters Eileen,
MaryAnn, John, Margaret and daughters in law
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.

Lovingly remembered by all your family.

May They Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

FR. JIM FINGLETON

Ratheniska / Dublin.

Whose Months Mind occurs at this time.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated on
Sunday 11th January at 10am in Ratheniska Church.

Will those who think of him today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

May he Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
MARY MAHER
 Borris Rd, Portlaoise.
 3rd Anniversary occurs
 8th January 2026.

Always a smile instead of a frown,
 Always a hand when one is down,
 Always true, thoughtful and kind,
 Wonderful memories you left behind.

*Forever loved and sadly missed by
 Mam, brothers, sisters and extended family. x*

Rest in Peace Mary



In Loving Memory of
PAT NEALON
 The Hermitage Portlaoise.
 5th Anniversary and Birthday
 Remembrance on
 Sunday 4th January 2026.

The family chain is broken,
 Nothing seems the same,
 A part of us went with you
 The day God called you home.
 We think of you in silence
 And often speak your name.

*Sadly, missed and remembered by your loving wife
 Trudy and family.*

Rest in Peace Pat



In Loving Memory of
MARY TYNAN
 Rathavan, Portlaoise.
 6th Anniversary occurred
 9th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul's
 Church, Sunday 11th January at
 12.30pm.

There is no night without a dawning, no winter without a spring,
 And beyond death's dark horizon, our hearts once more will sing.

For those who leave us for a while, have only gone away,
 Out of a restless careworn world, into a brighter day.

*Sadly missed and always remembered
 by her husband Luke and family.*

Rest in Peace Mary



In Loving Memory of
CHRIS REDDY

Foxburrow, Portlaoise,
 formerly Terenue, Dublin.
 2nd Anniversary occurs
 11th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
 Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on
 Saturday 10th January at 6.30pm.

Chris, on your 2nd Anniversary

A million times we've needed you,
 A million times we've cried.
 If love alone could have saved you
 You never would have died.

It broke our hearts to lose you
 But you did not go alone.
 For a part of us went with you
 The day God took you home.

The Best Dad & Grandad

*We love and miss you, all day, everyday
 Your girls, Maureen & Orla-Jane
 Sons, James, Tom & his wife Leanne, Chris
 & his wife Gemma.*

*Grandchildren, Meghan, Dylan, Charlie, Darragh & Logan
 xx*



In Loving Memory of
**ELLEN (NELLIE)
 BRENNAN**

14, St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
 23/04/1933 - 12/01/2025
 1st Anniversary occurs on
 12th January 2026.

Nellie's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St.
 Peter & Paul's Church on Saturday 10th January
 2026 at 6.30pm.

Also remembering Nellie's son
MARTIN BRENNAN

54, Borris Little, Portlaoise.
 12th Anniversary occurs
 14th January 2026.



Time slips by and life goes on
 But from our hearts you are never gone.

Lovingly remembered by all the family.

May They Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of
KEVIN O' BRIEN
Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurred
6th January 2026.



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

Sadly missed and remembered by his loving wife Grainne, parents Seamus and Bernie, brothers Paul and Brendan, extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Kevin



In Loving Memory of
JOSEPHINE O' REILLY
Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise,
whose Anniversary occurred 13th January.

A sudden call from God on high,
We had no chance to say goodbye,
Without farewell you fell asleep,
But memories of you we will always keep.

From your sons Martin and Jas, daughter Eileen, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May Josephine Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
JIM MCCLOSKEY

2nd Anniversary occurs
13th January 2026.

Those we love never go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen unheard but always near,
Still loved still missed and very dear.

*Sadly missed & always remembered by Jackie,
Triona, Saoirse, Cian & Caoimhe*

Rest in Peace Jim

CELINE DULLY

Glenside

4th Anniversary on 14.01.26

*So missed every day
Nial xxx*



In Loving Memory of
TOM & NUALA HOLMES
Formerly of "Sally Gardens", Main St. Portlaoise
and Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise.
Nuala's 13th Anniversary occurred
1st December 2025.
Tom's 25th Anniversary occurs
11th January 2026.



Will those who think of them today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.
*Always loved and never forgotten by all their
loving family, extended family and friends xx*

*May Tom and Nuala
Rest in Peace*



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🌐 www.mochuaprint.ie

HENRY RANKIN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

087-2562137



KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David 087-2369887

Portlaoise Parish

Results for
8th January 2026



07 08 23 26

No €11,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Emily Delaney
Paddy & Pattie Ging
Eimear O'Leary
Ingrid Lewis
Liam Dollard
Anne Brennan
AB
Marie O'Connor
Greg & Ola
Darren
M Hanlon

MATCH 3s €1,000

11
Match
3s
Receive
€91

PROMOTER

Lil Gleeson
Lotto Gift
Nora Walsh
Lotto Gift
Carmel Whelan
Anne Brennan
Anne Brennan
Peter Ryan
Greg Keenan
Flanagan's
M Farrell

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

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Next Week's Jackpot is €12,000

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17



Supporting our Parish

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

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

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

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: 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



Clergy of the Parish

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



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



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Outside office hours
In emergency only Tel: 0852134285

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: [@portlaoiseparish](https://twitter.com/PortlaoiseParish)

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacrists 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

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