



18th January 2026

## Second Sunday in Ordinary

At the 12.30pm Mass in the Parish Church last Sunday, we had a lovely Blessing of Babies ceremony — parents and families gathered with great joy and pride as we prayed God's protection and grace upon their little ones. May these precious children grow in health, happiness and faith, always surrounded by love—at home, and here in our parish community.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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## Any Witnesses?

There are those in our society who stand head and shoulders above the rest of us ... great entrepreneurs, politicians, writers, scientists and

humanitarians. We look up to these people and wish that we were more like them. When interviewed, these great people might pass some of the credit for their success on to a teacher who has made a big impression on them, an influential mentor, or a family member.

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Without John the Baptist, without the disciples, without the writers of the gospels, we would not have Jesus' teachings today. Without our parents and teachers, we would never have learned our first bible stories. Yet there are plenty of people in our world that would still benefit from Jesus' philosophy for living. There are plenty of people still consumed by greed, hate, crime obsession and misery. There are plenty of people who could still benefit from Jesus' teaching if only we as Jesus' witnesses could bring it about.

So why do we hesitate to bear witness? Well, first of all there's something about bearing witness that makes us feel uncomfortable. No one wants to be the man in the city centre wearing the biblical billboards. No one wants to be the woman with her foot wedged in the front door predicting the end of the world. Yet all these people are well meaning and trying to get God's message across in the best way they know how. If these aren't the ways that we would choose then perhaps we can find other more imaginative ways, rather than do nothing at all. The challenge we are offered today is to reach those people who remain unaffected by God in ever new and more imaginative ways.

*'Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said,  
"Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of  
the world." (Today's Gospel)*

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**Thought for Today!**  
The best thing about the future  
is that it comes only one day at a time!

## 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**

**CONFESSIONS**

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



**We welcome into our Parish Community**

Páidi John Deevy, Upper Beladd

Faustina Maria Jithin, Carmody Square

**Who were baptised last weekend.**

## Landed on Top of a Lamb

A tourist visited a church in Germany and was surprised to see the carved figure of a lamb near the top of the church's tower.



He asked why it was there and was told that when the church was being built, a workman fell from a high scaffold.

His co-workers rushed down, expecting to find him dead. But to their surprise and joy, he was alive and only slightly injured.

How did he survive? A flock of sheep was passing beneath the tower at the time, and he landed on top of a lamb. The lamb broke his fall and was crushed to death, but the man was saved.

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

*In Parish Centre:*

Mon morn Osteoporosis class at 9.30am

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\*\*\*\*\*

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**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January '26**

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## St. Brigid's Camino

MONASTEREVIN PARISH

## ST. BRIGID'S CAMINO WALK MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

### ST. BRIGID'S ORIGINS

St. Brigid is reputed to have been born in the Townland of Umeras. Just outside Monasterevin Co. Kildare. This year a Bank Holiday to honour St. Brigid takes place on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**.

### TO COMMEMORATE BRIGID

Monasterevin Parish have organised a Camino Walk in her honour. Starting at St. Brigid's Shrine at Mountrice W34X529 on Monasterevin - Rathangan Road (R414) at 11.00am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February (walk is approx. 6km). Car parking provided at Mountrice Cross. The walk will be led by Bishop and will Journey via Umeras then along the Canal Blueway, finishing in Sts. Peter & Paul Church W34KD61 Monasterevin with a Service of Light at 12.30pm.

### BUS & CAMINO PASSPORT

A bus will leave the Parish Church Monasterevin at 10.30am to Mountrice and return to Mountrice at 2.00pm. For those who wish to avail, payment on the bus (no need to register). All those who participate will be issued with a special St. Brigid Camino Passport that will be stamped at Sts. Peter & Paul Church W34KD61. St. Brigid's Crosses & refreshments will be provided on the day.

Info: Parish Office - 045 525346  
[www.monasterevinparish.ie](http://www.monasterevinparish.ie)

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HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## God's Eyewitnesses



It is important for us to keep up with what is happening in the world, isn't it? One of the best ways to keep up is by watching the news. A typical news broadcast may have several live, on-the-scene reports. The announcer might say something like, "Fire destroyed a building today in Tralee. RTE Eyewitness News reporter, Paschal Sheehy, is at the scene. Paschal?"

Paschal would say, "Thank you, Eileen. I am talking to Maeve Mullally who witnessed the fire. Maeve, can you tell us exactly what you saw?" The eyewitness would then tell everyone what she saw. It really helps us to understand what happened when we have an eyewitness report, doesn't it?

Even though there was no TV during the time that Jesus lived, eyewitness reports were still very important. One day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him. He said to the people with him, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one I told you about. I didn't know he was the Messiah, but when I baptised him, I saw the Holy Spirit coming down from the heavens like a dove. It came down and landed right on his shoulder. I saw it with my own two eyes and I tell you, this is the Son of God." When the people heard John's eyewitness report, it helped them understand and believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

Most people come to know about Jesus because someone else tells them about him. Perhaps it's their parents, a school teacher, a pastor, or a good friend. Who is someone who has told you about Jesus? Maybe your parent, a friend or a teacher.

These people whom you named have given an eyewitness account of how Jesus changed their life. God wants all of us to be a part of his "Eyewitness News Team."

What would you tell someone about what Jesus means to you? Whatever Jesus has done for you, tell others so they can know Him too.

### OUR PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son. Help us be witnesses so that others will come to know Your love as we do. Amen.



### A Prayer for Students and Teachers

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding.

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students.

**Amen.**



**Catholic  
Schools  
Week  
begins  
today**

Sunday  
18th January

### Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between 18th January and 25th January. It is an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days.





# Time to Think...

## Beatification of Fulton Sheen



One of the fundamental tasks of the Christian faith is to communicate well. The early disciples were invited to go and tell The Good News. I'm inspired by the life of Bishop Fulton Sheen. A life, where he wholeheartedly communicated with passion and creativity a simple message, that God loves us, as we are. Sheen had a warmth and empathy that made him an attractive communicator and one of the most celebrated Catholic bishops of all time. The Holy See is expected to announce in the coming weeks a date for the beatification of Ven. Fulton Sheen, the Emmy-winning archbishop whose television and radio ministry made him one of the most prominent Catholic voices in mid-20th-century America. Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, born Peter John Sheen; May 8, 1895 – December 9, 1979, was one of the most influential American Catholic figures of the 20th century. A brilliant theologian, prolific author, gifted orator, and pioneer of religious broadcasting on radio and television. Often called "America's Bishop," he reached tens of millions with his clear, engaging explanations of the Catholic faith, earning him comparisons to the first televangelists.

Fulton Sheen was born in El Paso, Illinois, the eldest of four sons to Newton and Delia Sheen, an Irish-American farming family. As an infant, he contracted tuberculosis but recovered. The family soon moved to nearby Peoria, Illinois, where he served as an altar boy at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception. His mother dedicated him to the Blessed Virgin Mary at baptism, a devotion he renewed at his First Communion and maintained lifelong. Sheen was an excellent student with little interest in farm work or sports, preferring intellectual pursuits. He graduated valedictorian from Spalding Institute in Peoria in 1913 and attended St. Viator College, where he honed his debating and speaking skills. He began priestly studies at Saint Paul Seminary in Minnesota.

Ordained a priest for the Diocese of Peoria on September 20, 1919, Sheen celebrated his first Christmas Mass at St. Mark Parish in Peoria. Despite his youthful appearance, he pursued advanced studies: a doctorate in philosophy at The Catholic University of America, followed by further doctorates at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) in 1923, where he became the first American to win the Cardinal Mercier Prize for International Philosophy and the Pontificum Collegium Internationale Angelicum in Rome (Doctor of Sacred Theology, 1924). Returning to the U.S., he served briefly as a curate in a poor parish before joining the faculty of The Catholic University of America in 1928, teaching philosophy and theology until 1950. He also assisted in parishes in England and met influential figures like Ronald Knox.

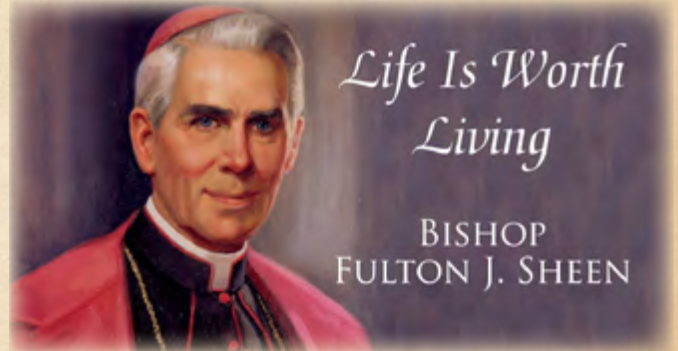
In 1930, Sheen launched "The Catholic Hour" on NBC radio, a weekly program that ran for 20 years and drew up to 4 million listeners. He addressed major issues, framing World War II as a theological struggle and denouncing Hitler as an "Anti-Christ." His greatest fame came with television. In 1952, he debuted "Life Is Worth Living" on the DuMont Network, speaking extemporaneously (no script or cue cards) in a studio set resembling a study, often using a chalkboard. Airing Tuesday nights against stars like Milton Berle and Frank Sinatra, it attracted up to 30 million viewers weekly, mostly non-Catholics and won Sheen an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality in 1952 (he jokingly thanked the Gospel

writers Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). The show ran until 1957. He returned with the similar syndicated "The Fulton Sheen Program" (1961–1968).

From 1950 to 1966, as national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, he raised millions (including donating his TV earnings) for global Catholic missions. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of New York in 1951 by Pope Pius XII; Sheen was consecrated in Rome. In 1966, Pope Paul VI named him Bishop of Rochester, where he focused on social issues, ecumenism, and even attempted to donate a parish building for housing (though it failed). He resigned in 1969 (approaching age 75) and was made titular Archbishop of Newport, Wales, allowing him to continue preaching and writing.

Sheen attended all sessions of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) and worked with future Pope Benedict XVI. A strong anti-Communist, he influenced many conversions (including Clare Boothe Luce, Henry Ford II, and others) through personal instruction. On October 2, 1979, Pope John Paul II embraced Sheen at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, saying: "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You are a loyal son of the Church!" Two months later, on December 9, 1979, Sheen died in his private chapel in New York City during his daily Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament — a practice he kept faithfully since ordination. Sheen authored over 70 books (including *Treasure in Clay*, his autobiography) and touched countless lives. His shows continue to air on networks like EWTN.

The cause for his canonization opened in 2002 in the Diocese of Peoria. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI declared him Venerable for his heroic virtues. A miracle attributed to his intercession (the 2010 recovery of stillborn baby James Fulton Engstrom) was approved by Pope Francis in 2019, clearing the path for beatification. The Holy See will soon announce a date for his beatification possibly in September 2026. Fulton Sheen's life exemplified using modern media to proclaim timeless truths, always pointing people to Christ with clarity, charity, and wit. His famous daily Holy Hour remained the foundation of his extraordinary ministry.



"Patience is power.  
Patience is not an absence of action,  
rather it is "timing"  
it waits on the right time to act,  
for the right principles  
and in the right way."

Fulton J. Sheen



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**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's bar every two weeks. More information about our chess club: <https://www.meetup.com/social-chess-club-in-portlaoise/>

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT** Monday 19th January - Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. New members welcome tuition given Wednesday 21st January Chair Yoga with Tara in Parish Center from 3pm. new members welcome. Thursday 22nd cards and chat in Sue Ryder center kilminchy from 3pm new members welcome tuition given For further information contact Maria at 087 9187157.

**PANTO PRODUCTION** "Goldilocks and the 3 Beours" Dunamais 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](mailto:cslattery@laoissports.ie). All are welcome.

**SOCIAL AND SEQUENCE DANCING** continues each Monday 11a.m. Seanchistin, Ballyfin, R32X5D6. Come and dance waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, jive, tango etc. with a difference. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Catriona Slattery at Laois Sports Partnership. Timetable at Seanchistin. Monday as above. Tuesday 11a.m. line dancing Wednesday 8p.m. Set Dancing Thursday 11a.m. music and movement for persons living with Parkinsons Thursday 8p.m. Line Dancing. Further details Maureen 0876482038.

**SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA:** Call 087-2068972 | [seandoylelightengineering](http://seandoylelightengineering.com). Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

## RELIGIOUS NOTES

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** Every Sunday at 3 PM in the Parish Church.

**ROSARY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH:** Daily 2pm (Monday to Saturday), Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

**ROSARY** will be recited in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church, every evening at 7pm.

**VOCATIONS SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH:** Holy Hour, Adoration, and Prayer for Vocations Every Friday at 3PM in the Parish Church.

**LEGION OF MARY** invites you to join us every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Prayer Hall as we come together in prayer and service to Our Lady.

**COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP:** Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp. For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome.

**RADIO MARIA IRELAND** is an Irish-run Catholic talk radio station offering commercial-free prayer, catechesis, music, talks, and interviews. Listen anytime on Saorview Channel 210, our free app, online at [radiomaria.ie](http://radiomaria.ie), or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

**PORTLAOISE 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** 28th 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.

**SPIORAID NAOIMH PRAYING COMMUNITY:** Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat 10 am to 1.20pm St. Peter and Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise - Saturday's 31st January, 21st February, 21st March, and 18th April. Holy Mass @ 10.00 am - Confessions available after Mass - Retreat continues in Ratheniska Room Parish Centre after Mass @ 10.45 am. (Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry) Contact: Michael Nerney 086 8157305. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P. All Welcome. [www.spioraidnaoimh.com](http://www.spioraidnaoimh.com)



*Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died*



**Sheila Fitzpatrick**  
Beechlawn, Portlaoise



**Gary Cuddy**  
Meelick, Portlaoise



**Eamonn O'Connell**  
Straboe, Portlaoise



**George Quinlan**  
Redhill, Ballyroan



**Joseph  
(Joe) O'Neill**  
Dirreen Ballyroan Rd.  
Abbeyleix



**Margaret Brown**  
(née Lalor)  
Fielbrook,  
Portlaoise



**Anne Kehoe**  
(née Murphy)  
Boughlone, Portlaoise



**Tommy Cripps**  
Roskelton  
Mountrath



**Catherine O'Shaughnessy**  
(née Lambe)  
Ealing, London and formerly  
The Heath, Portlaoise

*May They  
Rest In  
Peace*

*Our Sympathies Are  
With Their Families*



In Loving Memory of  
**DAVID RAFTER**

"Ardville" Glenside, Portlaoise.  
7th Anniversary occurred  
15th January 2026.

If we could have a lifetime wish,  
One dream that could come true,  
We would pray to God with all our hearts  
Just to see and speak to you.  
A thousand words won't bring you back,  
We know because we've tried,  
And neither will a million tears,  
We know because we've cried.  
You've left behind our broken hearts,  
And precious memories too,  
But we never wanted memories, we only wanted you.  
*Missed beyond words by your daughter Amy, son Stefan and  
partner Jennifer and grandson Daithí and Tomás x*

**My Dear Son**

Quietly today your memory is kept  
No need for words we will never forget  
As thoughts go back as often they do  
We treasure the memories we have of you.  
*Loved and missed everyday from your loving Mam.*

**My Darling Brother Daithí**

Days will pass and turn into years,  
But I will always remember you with silent tears.  
Missing you so much today and always  
*Love John, Martina and Craig xxx*

Time unfolds another year,  
Memories keep you very near.  
Will those who think of David today,  
A little prayer to Jesus say.

Loved and missed dearly, Jimmy, Claire & family xxx

*Rest in Peace David*



In Loving Memory of  
**RICHARD  
ANDERSON**

Late of 37 Upper Beladd, Portlaoise.  
Whose 7th Anniversary occurs on  
19th January 2026.

Today marks 7 years since my  
Beloved husband Richard went to Heaven.

Though my heart still aches,  
I find comfort knowing he rests in  
God's eternal peace until we meet again.

*Loved and missed always,  
Your loving wife Cecilia and family X*

*Rest in Peace Richard*





In Loving Memory of  
**PADDY O'BRIEN**  
**(THE PROPHET)**

2 Millview, Portlaoise.  
 9th Anniversary occurs 20th January.

No words can tell, no tears express,  
 The love, the loss, the emptiness,  
 You are not just a memory or part of the past,  
 You are ours to remember as long as life lasts.

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
 by your loving family and friends.  
 May Paddy Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**BRIDIE DOODY**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.  
 6th Anniversary occurred  
 15th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
 Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday**  
**18th January at 11:15am.**

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

*Sadly missed by her nieces and nephews.  
 Rest in Peace Bridie*



In Loving Memory of  
**JOSEPH O'SHEA**

20 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
 5th Anniversary occurred  
 10th January 2026.

*Loved and missed dearly by Mam, Caroline,  
 John, Paul, Patrick and William, his children,  
 grandchildren, nieces and nephews.*

*Rest in Peace Joseph*



In Loving Memory of  
**MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**

Ballyduff, Portlaoise.  
 15th Anniversary occurs 17th January 2026.

Those we love remain with us,  
 For love itself lives on,  
 Cherished memories never fade,  
 Because one loved is gone,  
 Those we love can never be,  
 More than a thought apart,  
 For as long as there is a memory,  
 They live on in our hearts.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his son Seamus, Lena & family.*

*May Michael Rest in Peace*



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

28 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.  
 8th Anniversary away from home 24th January 2026

They say that times a healer,  
 But as the years go on  
 We seem to find it just as hard  
 To face the fact you're gone.  
 And today is the Anniversary  
 Of the day you went away.  
 We stand beside your graveside  
 And believe us when we say;  
 You will never be forgotten  
 And we will always shed a tear,  
 But it's only because we love you,  
 And wish you were still here.  
 Daddy your love continues  
 To guide us every day,  
 On this your 8th Anniversary,  
 We honour your Memory  
 And the incredible legacy you left behind.  
 Though time may pass  
 You are never more than a thought away.

Loved and missed every day.

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

*Rest in Peace William*







In Loving Memory of  
**MARGARET  
HOULIHAN**

14 Oaklawn, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.  
8th Anniversary occurs 18th January 2026.

*The Day You Went Away*

Today's the anniversary of the day that 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're 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.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving husband  
James, sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law,  
grandchildren and extended family.*

*May Margaret Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**DAVID DUNCAN**

"Redlough" Rathevan,  
Portlaoise.

*In Our Hearts*

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 by his loving parents Ann & Tony,  
brothers Gary & Mark, sister Jacqui,  
brother in law Seamus & sister's in law Tracey & Bryana.  
Niece Melody & Nephew Dylan.*

*Rest in Peace David*



In Loving Memory of  
**DAVID RAFTER**

'Ardville' Glenside, Portlaoise.  
Whose 7th Anniversary occurred  
15th January 2026.

I close my eyes and see your face  
Smiling at me from a beautiful place  
You tell me you are never far away  
And that we will meet again some day

I ask if you could stay a while  
I miss your laugh I miss your smile  
Then you whisper sweetly into my ear  
I never leave you I'm always here

*Loved always and forever by  
Jack, Jennifer, Cian & Hollie xxxxx*

My heart has been left broken  
Since the day you had to go  
And the memories I treasure dearly  
Are in the tears that still flow  
You're in my thoughts everyday  
And that's how it will always be  
For you may be up in Heaven now  
But you'll always be with me  
If only I could have the chance  
To see your face once more  
Or to hear your voice one final time  
Just like it was before  
The day that Heaven calls for me  
Will be a relief from all this pain  
I'll run to you with open arms  
And we will meet again.

*Love always Adrian, Leonie & Anna*

In Loving Memory of  
**ANN HOLOHAN**

Springfield, Ballyfin.

2nd Anniversary Mass will take place on  
**January 17th at 8pm** in Ballyfin Church.



A wife a mother a grandmother too,  
This is the legacy we have from you.  
You thought us love and how to fight,  
You gave us strength you gave us might.  
A stronger person would be hard to find  
And in your heart, you were always kind.  
You fought for us all in one way or another,  
Not just as a wife not just as a mother.

For all of us you gave your best,  
Now the time has come for you to rest.  
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,  
Your Love in our hearts will eternally keep

*With all our Love P.J. & Family.*

*Rest in Peace Ann*





In Loving Memory of  
**PATRICK (PADDY)  
CONNELL**

Late of 57 Marian Place, Portlaoise.  
9th Anniversary occurs  
21st January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
**Saturday 17th January at 6:30pm.**

The rolling stream of life goes on,  
But still the vacant chair,  
Recalls the voice, the smile, the love,  
Of a Dad who once sat there,  
Loved and missed beyond compare.

*Missed and remembered by your loving family.  
Thinking of our dear Mam, Mary at this time.*

*Rest in Peace Paddy*



In Loving Memory of  
**FRANK & MAY  
WHITE**

Late of 26 Newpark,  
Portlaoise.



May's 3rd Anniversary occurred 17th January 2026  
Frank's 4th Anniversary occurred 16th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on **Saturday 17th January at 6:30pm.**

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

*Loved and remembered by Tomás, Timothy, Declan,  
Sinéad, extended family and close friends.*

*Rest in Peace Frank & May*



In Loving Memory of  
**ANTHONY REDDIN**  
2nd Anniversary occurs 21st January 2026.

*Dad*

You are at peace, your soul is at rest,  
But that won't stop the tears,  
As I remember the special times,  
We shared over the years.  
You thought me oh so many things,  
And you showed me the way.  
You helped me overcome hard times,  
To be the person I am today.  
Though I am no longer a child,  
And you're no longer here,  
I'll never let go of the memories,  
I'll always hold them dear.  
*Love, Son Cole.*

*Rest in Peace Anthony*



In Loving Memory of  
**MARY McEVOY**  
Late of 104 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
24th Anniversary occurs  
19th January 2026.  
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this  
**Saturday 17th January at 6.30pm.**

It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.  
You left us peaceful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always by our side.  
Our family chain is broken,  
And nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.

*Sadly missed by Sean, Joanne & family.  
We also remember Mary's husband Alo, her sons,  
her two sisters, Alice and Esther and Mary's grandson  
Daryl Dargan at this time.*

*Rest in Peace Mam*



In Loving Memory of  
**MARTIN WALSH**  
118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
6th Anniversary occurs  
21st January 2026.

Martin's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &  
Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 24th January at 6.30pm.**

Our lives go on without you Martin  
But nothing is the same.  
The special years will not return  
when we were all together.  
Thinking of you today and always  
forever in our hearts.

*Your ever-loving wife Margaret, Son Joseph  
Daughters Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia  
Colette, Sons in law, Daughters in laws  
Grandchildren and Great grandchildren.*

*Also remembering his sons Martin Jnr  
and Anthony at this time.*

*May they Rest in Peace*





In Loving Memory of  
**VERA &  
NEVIN BREEN**

Formerly Dr. Murphy Place,  
Portlaoise.

Vera's 14th Anniversary occurs 27th January 2026.

Nevin's 8th Anniversary occurs 19th January 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Wednesday 21st January at 10am.**

Missing you is a heartache that will never go away,  
You are always in our thoughts and live forever in our hearts.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by  
all their loving family and friends.*

*May Vera & Nevin Rest in Peace.*



Birthday Remembrance  
**ELIZABETH  
FARRELL**

Chestnut Drive, Harpur's Lane,  
Portlaoise.

6th Birthday away from home  
occurred 13th January 2026.

*To a Loving Mam / Wife*

Happy birthday in Heaven as we remember your love,  
Your smile and everything you were to us  
Heaven gained an angel, and we lost our world.

*You are forever loved, forever missed,  
By your loving husband Frank,  
Sons Michael, David, Kenneth,  
Daughter Regina & extended family.*

*Gran*

Thinking of you Gran on your birthday.  
Heaven gained the most beautiful soul.

*Forever missed by your loving granddaughter Jennifer, and  
Stephen, Ava, Saoirse, Leon & Jaxon xx.*

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*



In Loving Memory of our  
brother, uncle & nephew  
**TONY GREENE**

St. Brigids Place.

3rd Anniversary away from home occurred  
Friday 16th January 2026.

Of all the special gifts in life

However great or small,

To have you as our Brother

Was the greatest gift of all.

May the winds of love blow softly

And whisper in your ear;

"We love and miss you Brother

And wish that you were here"

*Missed every day from your sister Mary, brothers Christy, Joe,  
Paul, Aunt Ellie, sisters-in-law Esther & Caroline, nieces Leanne  
& Dylal & nephews Keelin & Joe.*

*May Tony Rest In Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**FRANK & MAY  
WHITE**

Late of 26 Newpark, Portlaoise.

May's 3rd Anniversary &

Frank's 4th Anniversary.



Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
on **Saturday 17th January at 6:30pm.**

My thoughts are always with you both

Though you have passed away

And those who loved you dearly

Are thinking of you today.

*Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by Mary and family.*

*Rest in Peace Frank & May*



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Contact Matthew

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David **087-2369887**



## Portlaoise Parish

Results for  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2026



### No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

#### WINNERS

Chris McEvoy  
Mick Shortall  
Brendan Tynan  
Tom Hilliard  
Michael Kirwan  
Sean Cotter  
Whelan Family  
Ann Young  
Denis Tierney  
Murphy Family  
Lil & Tim Gleeson  
John Meehan  
Marie Fenlon-Connolly  
Catherine Kelly  
Eileen, Joan S.C & D  
Celine Cripps

MATCH 3s €1,000

#### PROMOTER

Bernie Lalor  
Elizabeth Hilliard  
Anthony Preston  
Elizabeth Hilliard  
Michael Kirwan  
Lotto Gift  
Lily Whelan  
Carol O'Shea  
Anita Tierney  
Marie Fallon  
Lil Gleeson  
Peter Ryan  
Paul Dooley  
C.J. Kelly  
Joan Bergin  
Celine Cripps

16  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€63

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## 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](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto: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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)  
Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Psalms 39:2, 4, 7-10

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

John 1:29-34

### 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

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