

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**  
**link  
Up**

**15th February 2026**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Congratulations to 293 boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Confirmation over the last couple of days. Our thanks to the teachers and all involved in the preparation programme and to all who helped with the gowns, the music, the PowerPoints etc.

Our best wishes to the boys and girls, we hope they will have good memories of their Confirmation and that it was a great family day also. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit enrich their lives.

The cover photo is of the 'ceremony of light' celebrated on Thursday 5th February with Bishop Denis, where in a symbolically the candle lit on behalf of the boys and girls at their baptism is now handed to themselves as they take responsibility for their own faith.



**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created; and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

**The Parish Centre 057 8621142**

**E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie**

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**Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)**



This Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday - also known as Pancake Day - is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is celebrated throughout Ireland by the cooking and eating of pancakes - a last feast before the fasting and self-denial of Lent!

### SHROVE TUESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent when we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads on this day, are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour.'

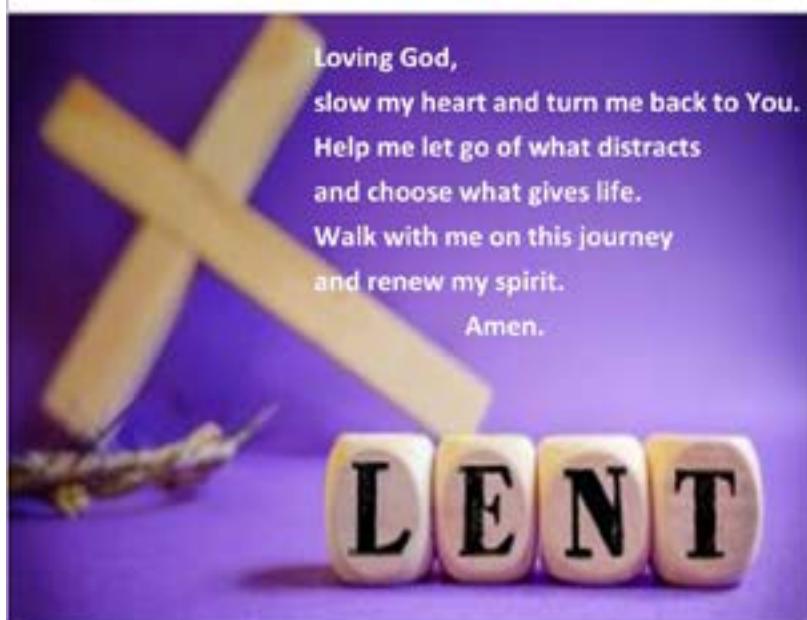
Blessed Ashes will be available in the Parish Church and Parish Centre from 11am on Wednesday.



#### Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.



### LENTEN STATIONS

#### For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.

### Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

**Monday & Tuesday**

7.30am & 10am

**Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)**

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

**Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.**

**Thursday & 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**

**CONFESIONS**

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

### Three Things To Do For Lent

#### Fasting and Abstinence:-

Keep your meals small and simple during Lent. This is not a slimming exercise. The thinking behind fasting and abstinence is that we strengthen our spiritual life by weakening physical pleasures. Fasting means reducing the amount of food that we would normally eat. Abstinence means not eating a particular food (meat). **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are to be observed as special days of Fasting and Abstinence.**

#### Almsgiving:-

We are bombarded with requests for money from a huge number of charities. Identify a charity that means something to you ... find out what they do and make a contribution. If you can't afford to give money, give your time.

#### Prayer:-

Our lives are so hectic that we often forget to set aside a few quiet moments in which to talk to God. During Lent, postpone breakfast television for a few moments and make a short prayer. In the evening encourage your children to say a night time prayer before bed. See also page 4.



### Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings during Lent after 7.30pm Mass in Parish Church.

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**ALL CLASSES HAVE RESUMED FOR 2026**

*In Clinic:*

Senior exercise class Tues. at 11am  
Online Pilates every Wed. at 9.30am  
Osteoporosis class every Wed. 10.30am



Osteoporosis class every Thurs. at 4pm  
Men's health and fitness every Thurs at 10am

*In Parish Centre*

Mon. morn. Osteoporosis class at 9.30am  
Intermediate Pilates class Monday evening at 6pm  
Beginners Pilates class Mon. evening at 7pm

**NEW BLOCKS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**IF YOU WISH TO ENQUIRE ABOUT  
OR JOIN ANY CLASS,  
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL OUR OFFICE**



# Ash Wednesday

## A Prayer to Begin my Lenten Journey

Loving Jesus,

As I receive on my forehead the sign of your saving cross  
you say to me, repent and believe in the Gospel.

Walking into Lent my heart is set on you.

May my *fasting* fill me with hunger for you,

May my *prayer* draw me deeper into your presence.

May my *acts of charity* bring your love to my home and community.

Lord of life,

grant that by turning back to you in these 40 days

I will stir up once more the waters of my baptism  
and re-awaken in me the joy of my Easter faith;

for you raise me up from fear and despair

and call me to hope and trust in God who is with me always.

With you, I will rise again. Amen.

Kandle.ie



## A quick guide to Fasting and Abstinence



WHEN  
FASTING  
AND  
ABSTINENCE

WHO



CATHOLICS  
14+  
ARE OBLIGED TO  
PRACTICE ABSTINENCE



CATHOLICS  
18-59  
ARE OBLIGED  
TO FAST

### FASTING



1 REGULAR MEAL



AND

2 SMALLER MEALS  
that together do not equal  
the regular meal in size



NO SNACKS



THOSE OUTSIDE THE AGE LIMITS  
and those whose state in life (e.g. pregnant women, manual laborers, those who are ill) may be excused from the requirements of fasting and abstinence, but are encouraged to take up some other form of penitence or acts of charity or piety.

### ABSTINENCE



NO MEAT  
Mammals or Poultry



FISH IS OK

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Full details and bookings:

[www.nots.ie/courses](http://www.nots.ie/courses) or (071) 9640688.

For enquiries call Karl (Tutor) 087 3998323



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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY

Top score: Bridie Kennedy. 1st Lady: Mary Delaney. 2nd Lady: Tied; Paraic Dowling & Catherine Fitzpatrick. 1st Gent: Frank Keenan. 2nd Gent: Terry Dunne. 1st Half: Tom Gowing. 2nd Half: Catherine Galvin. Raffle: 1st Christy Fitzpatrick, 2nd Liz Cooper, 3rd Mary Gowing, 4th Margaret Flanagan, 5th Tom Gowing. *Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new players always welcome, lessons available if required. Contact 086 8812228*

**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 16th February BOWLS IN ST MARY'S Hall from 2-4pm new members welcome tuition given. Wednesday 18th afternoon with Moez from 3pm in Parish Centre. New members welcome - Thursday 19th in Sue Ryder Kilminchy cards & chat from 3pm new members welcome tuition given More info. Maria at 0879187157. COULD ALL THOSE intending joining Active 2026 do so by Wednesday 18th March to facilitate Returns to National Office.

**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.

**BRIDGE LESSONS** Contact Catherine 087-4121913.

**DAFFODIL DAY** is Ireland's largest flagship fundraising day - requires the support of volunteers across the country to coordinate the sale of Daffodil Day merchandise in their local community. If you are available to support us on Friday 20th March 2026 and would like to become a Daffodil Day Community Organiser, please contact Monica at [volunteer@irishcancer.ie](mailto:volunteer@irishcancer.ie).

**LAOIS OPEN DOOR THEATRE** Invites you to "Perfect Wedding" by Robin Hawdon, in the Dunamaise Arts Centre on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th February, at 8pm nightly. A hilarious comedy. A night of laughter and fun. So save the date.

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

**EPILEPSY** - In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie). Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

## 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.

**DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE** RDS Dublin 28th February. Day return (from Portlaoise, motorway stop) by bus on Saturday 28th February. Exact times and locations closer to the date. Speakers include Fr. Jim Blount, Fr. John Keane, Roisin Doherty and Fr. Leon Pereira. Cost €70 to include bus & entry ticket. Contact only please via WhatsApp Karen 087-4160385 or Séamus 087-2752578 for enquiries and bookings. €40 deposit to secure place via revolut, paypal or post marked Divine Mercy Conference.

**M. NERNEY MEDJUGORJE GROUP PILGRIMAGE 2026.** Pilgrimage Date: October 14 - 21 2026. Depart Dublin to Dubrovnik, Cost €875 for 7 Days. Discount of €50 if Deposit of €200 paid by Jan 30th. Single Room Supplement €170. Insurance Optional. Spiritual Director Fr. Sean Hyland. Contact M Nerney 086 8157305 for Details.

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



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**Feast of the Holy Face  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

**An Image of the  
Holy Face will be in  
St. Peter & Paul's Church  
on  
Tuesday 17th  
from 7am-7pm**

# CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## Forgiving and Forgiven

At Mass on Sunday we normally contribute to a collection called the offertory collection, where you can put this into the little safe box in the exit of all doors of the Church. Most of you have probably brought a coin for your offering today. There are many places in the Bible that teach us the importance of presenting an offering to God, but the truth is that God is more interested in what's in our heart than he is in what's in our hand.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you will be subject to judgement.' But I say, even if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment." He went on to say that you will be face God's judgment if you call someone a bad name or curse them.

What did Jesus say we should do if we are guilty of any of these things? He said, "If you are presenting your offering to God and you remember that you have said something that hurt another person, leave your gift at the altar and go and ask forgiveness from that person. Then come back and offer your gift to God."

Before we give our offering today, perhaps we should ask ourselves a few questions. Have I been angry with someone this week? Have I had any arguments lately? Have I called someone a bad name? Have I said something about someone that wasn't true? If so, we should ask God to forgive us and we should go to the person we have hurt and ask them to forgive us. When we have done that, God will be pleased with our offering.

"Forgive" is a great old hymn written by Corinne Williams. The first verse of this hymn would be a good prayer for us today.

**Forgive the things I've said in haste, O Lord, today,  
As evening shadows fold again the light away;  
O take away the sting and hurt from hearts, I pray;  
And heal the wounded spirits, Lord, in Thine own way!**



## OUR PRAYER

Dear God, sometimes we say things in anger that hurt other people. Help us to guard against hateful and hurtful words and forgive us as we ask those we have hurt to forgive us as well.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# FORGIVING AND FORGIVEN

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift" [Matthew 5:21-25](#)

DANGER

PEOPLE

ANGRY

MURDER

JUDGMENT

GIFT

ALTAR

FOOL



1

2

3

4

5

6

8



DOWN

1. A group of human beings (men, women or children)
2. To be furious
3. To be at risk of being injured or harmed.
4. A person who lacks good sense.

ACROSS

1. To decide if a person is guilty or innocent.
5. A present that is given to another person.
7. Killing of a person by another person.
8. The place where gifts or sacrifices to God are made.

Lent begins Next Wednesday 18th February



Ash Wednesday is the First Day of Lent. On Ash Wednesday people are asked to fast. On Ash Wednesday the priest blesses the ashes and uses them to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads. The priest or minister says '*turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*', or similar words. Wearing ashes is a sign that a person is going to make an extra special effort during Lent to use his/her gifts for the good of others.

**Remember these are the three things we are asked to focus on for Lent.**

**Praying:** Spend a little more time with God.

**Sacrificing:** Giving up something that you really like.

**Almsgiving:** Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.



**"Repent and believe in the good news of the Gospel"**



Congratulations to 293 boys and girls who received their Confirmation over the last couple of days.  
We hope you had a lovely day!



# Time to Think...

## Saint Fintan, 1500 Anniversary of his Birth



The early Irish saints refer primarily to the holy men and women who lived during the period of early Christian Ireland, roughly from the 5th to the 8th centuries (with roots in the late 4th century). This era, often called the time of Celtic Christianity, saw Ireland transform from a largely pagan society into a major centre of monasticism, learning, and missionary activity. A time when Ireland was referred to as an “Island of Saints and Scholars.” Christianity arrived in Ireland toward the end of the 4th century, likely through trade contacts with the Roman Empire and early missionaries. There were already some Christians present before the most famous figures emerged. In 431 AD, Pope Celestine I sent Bishop Palladius to minister to “the Scots believing in Christ” (referring to Irish Christians), marking the first documented papal mission. However, the figure who dominated subsequent tradition and is credited with the widespread conversion of Ireland is St. Patrick.

Early Irish Christianity developed a strong monastic focus rather than a strictly diocesan (bishop-centered) structure common elsewhere in the West. Monasteries became centres of education, manuscript production, art and austere spiritual life, influenced by Eastern Desert Fathers traditions. Many Irish saints were missionaries who travelled to Scotland, England, and continental Europe, helping preserve classical learning during the early Middle Ages and evangelizing pagan regions.

Saint Fintan of Clonenagh, also known as Fintan of Laois, is the saint most closely associated with County Laois, historically Leix or Laoighis, Ireland. He is often called the “Father of the Irish Monks” due to his influential role in early Irish monasticism and his promotion of austere ascetic practices. Fintan was born around 524–526 AD in Leinster (likely near Clonkeen or in the region that became County Laois), the son of Christian parents named Gabhren (or similar) and Findlath. Coming from a Christian family in an era when Ireland was embracing the faith more fully, he chose a religious path early on.

He received his religious training and formation at the monastery in Terryglass, County Tipperary, under Abbot Columba (Colum) of Terryglass. There, he was deeply shaped by strict penitential practices and a severe monastic rule, which emphasized austerity, prayer, and discipline. After his formation, Fintan initially lived as a hermit in Clonenagh (Cluain Ednech, meaning “ivy meadow” or similar), near modern Mountrath in County Laois, beneath the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Disciples soon gathered around his hermitage due to his reputation for holiness, leading him to become abbot of the community he founded there in the mid-6th century (around the 540s–550s).

The monastery at Clonenagh became renowned for its extreme asceticism. Fintan imposed very strict rules on the monks: no animal products (no meat, milk, butter, etc.), as the community kept no cows. Their diet was meagre—often described as “bread of woody barley and clayey water.” This led to complaints from the monks about the hardship for physical labour. A delegation of local clergy, including St. Canice of Aghaboe, urged Fintan to ease the diet for the community. He relented for the monks but maintained the strict regimen for himself, continuing his severe penances.

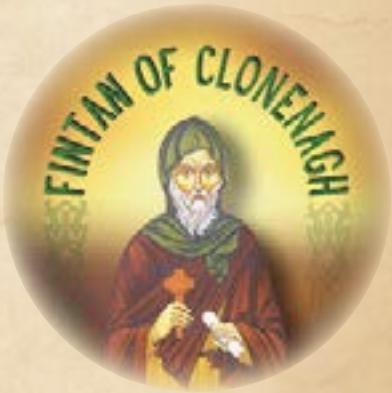
Despite or because of these hardships, Clonenagh attracted many monks from across Ireland. It trained notable figures, including St. Comgall (who founded Bangor, influencing Columbanus and the spread of Irish monasticism to Europe). Fintan is credited with helping establish the ascetic tradition in Irish monasticism, sometimes compared to St. Benedict in Ireland. Fintan was famed for extraordinary sanctity, peace, compassion, piety, heavenly serenity, prophecy, miracles, and clairvoyance. He lived a life of intense prayer and penance yet was known for serenity amid austerity. His monastery influenced the Céili Dé reform movement and other strict communities.

He died on February 17, 603 AD (some sources suggest around 594–597, but 603 is widely accepted). His feast day is celebrated on February 17th. Clonenagh remains tied to his memory, with ruins, cross slabs, and St. Fintan’s Well at nearby Cromoge (a holy well site still venerated). He is regarded as one of Laois’s patron saints (alongside others like St. Colman Mac ua Laoise).

(There are multiple Irish saints named Fintan, including Fintan/Munnu of Taghmon, Co. Wexford (d. 635/636), who also has Scottish connections, and others like a later Fintan of Rheinau. The one linked to Laois is specifically Fintan of Clonenagh.) His life exemplifies the rigorous early Irish monastic ideal that helped shape Christianity in Ireland and beyond. In a secular culture, it is important to inform ourselves of the rich tradition Christianity has when it comes to Irish spirituality. I pray, that Saint Fintan, will continue to inspire us to walk a pathway fuelled with a sense of compassion and kindness. St. Fintan, Pray for us.

The early Irish Saints, had a beautiful awareness that God is present in the bits and pieces of our daily lives. Fintan, like Patrick and Bridget, celebrated every moment as an opportunity to embrace God’s presence. While the following prayer is attributed to Saint Patrick, I have no doubt it echoes the rich spirituality enjoyed by Fintan.

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



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**Noel Hogan**  
Aughnabarna Drive,  
Portlaoise



**Eugene Lacey**  
Craydon Court,  
Portlaoise

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

In Loving Memory of

## **KATHLEEN BRACKEN (NÉE DUNNE)**

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Sunday 15th February at 10am.

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

*Loved always by Frances and family.*

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
LARRY (LAURENCE)  
MCDONALD**  
45 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.  
14th Anniversary occurs  
13th February 2026.  
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday**  
**15th February at 10.00am.**

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 by his loving wife Margaret, sons Maurice, Paul  
and Gregory, grandchildren and great-grandchild.*

*Rest in Peace Larry*



**In Loving Memory of  
NOEL HUME**

The Downs.

1st Anniversary occurs  
17th February 2026.

Also remembering his daughter  
Aoife at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on  
**Saturday 21st February at 6.30pm.**

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 by his wife Rose, daughters Aisling & Niamh, son in  
law Damien, grandchildren Robert & Malachy. Malachy Snr. Sisters  
Fionnula & Eimear, brother Arthur, extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Noel*



We Remember with love  
Our Mother

## **HELEN BYRNE**

St Martins, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.  
On her 2nd Anniversary.

You gave us years of happiness,  
Then sorrow came with tears,  
You left us lovely memories  
We will treasure through the years.

*Loved and remembered always by her loving family.  
Also remembering at this time our father John Byrne.*



*May they both  
Rest in Peace*





In Loving Memory of  
**MADGE McEVOY**

Capoley, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurred 13th February 2026.  
Much loved and cherished Mother, Grandmother  
and Great-grandmother.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, **Sunday 15th February at 12:30pm.**

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.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by;*

*Sarabann, Ailish, Mary, Joe, Breda and their families.*

*May Madge Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**THOMAS ROBINSON**

Beladd, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurs  
15th February 2026.

May the God of love and mercy,

Care for our loved one that is gone,

And bless with consolation,

Those left to carry on.

*Always remembered by your loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Tom*

In Loving Memory of

**KATHLEEN CARROLL**

175 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary away from home  
occurs 20th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
**Sunday 22nd February at 10am.**

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.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving husband  
Myles, sons Tony, Myles, David, Liam and daughter Lorraine,  
grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Kathleen*



Acknowledgement & Months Mind

In Loving Memory of

**ANN KAVANAGH**

Colt.

Ann's Months Mind Mass will be  
celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Raheen  
on **Saturday February 21st at 7pm.**

Ann's family would like to thank most sincerely all those  
who supported and sympathised with us during our recent  
very sad loss.

Thanks to all who attended Ann's reposal & requiem Mass,  
expressed condolences, sent messages, Mass Cards & flowers  
and kept us in their thoughts and prayers.

We would like to thank Fr. Brian Kavanagh, Fr. Paddy Byrne,  
Fr. Dan Dunne and Fr. Petru Medves for celebrating Ann's  
funeral Mass.

Special thanks to Sacristans, Bridie and Martin, for all their hard  
work also To Fr. Petru Medves, Fr. Liam Morgan, Fr. Ciprian  
Matei and Fr. Brian Kavanagh who visited Ann during her  
recent illness.

Our thanks to Louise, Elaine & Tara for the beautiful  
music and singing.

Thanks to Keegan's Funeral Directors for their professional  
service and to the grave diggers for preparing Ann's final resting  
place.

Also thank you to Colt GAA club for assisting with parking on  
the day of Ann's requiem Mass.

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

To Mum's former colleagues thank you for sharing so many  
lovely memories over the last few weeks.

To the extremely hardworking staff across the board in Portlaoise,  
Naas, Tallaght and Beaumont hospitals, we really appreciate  
the attentive treatment Mum received, as well as the support  
shown to us.

To all in Abbeyleix Day Care and Respite Centres a heartfelt  
thank you for many years of laughs and thoughtful,  
compassionate care.

Thank you very much to all the ladies from Dovida, who showed  
Mum great kindness and respect over the past few years.

To Ciara, for helping to keep Mum on her feet!

Denis, thank you for being so much more than  
Mum's hairdresser!

Thanks to the team in Mulhall's Supervalu, Portlaoise  
for all the sustenance!

To all of Doctor White's team, Portlaoise, thank you for many  
decades of care and support.

Special thanks to team in Hughes Pharmacy, Portlaoise  
who have always provided great support and kindness.

To the Public Health Team, especially Denise, thank you for  
showing great dignity and warmth to Mum for many years.

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

*May Ann Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**MARY RYAN**  
(*NÉE WHELAN*)

Forest Park Ave. Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs  
Sunday 16th February 2026.

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.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by  
her family & grandchildren.*

*May Mary Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of  
**SHEILA HARNAN**  
**WHELAN**

Doirefea, Ballydavis, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs  
18th February 2026.

Sheila's 5th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the  
Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on  
Sunday 22nd February at 9.30am.

Sheila, you are forever in our  
Thoughts and prayers.

*Sadly missed by her loving family, John, Sharon, Seamus, Nicoli,  
Siobhan, Fr. Nick, Fr. Jim, grandchildren, relatives and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Sheila*



In Loving Memory of  
**JOSS ROBINSON**

132 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs  
12th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.  
Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
Saturday 14th February at 6.30pm.

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

*Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his wife Peg, sons Joseph  
and Michael, daughters Jackie and Margaret brothers Jimmy &  
Michael, son in law Dermot, grandkids and great grandkids.*

*Rest in Peace Joss*



In Loving Memory of  
**MARGARET**  
**LAWLESS**

(*NÉE LAWLOR*)

Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

Mag's 7th year since she went home.

Don't think of her as gone away –

Her journey's just begun,

Life holds so many facets –

This earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting

From the sorrows and the tears

In a place of warmth and comfort

Where there are no days and years.

Think how she must be wishing

That we could know today

How nothing but our sadness

Can really pass away.

And think of her as living

In the hearts of those she touched...

For nothing loved is ever lost –

And she was loved so much.

*From your loving husband Sonny, your son Thomas & children Tamara,  
Thomas (Jnr), Jack, Rhea & Billy, your son Terry and daughter in law  
Siobhan and Grandson Luke, son in law David and son Alan.*

*Rest in Peace Margaret*



In Loving Memory of

**BILL (WILLIAM) WHELAN**

And his Wife

**MARGARET (RITA) WHELAN**

Corrigeen, Stradbally.

Bill's 11th Anniversary occurs on 15th February 2026.

Rita's 4th Anniversary occurs on 2nd March 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at The Church of the  
Assumption, The Heath, on  
Sunday, 22nd February 2026, at 9:30am.

When we look upon your picture,

Sweet memories we recall,

Of faces that are so full of sunshine,

And a smile it brings for one and all.

*Sadly missed by your daughter Anne, sons Seamus and Ray, in-laws,  
grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.*

*You will both always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.*

*May Bill and Rita Rest in Peace*



**Acknowledgement &  
1st Anniversary  
In Loving Memory of  
*SHEILA KEHOE*  
Dysart Cross, Stradbally.**

Sheila's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in The Church of the Assumption, The Heath **on Sunday 15th February at 9.30am.**

We Sheila's family wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following who looked after Sheila during her illness – Clann Medical Centre, Tullamore & Portlaoise Hospitals, Hughes Pharmacy and Kilminchy Nursing Home.

Many thanks to Mathew & David of Keegan's Undertakers for their help, sensitivity and professionalism.

A special thanks to Fr. Ciprian who celebrated the funeral Mass and to Elaine Lambe who enriched the ceremony with her music.

Thanks to family, neighbours and friends who attended the wake and funeral Mass and all who sent Mass Cards and condolence messages.

Special thanks to Sheila's special friends, Agnes, Patsy and Carmel who were always there to support Sheila.

To the Palliative Care Team Portlaoise – thank you most sincerely.

As it will be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our appreciation.

*Loved and missed always by your loving family & friends.*

*Rest in Peace Sheila*



**In Loving Memory of  
*EILEEN PHELAN*  
New Road, Portlaoise.  
5th Anniversary occurs 17th  
February 2026.**

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 22nd February at 12.30pm.**

In God's care you rest above,  
In our hearts you rest in love,  
Never more than a thought away,  
Loved and remembered every day.  
In Heaven you rest, No worries or pain.  
God bless you...until we meet again.

*Sadly missed by your loving family and friends.*

*Also remembering Tony on his 10th Anniversary.*

*Rest in Peace Eileen*



**In Loving Memory of  
*JOHN O'SHEA*  
Birchgrove  
Whose Month's Mind occurs  
18th February.**

Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's Church on **Sunday 15th February at 11.15am.**

Those we love we never lose  
For always they will be loved,  
Remembered and treasured,  
Forever in our hearts.

*Love from your partner Holly and family.*

*Rest in Peace John*



**Acknowledgement  
In Loving Memory of  
*TIM GLEESON*  
Ballytegan, Portlaoise.**

Tim's wife Anne, daughter Laura, brother and sisters wish to express our sincere thanks to all who sympathised with us on our great loss of Tim.

To all who sent Mass cards, condolences on-line and travelled to attend Tim's Requiem Mass.

A special thanks to Tim's colleagues in An Garda Síochána and National Learning Network.

To Dr. Lawlor and staff of Cedar Clinic, Laois Pharmacy, Mr. Connaughton & Staff of Portlaoise General Hospital, Evelyn & Olive District Nurses, Elish Palliative Care Nurse.

A grateful thanks to our friends and neighbours.

To Fr. Adriano for celebrating Tim's Requiem Mass and praying at burial of Tim's ashes.

To Heather for providing beautiful music during Tim's Mass.

To Undertaker Matthew Keegan & David Goode for their kind help and assistance.

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

*Rest in Peace Tim*



100th Birthday Remembrance  
In Loving Memory of  
**KATHLEEN (KITTY) CAMPBELL**

86 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

Whose 100th birthday was  
12th February 2026.

Just a prayer from the family who loved,  
Just a memory fond and true.

In our hearts you will live forever,  
Because we thought the world of you.

*Loved and remembered by all her loving family.*

*Happy Heavenly 100th Birthday Kathleen*



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Pam Killeen  
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