

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

8th February 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



WORLD
DAY OF
THE SICK
11 FEBRUARY 2026

**The compassion
of the Samaritan**
*loving by
bearing
the pain of
the other*

POPE LEO XIV

Wednesday 11th February
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
& World Day of prayer for the
sick.

Our 10am Mass on Wednesday
we pray for our sick and
celebrate the Anointing of the
Sick
All are Welcome.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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Salt of the Earth

Shining Example

We often hear folk proclaim that their faith is a very private affair, something strictly between themselves and God. Of course there's a place for private worship, but at the end of the day, what good is a religious conviction that rarely impacts others and fails to make the world a better place?

Today Jesus tells us that if we live by our faith we will become 'the salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world'. How wonderful to be worthy of such compliments, but lest we get carried away, Jesus warns of us of the pitfalls. If the salt is to lose its taste it will become worthless, and if we are to hide the light beneath a bowl it will obviously fail to serve its purpose. What a silly idea! Why on earth would we go round hiding lights underneath bowls yet we do it all the time.

We deny the salt and hide the light every time we keep our faith to ourselves. It isn't fashionable to be a Christian nowadays and hiding God's light gives us a get out clause. Hiding the light means we can choose the comfortable or the easy option. Hiding the light means ignoring someone who is alone, or suffering. Hiding the light means keeping quiet and erring on the side of popular opinion. Hiding the light means keeping quiet in the face of injustice or intolerance.

Today we are invited to remember all those who Jesus might have described as the 'salt of the earth'. We all remember someone who has motivated and inspired us. We all remember someone who has stood out against the crowd. Today we ask, "Are we guilty of practising our faith quietly and only when it's safe, or are we shining examples."

Next Friday (13th) and Saturday (14th), Confirmation ceremonies will take place in our parish. We wish all the boys and girls every blessing and success on this special occasion!



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Wednesday 11th February

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of



faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles - now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.

Wednesday 11th February 10am

Celebration of the Eucharist

and Anointing of the Sick

All are Welcome.

**Development Fund
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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

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Feast of the Holy Face

The Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus in 2026 is on Tuesday, February 17th, which is Shrove Tuesday

(the day before Ash Wednesday).

This day of reparation, approved by Pope Pius XII, is preceded by a nine-day novena beginning on

Sunday, February 8th, 2026, intended to honour the face of Jesus.

An Image of the Holy Face will be

in St. Peter & Paul's Church

on Tuesday 17th from 7am – 7pm

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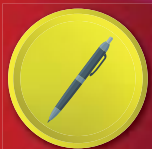
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Baptism

Aurelia-Blossom Eden Dela Cruz
St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise Parish
15th January 2026

Celebrant

Fr. Eric Ebot Svd

Father & Mother

Raymond Biares Dela Cruz
&
Eden Minett Coakes

Godparents

James O'Reilly & India Coakes

Attendees

Roel Dela Cruz,
Marivic Dela Cruz
Carla Bianca Dela Cruz
Kayleigh Dela Cruz


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Tuesday, 17th March, 2026



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY

Top score: Tied; Theresa Mulhare. 1st Lady: Paraic Dowling. 2nd Lady: May Delaney. 1st Gent: Christy Fitzpatrick. 1st Half: Tied; Ann Pearson. 2nd Half: Ann O'Dowd. Raffle: 1st Christy Fitzpatrick, 2nd Tom Jacob, 3rd Bridie Kennedy, 4th Ann Pearson, 5th Sean Bennett, 6th Tom Dunne. *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 9th.Feb. BOWLS in St. Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. Wednesday 11th. FEB. Chair yoga with Tara from 3pm in Parish Centre. Thursday 12th. Cards and Chat in Sue Ryder Center, Kilminchy, 3pm. New members welcome tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 087-9187157.

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 cslattey@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.

LAOIS IPSC'S next monthly vigil for Gaza will take place on Friday February 13th at 5.30pm. Meet at front gate of St. Peter and Paul Church, Portlaoise. ALL WELCOME!

LAOIS OPEN DOOR THEATRE Invites you to "Perfect Wedding" by Robin Hawdon, in the Dunamais 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.

SHANAHOE COMMUNITY HALL progressive 25 card nights have resumed for 2026, taking place on the SECOND FRIDAY each month. A great night of cards took place on Friday 6th of January - Winners 1st place Christy Fitzpatrick and Tony O'Sullivan, 2nd place -4 joint winners, Charlie Gorman and Willie Gorman, Mick and Patsy Moran, Peter Vousden and Jimmy Ryan, Eugene Murphy and Paddy Lalor. Spot prize winners, Margaret Doheny, Ciaran Breen, Pat Dunne and Pa Maher. Looking forward to seeing you at Shanahoe hall on Friday the 13th of February for a great night's entertainment.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP: Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp.

For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome.

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

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.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE – 11th to 18th JUNE 2026. 2 seats have become available due to cancellation.

Contact Maura O'Brien 087-1210263 or John Egan 087-1254841 or any member of the committee.

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.

TOTUS TUUS 2026 FATIMA PILGRIMAGE will take place from 28th August to 4th September. The cost is €915. Full info phone Damien on 087 2049 048.



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THE FATIMA CANDLE

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FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners.
Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm.

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The Salt of the Earth

Have you ever been in a supermarket when, as you did your shopping, they offered samples of different food items to try? They do this to entice you to buy those items. If the samples didn't taste good, you probably wouldn't buy any, would you?

Say, they asked you to test taste popcorn. If they had two small bowls of popcorn. The popcorn in one bowl has been salted and the other has not. Which one you like best? In my opinion, I would go with the salted popcorn.

I'm sure you all knew that many foods taste much better with a little salt. It doesn't take much. In fact, when you are cooking, a recipe often calls for "a pinch of salt." Not much, just a pinch, but that little pinch of salt makes a big difference in the flavour.

In the Gospel today, Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth." What do you think that means? I think Jesus means that he wants us to improve the quality of life of those we meet each day. How can we do that? We can do that by introducing them to Jesus and by showing them that having Jesus in our life is like having salt on our food. Everything is better when we have Jesus in our life.

There is a lot of hatred and bitterness in our world today. If you and I will show the love of Jesus in all that we do, we can be the salt of the earth like Jesus called us to be. Just a pinch of salt can do much to reduce bitterness and bring peace to our world.



Make new friends today...

*They may in time
become your
oldest and best.*



Prayer



Heavenly Father, our prayer is that we may be the salt of the earth by showing the love of Jesus in all that we do.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Wednesday 11th February



In Lourdes, France, in 1844 a baby girl named Bernadette Soubirous was born. Bernadette's family was very poor, and Bernadette was responsible for looking after and caring for her brothers and sisters.

Bernadette was a good natured girl with dark eyes and a round face. The only education Bernadette received was the Catholic teachings

which she studied faithfully in the evenings.

At the age of 13, Bernadette was preparing for her First Holy Communion. One of Bernadette's chores was to collect wood for the fire. On a cold day in February 1858, Bernadette and 2 companions headed off to the Gave River to collect pieces of wood. The two companions ran ahead and left Bernadette struggling to keep up. As Bernadette was taking off her shoes to make her way through the river, she was startled by a peculiar wind and rustling sound.

Bernadette looked up towards the grotto and the caves on the riverbank. Near the opening of the grotto, Bernadette glanced and noticed the cave was suddenly filled with golden light. Lifting up her eyes, she saw a lady of great beauty, dressed in a pure white robe with a blue sash, a veil over her head, a rosary clasped in her hands and yellow roses at her feet. Bernadette rubbed her eyes. What a beautiful lady! But where did she come from? And what was she doing here?

The beautiful lady smiled at Bernadette and asked her to say her rosary. Bernadette said her prayers and when she was finished she looked up, the lady had vanished. Bernadette caught up to her two friends and discovered that they were upset with her. What have you been doing? Playing in the river, while we are out here collecting wood? Bernadette told them about the vision she had just witnessed. The girls told Bernadette she was silly and probably just seeing things.

Bernadette felt drawn to the grotto and returned there on the next Sunday. Again Bernadette saw the beautiful lady. The third time Bernadette went to the grotto, the lady spoke to her. The beautiful lady asked Bernadette to come here every day for fifteen days. She said that she wanted Bernadette to tell the priests to build a chapel there. She told her to drink water from the stream. The lady also told Bernadette to pray for the conversion of sinners. Bernadette followed the requests.

On March 25, the Lady finally told Bernadette that she was Mary, the mother of Jesus, and that her purpose in appearing to Bernadette was to warn her to pray and make sacrifices for sinners. The miracles of body and soul performed at Lourdes are the proof that this message was a true warning from the queen of heaven to her children and that she was deeply interested in their welfare.

Bernadette's daily visits to the grotto caused quite a stir in the countryside. Crowds of people began to gather and watch Bernadette as she examined the cave and obediently did the things the lady asked of her. They watched Bernadette scrape away soil beside the grotto until a spring of water started to trickle out. Would you believe this spring still provides 27,000 gallons of water everyday!

This is the sacred Lourdes water which heals all! At first, the priests, the town's folk, and the families doubted Bernadette's visions and the purpose in her activities. But Bernadette was stubborn and determined to follow Mary's plans for her. Eventually everyone did believe Bernadette and the grotto at Lourdes became a place of worship and the Lourdes holy water was sacred for performing miracles.

At the age of 22, Bernadette became a nun and devoted her life to Mary, to praying for the conversion of sinners and to the service of God. Bernadette died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 36.

She will be remembered for believing in the greater glory of God as she was faithful to her mission, she was humble in glory and she was valiant in her sufferings. Today, Lourdes remains one of the most frequented Christian shrines in the world. More than 3 million visitors, pilgrims and tourists come each year to the Grotto of Massabielle, where the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette 18 times in 1858.

Time to Think...

World day of prayer for the sick 2026



Wednesday February 11th celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and also World day of Prayer for the sick. Behind many hall- doors in our parish and throughout the length and breadth of our Country, there are people who are sick; men and women, young and old; and more children than you might imagine. Some of them are confined to bed or to wheelchairs. Others, despite the limitations posed by their sickness, continue to go to work, do the shopping and play an active part in the life of their community. Each person's story is unique. Many of them are stories of great courage.

These days, when we think about healthcare, we often think of new technology and new drugs. These are important, but healthcare is first and foremost a relationship of trust. When people are sick, they often discover in a new and more profound way, how much they depend on others. It is a useful lesson for all of us to learn, even if we would hope not to have to become sick to do so. Part of the story of every sick person is that relationship of trust with family members, friends and neighbours, carers, nurses, doctors, radiographers, physiotherapists, ambulance crews, priests and ministers of Holy Communion. It is a relationship in which love is expressed in generous service and care.

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, if you are familiar with the story of the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette at Lourdes, you might wonder what the connection with healing is. It is true that Bernadette was not a very healthy child, and Mary seems to have been very kind to her. Bernadette was not treated as an ignorant child from a poor family might expect to be treated. Mary spoke to her as a child of God. This reminds us – as Pope Leo says in his Message for this World Day of the Sick 2026, that every person is, and always remains, a human being, and is to be treated as such. The sick and those who are deeply vulnerable, have their own inalienable dignity and mission in life.

Pope Leo reminds us “the true remedy for humanity’s wounds is a style of life based on fraternal love, which has its root in love of God. I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit – one that is welcoming, courageous, committed and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or afflicted. Let us raise our prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, asking her to assist all who suffer and are in need of compassion, consolation and a listening ear”.

I think, when Mary is present, Jesus is never far away. When she asks his help on our behalf, He listens to her. We see this when Jesus responds to the request of His Mother, to bring some joy back into the lives of the young couple at the Wedding Feast in Cana. The message of Lourdes, essentially, is that God loves us and that he comes to find us wherever we are, but especially in our weakness and in our smallness. The challenge of Lourdes is that we allow ourselves to be small, to be vulnerable and to receive whatever gift God wants to give us.

In the years after the apparitions, Bernadette devoted her own life to prayer and the care of the sick, as a Sister of Charity of Nevers. She was never very healthy herself and she died of tuberculosis while she was still quite young. It may seem surprising that Bernadette never took the opportunity to return to Lourdes seeking a cure for her illness.

I think she realised that she had already been healed. Through her encounter with Mary the Mother of Jesus, her whole life had been changed. One of the things I have often noticed in Lourdes is that the sick bring healing to the healthy, through their attitude of patience and prayerfulness. Those who come to Lourdes in the whole of their

health discover a new humility and go home with a fresh appreciation of the gift of life. This is the kind of conversion that Mary spoke about to Bernadette. Miracles of physical healing do happen at Lourdes, but they are the “icing on the cake”. The healing that comes from the love of God and of Mary His Mother touches people in many different ways. It then overflows to touch the lives of others. It happens in a particular way in Lourdes, but it is not limited to Lourdes. It can happen in your home, in your hospital, or anywhere that people learn to see themselves and one another as the children of God.

I am very conscious that, in spite of all the very good people who work in our healthcare system, the system itself is sick and in need of healing. Most people say that, once you get into the system, the care is very good, but getting in is a major problem. Many of you who work in hospitals and nursing homes, operate under enormous pressure and with facilities that don't always measure up to what is required. When the sick have to wait too long for treatment and when those who care for the sick themselves become sick from stress, it is perfectly reasonable to feel angry. But it is important that we don't take our anger out on one another. In this situation too, it is love that heals. Anger is an energy that, with wisdom and love, can be converted into a power which changes structures. As we pray for those who are sick, and for those who care for the sick, let us pray, especially today, for the wisdom to know how to bring that gift of healing to the healthcare system itself.

Our local Hospital in Portlaoise, Kilkenny and indeed community hospitals are an essential service and an essential lifesaving one. This essential service must never be compromised.

One of the most profound statements made by Jesus, was “I have come not for the healthy but for the sick”. Jesus had a powerful empathy and courageous outreach, to those who longed for healing. His love touched the wounds of the leper, his presence, brought Peace of Mind, to many overwhelmed by anxiety and mental illness. God's presence, to those who carry burdens physical, spiritual, emotional is truly one that can offer healing and transformation. All of us carry strengths and weakness, we are all marked by the vicissitudes of our life story. Empathy is the ability to reach out and connect with love to others. I pray in a special way for all who care for the sick. Carers in the family context who provide selfless and constant attention to vulnerable people are the true heroes in Irish society.

“Take my hand O Blessed Mother,
Hold me firmly lest I fall,
I am nervous when I am walking,
And to thee I humbly call.
Guide me over every crossing,
Watch me when I am on my way,
Let me know you are beside me,
Listen to my frequent prayers.
Bring me to my destination,
Safely every single day,
Help me with my understanding,
As the hours pass away.
And when evening falls upon me,
And I fear to be alone,
Take my hand O Blessed Mother,
And once again guide me home”.



WORLD
DAY OF
THE SICK
11 FEBRUARY 2026

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*Our Prayers are asked for those
who recently died*



*Colette Dwane
Mill Court, Portlaoise*



*Jeremiah Anthony
(Tony) Kavanagh
Thornberry, Abbeyleix*

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



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

TOMMY O'BRIEN

115 St Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Birthday away from Home.

Happy Birthday In Heaven

Wishing you were here today

For even just a while

So, we could say Happy Birthday

And see your loving smile.

The only gifts today will be

Your sweet memories left behind

Of laughter, joy and happiness

That echo on in our minds.

We gaze upon your picture

We think of you with love

And hope you're doing fine

In Heaven up above.

May angels hold you closely

And sing you a happy song

And we'll be sending wishes

Today and all year long.

*Loved and missed every day by your wife Kathleen,
Sons Jack, Paddy & (Thomas) Flicker and Daughters Catherine,
Ailish & Amy, Son in Law Philip, Daughter in Law Marie,
Paddy's Partner Jeniffer, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
& Close Family Friend Caroline xx*

Grandad

I'm sending a dove to Heaven

With a parcel on its wings

Be careful when you open it

It's full of beautiful things.

Inside are a million kisses

Wrapped up in a million hugs

To say how much I miss you

And to send you all my love.

I hold you close within my heart

And there you shall remain

To walk with me throughout my life

Until we meet again.

Happy Birthday Grandad,

*Loved and missed dearly
Your granddaughter Ella Rose x*

Rest in Peace Tommy



ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

JOSEPH BUGGIE

3 Kylebeg, Stradbally.

10th Anniversary away from Home
occurs 8th February.

Wonderful memories woven in gold,

This is a picture we tenderly hold,

Deep in our hearts a memory is kept,

To love, to cherish, never to forget.

*Always remembered by your loving wife Patricia, daughters,
Celina, Margaret and Samantha and grandkids Haleema,
Alannah, Kayla and J.J.*

Rest in Peace Joseph



In Loving Memory of

MARY DOOLEY

29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

12th Anniversary occurs

9th February 2026.

12th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Monday 9th February at 10am.

Sadly missed along life's way,

Quietly remembered every day,

No longer in our lives to share,

But in our hearts, you're always there.

Sadly missed by all her loving family, neighbours and friends.

Mary

No more tomorrows for us to share

But yesterday's memories will always be there.

Always remembered by Jim and Maureen Lynch and family.

May Mary Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of our

Wonderful Mother

BERNADETTE COYNE

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Whose Birthday occurs 11th February.

Birthday wishes sent to Heaven

From your family below

We miss and love you dearly

And we wanted you to know

We will always love and miss you

And often shed a tear

Especially on your special day

Year after year .

Happy Birthday to a wonderful Mother.

Sadly missed and loved by all her loving family.

May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
**(KIT) CATHERINE O'
 SHAUGHNESSY**
(NÉE LAMBE)

Late of The Heath, Portlaoise.

who passed away on January 10th in London.

Remembering Catherine at Mass in the Heath Church on
Sunday the 15th February at 10am.

Will those who think of her today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

Forever loved and remembered by her family.



In Loving Memory of
MALCOLM SMYTH

6, Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs 9th of February.

Anniversary Mass in St. Peter & Paul's
 Church, **Sunday 8th February at 11.15am.**

Your presence we miss
 Your memory we treasure

Loving you always

Forgetting you never

*Sadly missed and always remembered
 by your loving family x*



In Loving Memory of
**BRIGID & JOE
 CARROLL**

4 Green Mill Lane,

Portlaoise, whose 40th and
 22nd Anniversaries occur at this time.
 (February & March)

We won't forget ye, we won't even try,

We just miss ye more, as time goes by.

Sadly missed by all their loving family and friends.

May Brigid and Joe Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
PETER ALLEN

Eyne, Portlaoise.

28th Anniversary occurs
 10th February 2026.

A life well lived is a precious gift
 Of hope and strength and grace.

From someone who has made our world

A brighter, better place.

*Forever loved and sadly missed by Bridie
 and all your family xxx*

Rest in Peace Peter



Acknowledgement & Months Mind
 In Loving Memory of
MARGARET BROWN
(NÉE LALOR)

Fielbrook, Portlaoise.

Margaret's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in
 St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on **Friday the 13th of
 February 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Margaret's family, her husband Eddie, her children
 Ann-Marie, Edward and Darren, son-in-law Ian,
 Brother John and Sister Jo, Mother-in-law Kathleen,
 brothers and sister's in-law, nieces and nephews,
 would like to express their sincere thanks to all
 who sympathised with them on the recent sad
 loss of Margaret.

We thank everyone who sent Mass cards, letters of
 sympathy, floral tributes and all who attended the
 rosary, funeral mass and burial.

A special thanks to the doctors, nurses and all the
 staff of The Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore.

Also many thanks to the doctors and staff of the
 Cedar Clinic, and Mullaney's Pharmacy Kilminchy.

We sincerely thank Monsignor Byrne and Fr. Tom
 Lalor for celebrating Margaret's mass.

Thank you Heather Fogarty for providing such
 beautiful music at the funeral mass.

A special word of thanks to John Moloney and
 staff for the most professional and compassionate
 manner in which they conducted Margaret's funeral
 arrangements, along with the grave diggers for
 preparing Margaret's final resting place.

Heartfelt thanks to our family, friends,
 neighbours and work colleagues for all their
 support and kindness during this time.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone
 individually, we trust this acknowledgement
 will be accepted by all as a token of our sincere
 appreciation and gratitude.

Rest in Peace Margaret



In Loving Memory of my husband

CHARLIE CLARKE

5 Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise.

31st Anniversary occurs

8th February 2026.

We miss your smile, your joking ways,

We miss the things you used to say.

Always remembered by his loving wife

Peggy and his daughter Dorothy.

May Charlie Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of a Dear Sister

BERNIE COYNE

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Birthday occurs 11th February.

Today is filled with memories,

With happiness and tears,

Of days filled with celebration is

We've shared throughout the years.

Forever loved and missed.

*From your sister Kitty, brother-in-law Donie,
your sisters & brothers-in-law and all you many friends.*

Happy Heavenly Birthday Bernie



In Loving Memory of

JOHN HEARNS

Hillview, Mountrath Rd, Portlaoise

1st Anniversary occurs on

8th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be held in St Peter & Paul's Church,
Portlaoise on **Sunday 8th February at 8.30am.**

Will those who think of John today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

Loved and missed by his wife Kathleen & family.



In Loving Memory of

MARGARET (PEGGY) KELLY

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs

16th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on

Sunday 15th February at 10am.

Will those who think of Peggy today,

A little prayer to Jesus say.

*Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her loving
husband and family.*



In Loving Memory of

DICKIE McDONALD

Cullion House, Mullingar.

2nd Anniversary occurs

13th February 2026.

2nd Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in St. Patrick's Church,

Ballyroan, Abbeyleix on

Sunday, 15th February, at 9:30am.

A loved one never leaves you

They're never far away

They watch you from a distance

And guide you every day

They do become your angel

And look down from above

A loved one never leaves you

Because you always have their love.

*Loved and remembered by Mam & Dad,
Clodagh, Céire, Aoife, Malcolm, Emer,
all Dickie's nurses and carers.*

Rest in Peace Dickie



In Loving Memory of

HELEN BYRNE

St Martins, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs

14th February 2026.

Helen's 2nd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise on

Sunday 15th February at 10am.

"God called your name so softly,

That only you could hear,

And no one heard the footsteps

Of Angels drawing near.

The golden gates stood open,

God saw you needed rest,

His garden must be beautiful,

He only takes the best."

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

Rest in Peace Helen





In Loving Memory of
VANDA RAFTER

"Ardville" Glenside, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs
7th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 7th February at 6.30pm.

Sunshine passes, shadows fall
Love's remembrance outlasts all
Though years be many or few,
All are filled with remembrance of you.

*Missed always by your daughter Amy, son Stefan
and partner Jennifer, grandsons Daithí and Tomás
and your loyal friend Teddy xxx*

My Dearest Daughter-in-Law Vanda
The years may pass but still you stay,
As near and dear as yesterday.

Missed today and always, Betty xxx

Vanda

Chance made you my sister-in-law,
But the fun and laughter made us best friends,
You are always just a thought away.

*Loved and missed beyond words,
John, Martina and Craig xxx*

Ship Beyond The Horizon

The human soul is like a ship
Sailing proudly on life's seas,
With sails hoisted in magnificence
She sails upon the buoyant breeze.
Then, as she fast approaches
The horizon far away,
She slips gently from our sight
Towards another day.

Although we cannot see her
Nor no longer gaze in awe,
She still sails proudly onward
To a far-off distant shore.
Those waiting on that distant shore
For our loved ones who have passed,
With open arms will welcome them
And embrace them at long last.

Fondly remembered by Jimmy, Claire and family xxx

Rest in Peace Vanda



In Loving Memory of
SEÁN CLEAR

Farren Cross, Ballacolla, Co. Laois.

Remembering Seán on his 3rd
anniversary on the 17th and 28th
birthday on 20th February 2026.

Seán's 3rd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St. Canice's Church, Clough, on
Sunday 8th February at 10.30am.

*Dearly missed and never forgotten by Dad Tom, Mum Julie,
sister Ella, Granddad Gerry, Grandmother Mary, Aunties,
Uncles, and cousins.*

Rest in Peace Seán



In Loving Memory of
MARY CONROY

18 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.
14th Anniversary occurs at this time.
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Friday**
13th February at 10am.

For a Wonderful Mum

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

*Love you always Mam, from your loving daughters
Marie, Phil and Josephine.*

Rest in Peace Mary



In Loving Memory of
AIDAN BYRNE

Borris Little, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs
13th February 2026.

Thinking of you every day,
A memory that will never fade away,
You made our lives so much better,
In our hearts forever and ever.
A blanket of love given by you,
We cherish the memories always.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving
wife Nellie, sons John and George, daughter Esther
and all his loving family.*

Rest in Peace Aidan



Acknowledgement & 1st Anniversary
In Loving Memory of
SEÁN LANGTON
The Glebe, Stradbally.

Sean's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Stradbally at **11.30am on Sunday 15th February**, coinciding with the 3rd Anniversary Mass of his beloved late wife, Breda (Birdie) Langton.

On this his first anniversary, Seán's family wish to extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to family, neighbours and friends who visited our home, attended the wake, funeral Mass and burial, as well as those who sent Mass cards and messages of condolence.

A special word of thanks to Fr. Kelly and all the priests who concelebrated in the funeral Mass.

Many thanks to John Maher and family for the beautiful singing and to Comerford & Lynch Funeral Directors for their kindness and professionalism.

We are truly grateful to the staff in St. James Hospital and the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise who looked after Sean during his short illness.

Thank you to those who formed Guards of Honour and to Park Ratheniska GAA Club and Stradbally GAA Club who provided great assistance during the wake and funeral.

To all of the local businesses who sent refreshments to the house, thank you.

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

Rest in Peace Seán



In Loving Memory of our Mother

ANN DELANEY

Cappagh North, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs

23rd February 2026.

and our Father

JAMES DELANEY

10th Anniversary occurred 17th January 2026.

Treasured thoughts of ones so dear,

Often bring a silent tear,

Thoughts of scenes long past,

Years roll on but memories last.

Sadly missed by your loving daughter Ruth, son Mark and grandchildren Alannah, Elisha and Kody.

May They Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

MARY KEALEY

(NÉE TYNAN)

Sheffield Cross, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs on

15th February 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul Church on **Saturday, 14th February, at 6:30pm.**

Every day, in some small way,

Memories of you come our way.

Though absent, you are always near,

Still missed, loved, and always dear.

Sadly missed and always remembered by your children Mary, Sonny, Martin, Caroline, and Brian, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, and friends.

Rest in Peace Mary



In Loving Memory of

ALICE NEVIN

Formerly Mountain View, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary away from us.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in

Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on

Monday 9th February at 10am.



So much has changed since you've gone,

Through ups and downs our lives move on,

But as time rolls by one thing remains true,

We'll always have memories of you.

Sadly missed and always remembered, love from your brother Paddy, Kathleen, family and grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Alice

Acknowledgement
In Loving Memory of
GARY CUDDY
Meelick, Portlaoise.
Passed away 9th January 2026.



Predeceased by his Sister Leona.

Gary's parents Martin and Theresa together with his brother Shane, grandad Mick Fitzpatrick, nephews Rhys and Luke would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported us during our heartbreaking sudden loss.

We cannot express enough how immensely grateful we are to our family, friends and neighbours for their unwavering support and kindness. Also, to all who travelled to attend the wake and funeral, sent messages and offered their condolences in any way.

Thanks to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff in the Critical Care Unit, Portlaoise Hospital, JP and staff at the MiHealth Pharmacy, Dr. Sharon McDonald and Staff at Clann Medical Center and a special mention to Dr. Anna Gullane for her professional care and kindness shown over the years.

To Monsignor John Byrne for a very meaningful Requiem Mass,

Damien Bowe and Tina Cuddy for the beautiful music and singing.

For all who took part in the Mass and made it special and personal in remembrance of Gary.

Seamus Burke Undertakers for their professionalism and kindness shown to us and the Deacons for the recital of the Rosary.

We would also like to thank Kelly's and Killeen's for the use of their fields and Shanahoe GAA Club Members for attending to the parking.

Portlaoise GAA Club for providing a guard of honour, COCO's, Fogarty Formworks, Bosco's, Guy Clothing, George Plunkett and Mossy Brown for their kind generosity.

The eulogy given by Damien touched our hearts deeply and will remain with us always.

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

**Gary's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated on
Friday 6th February at 7.30pm in St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.**

Rest in Peace Gary



In Loving Memory of A Precious
Mother and Grandmother

DYMPNA WALSH

Late of Chapel Street,
Ballyroan, Co Laois.

1st Anniversary occurs
13th February 2026.

1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St Patricks Church, Ballyroan
Sunday 15th February at 9.30am.

Those special memories of you always bring a smile,
If only we could have you back for just a little while,
Then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do,
You always meant to say very much and always will do too.
The fact that your no longer here will always cause us pain,
But you're forever in our hearts, until we meet again.

*Always loved and remembered by your loving husband Peter,
your son Barry and daughter Michelle and your
grandchildren Cillian, Ellie, Caitlin, Oisin,
Conor & Tomas.
Love you always.*

Rest in Peace Dympna



PEADAR O'BRIEN

St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs
9th February.

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

Sadly missed by his loving family.

Rest in Peace Peadar

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Portlaoise Parish

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5th February 2026



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Brian Murray
Kyle & Finn Rowe
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Marco
Doireann Brennan
Elizabeth Moore
Niamh Keegan
Matt Farrell
M Sheeran
Declan Keenan

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Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:7-10

Responsorial Psalm 111:4-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

Supporting our Parish

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

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

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

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

Scan this QR Code to take you
directly to our Donate facility



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparish

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

**All Masses and services from the Parish Church and
the Heath Church are live streamed on our website**



LINK UP

Monday to Thursday

9am to 5pm

Contact: Mary Schwer

057-8692154

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

**WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF
CARDS AND GIFTS FOR CONFIRMATION**

Prayer Books - Rosary Beads - Rosettes

Personalised Cards and Candles

Photo Frames - Gift Sets - Bookmarks

Sterling Silver Necklets, Chains and Crosses

Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories

Confirmation Certificates

Confirmation Dates

Scoil Bhríde, Heath, Ratheniska, Gaelscoil, - 13th February

Holy Family, Educate Together - 14th February

St. Francis School - 27th February

