

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

12th April 2026

**Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday**



A sincere word of thanks to all who helped make our Easter Ceremonies so prayerful and uplifting this year. To our sacristans, choirs, readers, ministers, altar servers, those who prepared the churches so beautifully, prepared the power points, maintained and cleaned the church and all who played their part in any way — your time, dedication and generosity are deeply appreciated. Thanks also to all who joined us in such great numbers. Together, you helped make our celebration of Easter truly special.



We welcome Marlin, Emmanuel, Sylvester, Marielle, Louise and Greg who completed the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist — at our Easter Vigil. Alleluia Alleluia. Thanks to Helena Corbett who helped in their preparation.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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



Finding Faith

What would it be like to have an unerring and unshakeable faith? What would it be like to have a faith driven not by proof but by an inner voice? Most likely it would be life changing. When we truly

believe something in our hearts, we begin to act it out in our lives. An unerring faith would enable us to enjoy peace in the darkest corners of our lives, but is there a real danger that our thirst for that life changing faith could lead us to 'leave our brains at the church door'?

Faith and doubt are the flipside of the same coin. In our hurry for faith we can quietly bury any doubts leaving them to fester. On the other hand, we can give so much weight to our doubts that faith eludes us altogether. Doubt isn't necessarily a bad thing, after all, the disciples needed signs, and Thomas in particular needed concrete evidence. Doubt can be a good thing even, if it leads us to answer the questions that will eventually help us to develop a mature faith. Doubt becomes a bad thing when it builds an insurmountable barrier. Thomas believed that it was foolish to believe something without proof, but if we are so afraid of being foolish or fear to believe without scientific evidence, our doubts will never lead us to ask the right questions. Our doubts will only spur us to pick holes.

So how can we use doubt as a positive tool rather than a negative force? Perhaps there's been a time when you've followed a court case where nearly all the evidence has been circumstantial. The jury have the uncomfortable task of reaching a certain belief without all the evidence they would like. Significantly, barristers don't confront jurors with the hardest parts of the case first. Barristers begin by building a picture based on certainties. Only when the case seems overwhelmingly watertight do they introduce points that are more circumstantial. Perhaps this is the way to approach our religious doubts.

Trócaire



Please bring any remaining Trócaire boxes to Mass next Sunday or leave them into the Parish Centre. Do NOT leave Boxes in the Church at any time. Trócaire boxes are still available in Church porches or in the Parish Centre.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday: 7.30am & 10am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigils 5pm & 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.



Divine Mercy Sunday

This afternoon (Sunday) Divine Mercy Mass in Parish Church at 3pm. All are welcome.



We welcome into our Parish Community
Leo Bagdonas, Castle Way, Kilminchy
Who was baptised last Sunday
(Easter Sunday).

In whatever state a soul may be, it ought to pray. A soul which is pure and beautiful must pray, or else it will lose its beauty; a soul which is striving after this purity must pray, or else it will never attain it; a soul which is newly converted must pray, or else it will fall again; a sinful soul, plunged in sins, must pray so that it might rise again. There is no soul which is not bound to pray, for every single grace comes to the soul through prayer.

St Faustina Kowalska (Diary, 146).

The priests of the parish would like to thank all who contributed to the Clergy Collection this Easter.

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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

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Intimacy & Relationships

Information talk for men

With Dr. Ruth Stewart
Senior Clinical Psychologist Beaumont Hospital
Thursday 16th April 2026, 11am



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at 7pm

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 7TH APRIL

Top score: Peter Stevenson. 1st Lady: Sadie Chester. 2nd Lady: Margaret Flanagan. 1st Gent: P J Cahill. 2nd Gent: Terry Dunne. 1st Half: Theresa Mulhare. 2nd Half: Mary Delaney & Billy Jackson. Raffle: 1st Frances Dunne, 2nd Christy Bennett, 3rd Catherine Fitzpatrick, 4th Margaret Flanagan. *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*

ACTIVE RETIREMENT Monday 13th Bowls in St Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. Wednesday 15th April Sing Along with Caroline from 3pm in Parish Centre. Thursday 16th April in Sue Ryder Kilminchy Cards & Chat from 3pm. New members welcome to any/all - tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 087-9187157.

WALK IN THE PARK FOR PARKINSONS will take place on Saturday, 11th April at 11a.m. in Colt G.A.A. Grounds, Raheen, Abbeyleix. R32 V085. Visit www.parkinsons.ie to register in advance or register on the day. Phone John on 087-2712448 or Mary on 087-9617940 for more information. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Doogues Bar, Raheen. All support greatly appreciated.

FOURTH WALL LAOIS THEATRE GROUP presents "Moll" by J.B. Keane on Saturday 25th April in Dunamase Arts Centre.

NATIONAL EPILEPSY WEEK 2026 takes place on 18th May - 25th May. For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie/content/national-epilepsy-week-2026-epilepsyweek.

SPINA BIFIDA HYDROCEPHALUS IRELAND ANNUAL CHURCH GATE COLLECTION is scheduled to take place in Ballyroan & Abbeyleix on the weekend of 18th & 19th of April.

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.

EMMANUEL HOUSE CLONFERT Divine Mercy Sunday, 12th April starting at 11am led by Eddie Stone & Team. Divine Mercy Novena begins Good Friday. Please bring a packed lunch. Schedule for Healing Services: Weds 11am & Thurs 7am.



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FATIMA CANDLE

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church, Mon. 13th April in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners. Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm.
All are welcome.

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Checking the Roll

What is the first thing a teacher does at the beginning of the school day? I don't know about your teacher, but the very first thing many teachers do each day is to check the roll. The teacher opens the roll book and begins to call out the names... Johnny, Susie, Aoife, Mary, James. As the student's names are called, they raise their hand and answer, "Here!" If the teacher calls Ciara's name and she is not there, the teacher marks in the roll book that she was absent. Why is it important for the teacher to know that Ciara is absent?



It is important because she needs to be told what she missed when she was absent.

That's similar to something that happened in the gospel today. It was the Sunday after Jesus was crucified and his disciples had gathered together in a locked room. They were together in that locked room because they were afraid. They were afraid of what Jesus' enemies might do to them. The Gospel tells us that, even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood there with his disciples. When the disciples saw Jesus, they were very happy.

One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not there with the others in that room when Jesus appeared to them. I don't know why Thomas wasn't there. Perhaps he was sick, or maybe he just decided to stay at home that day. The next time the other disciples saw Thomas, they told him what he had missed when he was absent. They said, "We have seen Jesus. He is alive!" Thomas didn't believe them. He said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it,"

The next week the disciples were in the house again, and this time Thomas was with them. The very same thing happened again. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among his disciples. He turned to Thomas and said, "See my hands; put your fingers here. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas didn't need to touch the wounds where the nails had been or put his hand into his side. He fell on his knees before Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God!"



One of the great promises Jesus made was when he said, "Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them." Each week we come together in the name of Jesus to worship and to praise him. So, what do we miss out on if we are absent? We miss out on the same thing that Thomas missed out on when he was absent -- the chance to be with Jesus!

PRAYER

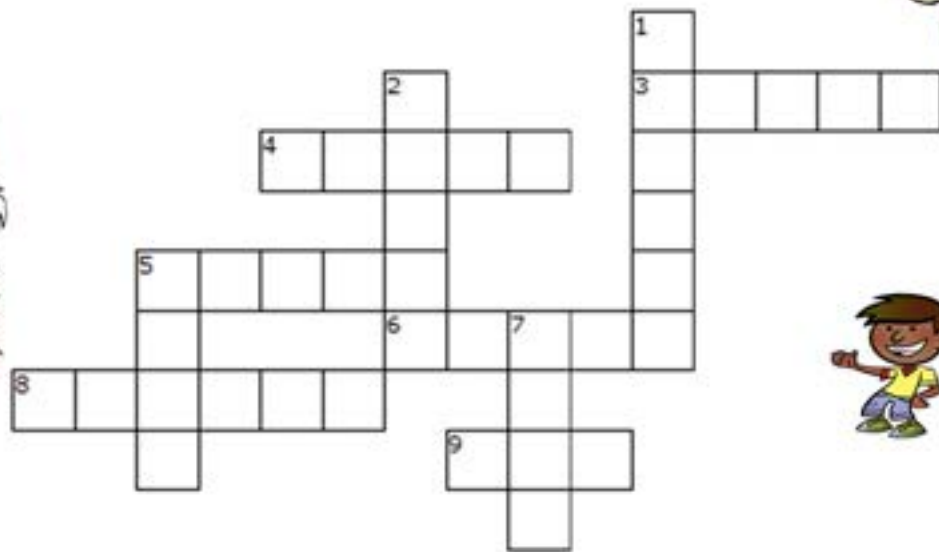


**Dear Jesus, thank You that You help us accept by faith that
You have risen from the grave and that You are alive.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Believe it or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

John 20:25



ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight.
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer.



**PEACE DOOR HANDS
FAITH HAPPY NAIL
THOMAS CLOSED
SIN DOUBT**



A new Paschal candle is blessed and lit every year at the Easter Vigil – a symbol of the risen Christ. It is decorated with a number of symbols:

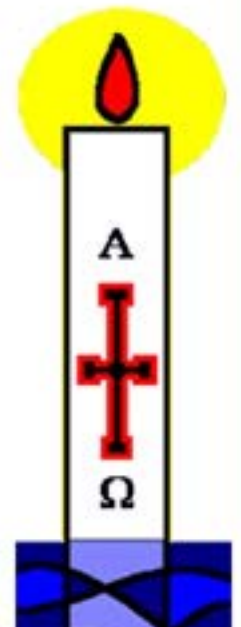
The cross, the most prominent symbol and clearly identifies it as the Paschal candle.

The Greek letters alpha and omega, which symbolise that God is the beginning and the end (from the Book of Revelation).

The year when the particular candle is being used. It represents God amidst the present congregation of 2026.

Five grains of incense which are embedded in the candle during the Easter Vigil to represent the five wounds of Jesus: the three nails that pierced his hands and feet, the spear thrust into his side, and the thorns that crowned his head.

The Paschal Candles will be lit in our Churches throughout the Paschal (Easter) Season and then throughout the year on special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.





**DAWN MASS at
THE HEATH**



**Easter Sunday
Mass & Baptism
of Baby Leo**

Pics courtesy of Pilgrim Films Studio



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Time to Think...

Man on the Moon!



Going to bed on April 7th, for many, brought with it tension and worry as the threat of global war made us all feel very vulnerable. Thankfully time has been given to prioritize necessary negotiation and please God reconciliation. In the midst of all this bad news, a good news story, this Easter time, was the first space trip to the moon and the farthest that humanity has ever delved into orbit. I was taken by the inspirational spirituality shared publicly by these heroic astronauts.

As the astronauts of NASA's first crewed lunar flyby in half a century reached their closest approach to the moon, the team's pilot reminded the Earth of Jesus Christ's command to love both God and neighbour.

"As we get close to the nearest point to the moon and farthest point from Earth, as we continue to unlock the mysteries of the cosmos, I would like to remind you of one of the most important mysteries there on Earth, and that's love," said astronaut Victor Glover, pilot of the Artemis II mission, speaking to ground control April 6 from aboard NASA's Orion spacecraft Integrity. "Christ said, in response to what was the greatest command, that it was to love God with all you are," said Glover. "And he also, being a great teacher, said the second is equal to it. And that is to love your neighbour as yourself."

Glover, sharing from the spacecraft Easter Sunday shared on April 5 to CBS News, said that "as we go into Easter Sunday, thinking about all the cultures all around the world, whether you celebrate it or not, whether you believe in God or not, this is an opportunity for us to remember where we are, who we are, and that we are the same thing, and that we've got to get through this together." "When I read the Bible and I look at all of the amazing things that were done for us who were created — you have this amazing place, this spaceship," he said. "You guys are talking to us because we're in a spaceship really far from Earth, but you're on a spaceship called Earth that was created to give us a place to live in the universe." He added, "Maybe the distance we are from you makes you think what we're doing is special, but we're the same distance from you. And I'm trying to tell you — just trust me — you are special."

These days we are encouraged to celebrate the gift of Divine Mercy. Mercy is who God is. It is love's other name. Mercy is forgiveness. God is more interested in our future than in our past. He takes past sins seriously but never as the last word. God wants each of us to become the best person he wills us to be, and this requires conversion — a change of heart. Genuine mercy believes God's grace has the power to transform us. God does not owe us forgiveness. Nor does God's mercy license us to continue to sin — it demands a response to go and from now on sin no more (John 8:11). God's mercy motivates us to do better. God's forgiveness is an easy thing to obtain.

One needs only to ask. God forgives — he opens his loving arms and grants mercy. He gives love away. We do not have to feel guilty over the reality of our human frailty. God is not going to sternly judge us. No, God is running down the road toward us, eager to wrap his arms around us and kiss it better. The enormity of God's love, which is so vast it is beyond measure or comprehension, creates in us an awareness of the

depth of our inadequacy. But that awareness does not trigger feelings of unworthiness.

Rather it creates a sense of poverty which allows us to trust fully in God and willingly accept his bountiful love. Perhaps that's why astronaut Glover, felt so close to God, in the midst of such a splendid universe. As he looked out of the space shuttle overwhelmed with the beauty and awe of creation, Glover, felt profoundly close to the mercy and love of our creator God.

Forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts of the spiritual life. It enables us to be released from the sorrows of the past and reminds us to forgive others without hesitation, without question. Without question is hard to do, which only illustrates more clearly God's love. Forgiveness simply says that we will never put someone out of our heart.

Jesus says, "Be merciful, just as the Father is merciful."
(Luke 6:36)

Pope Leo's message for Divine Mercy Sunday, is a very practical invitation to embrace God's powerful love for us all....

"Jesus has this message for us: mercy.

I think—and I say it with humility — that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy

It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension. But we must! "Oh Father, if you knew my life, you would not say that to me!" "Why, what have you done?" "Oh, I am a great sinner!" "All the better! Go to Jesus: he likes you to tell him these things!" He forgets, he has a very special capacity for forgetting. He forgets, he kisses you, he embraces you and he simply says to you: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

That is the only advice he gives you.

After a month, if you are in the same situation

Let us go back to the Lord. The Lord never tires of forgiving: never!

It is we who tire of asking his forgiveness.

Let us ask for the grace not to tire of asking forgiveness, because he never tires of forgiving.

Let us ask for this grace"

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.



*Our Prayers are asked for those
who recently died*



James Dempsey
Borris Rd. Portlaoise

Mary Fitzgerald
(née Doheny)
Green Rd. Abbeyleix



Mary Whelan
(née Ivory)
1 The Courtyard, Ballinakill

Bart Whelan
*Charleville/Ballinasloe and
late of The Heath, Portlaoise*



Joseph O'Brien
Portlaoise Rd. Abbeyleix

May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



In Loving Memory of
**MATTHEW (MATT)
BROPHY**

Rathevan, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs
17th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on **Sunday 19th April at 11.15am.**

We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again.

*Sadly missed by his wife Pauline, son Mark, daughters
Yvonne and Attracta, daughter in law Sinead, son in law
Joe, grandkids, relatives, friends and neighbors.*

May Matt Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
JOHN & BILLY CARROLL

Newtown, Ballyroan.

John's 5th Anniversary
occurs 15th April.

Billy's 13th Anniversary
occurred 11th April.



Rest in peace dear loved ones,
Thanks for all that you have done.
We pray that God has given you,
The crowns you have truly won.

Sadly missed by all their loving families.

May their gentle souls Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
CHRISTINE MAHER

28 Oakleaf Place, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 9th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church
of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska & St. Peter & Paul's
Church, Portlaoise **Sunday 12th April at 10am.**

We don't know what grief will look like tomorrow
But we will face it, we will feel it
As your memory washes over us
On your anniversary Mammy.

We think and talk about you everyday
For such a love, grief is the price of admission
The cost of human condition so we pay it over and over again
Until we see you again your love is worth it in life and death.

*Loved and missed always by your loving husband Joe, sons,
daughters, brothers, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Christine



In Loving Memory of
**ANGELA
 FINGLETON**
 Munny, Stradbally.
 4th Anniversary occurs on
 20th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska, on **Sunday 19th April at 10.00am.**

No special day is needed
 For us to think of you

For you were someone special
 And we thought the world of you

*Forever loved and sadly missed by Har, Ann, Pauline,
 Ciaran, Deirdre, Adrian, David and families.*

May Angela Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
 our Mum & Nanny
HANNAH KIRK
 Boley, Abbeyleix.
 Whose 1st Anniversary occurs
 20th April 2026.

1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Shanahoe Church at 12noon on **19th April 2026.**

We hold you close
 Within our **hearts** and
 There you shall **remain.**

*FOREVER LOVED & MISSED.
 Ger, Jim, Siobhan, Pat & Grandchildren*

May Hannah Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
TOM FITZPATRICK
 Pleasant Place, Portlaoise.
 34th Anniversary occurred on 14th April
 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday 12th April at 11.15am.**

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

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all his loving family.

Rest in Peace Tom



In Loving Memory of
 Our Son and Brother
CATHAL CLOONEY
 Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix.
 5th Anniversary occurs
 11th April 2026.

If we could sit in heaven even for a day
 The pain in our heart would temporarily go away.

We'd put our arms around you
 And whisper words so true
 That living life without you
 Is the hardest thing to do.
 No matter how we spend our time,
 No matter what we do,
 There's no morning, noon or night,
 That we don't think of you.

*We miss you so much, Cathal. Always in our hearts, Forever by our sides.
 Love Mam and Dad xx*

Brother

Time slips by and life goes on
 But from my heart, you're never gone
 I think about you always,
 I talk about you too
 I have so many memories
 But I wish I still had you.

Love Liam x

May Cathal Rest in Peace



Birthday Remembrance of
HENRY TOBIN
 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.
 Whose birthday occurs
 on 14th April.

Another birthday comes around,
 And still we miss you every day,
 Not a day goes by you're not in our thoughts,
 Or in the little things that come our way.

We talk about you often Daddy,
 And smile through tears at memories dear,
 For though you rest up there in heaven,
 In our hearts your always near.

So today we send our love to heaven,
 With all the hugs we cannot give,
 Happy Birthday, Daddy- forever loved,
 In our hearts you'll always live.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Daddy

*from Susan, Catherine, Tracey,
 Nicola, Ciera, Henry, Rachel and Aideen.*



**FIRST ANNIVERSARY &
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

In Loving Memory of
ANN CARROLL
(NÉE GORMAN)

The Brook, Abbeyleix.
Died 13th April 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the
Church of the Most Holy Rosary Abbeyleix at
5pm on Saturday 11th April.

The family of the late Ann Carroll, her husband Michael,
her daughters, son & extended family would like to thank
everyone who supported them in their sad loss.

Thanks to those who visited, sent Mass cards and for
the many messages of condolences. We were incredibly
fortunate to be supported by so many caring and
compassionate people during Ann's illness and particularly
in her last few months.

A special thank you to Ann's wonderful circle of friends
especially Dolly Murphy.

To the incredible medical teams, a special thank you to
Professor Peter O'Gorman in the Mater Hospital, the
staff in St. Elizabeth's – Mater Hospital, the public health
nurses, the palliative care team, our night nurse Josephine,
Dr. Sharon McDonald and all the team in Clann Medical,
thank you for the care, kindness and professionalism
given to Ann at all times.

To Ann Lawlor, William Tierney, Evelyn and all in
Cassery's Pharmacy thank you for your care and assistance
over the years.

A heartfelt thank you to Fr. Paddy for his prayers and
kindness to Ann and all the family.

Thanks to Mick O'Keeffe and the wonderful
Abbeyleix Choir.

Thanks also to Eamonn Kelly funeral director for all your
help, support & professionalism.

To the staff of First Ireland Spirits for their dignified guard
of honour and also to Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually
who cared for and supported Ann over the past few years,
please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of
our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Rest in Peace Ann

In Loving Memory of
PHYLLIS (PHIL) CULLETON
(NÉE BOWE)

Rossleighan, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 15th April 2026.

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

*Loved and missed by
Paula, Donal and families.*

Rest in Peace Phyllis



In Loving Memory of
CATHERINE DEVOY

Raheenabrogue, Ballyroan.

3rd Anniversary occurs 7th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St.
Patrick's Church, Ballyroan on **Sunday**
12th April at 9.30am.

*Sadly missed, always remembered by her Husband Martin,
Daughters Mary and Margaret, Son-in-law Paul and all
her grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Catherine



In Loving Memory of A dear Father & Grandfather

BRENDAN DELANEY

Green Mill Lane and St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Brendan's 94th Birthday occurred 11th April 2026.

30th Anniversary occurs 14th April 2026.

It's lonely here without you,
We miss you more each day,
For life is not the same to us,
Since you were called away.

To your resting place we visit
And place flowers there with care,
But no one knows our heartache
When we turn and leave you there.

*Sadly missed, never forgotten by daughter Kelley,
granddaughters Chloe & Skye.*

*Remembering my grandmother, Mary Delaney,
whose anniversary occurs on 13th April.*

Rest in Peace Brendan



In Loving Memory of
**ELIZABETH (MARY)
McEVOY**

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
11th Anniversary in heaven and away from
home occurs on Saturday 25th April 2026.

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church Saturday
25th April at 10am.*



Mum

In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still
You hold a place within my heart that no one else can fill
It's hard to walk in life alone, instead of side by side
I know your love for me will always be my guide
The precious times we shared live forever in my heart
My only wish this day, is that we never had to part
I will love and miss you forever.

Dear Mum

In the grief of the night, I weep
As memories of you slowly creep
Your laughter, your love, your guiding light
Now lost in the darkness of this endless night
Your absence cuts deep like a knife
Leaving behind and void in my life
I long to hear your voice once more
To feel your presence as I did before
The pain of losing you is hard to bear
I wish that you were still here
But I'll hold on to the love we shared
Knowing that you'll always be cared.
Though you're gone, you'll never depart
For you live on forever in my heart
Rest in peace dear Mother of mine
In my memories your light will forever shine.

Remember Me

Remember me with smiles not tears
For all the joy through all the years
Recall a closeness that was ours
A love as sweet as fragrant flowers.
Don't dwell on thoughts that cause you pain
We'll see each other once again
I am at peace...try to believe
It was my time I had to leave.
But what a view I have from here
I see your face, I feel you near
I follow you throughout the day
You're not alone along the way
And when God calls you – you will be
Right by my side – right here with me.
Til then I'll wait by heaven's door
We'll be united evermore!
Today and every day I am grateful
For the unconditional love you gave me Mum
Your love continues to guide and comfort me,
Even though you are no longer here.

I miss you Mother

Dear God, please hold my Mother
in your loving embrace and grant her eternal peace
May she know how much I love and miss her everyday.
And I hope you always knew, I thought the world of you.

Love James xxx

Rest in Peace my dear Elizabeth



ACKNOWLEDGMENT
In Loving Memory of
JAMIE BRENNAN

9 Colliers Lane, Kilminchy.
Who died 17th October 2025.

The family of the late Jamie Brennan wish to sincerely
thank all who supported and sympathised with us
during our recent loss.

Thank you to everyone who called, attended the funeral, sent
Mass cards, messages, flowers, and travelled long distances.

And those who played a part in Jamie's Funeral.
Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

We extend our gratitude to Fr. Erick Ebot, Sarah Troy,
Abbie, the HSE care staff, Muiriosa foundation,

Dr. Honan, Dr. Byrne, and the staff of Portlaoise and
St. James's Hospitals for their care and support.

Thanks also to Joe Butler funeral directors & grave diggers,
Bosco's Catering, and Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.

As we remember Jamie on his birthday,
his memory lives on in our hearts.

Jimmy & Bernie Brennan



In Loving Memory of
JOE DOYLE
Maryborough Village, Portlaoise.
Who died 12th April 2019.

To the living I am gone,
to the sorrowful I will never return
To the angry I was cheated
But to the happy I am at peace
To the faithful I have never left.
I cannot speak but I can listen
I cannot be seen but I can be heard
So, as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity
Remember me.

Remember me in your heart
Your thoughts and your memories
Of the times we loved
The times we cried
The times we laughed
For if you always think of me
I will never have gone.

*Forever loved and missed by Clare.
Also remembered by the Delaney and Doyle families and friends.*

Rest in Peace Joe



In Loving Memory of
**MICHAEL (MICK)
MCDONALD**

"The Gateaux Man"

"St Jude's", Dublin Rd, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 15th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and

Paul's Church on **Saturday 11th April at 6.30pm.**

You always had a smile to share, a laugh a joke and time to care,

A good life came to an end, you died as you lived, everyone's friend.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife Mary, sons Stephen and

David, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

May Mick Rest In Peace



In Loving Memory of
MARIA MORAN

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurred

9th April 2026.

9th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &

Paul's Parish Church on **Sunday 12th April at 10am.**

Sadly missed by her loving husband and family.

May Maria Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
**SALLY (SARAH)
WHELAN**

The Cottage, Beladd,
Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.

31st Anniversary occurred
6th April 2026.

Quietly today your memory we treasure,

Missing you always, forgetting you never.

Sadly missed by Bridie.

Rest in Peace Sally



In Loving Memory of
SYLVIA WHELAN

St. Colman's, Dublin Rd. Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 14th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in

St. Peter & Paul's Church on

Monday 14th at 10am.

Greatly missed and fondly remembered

by family & friends.

Rest in Peace Sylvia



Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of
ESTHER HEFFERNAN
(NÉE TYNAN)

Esker Hills, Portlaoise.

2nd birthday away from home.

Birthday Remembrance Mass will be celebrated in St.
Peter and Paul's Church on **Saturday 11th April at 10am.**

Silently we grieve and brush away our tears

But the beautiful memories you left behind Esther

Will last throughout the years.

You will never be forgotten.

*Sadly missed and forever remembered by her Dad John Joe,
brothers Stephen, Eddie, Glen, John Joe and sister Sylvia.*

Happy Heavenly Birthday Esther



In Loving Memory of
UNA TYNAN
(NÉE McEVOY)

Old Road Ballydavis,
The Heath, Co. Laois.

6th Anniversary occurs
14th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, this **Saturday 11th April at 6:30pm.**

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear,

How much we love and miss you, and wish that you were here.

We cannot forget the face we loved, or the memory of your smile,
Or the countless things you did for us, to make our lives worthwhile.

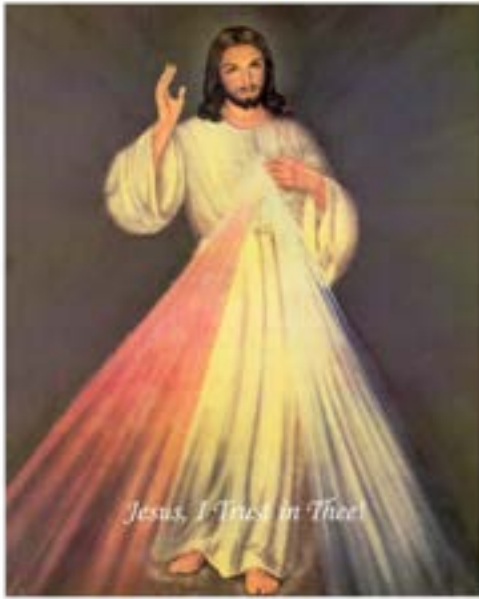
*Remembered always by her loving husband JJ, her children Stephen,
Eddie, Glen, JJ and Sylvia, their partners and grandchildren, great-
granddaughter, all the McEvoy family and her many friends.*

May Una's gentle soul Rest in Peace



Rest in Peace

*Come Celebrate
Divine Mercy Sunday*



Welcome to the Feast of Mercy being celebrated at:

Venue: St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.
Date: 12th April 2026
Time: Confessions at 2:30pm followed by
 Procession Up the Church at 2.45pm
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass.



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Portlaoise Parish

Results for
9th April 2026



02

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10

26

No €14,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Marcella O'Shea
Natalia Krychkovska
Annemarie Candon
Breda Delaney
Mary & Jack O'Rourke
Ingrid Lewis
Ashling Maher
Liam Connell
Madeline Crowley
Tracy Carroll
Patricia Phelan
Barry Dunne
Arthur O'Neill
Tom Bergin
Anne Fagan
T.J. Curran
Amanda Power
Brian Farrell
Tadhg Brophy
Frank Glynn

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3s
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Elizabeth Dowling
Ber Breen
John O'Reilly
Betty Lynch
Peter Ryan
Parish Centre
Paul Dooley
Philip Fagan
Veronica Curran
Paul Dooley
Greg Keenan
Linda Brophy
Bernie Phelan

Next Week's Jackpot is €15,000

Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
St. Peter 1Pt 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

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- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre
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 - * 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

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Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:
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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



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057-8692154

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie
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At the Parish Centre

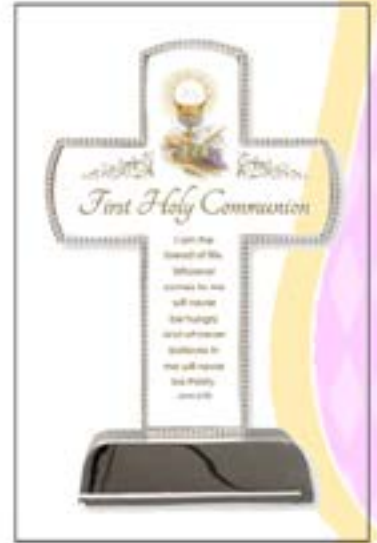
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