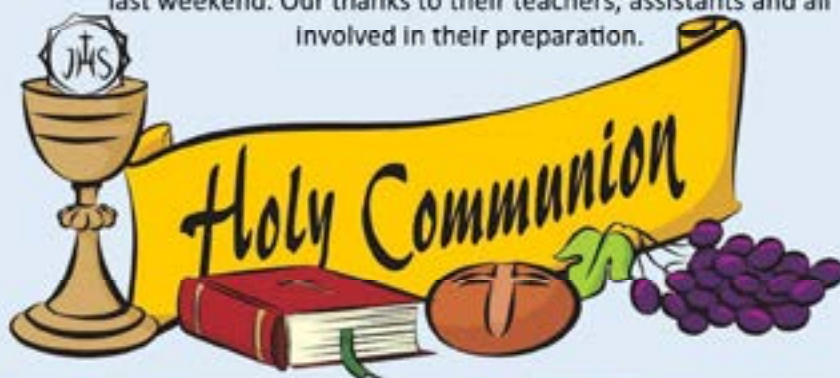


**PORTLAOISE
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up**

3rd May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Congratulations to all the boys and girls from Holy Family Junior school who received their First Holy Communion last weekend. Our thanks to their teachers, assistants and all involved in their preparation.



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

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



A PLACE FOR US

Maybe we feel that if we only had the perfect job in the perfect community, then

finally we wouldn't feel so restless. Maybe we feel that if we could meet that perfect partner, then finally we could be ready to settle down. Maybe we feel as though if we could just get the children through to school and into a good university we could take a well-earned break from life's treadmill. If only we could achieve a certain goal, or settle some old score we could finally obtain peace. It never seems to happen ... it seems to be part of our human condition to be forever restless. Perhaps we are at our closet to feeling at peace when the day is done and we close our own front door on the world, though even then there's the dog to be fed and the children to be bathed and put to bed. In the gospel reading today, Jesus directly addresses our yearning for peace. "Do not let your hearts be troubled I go to prepare a place for you...." What a very comforting thought. God has prepared a little corner of heaven especially for us. What will our little corner of heaven be like, and more importantly, how must we find our way there?

In today's gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for the time when he will no longer be with them in the flesh. Jesus assures them that although their relationship is changing, it's not ending. The assurance for us all is that through our belief in Jesus, we will find our home with God. "I am the way, and the truth and the life..." Jesus leaves us with the promise that following his teachings is the way to ultimate peace.

Cemetery Mass
St. Peter & Paul's, Portlaoise
Sunday 31st May at 1pm.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday (Bank Holiday): 10am

Tuesday to Friday : 7.30am & 10am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

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



We welcome into our Parish Community

Alfie Jack Neary, Clonroosk Abbey

Who was baptised weekend.

Readers for Heath and Ratheniska

Would you consider becoming a reader at Mass? This is a wonderful way to serve our parish community and participate more fully in the liturgy. Training and support will be provided. If interested, please contact the parish office on info@portlaoiseparish.ie or 0578621142



A Prayer as you enter your Exams

Dear Lord,

as I take this exam

I thank you that my value is not based on my performance, but on your great love for me.

Come into my heart so that we can walk through this time together.

Help me with this test and the many tests of life yet to come my way.

Help clear my mind and bring forth my ideas and my knowledge with ease,

and be gracious with anything I have overlooked.

Help me to remain calm, focused,

and confident in my ability

and to remember no matter

the outcome you will never leave me.

Amen.

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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

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ROSARY AT THE GROTTTO

Rosary will be recited at the grotto every evening 8.00pm for the month of May.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 28TH APRIL

Top score: Molly O'Brien. 1st Lady: Paddy Purcell. 2nd Lady: Ann Pearson. 1st Gent: Tied; Shiela Duff & Frank Keenan. 1st Half: Billy Jackson. 2nd Half: Mary Delaney. Raffle: 1st B Cahill, 2nd T Jacob, 3rd M Gowing, 4th B Jackson 5th P Stevenson 6th B Murphy. *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 NO BOWLS on Monday 4th May. Wednesday 6th May Sports in Parish Centre from 3pm. Thursday 7th May Cards & Chat in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy from 3pm - new members welcome. Tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 087-9187157

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..

SOCIAL CHESS CLUB PORTLAOISE for adults only (male and female). The next meeting will be held in Portlaoise Library on Saturday 25th April 2026 between 1 & 4pm and it is free. Board games are provided in the library. The website is <https://portlaoisecchessclub.ie>. We hope to form a committee soon and everyone is welcome to join. Chess games are held every two weeks in the library, Check the website for clarification.

ALONE supports older people across Ireland who may be experiencing loneliness, isolation, frailty, illness, homelessness, or financial hardship. **ALONE Needs You — Volunteers Wanted** We are currently looking for compassionate volunteers in your area to support older people in your community. By giving a small amount of your time, you can: Reduce loneliness / Build meaningful connections / Make a real difference in someone's life" Please call us on 0818 222 024 if you or someone you know needs support.

GRAIGUECULLEN MONSTER BINGO, Tuesday 5th May 2026. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 48 numbers €5,250. Double number €1,510. Lotto €2,150. Bonus Ball €1,450.

PORTLAOISE PARISH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Youth church gate collection will take place at all Masses on the 9th & 10th May. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

SEAN DOYLE LIGHT ENGINEERING, BALLACOLLA: Call 087-2068972 | seandoylelightengineering.com. Clothesline poles, rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, sawhorses, bicycle stands.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

AN IGNITE IRELAND day conference, with special guest speaker Scott Hahn, will take place in Dublin on Saturday, 23rd of May. Scott Hahn is a well-known writer and broadcaster, and is a much sought after speaker. It is an event not to be missed. For information and to book your ticket, go to: www.dominicans.ie

ROSARY AT THE TOP SQUARE 2.30pm on Sunday 2nd May.

THE LEGION OF MARY ACIES MASS will take place in the Church of the Assumption, The Heath, on 7th May at 6:00 pm. All auxiliary members are warmly welcome to participate and make their annual oath to Our Lady on this special occasion. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards at the Parish Hall.

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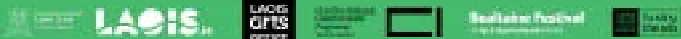


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4:15am • May 9th

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A huge thank you to everyone who has supported me so far. I really appreciate it.

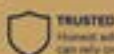


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FORT FINANCIAL

A NIGHT OF HARMONY & HERITAGE IN MOUNTMELICK

The Wesley Choir (Birmingham, UK) will make a welcome return to Mountmellick on Friday, 8th May 2026.

The choir will perform a beautiful selection of popular favourites and uplifting gospel songs.

The evening will also feature:

Local speakers sharing insights into Mountmellick's heritage of faith.
A performance of poetry by students from Mountmellick Community School.

Friday, 8th May 2026

The MDA building, Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois R32 A0PK

The event will start with a pre-concert reception at the Hare's Corner restaurant commencing at 7:00pm.

The concert will start at 8:00 PM in the MDA building.

Admission: €10 (Pay at the door)

The event is hosted by Beverley Barbour, Methodist Lay Worker.
Tel: 087 934 7910

The money raised will support the Mountmellick Embroidery and Heritage Museum.

Tel: (057) 862 4525

Email: reception@mountmellickdevelopment.com

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Portlaoise Parish www.portlaoiseparish.ie

HANDING ON
THE FAITH



I Am the Way

There was a time when a person going on a trip wouldn't think of beginning their journey without a road map. A map was very helpful to the traveller in finding the way to where they were going. Today we seldom ever use a road map. Do you know why? Most of us who own a car also have a sat nav (satellite navigation) in our car. How does a sat nav work? When you are ready to go somewhere, you type in the address where you want to go and the sat nav connects to a satellite up above the earth and computes the path to your destination. As soon as you start driving, a map appears on the screen and a voice from the Sat. Nav. gives you turn by turn directions. "Turn right on Main Street in one mile, turn right in one half mile, turn right in 150 feet, turn right." What happens if you miss your turn? The GPS says, "Recalculating" and immediately computes a new route to get you back on the right path to your destination.

When we are trying to follow Jesus in our daily life, it would be nice to have a sat nav to lead us in the right direction, wouldn't it? It would be nice to have something to keep us on the right path and keep us from getting lost...something that would help us get back on the right track when we made a wrong decision.

That is the way Jesus' disciples must have felt when Jesus told them that he was going to leave them. Jesus said to them, "I am going to prepare a place for you and when everything is ready, I will come and get you so that you will always be with me. You know the way to where I am going."

One of the disciples whose name was Thomas answered Jesus, "No, we don't, Lord. We don't even know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Another disciple named Philip joined in, "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied."

"Philip," Jesus answered, "Have you been with me all this time and you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show you the Father? Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Anyone who believes in me will do the same things I have done."

That was all the disciples needed to know to get them on the right path to the Father. So, how do you and I find our way to the place where Jesus has gone to be with the Father? We have not seen Jesus as Thomas and Philip had, but we can follow the teachings that he has given to us in the Bible - God's Holy Word. That is our sat nav and it will keep us on the right path!



Dear Jesus

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son to provide the way to eternal life. Thank you for your Holy Word which will keep us on the right path in our journey through life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Finding the Way



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

'Do not let your _____ be troubled. _____ in God still, and trust in me. There are many _____ in my Father's _____; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to _____ a _____ for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus answered, 'I am the _____, the _____ and the _____. No one can come to the _____ except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Father
hearts

house
life

place
prepare

rooms
Trust

truth
way

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls who received their First Holy Communion last weekend and to those who will receive their First Holy Communion in the coming weeks.

We hope you and your family had a lovely day.





DUNAMASE COLLEGE CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF FORMER STUDENTS AT LEADING UNIVERSITIES

Dunamase College is proudly celebrating the exceptional achievements of a number of former students who have recently received prestigious scholarships, awards, and bursaries at some of Ireland's leading third-level institutions.

These honours are a reflection of the students' dedication, academic excellence, and determination, while also highlighting the strong educational foundation they received during their time at Dunamase College.

A special congratulations goes to Ava Arzu Coletti, who is currently studying a BA (Hons) in Psychology and was awarded an Academic Achievement Entrance Scholarship for her course. This scholarship is presented to the student achieving the highest CAO points entering each undergraduate programme, making it a significant recognition of academic excellence. Award recipients received both a certificate and a €500 scholarship.



PICTURED ABOVE:
AVA COLETTI AND HER FORMER TEACHER GENEVIEVE BENNETT

Another outstanding success story is Lily Van Den Bergh, who received a prestigious Entrance Exhibition Award from Trinity College Dublin in recognition of her exceptional Leaving Certificate and final examination results. This year, just 602 first-year students from across Ireland and overseas received the award, underlining the significance of Lily's achievement. Students were honoured during special ceremonies in Trinity's historic Examination Hall, attended by recipients and their former school principals.



PICTURED ABOVE:
LILY VAN DEN BERGH WITH HER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
DYPMPNA KELLY

Special mention must also go to Niamh Skelly, who is studying Irish at Maynooth University and received an award in recognition of her outstanding Leaving Certificate results. This honour reflects the high academic standards she set during her time at Dunamase College and her continued success at third-level.



PICTURE ABOVE: NIAMH SKELLY

These achievements are a source of enormous pride for Dunamase College and the wider community. They demonstrate what can be accomplished through perseverance, ambition, and a commitment to excellence. They also serve as an inspiration to current students, showing that with hard work and belief, exceptional opportunities and success can follow. Dunamase College can be immensely proud to see its past students making such an impact at Ireland's leading universities.

Meanwhile, Maeve Mc Grath was awarded a bursary after achieving more than 600 points in her Leaving Certificate and progressing to University College Dublin to study Mathematics. Reaching the 600 point milestone is an extraordinary accomplishment and places Maeve among the highest achieving students in the country.



PICTURED ABOVE:
MAEVE MC GRATH WITH HER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DYMPNA KELLY



Time to Think...

May... a time to celebrate the ordinary



As we begin the month of May, we enter into a very sacred season, where nature rejoices in light and warmth. For ancient people this time of year was an occasion to hope and celebrate. Bealtaine is the traditional Celtic festival marking the beginning of summer, typically observed on May 1. In ancient Celtic/Gaelic culture in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man, it celebrated the transition from the “dark half” of the year to the “light half,” with themes of fertility, growth, abundance, protection of livestock, and the vitality of the land. Traditions often included lighting “bright fires”, driving cattle between or through flames for purification and protection, decorating with May flowers or bushes, visiting holy wells, and communal feasting and rejoicing as nature burst into bloom.

When Christianity spread, it did not fully erase these seasonal observances. Unlike some festivals that were more directly Christianized (e.g., Imbolc blending into St. Brigid’s Day), Bealtaine largely persisted as a folk and agricultural turning point rather than being renamed as a major Church feast. Irish ancestors, who were often “predominantly Christian but with pagan aspects remaining,” continued elements like bonfires and protective rituals, sometimes layering Christian prayers or blessings over them. Over time, the month of May became strongly associated with the Virgin Mary. Practices such as decorating Marian shrines, grottos, altars, and holy wells with flowers echoed older May customs of honouring growth and beauty. Flower processions and crowning statues of Mary blended seamlessly with the season’s exuberance. This time of year, the ordinary is a source of inspiration and hope.

There’s an account in the gospel of how Jesus returned on one occasion to Nazareth, his hometown, and spoke there in the synagogue. Although those who heard his teaching were astounded, their sense of wonder soon turned to rejection. Instead of pride in the local man who makes good, it sounded like, ‘Who does he think he is? He’s getting beyond himself. He’s no better than the rest of us’.

The gospel says that Jesus ‘could do no deed of power there’. Not, ‘he did no deed’, but ‘he could do no deed’. It was not a refusal, as if Jesus were in a huff, but a simple inability. An explanation is given: ‘he was amazed at their unbelief’. The failure of Jesus to work miracles in Nazareth is like the “failure” of God to forgive those who don’t ask for forgiveness or those who wilfully refuse to admit it when they know they have done wrong. If the appropriate disposition – faith in him – had been present in his audience, Jesus would have healed. But, ‘God, who created us without us, did not wish to save us without us’. (Saint Augustine)

The Nazarenes’ attitudes hardened from scepticism, to opposition, to disbelief. What was behind this? Was it jealousy? Was it the pettiness of the small town? Was it that they thought little of themselves and their town, perhaps

because of hearing it said, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ (John 1.46) You can sense their feeling, ‘He’s just one of us. What’s so special about him?’ Was it a refusal to believe that what is ordinary and everyday may be a channel of grace? We find it hard to accept that ordinary people like us can be anything special. We think a special person is someone from far away who looks, speaks, and dresses differently. Yet ordinary people, who are in no way perfect, who are well aware of their limitations, their stupidity, and their sinfulness, do great things.

Many ordinary people are holier than they think they are. There’s no merit in dumbing ourselves down; if we do, we’re dumbing down the grace of God at work in us. Poets – in a different way, perhaps – have understood this. The Irish poet, Patrick Kavanagh, said: ‘The Holy Spirit is in the fields.’ The English poet, Gerald Manley Hopkins, also, ‘The world is charged with the grandeur of God...’ And the English poetess, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, wrote:

Earth is crammed with Heaven
and every common bush
on fire with God.
But only he who sees
takes off his shoes.
The rest sit around
and pluck blackberries’.

As we begin this sacred season may we all be filled with every blessing.



*Our Prayers are asked for those
who recently died*



Frances Conroy
(née Campion)
Mountrath Rd.,
Portlaoise



Gabrielle Hanley
(née McNamara)
Cosby Ave., Fairgreen,
Portlaoise



Seamus Fitzgibbon
Celbridge &
formerly Portlaoise

May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



In Loving Memory of
JAMES (JIM) ROWE

Mill Lane, Killone.

7th Anniversary occurred 29th April 2025.

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

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
your loving wife Anne, son Jim, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Jim



Acknowledgement & Month's Mind
In Loving Memory of

ELSIE MORRIN

Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska on **Sunday 10th May at 10am.**

The family of the late Elsie Morrin wishes to thank most sincerely all who sympathised with us on our recent loss. Thanks to our relatives, neighbours, friends, work colleagues, and all who travelled long distances to be with us, attended the funeral Mass, sent Mass cards, letters and online condolences and those who brought food and flowers.

Special thanks go to:

Monsignor John Byrne and clergy for celebrating the Requiem Mass, Michelle in the Parish Centre for her help with Elsie's funeral Mass.

Teresa Delaney and Elaine Lambe for the beautiful singing and music at the funeral Mass.

Whelehan & Son Funeral Directors for their professionalism, kindness and guidance with the funeral arrangements.

The gravediggers

The Carers, Victoria, Sarah, Michaela, Pam, Charlene, Natalia, Louise, Rebecca and Sarah, Sarahann Brennan for her help in Elsie's final days

The Laois Palliative Care Team, Sarah, Sonya, Olive, Phyllis and Night Nurse, Geraldine de Burca for their wonderful care of Elsie.

Stradbally Pharmacy for their advice and kindness to us.

Park Ratheniska GAA Club and our neighbours for car parking services Bosco Catering for providing food at the house.

The Killeshin Hotel for their hospitality and facilities on the day of the burial.

May Elsie Rest in Peace



ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY
REMEMBRANCE of our daughter

AGNES MILLIS GLEESON

Late of O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.
28th Anniversary and Birthday
away from home.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, **Monday 4th May at 10am.**

Deep in the heart lies a picture, of a loved one laid to rest,
In Memories frame we keep it, because she was one of the best.

Love and miss you always from all your loving family.

May Agnes Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

MAIREAD MAHER

Market Square, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 5th May 2026.

The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday, 2nd May at 6.30pm.

Sadly, missed along life's way, quietly remembered everyday
No longer in our life to share, but in our hearts, she's always there.

*Loved and missed always by your brothers Nicky and Joe, sisters Ann and
Norah, nieces and nephews, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Mairead



In Loving Memory of

ARON GING

Formerly 51 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary away from home
30th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this **Saturday 2nd May at 6.30pm.**

Life is but a stopping place,

A pause in what's to be,

A resting place along the road to sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,

Different paths along the way,

We all were meant to learn some

Things but never meant to stay.

Our destination is a place, far greater than we know,

For some the journey's quicker,

For some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,

We'll claim a great reward,

And find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

Loved and remembered by all your loving family.

Rest in Peace Aron



In Loving Memory of

JOHN EGAN

Caragh House,

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurred

30th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this **Sunday 3rd May at 12.30pm.**

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

Rest in peace Dear loved one, thanks for all you've done,
We pray that God has given you the crown you truly deserve.

*Sadly, missed by his loving wife Anne, daughters Jennifer, Deborah,
and Stella, grandkids Corey and Tamin and all his loving family
and friends.*

May John Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

DAVID McEVOY

22 Rossvale, Portlaoise.

27th Anniversary occurred 3rd May.

It broke our hearts to lose you Dad, but you
did not go alone,

Resting now with Mam in God's eternal home,

Those special years will not return when we were altogether,

But memories within our hearts will stay with us forever,

Only God knows how much we miss you, every hour of every day.

Miss and love you always, from all your loving family.

May David Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

SEAN & PHIL McCORMACK

Late of St. Brigid's Place,
Portlaoise.



Sean's 21st Anniversary occurs on 27th May 2026,

Phil's 4th Anniversary occurred on 24th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at Sts. Peter and Paul's
Parish Church on **Sunday, May 10th at 10am.**

As each day dawns, we think of you,

As each night falls, we pray for you.

And throughout our lives, no matter where,

In our hearts you are always there.

They both lived for those they loved,

And those they loved remember.

Forever in our thoughts, your loving family.

*May Sean and Phil rest in
The loving embrace of God*



In Loving Memory of
LIAM CONROY

10 New Row, Green Rd. Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurs 5th May 2026.
Also remembering Liam's birthday
18th May 2026 (80th Birthday).

Liam's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Saturday 2nd May at 6.30pm.

Daily thoughts and silent tears,
Always wishing you were here,
Life goes on, we know that's true,
But never the same since losing you.

*Sadly, missed by your loving wife Mary, son Brian, Louise, Jake
and Stephen, Shirley, son-in-law John and grandson Conor,
extended family and friends.*

May Liam Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of
**WILLIAM (BILLY)
BERGIN**

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
16th Anniversary occurred on 29th April 2026.

Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure
Loving you always, forgetting you never,
Now reunited with your loving wife
Together again in eternal life.

*Fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving family- John,
Siobhan, Wesley, Sean & Hannah.*

Rest in Peace William



In Loving Memory of
ARON GING

6th Anniversary - 30th April 2026.

Our hearts still ache with sadness
and many tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
no one will ever know.
We hold you close within our hearts,
and there you will remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
until we meet again.

*Loved and remembered by Dad, sisters Lisa and Emma,
brother Ross and nephew Michael J.J.*

Rest in Peace Aron



In Loving Memory of
RAY BERGIN

14 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary away from home
7th May 2026.

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

Words are few, feelings are deep,
Memories of you, we will always keep.

*Sadly, missed by his wife Mossie, daughters Martina, Lisa
and Sandra, grandkids and extended family and friends.
Also remembering his son Dean at this time.*

Rest in Peace Ray
and son Dean



Anniversary Remembrance
for our Mother
OLIVE BRENNAN

Late of 51 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
whose 30th Anniversary occurs
on 7th May 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Thursday 7th May at 10am.

A limb has fallen from the family tree,
We keep hearing a voice that says grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song,
The good life I lived when I was strong.

Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease; my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I was truly blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small,
Go on with your lives, don't worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes when we were together again.

*Loved and missed every day, from your sons and
daughters and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Olive



In Loving Memory of
JOHN DOLLARD

32 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
36th Anniversary occurs 4th May 2026.
John's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated at Sts. Peter and Paul Church
on **Friday, 1st May at 7.30pm.**

Life is a beautiful memory,
Death is a silent grief,
You sleep now in God's beautiful garden,
In sunshine and perfect peace.

We miss you oh so very much,
But trust that God knew best,
He let us have you for many years,
And then gently let you rest.

Sadly missed and never forgotten by your loving family.

Rest in Peace John



A cherished father, husband, grandfather,
great grandfather and friend to many.

In Loving Memory of

JOSEPH O'BRIEN

28 Portlaoise Road,
Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

Whose months mind occurs on
the 8th of May 2026.

Months Mind Mass will be held at
Church of Most Holy Rosary Abbeyleix on
Saturday 9th May 2026 at 5pm.

He left us so quietly,
His thoughts unknown,
But left us a memory,
We are proud to own,
So treasure him lord,
In your garden of rest,
For when on earth,
He was most definitely the best.

*Loved and missed by
his adored wife Mary and his daughters.*

Rest in Peace Joseph



In Loving Memory of

LUKE MORRISSEY

18 Lake Crescent,
Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

On his 1st Anniversary
away from home.

1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 8th
May 10am** in St Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.

A Year Without You

A year has passed, your voice now still,
Yet in my heart, you're with me still.
Through days of tears and nights so long,
Your memory keeps my spirit strong.
I light a candle, whisper your name,
Life moves forward, but not the same.
Each step I take, you're by my side —
In unseen ways, you're still my guide.

*Forever loved and missed by your loving Mam,
Dad and all your family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Luke



In Loving Memory of Our Dear Mother

EVELYN KEHOE

Late of Main Street, Stradbally, Co. Laois.
4th Anniversary occurs 11th May 2026.

Also Our Dear Dad

CLEMENT KEHOE

11th Anniversary occurs on 10th May 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on **Sunday 10th May at 8.30am.**

When ties of love are broken and loved ones have to part,
it leaves a wound that never heals, in an ever-aching heart.

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.

*Sadly missed by your children Paul,
Niall, Mark, Nessa, Clem and Nicola.*

Rest in Peace Mam and Dad



In Loving Memory of

MARGARET "RITA" SCULLY

174 St. Brigids Place Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs
29th April 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 2nd May at 6.30pm.

No special day is needed for us to think of you,
For you were very special and we thought the world of you.

It's been eight years since you slipped away,

That day seems just like yesterday,

Today, we tell you softly, you are still so
Wonderful to think of and so hard to be without.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure,

Loving you always, forgetting you never,

In Heaven you rest, no worries, no pain,

In God's own time, we will meet again.

Will those who think of Rita today

A little prayer to Jesus say.

Sadly missed by your loving family;

*John, Patrick, Teresa, Peter, Jacinta, Roch, Margaret,
Kathleen, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Margaret

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

EMLYN O'REILLY

Liogard, Portlaoise.

1st Birthday away from home

29th April 2026.

Thinking of you on your birthday in Heaven

I have a gift, you cannot see
Of heartfelt love and memories
This special gift, the angels bring
Is priceless though, weighs not a thing
Carried through the sunlit skies
On wings of doves and butterflies
A loving wish wrapped tight with love
To the one I've lost, living above.

*Loved and remembered every day from your
Mam Teresa and all your loving family.*

May Emlyn Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of my beautiful Mother

ANNIE GREENE

74 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Annie's birthday remembrance
occurs 6th May.



**Also remembering my Dad, Thomas whose birthday
remembrance occurred in April.**

Although our worlds are different now

Or is that just how it seems,

For I see you when I close my eyes because

You're always in my dreams.

I know you're in Heaven and looking down on me and when

I look up at the stars, I know that's where you'll be.

Even though I miss you, you're not too far away, because my

Heart is full of memories and I treasure them every day.

Our time on earth was special but it's only the very start,

So please keep watching over me while we're not far apart.

Someday the time will come when I no longer feel this pain,

That is the day when Heaven calls and we will meet again.

*From your heartbroken daughter Annmarie,
son-in-law Peter, grandkids Tanya and Courtney
and great-grandkids Kelsie and Kayla.*

Until we meet again my Angels

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL O'REILLY

Liogard, Portlaoise.

16th Anniversary occurs

2nd May 2026.



Along the road of suffering, you found a little lane,
That took you up to Heaven and ended all your pain.

You may be out of sight, we may be worlds apart,

But you are always in our prayers,

And forever in our hearts.

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

May Michael Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

EMLYN O'REILLY

Liogard, Portlaoise.

1st Birthday away from home

29th April 2026.



Thinking of You on Your Birthday

It's especially difficult not to have you here.

To celebrate the times, we've shared.

We wish we could have just one more chance

To see your happy smile.

To laugh and celebrate with you just for a little while

We'll hold onto you forever, deep within our hearts

And although you are not here with us

Know that we'll never part.

*Sadly missed and always remembered from
Keelin, Pat, Kieran & Jessica.*

May Emlyn Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

EMLYN O'REILLY

Liogard, Portlaoise.

1st Birthday away from home

29th April 2026.



Missing You on your Birthday

Today is full of memories, happiness and tears
Of birthday celebrations we've had throughout the years.

And although we'll always miss you,

The endless joy you brought.

Warms our hearts with gratitude and fills our every thought.

We feel that you are with us in everything we do

So, we'll celebrate your birthday,

But we'll spend it missing you.

*Sadly missed and always remembered from
Zeta, Sean, Ella & Cian.*

Rest in Peace Emlyn



Rest in Peace

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Saturday 30th May

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Portlaoise Parish

Results for
30th April 2026



No €17,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Paddy O'Connor
Margaret Langford
Marie Tipper
Tommy O'Connell
Raymond Kavanagh
Regina Haslem
Sheila Kelly
Adrian Brennan
Wayne Haslem
Martina Walsh
Ally Russell

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Paddy O'Connor
Margaret Langford
Richard Phelan
Mary O'Connell
Margaret Kavanagh
Bobby Haslem
Barbara Moore
Parish Centre
Peter Ryan
Paul Dooley
Bernie Phelan



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Next Week's Jackpot is €18,000

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

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

[Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119]

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



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PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 St. Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

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



The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre

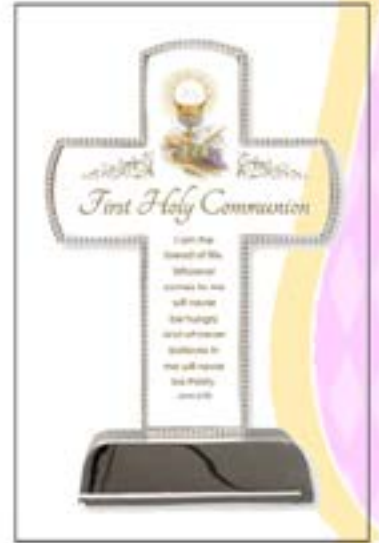
Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm



WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF CARDS AND GIFTS FOR COMMUNION



Prayer Books
 Rosary Beads
 Rosettes
 Personalised
 Cards and Candles
 Photo Frames
 Gift Sets
 Bookmarks
 Sterling Silver
 Chains & Crosses



ALSO STOCKING A LARGE SELECTION OF

- * Wedding & Baptismal Candles, Cards & Gifts *(Candles & cards can be personalised)*
- * Personalised Cards for all occasions
- * Essential Oils/Incense
- * Willow Tree Gifts
- * Happy Day Soy Candles made locally
- * Grave Ornaments

