

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

2nd August 2026

**Eighteenth Week
in Ordinary Time**

AT LONG LAST!

The wait is over for Mayo
after 75 years.
Laois still waiting for their first!!
Congratulations to all our
parishioners from Mayo.
Enjoy the celebrations!

♪ Don't stop believin' ♪



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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The Transfiguration

Having a vision is important. If we set out on our holidays with neither a destination nor a map we will get precisely nowhere! Similarly having a vision is important in life, firstly in giving us something to aim for and secondly to keep us motivated when we get sidetracked. As

Christ's disciples we might motivate ourselves with a vision of a world without hunger, poverty or war ... or simply to improve the life of one other person. The Feast of the Transfiguration on Thursday 6th invites us to stay motivated as disciples in the belief that we will one day enjoy the place God has prepared for each of us.



What will happen to us if we are generous? We never run out of things to give be it money, goods, intellect or anything that we are generous of giving. Everything flows back in return a hundredfold. Why is this so? The reason behind is, the moment we give; we don't only give to the person who needs it we also give to Jesus. And Jesus whom we can never outdo in generosity gives back to us many times

over what we give Him. With five loaves and two fish He feed the nearly five thousand people not including women and children. After all of them had eaten they had an excess of twelve wicker baskets. The simple message of the gospel for us is we must be generous at all times.

We just have to look at what is happening during Holy Mass which is very similar to what happened with the feeding of the five thousand people in our gospel. Inside every Holy Mass Jesus generously gives to us His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity during Holy Communion. Has Jesus stopped giving Himself to us during Holy Mass? No, Since HE instituted the Eucharist up until this very moment Jesus has been generously giving Himself to us through Holy Communion. As Jesus is merciful and generous most especially to the poor so we must be also. Let us not worry if our pockets will hurt from our being merciful and generous. For Jesus will always see to it that we will be filled with anything that we need.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday (Bank Holiday): 10am

Tuesday to Thursday: 7.30am & 10am

Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

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.

The priests of the parish will attend their communion calls this week.



Friday (First Friday)

Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition at 6pm

Benediction at 7pm

followed by Mass at 7.30pm



HEATH CEMETERY MASS

Saturday 15th August.

Feast of the Assumption

Procession & Rosary 7pm

Mass 7.30pm.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Freya Philomena O'Neill, O'Moore Place

Vincent Anthony Taylor, Davin Road

Who were baptised weekend.

Happy Anniversary To Bishop Denis

Tuesday (4th August) is

the anniversary of the
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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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First Friday Devotion

7th August 2026

- 6:00pm Adoration
- 6.45pm Divine Mercy
- 7.00pm Rosary
- 7.15pm Benediction
- 7.30pm Mass

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A Feast for All

How many of you enjoy going on a picnic? Oh, so do I! Let's see, there would surely be sandwiches, crisps, cookies, and some soft drinks in our picnic basket. If we had all of the things we mentioned, do you think there would be enough food in our basket for everyone in our church this morning if they came to our picnic? What if everyone in our town came to our picnic, would there be enough food to feed the whole town? No way! You couldn't feed the whole town with just this little basket of food. One day Jesus and his disciples wanted to have some time to relax. They got into a boat and went away to a quiet place to rest. When they arrived, there were people there waiting for Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. Jesus had wanted to rest, but when he saw the people, he loved them so much that he forgot all about being tired. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven. Soon it was time to eat. The disciples went to Jesus and asked him to send the people away so that they could get something to eat. "They don't need to go away," Jesus said, "you feed them." "All we have is five loaves of bread and two fish" the disciples answered. Jesus told the disciples bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people. Everyone ate until they were satisfied. Then the disciples picked up the leftovers and there were twelve baskets full! The Bible tells us that there were five thousand men who were fed plus all the women and children. Can you imagine feeding a whole town of people with one little picnic basket full of food? With Jesus, anything is possible!



Dear Jesus, help us to remember that when we give what we have to you, even a little bit is enough. In your name we pray. Amen.



HUMOUR

Three Mice in Heaven



There were three mice who died and went to heaven. After a couple of days, St. Peter stopped by and asked them how they liked being in heaven. The mice said that it was OK, but since they had such short legs, it was hard for them to get around because heaven was so big. So St. Peter told them that he thought he would be able to help them. After a little while, an angel came to the mice and gave each of them a set of roller skates. Right away, the mice put the roller skates on, and they could zip around heaven, really enjoy themselves.

A little later, a certain cat died and went to heaven. After a couple of days, St. Peter stopped by and asked the cat how he liked being in heaven.

The cat answered by saying, "Oh, boy, do I like being in heaven! I'm having a great time and I'm really enjoying myself. And most of all, I love those meals on wheels."



JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. Matthew 14:20

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

1. Pieces of bread shaped and baked in a single piece and sliced for eating
A. loaves B. food C. fish D. five
2. A basic food made from flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked.
A. fish B. two C. loaves D. bread
3. A animal without legs that lives in water
A. turtle B. fish C. hippopotamus D. dinosaur
4. To cure someone of illness or disease; to make someone well again
A. xray B. feed C. loaves D. heal
5. To take food into your mouth, chew, and swallow it
A. drink B. sip C. eat D. heal
6. What we eat to give us energy and to help us grow strong bodies
A. food B. water C. candy D. pizza
7. The number that comes after four and before six
A. three B. five C. two D. seven
8. the number equal to one plus one
A. eleven B. five C. three D. two



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LATE	PEOPLE
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HEALED	LEFT
BASKETFULS	
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CROWDS	
TWELVE	
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Time to Think...

Mayo for Sam...



What do a former US president, the Canadian prime minister and two of the world's biggest rock stars have in common? They're all celebrating. Mayo overcame a 75-year-old 'curse' and finally broke its barren run in one of Ireland's biggest sporting occasions. Victory in the Gaelic Athletic Association's (GAA) All-Ireland Senior Football final had eluded Mayo for over seven decades. The celebrations have gone far beyond the county in the west of Ireland, which is home to just 137,000 people but boasts some very famous exports. It was a great moment that many will hold in their hearts forever.

Time and Seasons come and go, so far 2026 seems to have moved very quickly, it's hard to believe, this week we begin the month of August. Traditionally August is associated with harvest and Thanksgiving. The ancient Celtic festival of Lúnasa was a celebration for all what had been gathered. People were grateful, to their creator God, who had provided enough sustenance for them to face the more vulnerable months of the year with confidence. I pray as this harvest season begins for a prolonged period of fine weather.

Lúnasa (or Lughnasadh), the traditional Celtic festival marking the start of the harvest season around August 1, has deep roots in Ireland's agricultural and spiritual history. Named after the Celtic god Lugh, it historically involved feasting, athletic contests, and rituals celebrating the first fruits of the harvest, such as grain and bilberries. Over time, as Christianity spread across Ireland, many of Lúnasa's customs were adapted into Christian practices, creating a rich blend of cultural and religious traditions that invite reflection from a Christian perspective. The Christianization of Lúnasa is evident in festivals like Lammas ("loaf mass"), where the first sheaf of grain was baked into bread and blessed in church, symbolizing gratitude to God for His provision. This practice resonates with biblical themes of offering first fruits to God (e.g., Leviticus 23:10-14, Deuteronomy 26:1-11), where the Israelites were commanded to present the first produce of the land as an act of thanksgiving and trust in God's sustenance. In Ireland, Lúnasa traditions like climbing Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday (the last Sunday in July) became Christian pilgrimages, blending the Celtic hilltop gatherings with devotion to St. Patrick, who is said to have fasted there for 40 days.

From a Christian viewpoint, Lúnasa's focus on harvest aligns with the biblical call to give thanks for God's provision. The festival's communal gatherings feasting, sharing food, and celebrating together - echo the early Christian practice of breaking bread in fellowship. Harvest Thanksgiving Masses and services, continue to be celebrated in many parishes, and often feature

decorated churches with fruits, vegetables, and wheat sheaves, reflecting gratitude for God's creation and provision. These services emphasize not only physical harvest but also spiritual fruitfulness, encouraging believers to share their blessings with others, as seen in Isaiah 58:7-8, which calls for sharing bread with the hungry.

Imagine that you had to employ a gardener. You ask around among your friends and neighbours, and eventually you hear of two gardeners who are available. From people who have employed them, you are able to draw up the following profiles of the two.

The first gardener plants a variety of vegetables and flowers. Periodically he comes along and inspects them. Whenever he sees a plant or a flower that is not doing well he pulls it up and throws it on the compost heap or into the bin. He has planted plenty of seeds and plants, so this practice does not greatly affect the yield or the appearance of the garden. Small, stunted and yellow cabbage plants, wallflowers that slugs have had a feed on, frost-bitten blossoms, all of these go out. There are a lot of advantages in this approach. The appearance of the garden is always pretty and healthy. And diseased plants do not get a chance to infect other plants.

The second gardener also plants a variety of vegetables and flowers and periodically inspects them. But his approach is different. He is on the lookout for plants that are not doing well to see what he can do to make them healthier. If a cabbage is looking yellow, he gives it more feed. If a flower is attacked by slugs, he puts down extra slug-killer. If some of the blossoms are frost-bitten, he puts a glass cloche over them to protect them and give them a chance to recover. He hates to see any plant or flower dying. His gardens are not as pretty as those looked after by the first gardener, as some of the plants are clearly ailing.

If you wanted to employ a gardener, you would almost certainly choose the first. The first strikes us as an efficient, practical, no-nonsense gardener. The second gardener seems soft-hearted and is plant-cantered rather than garden-centred. Except in the case of very rare plants, few of us would want to pay good money so that sickly specimens would be nursed, and perhaps the overall condition of the garden neglected.

One of the great benefits, of cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is his unending life giving, grace-filled presence. In a world and culture, where so much emphasis is on perfection, achievement, excellence, it's a great blessing that in faith, our God, loves us as we are. All our gardens like our lives, have both flowers and weeds.

Saint Paul, once acknowledged, "When I am weak then I am strong". As we give thanks for the gift of harvest, let us be fuelled with a

spirit of gratitude. May this new month of August be a blessed one for us all. Be mindful that each one of us produces rich fruits, often because of patience, endurance, resilience and courage. May we celebrate that in the rich diversity, that is the garden of life, there is room for everyone, as the melody sings...All God's creatures has a place in the choir.

Perhaps this harvest time is an opportunity for us all, to acknowledge the fruits that we all have in the depth of our being. Fruits that take a lot of time to grow and mature into the beautiful personality and unique qualities that are particular to all our stories. The gift of grandparents who embody the story of every harvest. Parents who respond so generously to the needs of their children. Parenting I'm sure in many ways could be likened to tending the needs of the vineyard, it is constant, demanding, most challenging and in many ways totally dependent on the unconditional generosity and reservoir of love, that provides for the needs of family life. I am often



truly inspired by the time and indeed sacrifices that so many wonderful parents, so often make for their children, to allow them to grow and realize the best possible harvest for their family. No fruit or talent can realize its potential without effort and work. May the Lord bless all our lives with health of body and peace of mind. The following prayer to St. Francis of Assisi is most appropriate for this time.

For a harvest shared by all

St Francis of Assisi, your whole life sang in harmony with God, nature and others.

With you, we praise God for Brother Sun, full of beauty and splendour, warming the earth, summoning shoots from darkness into daylight.

We praise God for Sister Water, so useful and humble, precious and pure, greening arid ground, growing life in desert places.

Pray for us Francis, that, like you, we may care for all that exists, until Brother Sun and Sister Water produce a harvest shared by all, in love and solidarity, justice and peace.

Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Top score: Bridie Kennedy, 1st Lady: Catherine Brennan, 2nd Lady: Tied; Frances Benn & Ann Healy, 1st Gent: Tied; Tom Gowing & Ann Marie Farrell, 1st Half: Liz Cooper, 2nd Half: Tied; Theresa Mulhare, Catherine Gavin & Sean Bennett. Raffle: 1st L Cooper, 2nd T Jacob, 3rd L Hunter, 4th B Kennedy, 5th M O'Brien, 6th T Jacob.

Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues every Tuesday at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new players always welcome, lessons available if required; Ctc 086 8812228.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT Wednesday Meetings are **CLOSED** for July and August in Parish Centre (returning September 2nd) enjoy the summer. Monday Bowls continue as usual in St Mary's Hall also "Cards and Chat" in Sue Ryder Kilminchy on Thursdays for July and August as usual. for information contact Maria at 087-9187157.

SOCIAL CHESS CLUB PORTLAOISE Portlaoise for adults only (male and female). The next chess meetings will be held in Portlaoise Library on Saturday 8th August between 1pm - 4pm and it is free. Board games are provided in the library. The Portlaoise Social Chess Club website is <https://portlaoisechessclub.ie>. Chess games are usually held every two weeks in the library, Check the website for clarification of dates and times.

LAOIS TRADITIONAL SINGERS' CIRCLE First Thursday of every month. Next session 6th August 2026 . 9pm Humes' Bar (Tadhg Ógs) Portlaoise. Folk songs, sean nós, ballads, stories and recitations welcome. contact Niall 0872313093

MARY'S MEALS GLOBAL SCHOOL FEEDING CHARITY will hold their annual Step By Step to Feed the Next Child - Walk to Knock from 7th to 15th August. Walkers will arrive at Main Street, Portlaoise around 4pm on Saturday 8th August on their way to Knock and leave at 8.30am on Sunday 9th August, heading towards Killeigh. Please come out and encourage the walkers, and if you're able to do so, donate in the buckets or visit marysmeals.ie to donate online. It costs just €22 to feed a child for a whole school year, and 11c provides one school meal. All donations, big or small, are very welcome.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION IN AID OF FATIMA INVALID FUND will take place on the weekend of 8th/9th August in Portlaoise, Heath, Ratheniska, Emo & Rath and weekend of 29th /30th August in Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Shanahoe, Raheen, Spink & Ballinakill. All proceeds will go towards sending assisted pilgrims to Fatima in June 2027.

SUE RYDER FOUNDATION IRELAND HALF PRICE SUMMER SALE continues in our Portlaoise Charity Shop. Our mission is to provide independent living for senior in our community. We have two residences in Laois. We are looking for volunteers to join our team in our Abbeyleix & Portlaoise shop.

GRAIGUECULLEN MONSTER BINGO Tuesday 4th August 2026, St. Fiacc's Hall @ 8.30pm, Jackpot on 40 numbers €700 Double number €460, Lotto €2,800, Bonus Ball €2,100

RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

ROSARY IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH Daily 3pm.

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.

CONSECRATE YOURSELF TO THE EUCHARIST on the Feast of Our Lady of Knock! Human Life International Ireland will be leading a 33 Day Consecration to the Eucharist online with videos uploaded each day. Starting 19th July - 20th August, on the HLI Ireland YouTube Channel. You can participate by watching the videos, or get the book "How to Be His" by Fr Jesse Maingot OP.

PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 24TH-28TH AUGUST 2026 Have your loved ones included in our daily Mass during our pilgrimage. Mass Bouquets available from Kitty Timmons 087-9506634, Mary Byrne 085-2829231, John Egan 087-1254841. Any candle requests contact any of the above and we will light them for you in Lourdes.

ROSARY AT THE GROTTA First Sunday 2nd August at the Top Square, 2.30pm for peace in the world. First Friday 7th August, Grotto at Parish Church, 8pm.

Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died



Angela Leonard
Colliers Lane, Portlaoise



Patrick Joseph Hutchinson
The Green, Kilminchy/Derrykearn
Abbeyleix & Durrow



Monsignor Thomas Coonan
PE CC, Killeigh and former Vicar General of the diocese.
Curate in Portlaoise, 1970–1986
Parish Priest of Portlaoise, 1992–2000
*In grateful appreciation of his faithful service, spiritual
leadership, and lasting contribution to our parish community.*
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PATRICK CONROY JNR.
Ballymacken, Portlaoise.
43rd Anniversary occurs
3rd August 2026.

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

Rest in Peace Patrick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



ANN AIRD

25th Anniversary occurred 30th July 2026.

MARK AIRD

23rd Anniversary occurs 12th August 2026.

Remembering our Dad,

WILLIAM (BILLY)

whose 6th Anniversary occurred 3rd March 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on **Sunday 16th August at 12.30pm.**

We often sit and think about the years that have passed by
and of the happiness and joy that was shared by all of us.

We think of all the laughter, the smiles and all the fun
and before we even know it, our tears have once again begun.
For, although it brings us comfort, to walk down memory lane
it reminds us how without you, life has never been the same.

Love Ciara, Niall, Tara, Vanessa, grandchildren and families.

May They Rest in Peace



**100TH BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
ON THE 5TH AUGUST FOR OUR DAD**

**JOHN (BARNEY)
BRENNAN**

51 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
Birthday Remembrance Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on
Wednesday 5th August at 10am.

In Loving Memory Dad

You are at peace, your soul at rest,
But that won't stop our tears,
As we remember the special times,
We shared over the years.
You taught us oh so many things,
And you showed us the way.
You helped us overcome hard times
To be the people we are today.
Though we are no longer children,
And you're no longer here,
We will never let go of the memories
We will always hold them dear.

*Loved and remembered every day, not just today,
your sons & daughters and extended family.*

Rest in Peace John



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DEAN BERGIN

14 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs
1st August 2026.

Dean's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Saturday 1st August at 10am.**

To a Son, Brother, Uncle

A heart of gold stopped beating, two shining eyes at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.
To some you are forgotten, to others just part of the past,
But to us who loved and lost you, the memory will always last.

*Loved and sadly missed by your Mother Mossie, sisters Martina,
Lisa and Sandra, nieces, nephews and friends.
Also remembering your father Ray at this time xxxxxx*

Rest in Peace Dean



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ROBERT BOWE

Ironmills, Ballinakill.
2nd Anniversary occurs
8th August 2026.

Robert's 2nd Anniversary mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Ballinakill on **Sunday 9th August at 11am.**

We remember our beloved with hearts that still miss him deeply.

Though two years have passed, his love, laughter
& presence remain with us in our precious memories.

May we continue to honour his memory
With love & gratitude until we meet again.

*Forever loved, forever missed by your wife Jean,
daughters Kayleigh & Rhona and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Robert



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ROBERT BOWE

Late of Marian Avenue Portlaoise
& Ironmills, Ballinakill.
2nd Anniversary occurs
8th August 2026.

A Mass will be held for Robert in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on
Saturday 8th August at 6.30pm.

Remembering you is easy, Rob. We do it every day.

But missing you is a heartache that never goes away.

We think of you with every step, in everything we do,
And feel your love around us as we try to carry through.

We speak your name with pride, your story shining through.

In our hearts you live forever because we thought the world of you.

*Forever loved, forever missed by your mother Marie, brothers Kevin,
Paul & Kenneth, sisters Suzanne & Sandra, extended family & friends.*

Rest in Peace Robert



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
**NORA (NOREEN)
TWOMEY**

97th Birthday occurs on
3rd August 2026.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Mammy
First Birthday away from home.

Sadly missed and never forgotten.

May Nora Rest in Peace



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
CLAIRE TUOHY

1 Upper Beladd,
3rd Birthday away from home.

Until we meet again some day,
I'll miss you more than words can say,
Forever in my heart you'll stay,
Loved and remembered every day.

Sadly missed by your loving husband Jim.

Rest in Peace Claire



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
**JOHN DELANEY
ROBERT DELANEY
KATHLEEN
DELANEY
JOHN BOSCO
DELANEY**



Green View, Ridge Road,
Portlaoise.

John's 71st Anniversary, Robert's 34th Anniversary, Kathleen's 26th Anniversary, and John Bosco's 2nd Anniversary occur at this time.

John's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday 2nd August at 12:30pm.**

Although you can't be here with me, we're truly not apart,
Until the final breath I take, you'll be living in my heart.

*Sadly missed by their loving family; Joe, Rena,
Sheila and Madeline, extended family, relatives and friends.*

May They Rest in Peace

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**CAROLINE BERGIN
(NÉE FLEMING)**

Boley, Abbeyleix.



Caroline's first anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe on
Sunday 9th August at 12 noon.

The family of the late Caroline Bergin who passed away on 12th August 2025, wish to sincerely thank all those who sympathised with them on their great loss. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many friends, neighbours and well wishers who visited our home, attended the reposal, funeral Mass and burial.

For those who travelled long distances, sent Mass cards and posted messages of condolence online, and for all those who kept us in their thoughts and prayers we are truly grateful.

A special thanks to our extended family, relatives, friends and neighbours for their ongoing help and support.

We wish to thank all who helped in any way to support us through our loss. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

To those I love and those who love me

When I am gone, release me, let me go,
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me in tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave to you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown
But now it's time I travelled on alone.

So, grieve awhile for me if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near;
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
all my love around you, soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".

*Sadly missed, much loved and never forgotten by
family and friends.*

Caroline is Resting with the Angels



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARY NEVIN**

12 Mountain View Square, Portlaoise.

16th Anniversary occurred
31st July 2026.

Mass was offered for Mary in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church on **Friday 31st July at 10am.**

Memory is a lovely lane where hearts are ever true,
A lane we so often travel down because it leads to you.

*Loved and remembered by your loving son Paddy,
Kathleen and family, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.*

Always love you, Never forget you.

Rest in Peace Mommy



IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR BROTHER

KIERAN DELANEY

St. Brigids Place, Portlaoise.

13th Anniversary occurs
2nd August 2026.

When I come to the end of my journey and I travel my last weary mile,
Just forget, if you can, that I ever frowned and remember only my smile.

Forget unkind words I have spoken,
Remember some good I have done,
Forget that I ever had a heartache,
And remember I've had loads of fun.

In summer just gather some flowers and remember the place where I lay.
And come in the evening, stand for a few moments
beside me and remember only my best.

Always in our thoughts Kelley, Chloe & Michael, Skye & Lee.

May Kieran Rest in Peace



**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
OF OUR FATHER**

WILLIAM KERRY

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise.
27th Birthday away from home
occurs 2nd August - Aged 92 yrs.

AND OUR MOTHER

ROSANNA KERRY

9th Birthday away from home occurs 9th August - Aged 85 yrs.

A picture of you I carry in my heart,
I close my eyes to see it when the world gets dark.
A memory of you I carry in my soul,
I wrap it close around me when the nights get cold.

If you ask how I am, I'd say just fine,
But the truth is if you could read my mind,
Not a day goes by that I don't think of you both
*Happy Birthday Mam and Dad, from your loving daughter Annemarie
and granddaughters Katie, Rachael and Roisín xxx*

Rest in Peace Mam and Dad





IN LOVING MEMORY OF
EUGENE O'CONNOR

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

15th Anniversary occurs
4th August 2026.

Thinking of you today, on your anniversary, as we do every day.

Never Forgotten.

*Loved and missed by your loving family and friends,
children and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Eugene

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#LaoisInclusionGames



2026 Laois Inclusion Games
August 14th - 16th

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Para Athletics
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Soccer For All
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Para Tennis
Kayaking
Bowling

People First, VIP HUB, VISION SPORTS IRELAND, Irish Wheelchair Association SPORT, SPORT IRELAND, LAOIS

Laois Inclusion Games 2026

Celebrating 25 years of Inclusion Through Sport

As Laois Sports Partnership celebrates 25 years of supporting participation in sport and physical activity across County Laois, we are delighted to launch the Laois Inclusion Games, taking place from 14th-16th August 2026.

Building on years of work through the Sport Inclusion Disability Programme, and the development of the VIP

Hub, Ireland's first dedicated community sports hub for athletes with a visual impairment or physical disability, the Games represents another important step in creating meaningful participation and progression opportunities in disability and para sport.

The Laois Inclusion Games will bring together athletes, clubs, coaches, volunteers, families and national governing bodies for a weekend that showcases the positive impact of inclusive sport and community collaboration. Many activities are open to people who would like to try sport for the first time, return to activity, or learn more about local sporting opportunities.

We would like to acknowledge the support of People First Credit Union, whose Community Champions Award funding is helping make this event possible along with Vision Sports Ireland, Sport Ireland, participating clubs, community partners, coaches and volunteers. Their collective support continues to demonstrate what can be achieved when organisations work together to make sport accessible for everyone.

For more information call the team on 057 867 1248 or check out laoissports.ie/viphub



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30th July 2026



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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



Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:1-3

Psalms: 144:8-9, 15-18

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

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*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

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- * Making your offering in the boxes at the Church entrances
- * Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes
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Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

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Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

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