

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

5th July 2026

Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

To all who have our town looking so well—Thank You
It is looking sunny and colourful with the up-cycled pots and yarn tree.

Flower power is back!

Thanks to all the work by Fran Dunne, Brendan Deevy Signs, Portlaoise Prison, Geraldine Geoghegan, Portlaoise Tidy Towns and Downtown Portlaoise.

We are so grateful for your work.

Thank you!



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

**Follow Us
& Like Us**



@PortlaoiseParish

fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois

fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

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



Out of the Mouths of Babes



How often do we laughingly say, "...Out of the mouths of babes!" We usually say it when one of the junior members of our family has stated a glaring or embarrassing truth. To children the truth is black and white, but the older we get the more we tend to complicate issues that really ought to be very simple. Perhaps we want to dress up the truth with our own interpretations. Perhaps we want to disguise truths that make us feel uncomfortable. Whatever the reasons, as we get older the truth is harder for us to recognise.

Today Jesus criticizes the religious leaders who over complicate the law. Jesus was concerned for those people at the bottom of the social heap who could not live up to the six hundred and thirteen commandments of the Jewish law. Jesus' intention was not to do away with the law, but he could not support the lawyers who spent their time manufacturing new and insufferable burdens for broken people. To the broken people Jesus says, **"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."**

The demands of the twenty first century puts many challenges our way, and we spend a lot of our time juggling priorities and trying to live our lives by more than one agenda. Our lives are complicated and overly burdened. We look for the solutions to our problems in lifestyle magazines and in bottles of pills no longer able to recognise simple truths. Why don't we look more to God for solutions? God wants us all to have peace and fulfilment; all we have to do is to yield to God's agenda. The smallest child knows the difference between what is important and what is not. Why can't we?

When Jesus says, **"My burden is light,"** he does not mean that Christianity is an easy way out ... he simply means that his demands aren't weighed down with rules and regulations that we aren't capable of meeting. **"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."**

Bitesize

Character is what emerges from all the little things you were too busy to do yesterday, but did anyway.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday 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.

Thought for the Day

There are always seeds that bear fruit in good soil. God has not finished with us yet; he is still sowing the seeds. He is still continually moving in his own space through his story. He is still continually veiling his power in the garb of powerlessness. And he is still continually present in the heart of those who hang on to the true values and the divine values, such as truth, love, faith and justice. Despite all the disappointment and condemnation of the world of God in our society, yet this parable reminds us - Be comforted.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Ruby Joan Carey, Roselawn

Beth Mullally Byrne, Carmody Way, Fairgreen

Who was baptised weekend.

Visit our website: www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Welcome Fr. Octavian

Fr. Octavian Enache who spent some time with us for the past couple of years during his summer break from studies in Rome, is with us again until the end of July. He is a colleague of Fr. Ciprian, both from the Diocese of Bucharest, Romania. We welcome him and hope he enjoys his stay and ministry among us.



MULHALL MEATS

Est. 1931



**Weekly
Special**

**Now Only
€23.99/kg**



Mulhall's Fresh Irish Sirloin Steak

Offer available Monday 6th July - Sunday 19th July



Full Range Of Fresh FISH Available 7 days a week!

Mulhall's Butcher Counter is located within Mulhall's SuperValu. Phone 057 86 21044

AUDIOLOGIST HEARING AID Consultant

Patricia Kilmartin
B.A.A.T., M.I.S.H.A.A., M.I.A.A.
(36+ years experience with Private &
Public Sector (H.S.E.))



- Comprehensive Hearing Assessment Adults & Children 5 years +
- Full range of rechargeable Digital Hearing Aids available with Bluetooth connectivity incl. FREE PRSI HEARING AIDS TO VALUE OF €1000 TO ELIGIBLE CLIENTS i.e. Social Welfare grants
- Pre-employment tests/Occupational Screening Tests
- Ear Wax Removal Service i.e. Ear Irrigation, Microsuction, Earway Pro
- Ear moulds, Custom made Swim Plugs, Musicians Moulds, etc.
- Hearing Aid Batteries, Minor Repairs, etc. (incl. postal service)

In Attendance

10 Lismard Court, Portlaoise Co. Laois. R32AF58
(Entrance beside Macra Na Feirme Hall on Timahoe Road)

By Appointment Only

Tel: 057 8692289 Mobile: 085 8568808

E-mail: patriciakilmartin@kilmartinaudiology.ie

Website: www.kilmartinaudiology.ie



Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

live life physically well

The Coach House, 4 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.

JOHN SUGRUE BSc MSc MSCP **NICOLA CALDBECK** BSc MScP MAACP
CONOR BOLTON BSc MSc MSCP **CONOR HORAN** BSc MSc MSCP
CILLIAN BERGIN BSc MSc MSCP

 www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie

 **087 666 4808**

ALL CLASSES 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

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

 **Portlaoise Parish Centre**
11am Saturdays

5-weeks term
starting 25th July



 **Zumbini-fun active music and movement classes for kids 0-5yo together with caregiver. Sing, dance, play instruments 🎵🎶🎵🎶**

 **Find your classes Zumbini.com**

 **WhatsApp 086 8748896**

YOUR UNIQUE SPECIALIST ADVANTAGE
Healthcare Insights, Legal Expertise

UNFAIR TREATMENTS AT WORK?
STRUGGLING WITH REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION OR NEED WRC SUPPORT?
EXPERT CONSULTANCY GETS RESULTS. (FEE BASED, COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE FROM A HEALTHCARE TRAINED CONSULTANT)

THE CHALLENGE **SECURE YOUR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION** **THE SOLUTION**



FROM EXPERT GUIDANCE TO FULL WRC REPRESENTATION

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS under the Employment Equality Acts

UNFAIR.IE/DISABILITY TEL: 083 4294659 | EMAIL: INFO@UNFAIR.IE

PILGRIMAGE to KNOCK SHRINE



**SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST
2026**

bus leaves

PORTLAOISE Lyster sq. 9am

MOUNTMELICK 9.15

TULLAMORE 9.45 am

BOOK YOUR SEAT

WITH FULL PAYMENT OF

€30 PER PERSON to

MAURA @ 087 1210263 OR

HELENA @ 087 9611331

OR DROP TO THE PARISH CENTRE



An Spioraid Naoimh

PRAYING COMMUNITY

Eucharistic Healing Retreat



With

Fr. Brendan Walsh & Eileen King

INCLUDES

Holy Mass, Prayer & Praise, Adoration,
Scripture Teaching and more



VENUE

St. Peter and Paul's Parish Centre,
Portlaoise, R32 FH67



Friday, July 17th
7pm - 10pm



Saturday, July 18th
9am - 4pm



Bring a packed lunch on Saturday.
Tea & coffee available.

**Only 100 spaces available.
Booking in advance is essential.**

BOOKINGS BY EMAIL OR PHONE

Michael Nerney 086 815 7305
mjn.nerney@gmail.com
Eddie Cullinane 087 659 5293
Bernie Reddin 086 863 0039



COST

€35 for Friday and Saturday.
Same price if attending
Saturday only.

LACEY

TARMACADAM & CIVILS Ltd.

Thomas Lacey

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ TARMACADAM | ✓ SITE CLEARANCE AND FILLINGS |
| ✓ CONCRETE | ✓ DRAINAGE |
| ✓ KERBING | ✓ VAT REGISTERED & FULLY INSURED |
| ✓ MECHANICAL SPREADER | |

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE THE 1970s



PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS

057 8670744

086 3844321

LACEYTARMAC@GMAIL.COM



Weddings

AT THE KILLESBIN HOTEL



KILLESBIN
HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB



057 863 1200 | weddings@thekillesbin.com

MOCHUA
PRINT & DESIGN
MAKE AN IMPRESSION

Powering Your Brand Through Print & Marketing

**Your Complete Print
& Marketing Partner**

mochuaprint.ie



*We don't just print –
we reduce your costs,
streamline your suppliers,
and elevate your brand.*

Nationwide Service – 32 Counties

Services

Design & Branding
Books & Manuals
Signage & Displays
Branded Merchandise
Labels & Packaging
Pick & Pack Solutions

Trusted by:



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Comhairle Contae
Laoise | Laois
County Council



IRISH ACADEMIC PRESS
MERRION PRESS



sse
Renewables

...Leading Irish Businesses

Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EH11
☎ 057 8634050

Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 TF8
☎ 045 433569





MARIAN PILGRIMAGES

RENEW OUR SPIRIT OF LOVE, FORGIVENESS & PEACE



€1,275pps



€1,385pps

Avellino, San Giovanni Rotondo & Pompeii

Direct flight from Shannon

25th August - 1st September, Half Board

1 night in Avellino, 4 nights in San Giovanni Rotondo
& 2 nights in Pompeii

San Giovanni Rotondo & Assisi

800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis of Assisi

From Dublin

29th August - 4th September

4 nights, San Giovanni Rotondo, Full Board

3 nights, Assisi, Half Board

For more information contact Marian Pilgrimages or visit our website.



WWW.MARIAN.IE
GROUP PILGRIMAGE SPECIALISTS

(01) 878 8159 | (028) 95680005
38-39 Pearse Street, Dublin 2



Licensed by the Irish Aviation Authority
T0142



Gretta Kelly
DipFH MCFHP MAFHP

Tel:

085 108 8553

Specialist Foot Care Services

Professional foot care in the comfort of your home

Nail Cutting & Treatment
Corns, Callus and Hard Skin Removal
Ingrown & Thickened Toenail Care
Fungal Nail & Skin Infection Management
House Visits Only

Registered & Insured Practitioner



ORIGINAL
THERAPIES

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Experienced OTs delivering
home-based and clinic services
across Laois. We help adults,
older adults and children improve
safety, independence, and
everyday function with clear,
practical recommendations.



Adult Services:

- ✓ Housing Grant Reports (Stairlifts, bathrooms, ramps etc.)
- ✓ Seating Assessments
- ✓ Workplace Assessments

Paediatric Services:

- ✓ Handwriting Assessments
- ✓ Sensory Interventions
- ✓ Assistive Technology
- ✓ School Visits

LAOIS JET WASH SERVICES LTD



C.C.T.V. PIPE & DRAIN INSPECTION
HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN CLEANING
TEL/FAX 057-8681720 MOBILE 087-7749519
HAVE YOU A PROBLEM WITH YOUR DRAINS?

Book your appointment today

0831506755

www.originaltherapies.ie

info@originaltherapies.ie



COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 30TH JUNE

Top score: Mary Gowing. 1st Lady: Ann Pearson. 2nd Lady: Lena Kelly. 1st Gent: Tom Gowing. 2nd Gent: Mary Delaney. 1st Half: Margaret Flanagan 2nd Half: Frank Keenan. 13 Tricks: L. Kelly & C. Galvin.

Raffle: 1st Bridie Kennedy, 2nd Catherine Galvin, 3rd Bernie Cahill, 4th Catherine Fitzpatrick.

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

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO Tuesday 7th July 2026 St. Fiaccs Hall@ 8.30pm, Jackpot on 48 numbers € 6,420, Double Number € 2,140. Lotto € 2,600, Bonus Ball € 1,900.

FOURTH WALL LAOIS THEATRE If you would like to be part of this very talented group in an ACTING ROLE we would love to hear from you - Male & Female ACTORS of all ages are welcome to contact us. Ph. Kevin: 087-9614235 or follow us on Facebook.

KILDARE ANIMAL FOUNDATION OPEN DAY Sunday 12 July at 1pm, at the shelter in Kildare Town R51 YE00. Plants, Antiques, Crafts, Bottle Stall, Toys, Books, Cakes, Pet gifts, Clothes, Hotdog Stall, S'mores and much, much more including craft and music activities for the kids. **FREE ADMISSION** Plenty of parking. **NO DOGS allowed** (*as it upsets the resident animals at the shelter*). Please join us for a fun family day out amongst our beautiful, rescued animals.

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.

EMMANUEL HOUSE CLONFERT H53 E5N6 Day of Prayer with Healing Service led by Eddie Stones & Team. Sat. 4th July 11am-4pm. Adoration, talks, music, confession, Holy Mass. Bring a packed lunch.

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY at the Grotto: Friday 3rd July at 8pm.

FIRST SUNDAY ROSARY next Sunday 5th July at the Shrine at Top Square at 2.30pm

PORTLAOISE PARISH LOURDES COMMITTEE Our Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Saturday 11th July in the Portlaoise Parish Church at 10am celebrated by Fr Petru. We look forward to seeing you all there. All who won prizes please collect them after Mass.

Martin Ryan Lawnmower Sales & Service

- Solo Ride-ons • Oleo-Mac
- Legacy • Weibang Lawnmowers

Adj. to
Portlaoise Golf Club
AVONDALE,
ABBEYLEIX ROAD,
PORTLAOISE



086 2493723



- **NEED HOME HEATING OIL?**
- **NEED TRACTOR DIESEL?**

Call Sean Smyth 086-3561669

TV SERVICES Repairs to TVs and home entertainment equipment. Supply, fit, and repair; Saorview, aerial, and satellite systems. CONTACT 057 873 2998 087 363 6497 083 374 2600	 NOLAN LOCKSMITHS 24/7 Emergency Service Auto - Home - Commercial 086 2624270 085 2833064 SHOP: 057 8620135 www.jacknolan.ie	SB CARPENTRY & SONS All aspects of Carpentry covered 2nd Fix Carpentry Wardrobes, Flooring etc. PH: 087-0624431
PAT LALOR TARMACADAM Church Avenue, Stradbally Tarmacadam Kerbing Drainage Free Quotations / VAT Registered TEL: 083 021 1577 EMAIL: PATLALOR37@GMAIL.COM	PLUMBER AVAILABLE • All Domestic Plumbing • Solid Fuel & Oil Servicing • Water Softener Installation • Full Bathroom Renovations CONTACT ALAN 085 1141395	LK BYRNE PLUMBING & HEATING For all your plumbing needs. CALL LORCAN 085-2876043
HANDYMAN / BUILDER 15yrs Experience in all trades Specialised in painting & decorating Carpentry / Doors & floors Building / Extensions/Renovations Electric & Plumbing Work Garden maintenance / Tree cutting / Patios / Paving Ph. 083-8854144	 Carpets • Upholstery Mattresses • Rugs Professionally Steam Cleaned Sanitised and deodorised Contact Darren 085 836 0077	 GREG THE HANDYMAN CALL 089 956 7135 • Home improvements and repairs • Flooring, tiling, carpets • Fence maintenance and repair • Repairs of toilet, faucet and shower units • Furniture assembly and installation
BICYCLE REPAIRS & CAR TYRES REPAIRED Cheapest in Laois Also car washing Videography for Weddings CONTACT 087-0053578 087-7546815	KITCHEN & FURNITURE RESPRAYING SERVICE Qualified Cabinet Maker Transform your kitchen / wardrobes with a respray Highest quality finishes with the colour of your choice Have your dream kitchen without the expense of replacing CALL PAUL ON 085-7762298	PAINTING & DECORATING • Interior & Exterior • Power Washing • 15 Years' Experience Fully Insured 089 445 9958 www.kukic-hms.ie
WINDOW & DOOR REPAIRS • Hinges & Handles • Letterboxes • Sliding Patio Door Rollers • Window & Door Draught Proofing Fully Insured 083 315 3211 www.kukic-hms.ie	FREE COLLECTION OF SCRAP METAL Washing Machines, cookers, lawnmowers etc. Also Garden sheds cleared, Fences and sewer issues resolved Mini digger and small tipper truck available for hire. CONTACT RICHARD 085-252 9893	 DAMON RESTAURANT & BAR THE HEATH GOLF CLUB <i>The Heath</i> CONTACT US: 0899412386 0873479507 NOW CATERING FOR • COMMUNION • CONFIRMATIONS • CHRISTENINGS • BIRTHDAYS • PRIVATE PARTIES • FUNERALS  FOOD SERVED DAILY SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED EVERY SUNDAY OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY Golf Club, Greatheath, The Heath, Co. Laois, R32 WR52 f @damonrestaurantandbar
SMALL BUILDING JOBS Plastering & Painting Gardening & Power Washing Also Block Work. References on Request & Garda Clearance PLEASE CALL PAT ON 086-8405079 / 085-1473982	RELIABLE WOMEN Available for House, Windows & Office Cleaning Own Transport 3 years work experience. TEL: 087-6608389	

GARDENER AVAILABLE

20 years experience
Garda Vetted
Cutting Hedges, Lawns
Removal of all cuttings

PH. 089-4414286

FOR SALE

2 Large PVC Double Glazed
Windows

Suitable for a garage or shed

**CONTACT (057) 8622248
AFTER 6PM**

ROSARY AT THE MARIAN SHRINE

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**JULY 5TH
TOP SQUARE
2.30PM**



Single Book €6
Double Book €10
C2 Sheets

Every Thursday and Friday Night in St. Mary's Hall
Starts 8pm
Buses collecting from their usual pick-up points in the Portlaoise area at 7:30pm.



www.pmchomeimprovementslenister.com

PMC HOME IMPROVEMENTS CALL 085 113 4470

Roofing
Guttering
Gutter Cleaning
Replacement Tiles
Roof Cleaning
Roof leak & repairs
Steam Cleaning
Soffits Repair & Replacement
Painting & Decorating
Home Renovations

MIDLANDS APPLIANCE REPAIRS DOMESTIC LTD.

Quick, Cost Effective
Appliance Repairs
Portlaoise

087-9080211

RAMPS & RAILS FOR THE HOME

We install concrete ramps to allow
freedom of movement and steel handrails
to provide safe access for everyone



Contact Conor

087-2675106

A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION OF FAMILY HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Calling all Lalors,
Lawlers, Lawlors

Saturday:

11a.m Join us at The Manor Hotel for a family history tour with local storytellers. Visiting Lalor's Mills, the site of a forced treaty that ended the O'Lalor clan system, Dysart, the former family seat of the O'Lalors, and the Rock of Dunamais, Norman castle built on the fort of the previous Kings of Laois. **Returning for 4:30 pm** Lalor Clan Dinner **€40** All members will be entitled to nominate and vote for the future Clan Chieftain. Membership **€10**. **9 pm** Storytelling by Colum Sands. Clan chieftain ceremony and Music by Adrian Ryan

Free entry to the storytelling and music for lalor members

Friday:

6:30pm-7:30pm

A.G.M. Anyone interested in becoming more involved in the organisation is welcome to attend.

7:30 -8:30PM

Human Rights and the Lalors with guest speaker and author James Loughran. Followed by music by Jim Coggan and tea/coffee.

Sunday:

12pm Ecumenical

Service at
Killermogh
Church



WPC Decking

SAY GOODBYE TO MAINTENANCE

WPC decking gives you the beauty of wood without the hassle. No sanding, or painting just durable, weather-resistant boards stay flawless for years. Upgrade your outdoor space with zero worries

BUY NOW >

wpc-decking.ie

0838854144

info@wpc-decking.ie



Pressure Washing
8 Exterior
Cleaning

Free Quotes! **089 431 8916**

mwpressurecare@gmail.com mwpressurecare.com

RESULTS THAT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES



YOUR PROPERTY DESERVES THE BEST CARE

LET'S MAKE IT LOOK NEW AGAIN



When Your Load Is Heavy

How strong are you? Do you think you are pretty strong? How many of you think you could pick a brick? How about a dumbbell? Well, you must be pretty strong then. How many of you think you could pick up a car? Oh, you don't think you could pick up a car? Well, I think you could if you had some help. Something that would help you, would be an automobile jack. If you put this jack underneath the car and pump the handle, you can easily lift a car that weighs over 3,000 pounds! Yes, with the help of a jack, you can lift a car, but you couldn't do it alone, could you?



Some of you have some pretty heavy burdens to carry in life. Perhaps you have a physical disability that makes your life difficult. Or, perhaps your father has lost his job and your family is having financial difficulties. Maybe someone in your family has cancer or some other serious illness and you are worried about them. You may be having a hard time making passing exams in school. I don't know what the burdens are that you have in your life, but I do know that there are some that you just can't handle by yourself. Well, guess what? You don't have to!

Jesus said, **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."** There is no reason for you to struggle with burdens that are too heavy for you. God's Word is full of promises to help us in times of trouble. Here are just a few: **"Don't be afraid, I am with you."** (Gen.26:24) **"I'll give you strength."** (Psalm 28:7) **"I'm with you in times of trouble."** (Psalm 34:6) These words of encouragement are just what we need to face the hard times that may come our way.

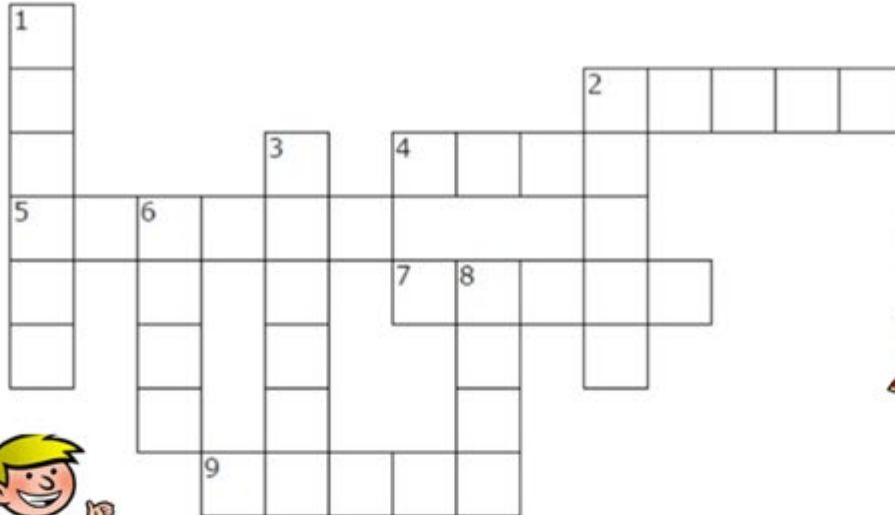
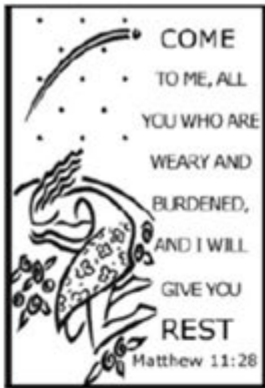
Does that mean that if we will ask him, God will take all of our troubles away? No, but he will help us. In fact, some of our struggles may help us to grow and become stronger. They may also help us to learn to trust in Jesus. But when the load is too heavy, he will help us to carry it -- and there is no burden that is too heavy for Jesus.

Dear Father,
we are thankful that when we struggle under the load of life's
burdens, you are there to help us carry the load.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



"Rest for the Weary"

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:30 (NIV)**



ACROSS

2. Not heavy.
4. The opposite of go.
5. A heavy load that you carry
7. The place within a person where their feelings or emotions are.
9. Very tired, especially after working hard for a long time.



DOWN

1. Not proud or not believing that you are important.
2. To get knowledge or skill about a subject.
3. Calm, kind or soft; not violent.
6. Stop and relax to regain your strength.
8. Not difficult.

Weary

Humble

Easy

Rest

Gentle

Light

Heart

Come

Burden

Learn

F Q N E Y M Y V K K D X G X E
Q Q K O Q R G H U M B L E M S
W O Q F A V E I E D T E O R Z
Y M O E V B N Y Q Q K C T B V
F N W L S W T H V A D C M U W
P H K G R O L E T R W T F R D
E M G I B U E A G E W W R D A
Z A A V G P S R R W C H V E Y
M S S E Z J Z T F E C W L N T
Q U Q Y V X T H G Q A R X J N
R E S E M X E N U E L Y N R W
X C C O I I Y X M J F I A A K
E I Z A U S S L Y J K E G Y D
Y I J O L L V N I X L E R H V
W G T R L L S K E R E S T K T



Humble

All

Learn

Light

Yoke

Souls

Weary

Gentle

Take

Heart

Come

Give

Easy

Burden

Rest



SHAWS

Portlaoise

SALE Now On

INSTORE & ONLINE

*T&Cs and exclusions apply



On Sale
in the
Parish Shop
for €7

This beautifully illustrated book provides a collection of prayers and blessings for every occasion, from seasonal celebrations, such as Christmas and Easter, to prayers for favourite saints, including the Little Flower, St. Christopher, St. Francis and St. Anthony.



On Sale in the
Parish Shop for
€7

Proceeds to
Grace Community
Orphanage, Nairobi,
St. Chad's Sanctuary,
Birmingham &
St. Mary's Church,
Birmingham

Author: Betty Byrne Mitchell

Betty recalls growing up in the city and an eventful life led always by her great faith and reassurance in the symbolism from above.

MIDLAND SUMMER FEST 2025

04 JULY

PORTLAOISE RUGBY CLUB CO LAOIS
EIRCODE: R32Y89 | TIME: 9.00 AM - 9.00 PM

POWERED BY: AIB, Le Divan, HOLLYBROOK, HUME

THIRUVATHIRA | LIVE MUSIC | IRISH DANCE | TUG OF WAR | MULTI CULTURAL DANCES
RIDE FOR KIDS | CHENDA MELAM | LIVE DJS | DRAWING & COLOURING | FASHION SHOW
MULTI CUISINE FOOD STALL | PENALTY SHOOTOUT | BOUNCY CASTLE | ICECREAM TRUCK | FACE PAINTING

STALL BOOKING : 089 479 7216
GENERAL ENQUIRIES : 0892540535

FREE ENTRY
BOOK YOUR CARPARKING AND WIN
EXCITING DISCOUNT IN YOUR NEXT DEAL
WITH TAOI McDONNAN HOLIDAYS



Parks Tennis Summer Camp



July 13th-17th

An Dún Outdoor Events Space, Portlaoise.

Ages 6-10 - 9:30AM - 11:00AM

Ages 11-16 - 11:15AM - 1:15PM



REGISTER ONLINE



Comhairle Contae
Laoise | Laois
County Council



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND



TENNIS
IRELAND

Contact Kathleen @ 0860815674
OR John @ 0851742251



Friends of Portlaoise Hospital

Enhancing patients' comfort at the
Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise

Thank you for kindly donating to our
Church Gate Collection

We are delighted to announce we
raised a total of

€2,098.35.

Thank you for your support!

friendsofportlaoisehospital@yahoo.com



The LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Isaiah 60:2



Inner Healing Retreat

6th July 2026

St. Joseph's Church - Mountmellick, Co. Laois

Faith Formation based on the teachings of the Catholic Church
and Inner Healing Adoration

Led by: Fr. Prince Clarence SJ

Date: Monday 6th July 2026
Time: 5 pm - 9 pm

Venue: St. Joseph's Church, Bridge Street,
Mountmellick, Co. Laois
Eircode: R32 DV27

Contact: Margaret +35387 2312066
Oonagh +35386 1736181



Programme: Rosary, Talk, Mass, Inner Healing Adoration

Confessions: Available before Mass if you have not attended
in the past week

Email: ruachministry5@gmail.com **Website:** www.ruachcatholicministry.org

Time to Think...

A Sainly Addict



Addiction is a lived reality for many good people. The life story of an Irish man and his recovery is an inspirational one. Matt Talbot was born May 1856 in Dublin Ireland. He was one of twelve children, six of whom lived to adulthood. His father was a heavy drinker and, as a result, the family grew up in poverty. Typical of his era, Matt spent just one year at school. There was no compulsory education, and he was unable to read or write. He entered the workforce at age twelve, employed by E & J Burke, a firm which bottled beer. His drinking began with taking the dregs from the bottom of bottles, which had been returned. Within two years, he graduated to whiskey and by the time he was sixteen, he came home drunk regularly.

By the time he was in his twenties, he spent all his wages and spare time in O'Meara's Pub. As far as the neighbours in that area of Dublin were concerned, Matt Talbot was a habitual drunk. Today with our understanding of the illness of alcoholism there is little doubt that he was already a chronic alcoholic. Drink had become Matt's only interest in life. When his wages were spent, he borrowed and scrounged for money. He pawned his clothes and boots. He supplemented his wages by doing extra work after hours. Among other things he minded horses outside a tavern, while the owners enjoyed themselves inside. The tips he received bought him more drink. He became a thief, once stealing a fiddle from a blind man. On Saturday he would come home with just a shilling from his wages for his mother. His life had become unmanageable. His drinking companions had several hobbies: swimming, playing cards, and girlfriends. Matt had only one – alcoholic drink.

By the time he was twenty-eight, he was well on the road to self-destruction, when a traumatic incident changed his life. On a Saturday morning in 1884, he waited outside O'Meara's without a penny in his pocket. He had been unemployed that week. His problem, he told himself, would be quickly solved. When he had money, he shared it generously with his drinking friends. Therefore, he reasoned, they would not reject him in his misfortune. But they did. One by one, they passed him. Some greeted him; others ignored him. Perhaps he had scrounged money from them too often, but they left him standing on the corner. Matt Talbot was stunned and shocked. Years later, he said that he was "cut to the heart." But it was a moment of grace. After some time thinking about his problem, he realized that he was totally enslaved to drink. He made his way home slowly. His mother was preparing the mid-day meal when he arrived. In nineteenth-century Ireland it was common for someone who wished to stop drinking to take a solemn pledge before a priest to abstain for a period of time. Mrs. Talbot could not believe her eyes when Matt came home sober on that fateful Saturday morning. "Ma, I'm going to take

the pledge for life," he said. He headed off to a nearby seminary where the priest persuaded him that he should take the pledge for ninety days only.

Those three months were sheer hell. We understand today the withdrawal symptoms of addiction, but in 1884 Matt Talbot had no one to share his suffering – the hallucination, the depression and nausea. But he had an iron will, a rock-like stubbornness that stood him well down through the years. "I know that I will drink again when the three months are up," he would remark to his mother. To fill in the time he used to spend in O'Meara's, Matt went for a walk every evening after work. During one of those walks his resolution almost broke. He passed Bushe's Public House about a mile from his home just as it opened. He caught the strong smell of beer and saw the crowded bar. The barman was busy serving the local men, and he paid little attention to this stranger waiting at the counter. Matt felt humiliated for the second time within a few weeks. Deeply hurt, he stormed out of the bar down the street and into a Jesuit Church. That evening he made another resolution, never to carry money with him. He kept that resolution for the rest of his life.

Dropping into a Church to rest during his walks became a habit. Matt was neither fit nor religious-minded. He grew tired quickly and since he could not rest in a Tavern or sit down on a public street, a church provided the haven he sought. Gradually he began to pray, to ask God to help him. To find the strength to remain sober he decided to attend Mass every morning before work and to receive Holy Communion. This was very unusual in the 1880's when the average good layman went to Mass just on Sunday and received Holy Communion only at Easter and Christmas. At the end of three months, Matt took the pledge to abstain from alcohol for six months and finally took it for life.

Matt Talbot now turned all his effort to increasing his union with God and developing his life of prayer. The strict ascetical life of the early Irish monks attracted him. Their love of prayer with the emphasis on penance and humility, and manual labour dedicated to God, appealed to him. He turned to a Jesuit Father, Father James Welshe to help him. His austere daily program may shock us today in an affluent society that demands comfort. He allowed himself just four or five hours sleep at night and arose about 5 a.m. to prepare for early Mass. Then he would return home for breakfast. Afterwards he would set off for work in the lumberyard of T. & C. Martin. He was a conscientious worker. Many years later, one of his former foremen described him as "the best worker in Dublin" who was often chosen to set the pace for others. But at a time when Dublin labourers were often exploited, he was not a "bosses" man. He had learned to read and

write and was quite ready to discuss the rights of workers. Since he was a member of many religious associations, he attended a meeting almost every evening. When he came home about 9 p.m. or 10 p.m., it was time for his spiritual reading. His spiritual reading ended about 1 a.m., and he retired for four hours rest before beginning his daily routine again. He did not go to work on Sunday but went to one of the City Churches and would kneel in an obscure corner from the first Mass at 6 a.m. until mid-day.

Despite his austerities, Matt was a small tough man – "as strong as a little horse", according to a fellow worker. He had an iron will and a constitution to match. Neither the other workers in T. & C. Martin's, nor the fellow dockers on Dublin's waterfront had an idea that he was leading a life modelled on the early Irish monks. He was a happy little man, although more silent than others. "Matt smiled at everything except a dirty joke," a friend remarked. But many workers knew about his generosity. Matt lent them money to buy clothes or shoes for their children or to pay overdue rent.

Matt Talbot died suddenly from a heart attack in Granby Lane on the way to Mass on Sunday, June 7th, 1925. He was buried in what was virtually a pauper's grave in Glasnevin Cemetery a few days later. The story of his life came to light because when his body was undressed, three chains were discovered wrapped around it. Inquiries disclosed that he practiced a devotion known as the slavery to Mary. The underlying idea was that a person who considered himself a spiritual slave to the mother of God would remain close to her and to Jesus, her son. The devotion included wearing one fine, loose chain. It was typical of Matt Talbot to wear three.

In 1972 his remains were removed to a tomb in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sean McDermott Street. In 1975 the Holy See conferred the title "Venerable" on him, which means that from a purely human point of view, Matt Talbot has the qualifications of a Saint. If this Opinion is confirmed by the Miracles required by Canon Law, he will be canonized.

The celebrated "Serenity Prayer" is a powerful source of healing for all who live with addiction.

*"God, grant me the serenity to
accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference".*

May our pathway be level and smooth.

Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died



Daniel Cass
Balladine,
Abbeyleix



Gerry Murphy
St. Brigid's Place,
Portlaoise



Joseph (Joe)
Delaney
Castlecoole, Ballinakill



Margaret (Peggy)
Morris
Colliers Lane, Portlaoise



Denis (Dinny)
Saunders
Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise



Tommy Courtney
The Heath,
Portlaoise



Josephine Pettener
(née Tierney)
Old Knockmay, Portlaoise



Tara Peters
USA
late Portlaoise

May They Rest In Peace
Our Sympathies Are With Their Families



In Loving Memory of

GERARD (GERRY) BRENNAN

Late of 41 St. Brigid's Place and Scotland.

5th Anniversary occurs

Tuesday 8th July 2026

Just a prayer from the family that loved you,

Just a memory fond and true,

In our hearts you will live forever,

Because we thought the world of you.

Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,

To love and cherish and never forget.

To hear your voice,

To see your smile,

To sit and talk to you awhile,

To be together in the same old way,

Would be our dearest wish today.

Loved, missed and remembered always

by Mam Mena,

brother Paul and family,

sisters Angela, Marie and their families,

extended relatives and friends and

all your loving family in Scotland.

Rest in Peace Gerry

PORTLAOISE PARISH **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

**If you have lost a loved
one there is a confidential
one-to-one support
service available.**



To make an appointment

Call 087-9878300



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHN EGAN

6 New Terrace,
Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 6th July 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 4th July at 6.30pm.

There's always a place for you in our hearts,
that way we'll never really be apart.

*Sadly missed, loved & remembered by his
loving wife Anne, son Adrian, daughter Karen,
daughter-in-law Janice, grandsons Adam & Caleb,
granddaughter Chloe and sisters Kathleen and Hilda.*

Rest in Peace John



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TOM & MARGARET (PEG) MCEVOY

3 Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise.

ALSO

ANNIE (NAN) MCDONALD

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

Many years have passed yet
your presence lingers in quiet ways.
In memories we hold in love that never fades
Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts
*Also remembering deceased members of
the McDonald and McEvoy families*

May they rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

GERALDINE LEWIS

The Heath, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs
11th July 2026.

Geraldine, we shared some laughs,
we shared some tears,
but best of all we shared great years.
No more tomorrows for us to share,
but yesterday's memories will always be there.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her mother-in-law
Trisha, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews.*

Also remembering her father-in-law, Teddy Lewis

Rest in Peace Geraldine



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JIM QUIGLEY

Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 13th July 2026

Your life was one of kindly deeds,

A helping hand for other's needs,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories left behind

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on **Sunday 12th July at 12.30pm.**

*Loved and sadly missed by his loving wife Maude, daughters
Michelle and Anne, son-in-law Seamus and grandchildren
Emma and David.*

Rest in Peace Jim



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHN MAHER

Kilmoney North, Rathangan,
Co Kildare

Formerly of Rathevan,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois

1st Anniversary occurred 2nd of July 2026

Anniversary Mass Sunday 5th July at 10am

in St Peter & Paul's Church

A devoted Father, a true family man who loved his wife
and two little boys with all his heart.

In life we loved you dearly,
in death we love you still.

*Always in our hearts and never forgotten
by the Maher & Power families.*

**Advertise with Link Up
TODAY!**

**Helping Local Brands
Make a
BIG IMPACT**

PORTLAOISE

PARISH

**link
up**



Contact

057 8692154



- ✓ SAND
 - ✓ GRAVEL
 - ✓ DECORATIVE STONE
 - ✓ TOPSOIL
 - ✓ BARK MULCH
 - ✓ COMPOST
- and much more.



Visit Our Website
WWW.KYLECON.IE

Call us on
085 7020537



MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN
MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

A SPECIAL MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Clonminam Business Park
Portlaoise, Co. Laois
R32 EH11

057 86 34050

info@mochuaprint.ie

www.mochuaprint.ie

KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

HENRY RANKIN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

087-2562137



WALK THE CROSS

25th, 26th & 27th September 2026
CROKE PARK, DUBLIN

33 MILES OVER TWO DAYS
A MILE FOR EVERY YEAR JESUS LIVED

CONFESSIONS
SPEAKERS

BENEDICTION
EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
HOLY MASS

Beginning at St Brigid's Church, Kildare

Day 1: Holy Mass at 9:30am, followed by the walk to Naas

Day 2: The pilgrimage resumes from Naas, walking to St Agatha's Church, near Croke Park, concluding with Holy Mass at 6:00pm

Day 3: Eucharistic Procession from Saint Agatha's to Croke Park ending with Holy Mass, Benediction & talk from Father Mark Goring

Register by emailing walkthecross33@gmail.com

www.walkthecross.ie



Portlaoise Stone Centre

Five Generations in Stone Cutting

Established in 1991 by Terry Swayne manufacturing superior quality headstones.

All work undertaken by Portlaoise Stone Centre is guaranteed and carried out to the highest standard by certified & qualified craftsmen.

Unique Headstones can also be designed and created to your own special requirements.

Visit our Showroom

to discuss your requirements
and view our range of
headstones and grave
accessories.

Unit 3B Clonminam
Business Park
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
R32 DW71

Tel: 057 8660258
Mobile: 087 2538930

www.portlaoisestone.ie



30 Years Hard Labour!



A significant milestone was reached in the Parish this week as Michelle Bartley celebrates 30 years as Parish Secretary having begun her role on 1st July 1996. From the PP's house to the Old Parochial house and in 2005 to the Parish Centre, Michelle has been at the centre of it all.

For three decades, Michelle has been the welcoming face and reassuring voice of the parish. Through countless phone calls, meetings, celebrations, and times of joy and sorrow, she has served our parish community with dedication, kindness, efficiency, and good humour.

Much of what happens in parish life passes through reception at the Parish Centre and Michelle is at the heart of it all. Her commitment, professionalism, and genuine care for people have made her a tremendous blessing to our parish. Her work makes an impact that is felt every day by parishioners, visitors, and clergy alike.

We offer Michelle our sincere gratitude for thirty years of faithful service and wish her every blessing for the years ahead.

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026

Our **Thanksgiving Mass** will take place on Saturday 11th July in the Portlaoise Parish Church at 10am celebrated by Fr Petru. We look forward to seeing you all there.

All who won prizes please collect them after Mass.



Portlaoise Parish

Results for
2nd July 2026



No €13,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Barry O'Loughlin
Peggy Clarke
Byrne Family
The Gray Family
Pam Killeen

MATCH 3s €1,000

PROMOTER

Betty Lynch
Dorothy Clarke
E. Byrne
Bernie Lalor
Pam Killeen

**5
Match
3s
Receive
€200
each**

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €14,000

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

THE
SUNDAY
MISSAL

Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm: 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30

Supporting our Parish

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

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

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

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @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**



LINK UP

Monday to Thursday

9am to 5pm

Contact: Mary Schwer

057-8692154

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

RAHEEN VINTAGE RALLY

**SUNDAY
12TH JULY
2026**

**Corbally,
Abbeyleix,
Co.Laois
R32A257**



**€10 ADMISSION
KIDS GO FREE!**

Celebrating 80 Years of



Special Guests
**Dioreann &
Charlie O'Connor**



DOG SHOW
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
The Haven Rescue



Music by
**Gavin Gribben &
The Ennis Brothers**



Living Competition!



**LINE DANCING
LESSONS WITH**
Dance With Katie



**VINTAGE
TRACTOR & CAR
DISPLAY**



**TRUCKS &
MOTORBIKES**



**STATIONARY
ENGINES**



**DISPLAY OF FARM
MACHINERY THROUGH
THE YEARS**

**Autojumble, Threshing,
Forge, Chainsaw Carving,
Thatching, Country Market,
Bake Sale, Bottle Stand,
Children Entertainment &
Lots more!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
0852742010 - 0877691972 - 0857218823 - 0857786545
EMAIL: RAHEENVINTAGE@OUTLOOK.COM

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF
LOCAL CHARITIES & CAUSES**