PORTLAOISE PARISH link up

25th October 2026

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

Congratulations to all our young students who received their John Paul Awards last week. We are so proud of your achievement and dedication. Well done to each of you on this wonderful accomplishment.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie





To love the Lord with all our heart – is this even possible? A common assumption is that love must just come, that it grows organically, and that it cannot be forced. That's infatuation, not true love. Any kind of love – for a parent, spouse, child, or friend – will reach a point during which it is no longer easy. For love to be true, it must be a free choice and commitment.

'All your heart, soul, and mind' sounds rather extreme, even rather dangerous. The world says that loving anyone totally is a risky proposition – what if the one we love rejects us or lets us down, leaving us with nothing? And the world is even more terrified to love God totally, who cannot even be seen.

This makes sense; after all, to love totally is to trust that we will find fulfilment precisely by not looking for it ourselves, but by looking to fulfil someone else. That old, almost clichéd phrase, 'love grows when it is given away,' is actually spot-on in this regard.

True love takes a leap of faith, which is what frightens nonbelievers. Many people are okay with going to church every now and then or volunteering for a charity from time to time.

Loving like that does not require us to make any kind of leap, any kind of definitive change, any commitment. But loving God with everything means that all we do is for love of him. We trust that he will take care of us. That is heroic; that is what it means to be a saint.

November, Month of the Faithful Departed

IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER



During the month of November, we remember in a special way our loved ones who have died.

Our Remembrance Tree will be placed in the sanctuary area of the church from next weekend. You are warmly invited to write the names of your loved ones on a leaf and place it on the tree as a sign of remembrance, love and prayer.

May we continue to hold all our departed loved ones in our hearts and prayers, trusting in the promise of eternal life.

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.



Those who died in our Parish during the year and their families will be remembered at our Mass on Monday 2nd November. A family member will be invited to light a candle in their memory. If we have a photo of the deceased it will accompany their name on the screen in the Parish Church.

Also there are parishioners who have lost loved ones, parent or siblings, and also natives of our Parish, whose funerals were celebrated elsewhere. If you would like them to be remembered by name at our bereavement Mass please give the details to the Parish Centre by calling in or email

michelle@portlaoiseparish.ie

(A photograph may also be displayed if you wish to provide one). Please have this into the Parish office by Friday 30th October. Thank you.



Don't forget to put your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

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ALL CLASSES FOR 2026

Take Note

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

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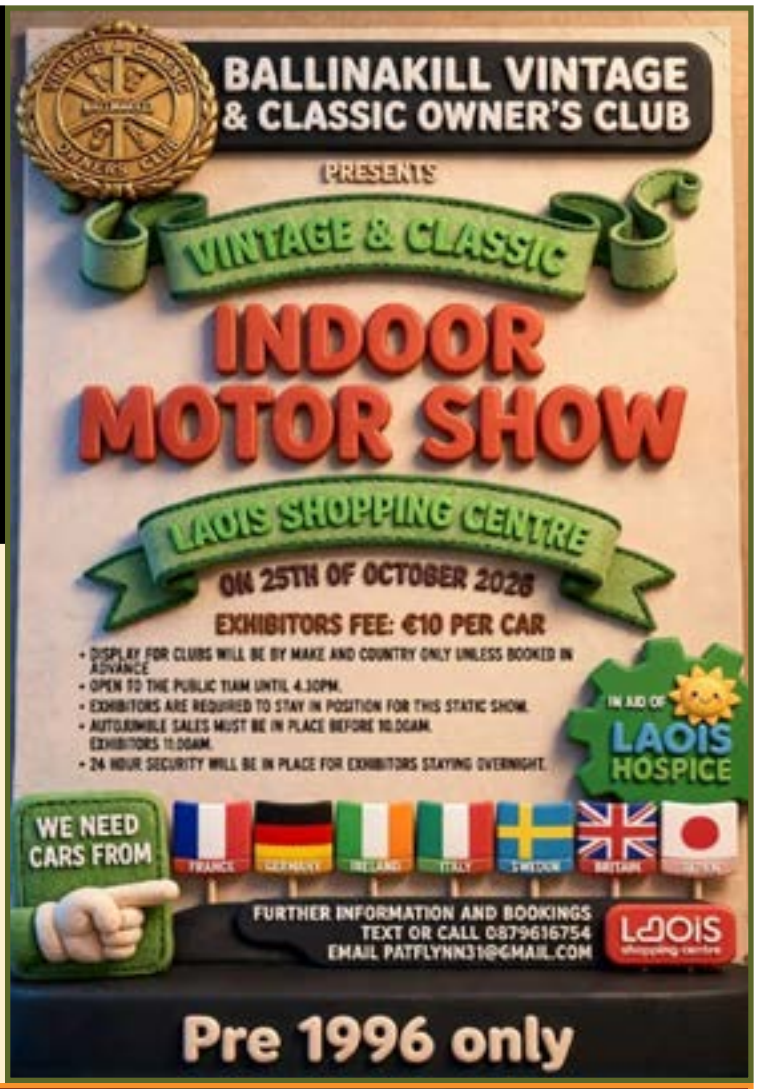
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CALENDARS 2027

JANUARY 2027

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3





EUCHARISTIC ADORATION SIGN-UP

You are warmly invited to spend a quiet hour with our Lord. Eucharistic Adoration takes place daily in our church.

To help our Adoration Ministry ensure faithful attendance for every hour, a Live Rota is now available online.

Please scan the **QR Code** below to check currently available timeslots and securely sign up for your preferred hour.

To better understand our new sign-up system and its guidelines, please take a moment to carefully read all the written instructions and prompts on the form when scanning the QR code for your first sign-up.

If you have any questions, or if you do not use email or a smartphone, you are most welcome to ask a family member or friend who is familiar with mobile phones to assist you with signing up, modifying, or cancelling your preferred hours.

Alternatively, you are most welcome to assist by sending a text message or calling our team directly at 087 961 1331..

Thank you for your beautiful commitment to our Lord!

Fr. Simon Jin
Adoration Ministry Portlaoise

Scan Here



PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE
OCTOBER 8-15TH 2026

With friends of Sr. Muriel RIP 2020

Sister Muriel transferred all her clients to Mary's Hands Charity based in the Church grounds in Medjugorje in 2019. It is run by Jacov, the youngest visionary. We travelled to the mountains, visited the people who we support with food, firewood and financial aid. We visited 20 houses. The people of Medugorje appreciate all the support you have given them over 21 years. Pensioners at the moment is €75 per wk for age group 70-90yrs old and they receive very little medical help. A Mass was said in Medjugorje by Fr Victor on the 15th Oct. for all the people of Portlaoise and all their intentions. More info in early December on how you can book a candle. Thank You.





Two Portlaoise parishioners, Christy Fitzpatrick and Mary Byrne, on their first pilgrimage to Medjugorje.
Both really enjoyed the trip and got a lot from the experience.
Both looking forward to returning in 2027.


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or at the direct link
https://www.shanahoens.net/shanahoe-school-enrolment.html
www.shanahoens.net
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Shanahoe_NS


SEANCHUA
Scoil Fionntáin Naofa
Shanahoe, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois
School Secretary
POSITION VACANCY
Permanent Part-time Position
The Board of Management of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois (Uimhir Rolla: 17489G) invites applications for the position of School Secretary under the terms of Circular 36/2022 from the Department of Education & Youth.
The ideal candidate for the position would have:
1 Secretarial experience working in a busy office environment or school.
2 Excellent interpersonal skills, including oral and written communication skills.
3 Excellent organisational and administrative skills and a strong willingness to upskill accordingly, if necessary.
4 A high level of proficiency in I.C.T. and in programmes such as Microsoft Office 1e, Microsoft Word and Excel, and a strong commitment and willingness to upskilling with regard to school-based systems such as Aladdin Schools and Edwin.
5 A high level of competency in managing financial matters to include:
Position Details
Permanent Part-time Position
15 hours per week
3 hours per day 5 days per week.
Reporting
The school secretary will work under the guidance and direction of the school Principal who is responsible for the day to day management of the school.
Professionalism
High levels of professionalism, accountability and confidentiality are imperative in/for this role.
Application requirements:
1 Letter of Application;
2 Curriculum Vitae;
3 Names and contact details (including mobile telephone number) for two professional referees must be provided.
How to Apply
Apply by email only to
F.A.O Mr. Michéil Delaney
(Chairperson of the Board of Management)
at shanahoeschoolrecruitment@gmail.com
Closing Date
5pm on
Tuesday, 27th October 2026.
Commencement Date (Provisional)
Monday, 23rd November 2026, subject to Garda Vetting being in place.
Appointment is subject to Garda Vetting clearance and satisfactory reference checks.
Further details about the school can be found at www.shanahoens.net

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Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Committee

Launching the Sale of the 2027 Calendar of Memories with pictures from over 50 years of Pilgrimages. The Calendar is in fond remembrance of our original leader Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick (RIP). Cost €15. Available from Parish Shop, or any Committee Member online from the Portlaoise Parish Lourdes Pilgrimage page. It will also be on sale in all Church Porches Portlaoise on Sat. 21st & Sun 22nd November at all Masses. A beautiful momentum gift for anyone as it is unique. Limited numbers.

Scoil Mhuire

IS OPEN FOR ENROLMENT FOR THE 2027/28 SCHOOL YEAR FROM 23RD OCTOBER UNTIL 13TH NOVEMBER FOR ALL CLASSES. SPECIAL CLASS ENROLMENT OPEN UNTIL 20TH NOVEMBER 2026

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM SCHOOL OFFICE

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LEARN AND GROW

Ag fás le chéile le grá Dé

An Invitation to Night Adoration

Come sit with Jesus for one hour and bring to Him those you have loved and lost. Come as you are; He is waiting to give you peace.

Fri 30th Oct 2026 · 8 PM–8 AM
St. Brigid's Church
Shanahoe · R32AH90

8 PM
Exposition & Confession
Fr. Petru

12 Midnight
Mass for Our Loved Ones

8 AM Saturday Morning
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Fr Paddy Byrne

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HANDING ON THE FAITH

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I don't know for sure, but I think that there have probably been more songs written about love than about anything else in the world. Here is a list of some of my favourites: "Love Makes the World Go Round," "Love and Marriage," and "When I Fall in Love." Oh, I almost forgot one the best love songs ever written. I am sure all of you know this song! It goes like this:



Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak but he is strong.



Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.



What a wonderful song about Jesus' for love us. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches another very important lesson about love.

People were always amazed at the teachings of Jesus. One day a crowd was gathered around Jesus when a man who was an expert in religious law tried to trap him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?"



Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,' this is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." In other words, Jesus was saying that if we could keep these two commandments, we would not have any trouble keeping the others.

You know, that reminds me of another love song, "All You Need Is Love." Let's pray and ask God to help us to love as we ought.

Maybe today tell your Mammy, Daddy, brothers, sisters and grandparents that you love them.



Dear Father,
help us to love you with all of our heart and to love
our neighbours as we love ourselves.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In November We remember

Sunday November 1st

Next Sunday, November the 1st we celebrate the feast of **All Saints** when we remember all those ordinary people who lived their lives in an extraordinary way.

Monday November 2nd

On this day we remember, give thanks and pray for all who have died. Many people like to visit the cemetery or light a candle in their local Church to remember their loved ones.



Grant to them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace. Amen.

Halloween Jokes

Why don't angry witches ride their brooms?
They're afraid of flying off the handle

Who won the skeleton beauty contest?
No body

What do witches put on their hair? **Scare spray**

Where do mummies go for a swim?
To the dead sea

When does a skeleton laugh?
When something tickles his funny bone!



The Gospel

We hear the word of God in Gospel. Whenever we hear the word of God we pray, "May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart." We make the sign of the cross on our forehead, our lips and our heart before we listen to the Gospel at Mass.





Glory



to you



O Lord

The Eucharist is another name for the Mass. It means "thank you". We come to Mass to Praise and thank God.





Irish Cancer Society

Become a Volunteer Driver

As a volunteer driver you will be bringing patients undergoing chemotherapy to the hospital for their treatment and back home.

- Can you commit to a minimum of two drives per month. On the day of a drive, you should be available for the full day.
- Do you have a roadworthy car, a clean driver's license, insurance and NCT.
- The Irish Cancer Society will provide you with training before you start as a driver for us. For this role you will be Garda vetted.

For more information on how to become a volunteer driver, please contact Emily or Monica at **volunteer@irishcancer.ie**

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Age & Opportunity

Changing Gears



Age & Opportunity are delighted to offer Changing Gears in collaboration with Portlaoise Library this November and December 2026.

Changing Gears is a course designed to boost wellbeing and resilience for those aged 50+ years. It supports people to manage transitions/change in mid to later life. The change may be to do with: retirement, having more free time, bereavement, job loss, ill health, becoming a carer or relationship breakdown. Its aim is to help participants to identify what has served them well to date in life, the successes and challenges they have experienced, what supports they have in their lives and what they may need to put in place, and/or discard, for the next stage of life. It aims to lay the foundations for a positive and fulfilling approach to mid/later life.

How does it work?

Changing Gears runs over 5 weeks with weekly sessions of 2 ½ hours. It offers participants time to:

- Develop skills and techniques build resilience and confidence in managing life changes or transitions
- Reframe change as opportunity with positive options and also challenging negative stereotypes about ageing

Who are Age & Opportunity?

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation creating opportunities that empower older people to enhance individual and community wellbeing through participation in physical activity and recreational sport, arts and creativity, personal development and active citizenship initiatives.

Visit our website: www.ageandopportunity.ie

Venue: Portlaoise Library, 25 Main St, Maryborough, Portlaoise, Co. Laois R32 N7EP
Dates: Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 November and 2 December 2026
Times: 10.30 - 13.00 (Refreshments will be provided)

To book your place please contact Fiona on engage@ageandopportunity.ie or call on 01 9133922

"I am really enjoying the presentation, the interaction, the musical content and the general dynamic of the class. I look forward to attending the class in The Lexicon every Wednesday. Wishing you every success in your important work in Age & Opportunity"

Teresa, Dublin participant, Changing Gears, March 2025

"A belated thank you for the most enjoyable Changing Gears course. Brian Dooney was a fabulous facilitator, full of energy and enthusiasm with the coursework beautifully put together, especially the writing and music. I so hope you are able to run a Stage Two course."

Clare participant, Changing Gears, February 2026

This course has been funded by the HSE and is free of charge. Participation requires attendance at each of the five sessions.

Age & Opportunity is funded by HSE | Sport Ireland | arts council | funding the arts

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON 20TH OCTOBER
Top score: Lena Kelly, 1st Lady: Sheila Duff, 2nd Lady: A O'Dowd, 1st Gent: M Delaney, 2nd Gent: Tom Dunne, 1st Half: Frank Keenan, 2nd Half: Margaret Flanagan. Raffle: 1st Margaret Flanagan, 2nd Molly O'Brien, 3rd Peter Stevenson. 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; Contact 086 8812228.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT Bowls contact Elish 0851636843.Wednesday 28th Celebrate Halloween from 3pm in Parish Centre. New members welcome. Thursday 29th Cards and Chat in Sue Ryder Kilminchy from 3pm new members welcome, tuition given. For further information contact Maria at 087-9187157.

WEDNESDAY SINGERS CHOIR Do you enjoy singing, making new friends and having a cuppa and chat – if so come along on the Wednesday Singers Choir at Treo Nua Community Centre, Harpers Lane. Wednesday mornings 11am-12.30pm. Open to all.

LAOIS CO. BRIDGE CLUB PORTLAOISE New members welcome and also recruiting Beginners – lessons will be given – Bridge takes place **Wednesday MORNINGS,** contact William 087-0929898.

CÉILÍ AND SET DANCES All are welcome to join us Wednesdays at 8pm at Seanchistin, Irey, Ballyfin R32AY99 to dance our native céilí and set dances in a relaxed and inclusive environment at a gentle pace - beginners very welcome - come alone or bring a partner. Further details Maureen 0876482038 or seanchistin@gmail.com.

FOURTH WALL LAOIS THEATRE GROUP seeking Actors/Actresses all age groups. Also looking for Backstage People. Contact Kevin: 087-9614235 – follow us on Facebook. An ideal group to be part of performing in various theatres around Ireland including the Dunamaise Arts Centre.

PORTLAOISE COMMUNITY CHESS CLUB has now been established and we meet every Saturday in the Portlaoise Library between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The only exception is bank holidays when the library is closed. The chess club is open to all ages. We invite Adults (male and female) and children. We welcome beginners and experienced chess players. There is no money involved and chess sets are provided in the library.

TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL If anyone would like to help with the appeal during the month of November. Ph. Dorothy 087-2130833 or Joy 087-9144992.

HEATH HALL & CEMETERY COMMITTEE AGM Tuesday 27th October at 8pm in the Hall beside the Heath Church. New members very welcome to join. Refreshments will be served.

LOST & FOUND: Sunglasses Found in Togher Wood on 18/10/26 Contact: 087-6003122. Pink Rosary Beads found near Our Lady's Statue at the Church Contact; 085-2689767.

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.

ROSARY RECITED IN ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH SHANAHOE on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 3.30pm for the month of October.

EMMANUEL HOUSE, CLONFERT, CO. GALWAY Day of Prayer including Five first Fatima devotions and Healing Service led by Eddie Stones and team. Sat. Nov. 7th 11am. Please bring a packed lunch. Music, talks, confessions and Holy Mass.

GUILD OF ST. PHILIP NERI PORTLAOISE visits prisoners in Portlaoise & Midlands Prison as befrienders/listeners. The guild is a conference of St. Vincent de Paul. To mark Prisons week the guild is accepting new applications from anyone interested in this work. Ph. 086-0462405 for further information.

SPIORAID NAOIMH MONTHLY RETREAT SATURDAY 31st Oct. Starts with Mass @ 10am in the Parish Church Portlaoise. Confessions are available. Retreat Continues in the Ratheniska Room Parish Centre. 10.30 am. - 1.30 pm. Adoration Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry with individual prayer. All are Welcome

Follow Fr. Paddy on X @frpaddybyrne or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on the Parish website www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Time to Think...



Remembering loved ones gone before us

This week our clocks move to wintertime 2026. Soon the new month of November begins. This can be a challenging time of year when winter darkness comes to visit. Traditionally this is the time of year, in the Christian liturgical calendar, when we remember the souls of the faithful departed. The season, begins with the Feast of All Saints, Women and Men over countless generations who inspired, engaged, and personified the Christian values, of faith, hope and love. This great feast is followed by All Souls Day. A day, when we remember Our loved ones, who have gone before us. Many people on this special day, also visit their family plots, sacred places, where the mortal remains of loved ones lie buried. Death is a very difficult reality and yet is very part of all our human experiences.

None of us likes to think about death, and that isn't necessarily bad. Our every heartbeat blocks out death, pushes it away, and keeps us focused on living. That's nature and God working. And this denial of death stems too from the fact that, in the end, we don't die, don't become extinct, but move on to deeper life. At some level, we already know that, sense it, feel it, and live life in the face of it. To want to think about death can be as much a sign of depression or illness as of depth. Pushing away thoughts of death is normally a sign of health.

Death points us to the ultimate mystery in relation to our meaning and purpose in life and to our final journey, of which Saint Paul consoles in his remark "Our true home is in heaven". It is always a deep privilege to celebrate with family and friends the passing of their loved one from this life. Funerals are those moments, when gathering, we ritualize the life of someone we loved and whose memory we will cherish forever. We should take great pride in how we celebrate funerals in our local parishes. There is a tremendous sense of community solidarity and support which offers rich sympathy to those carrying the burden of loss and grief.

Halloween did not come from Hollywood but rather its origins are strongly connected to ancient Celtic roots. In Celtic Ireland, about two millennia ago, Samhain was the point between the lighter (summer) and darker halves (winter) of the year. At Samhain, the gap between this and the other world was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through. People's ancestors were honoured and invited home, while harmful spirits were warded off. People wore costumes and masks to disguise themselves as spirits to avoid harm. Bonfires and food played a large part in the festivities. The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into a communal blaze; household fires were extinguished and started again from the bonfire. Food was prepared for the living and the dead and was ritually shared with the less well-off.

Christianity incorporated honouring of the dead into the Christian calendar with All Saints (All Hallows) on 1st November, followed by All Souls on the following day. The wearing of costumes and masks to ward off harmful spirits has survived as Halloween customs. The Irish emigrated to America in great numbers during the 19th century, especially around the time of famine in Ireland during the 1840s. The Irish carried their Halloween traditions to America, where it is now one of the major holidays of the year. November is the time of the year when we remember the souls of loved ones who have gone before us.

November is a difficult time of year. The beginning of winter brings long nights and cooler days. This can be a time of loneliness and anxiety, especially for those who live alone. In our Celtic tradition, we have a great sense of our own mortality and vulnerability during this month. The Celtic festival of Samhain was a time to remember all who had gone before. Death is difficult and painful. It strips us of the familiar and often leaves us naked and vulnerable with our bereavement and painful losses, which we all have experienced when a loved one dies. The death of a loved one often leaves many unanswered questions as we attempt to carry on without a husband or wife, sibling or friend.

Perhaps the two most powerful lines in the entire Gospel describe the human emotion felt by Jesus when his friend Lazarus died: "Jesus wept." Jesus knew the pain and hurt that comes when a loved one dies. And for God to fully embrace the human condition, he also had to embrace death itself through his son. The humiliating and brutal manner of Christ's death united God with all types of suffering and persecution. The final words that came from our dying God was a prayer of welcome and wonderful invitation: "Today, you will be with me in paradise." We know from our experience that the leaves will blossom again, that spring will come. Christ's death was the ultimate demonstration of love by his father. As he was awoken to new life and resurrection, so, too, are all of us who believe in him. As we remember our loved ones who have died and pray for them, we do so with great hope in our hearts.

May all our loved ones enjoy the eternal promise of life and peace in the happiness and joy of God's presence.

Jesus tells us: "I am going ahead of you to prepare a place for you, so that where I am, you, too, shall be." And despite the pain that comes when a loved one dies, in faith we are encouraged to hope in the reality that God's love is even brighter than death itself.

Pádraig Pearse once told a beautiful story to demonstrate our Christian hope regarding death. In the month of September, the little boy asked his mother where do all the swallows go to? She replied: "To the land where it is always summer."

The dead are not distant or absent. They are alongside us. When we lose someone to death, we lose their physical image and presence, they slip out of visible form into invisible presence. This alteration of form is the reason we cannot see the dead. But because we cannot see them does not mean that they are not there. Transfigured into eternal form, the dead cannot reverse the journey and even for one second re-enter their old form to linger with us a while. Though they cannot reappear, they continue to be near us and part of the healing of grief is the refinement of our hearts whereby we come to sense their loving nearness. When we ourselves enter the eternal world and come to see our lives on earth in full view, we may be surprised at the immense assistance and support with which our departed loved ones have accompanied every moment of our lives. In their new, transfigured presence their compassion, understanding and love take on a divine depth, enabling them to become secret angels guiding and sheltering the unfolding of our destiny.

May all our loved ones gone before us rest in peace.

Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not for long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that once we shared
Miss me but let me go.
For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at all the things we used to do
Miss me but let me go.



Our Prayers are asked for those who recently died



Augusta O'Brien (née Campion)
Ballinakill, Laois



Dermot Martin
Liogard, Portlaoise



Maura Horan
Carrinlough, Ballyroan Road, Abbeyleix





IN LOVING MEMORY OF

SHEILA & RICHARD (SONNY) BROWN &



THEIR SON

STEPHEN

2 Dublin Road Portlaoise.
Richard's 34th Anniversary occurred 12th September.
Sheila's 17th Anniversary occurs 27th October.

Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Sadly missed by all their loving family,
extended family and friends and the Wright family.

May They Rest in Peace

Christmas Memorials

The Link Up office is currently taking bookings
for Christmas Memorials

N.B. PLEASE NOTE
as the Link Up is now collated externally:

ALL MEMORIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM THURSDAY DECEMBER 10TH

for inclusion in the Christmas edition of the Link Up ***(December 20th)***
this will be the last Link Up of 2026.

The First Link Up of 2027
will be Sunday January 10th.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

PADDY BEERE

Ballydavis, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 27th October 2026.
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, on **Sunday 25th October at 9:30am.**

Never more than a thought away,
Deep in our Hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered everyday.

Sadly missed by his loving wife Madge,
sons and daughters and extended family.

May Paddy Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHN BYRNE

Killian Pk, Shannon and formerly Clonkeen.
Whose 1st Anniversary occurs 31st October 2026.
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, **Sunday 1st November at 12.30pm.**

At every turning of my life
I came across good friends,
Friends who stood by me
Even when time raced me by.

Loved by all your family.

Rest in Peace John



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ELSIE BOWE

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
17th Anniversary occurs
29th October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise, on
Sunday 25th October at 12.30pm.

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Each of us in our own way,
Have special thoughts of you today.

Always remembered by Paula, Donal and family.

Rest in Peace Elsie



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ELSIE BOWE

42 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
17th Anniversary occurs
29th October 2026.

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

Sadly missed and always remembered by
Sean, Patricia and family.

Rest in Peace Elsie



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ELLEN BYRNE

Forest Park, Portlaoise and Dublin.
6th Anniversary occurred 23rd October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Sunday 25th October at 12:30pm.

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

Sadly missed and always remembered
by your family and friends.

Rest in Peace Ellen



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

NOEL BRENNAN

Grenville, Dublin Rd. Portlaoise,
whose 15th Anniversary occurs 1st November 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St Peter's & Pauls
Church on **Saturday 31st October at 6.30pm.**

We often sit and think of 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.

Forever missed and loved by
your wife Alice and daughter Shauna xxxx

Rest in Peace Noel



91ST BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

CHRISTY CAHILL

65 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
3rd Birthday away from home - 26th October 2026.

Sending a dove to Heaven
With a parcel on its wings
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
May the angels sing to you
The most joyous chorus of "Happy Birthday"
Though we are apart on your birthday,
Your spirit dances through our lives like a gentle breeze.

Sadly Missed by his wife Lily, Sons, Daughters,
Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren & extended family.

Happy Heavenly
91st Birthday Christy



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ANGELA CLEARY

Late of 37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurs
29th October 2026.

The brightest star in the sky

From your forever friend Geraldine x

Rest in Peace Angela



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARY (MALEY) CONNELL

57 Marian Place, Portlaoise.
22nd Anniversary occurs 25th October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 25th October at 10am.

May you always walk in sunshine
And God's love around you flow,
For the love and happiness you gave us,
No one will ever know,
Forever in our hearts.

Sadly missed and loved by your loving family,
Also thinking of our Dad at this time.

May Mary Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

FRANK CULLEN

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary – 29th October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Peter & Paul's Church on
Thursday 29th October at 10am.

You were always someone special
Someone kind and true
Who will never be forgotten,
For we thought the world of you.

Sadly missed and always remembered by all your loving family xxx

Rest in Peace Frank



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TERESA McCLOSKEY

Well Road Court, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 28th October 2026.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure.
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Loved and missed by your daughter Jackie.

Rest in Peace Teresa



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

EVELYN O'ROURKE (NÉE O'KEEFFE)

"Bonton Villa" Ballyfin Rd. Portlaoise,
1st Anniversary occurs on 23rd Oct 2026.

Mam

We miss your smile
We miss your style
We miss you every day
It's only been a year
We wish you were here today

Your humour and your bravery
Went far beyond belief
And the life that you instilled in us
Is precious and unique

We know you're watching over us
And can always feel you near
You are forever in our hearts
We love and miss you every day
Our beautiful mother dear.

Deeply loved and missed by Geraldine, Eamonn, Anne, Claire & Gillian Grandchildren Paul, Alan, David & Elizabeth and great grandchildren Leah, Ellie, Bonnie, extended family, relatives & friends.

Rest in Peace Evelyn



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TERESA McCLOSKEY

Late of New Road, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs on
28th October 2026.

A Year Without You, Mam

A year has passed since you went away,
But I still miss you every single day.
I miss your voice, I miss your smile,
I'd give the world to sit with you a while.

So much has changed since you've been gone,
Yet somehow life keeps moving on.
But there's a space no one can fill,
A place within my heart that's yours still.

If love could have saved you, you'd still be here,
And I'd hold you close for another year.
But until the day we meet again,
You'll be my mam, my best friend.

Love Teresa & Seona,
Grandchildren Aimee, Abigail,
Noah, Aaron, Shane and Emily.

May Teresa Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

ANTOINETTE MCDONALD

Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary - 17th October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St Peter & Paul's Church on
Saturday, 24th October at 6.30pm.

Loved as a wife, cherished as a mother,
Adored as a grandmother and treasured like no other.
Her love was a blessing, her memory a treasure,
She will be missed forever and loved beyond measure.

Always loved and sadly missed by her husband PJ, children Keith, Evan, Andrea, and Leon, cherished grandchildren Kolia, Kaja, Ally, Cian & Conor, her beloved dog Lenny, extended family and friends.

May her gentle soul Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOSIE McGILL

Clonboyne, Portlaoise
2nd Anniversary occurs on the
26th October 2026.

Josie's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin on
Sunday 25th October at 10am.

Your life was one of kindly deeds
A helping hand for others needs
Sincere and true in heart and mind
Beautiful memories left behind.

Loved and sadly missed by her loving husband Barry, daughter Mary, son Dermot, Daughter in law Bríd and grandchildren Frankie & Jodie

Rest in Peace Josie



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

LEO MILLS

Portlaoise Rd. Abbeyleix.
7th Anniversary occurs 26th October 2026.

Life is full of chapters
And as one door closes
Another one opens
You have gone to heaven
To spread your wings
and look after us each day
A Husband, a Father,
A Grandad, a friend
And always a happy man
You may be gone
But never forgotten.

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

Rest In Peace Leo



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ROCH (ROCKY) SCULLY

Late of 174 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
22nd Anniversary occurred 23rd October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 24th October at 6.30pm.**

Daddy
You'll never be forgotten,
That simply cannot be,
Because something will remind us,
We never know just when it might be,
Something someone says, and it all comes back again,
The time we spent together, the happiness, the fun,
Once again we feel the pain of life without you Daddy.

Loving you always, forgetting you never.
From John, Patrick, Peter, Roch, Teresa, Jacinta,Margaret and Kathleen, sons & daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

May Rocky Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOSEPHINE WATSON

Main St. Portarlington and
Dublin Rd, Portlaoise.
11th Anniversary occurred
22nd October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church **Sunday 25th October at 11.15am.**

No special day is needed for us to think of you
For you were very special
We thought the world of you.
It's been eleven 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
The years we spent together, we keep within our hearts
They hold precious memories that will never let us part.
Will those who think of Josephine today
A little prayer to Jesus say.

Sadly missed by all your loving family.

May Josephine Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ANGELA CLEARY
(NÉE CULBERT)

37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary away from home occurs 29th October 2026.

They say there is a reason,
they say that time will heal,
But neither time or reason,
will change the way we feel.
For no one knows the heartache
that lies beyond our smiles,
No one knows how many times
we've broken down and cried.
We want to tell you something,
so there won't be any doubt,
you're so wonderful to think of,
but so hard to be without.
We cannot bring the old days back,
when we were all together,
the family chain is broken now,
but memories live forever.

Sadly missed by your loving husband Tom, daughters Stephanie, Tracey and Paula grandchildren Craig, Ben, Ryan, Roisin & Willow great-granddaughter Grace. Always in our hearts.

Rest in Peace Mam

ALSO REMEMBERING ANGELA'S MOTHER & TWIN BROTHER



ELIZABETH CULBERT & NOEL COLBERT



Dr. Murphy's Place,
Portlaoise & Kilcormac, Offaly.

14th Anniversary / 2nd Anniversary also occurs at this time.

Our lips cannot speak how much we love you,
Our hearts cannot tell them what to say,
Only God knows how much we miss you,
Every hour of every day.

Sadly missed by Tom, Stephanie, Tracey and Paula Craig, Ben, Ryan, Roisin, Willow and Grace. Always in our hearts.

Rest in Peace Granny & Noel



FONDEST MEMORIES OF

MARTIN RAFTER

34 The Hermitage, Borris Road, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 25th October 2026.

Husband

The sun shone a little brighter
The sky was a deeper blue
My world was just a better place
When I shared my life with you.
Missed every day.
Your loving wife Betty xxx

Daddy

I wish I could rewind the clock
And make it go real slow
So I could give you one more hug
Before you had to go
Thank you for the years we shared
For the love you gave and the way you cared.
Never more than a thought away.
Loved always John, Martina & Craig xxx

Grandad

A little tribute, small and tender,
Just to say we will always remember.
Forever missed, love Stefan, Amy, Jennifer and great-grandsons Daithí and Tomás xxx

Dad

At the blueness of skies and in the warmth of summer
We remember you
What we once enjoyed and deeply loved
We can never lose
For all that we love deeply becomes part of us
It doesn't matter who my father was
It matters who I remember he was.
Jimmy, Claire and family.

Rest in Peace Martin



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOE DELANEY

Clonban, Mountrath.
27th Anniversary occurs 25th October 2026.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, **Sunday 1st November at 12:15pm**

Your memory lives in all we do
Forever grateful, forever true.

Loved and remembered by Tess, Brian, Sinéad, Micheline & Anthony, Grandchildren Joe, Rory, Óisín & Seán. Also Mary, Rita & Ger, extended family and friends.

May Joe Rest in Peace



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

SEÁN (SEANIE) PHELAN

Fisherstown, Ballybrittas.

3rd Anniversary occurs 5th November.

Anniversary Mass will be held in St. John's Church, Killenard on **Sunday 1st November at 10.30am.**

A special day, another year,
A loving thought, a silent tear,
A little prayer to keep in touch
With one we love and miss so much.

Sadly missed by your loving sons Trevor & Denis, their mother Marie, daughter-in-laws Avril & Danielle, grandchildren Jordan, Mia & Senan, sisters Mary & Margaret, his aunt Stella & extended family & friends.

Rest In Peace Seán



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

CLAIRE TAYLOR

Pallas, Portlaoise.

Happy Heavenly 29th Birthday - 26th October 2026

Always in our hearts.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOSEPH & CARMEL MCENERY

Ballyroan.



Joseph's 11th Anniversary – 19th October 2026
Carmel's 3rd Anniversary – 25th October 2026

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

Sadly missed by all their loving family.

Rest in Peace Claire, Joseph & Carmel



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

ELIZABETH CULBERT

Late of Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise
14th anniversary occurs 25th October 2026.

Always in our hearts.

ALSO REMEMBERING HER DAUGHTER AND OUR SISTER

ANGELA CLEARY NÉE CULBERT



Late of 37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise
8th anniversary occurs 29th October 2026.

May the winds of love blow softly for only you to hear,
We still love and miss you, as it dawns another year.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Saturday 24th October at 6.30pm**.

Sadly, missed and always remembered by all your loving family.

May They Rest in Peace

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

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PORTLAOISE PARISH LOTTO

Results for 22nd October 2026

05 06 21 27

No €18,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNER	PROMOTER
Imelda Monahan	Parish Centre
Elizabeth Whelan	Lily Whelan
Betty O'Reilly	Betty O'Reilly
Mary Fallon	Ann Ward
Mandy Keenan	Thelma Brown
Marcella Carter	Eileen Preston
John & Joan O'Reilly	John O'Reilly
Michelle Coss	Anita Tierney
Claire Scully	Peter Ryan
Mary Brennan	Peter Ryan
Philip Fagan	Philip Fagan
Brid Cullen	Parish Centre
Therese Sheeran	M Farrell
Catherine Byrne	Paceilli Walsh

14 Match 3s Receive €72 each

follow us on twitter @Portlaoiseparis For Early Results

Play PARISH LOTTO ONLINE www.portlaoiseparish.ie

NEXT WEEKS JACKPOT IS €19,000

SAFEGUARDING

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

October Collection for the Priests of the Parish

Envelopes for the October Collection for the priests of the parish are in the Development Boxes or in the Church porches. Thank you for your support.

Thank You for your support.

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

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Clergy of the Pastoral Area


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


Fr. Petru Medves C.C.
Tel: 057 8600122


Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605


Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121


Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142


Fr. Paddy Byrne P.P.
(Abbeyleix)
Tel: 087 9948505


Fr. Sean Conlon C.C. P.E.
(Ballinakill)
Tel: 057-8733336


Deacon John Delaney
Tel: 057 8730844

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours in emergency only
Tel: 0578621364



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
Twitter: @portlaoiseparis
Facebook: fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois
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 Portlaoise Parish are live streamed on our website.

link up
LINK UP
Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5pm
057-8692154
Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space
E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie
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PARISH SHOP
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DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE

PMS PORTLAOISE MUSICAL SOCIETY

MEL BROOKS' YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

14TH-21ST NOV 2026

SHOWTIME 7:30PM (ALL SHOWS)

VISIT DUNAMAISE.IE OR CALL 057 8663355

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HELP SUPPORT BY ENTERING OUR

MONSTER Raffle

3 lucky winners. 3 incredible prizes. YOU choose!

2 TICKETS TO HARRY STYLES AT CROKE PARK

€200 BEST4TRAVEL HOLIDAY VOUCHER

2 X WEEKEND FESTIVAL TICKETS

HALLOWEEN AT LAOIS SHOPPING CENTRE!

Join our PMS crew on **Friday, 30th October** for some spooky fundraising fun! Pop by, say hello and be in with a chance to win exclusive extra prizes available on the day!

Every raffle ticket helps bring our production of Young Frankenstein to life, supporting costumes, sets and production costs. Raffle Draw: Saturday, 6th December 2026

Thank you for supporting local musical theatre!