



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*'Turn away from sin and
be faithful to the Gospel'*

The Season of Lent
Ash Wednesday
22nd February



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Three Things To Do For Lent

Fasting and Abstinence:-

Keep your meals small and simple during Lent. This is not a slimming exercise. The thinking behind fasting and abstinence is that we strengthen our spiritual life by weakening physical pleasures. Fasting means reducing the amount of food that we would normally eat. Abstinence means not eating a particular food (meat). **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are to be observed as special days of Fasting and Abstinence.**

Almsgiving:-

We are bombarded with requests for money from a huge number of charities. Identify a charity that means something to you ... find out what they do and make a contribution. If you can't afford to give money, give your time.

Prayer:-

Our lives are so hectic that we often forget to set aside a few quiet moments in which to talk to God. During Lent, postpone breakfast television for a few moments and make a short prayer. In the evening encourage your children to say a night time prayer before bed.

LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.



SHROVE TUESDAY

This Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday - also known as Pancake Day - is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is celebrated throughout Ireland

by the cooking and eating of pancakes - a last feast before the fasting and self-denial of Lent!

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday & Tuesday

7.30am & 10am

Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

The Heath: 7pm

Ratheniska: 7pm

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Thursday & Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigils 5pm & 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent when we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads on this day, are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour.' Blessed Ashes will be available in the Parish Church and Parish Centre from 11am on Wednesday.



Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)
7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

The Heath: 7pm

Ratheniska: 7pm



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.

Thank You!



We welcome into our Parish Community

Siofra Riley Murphy, Crosby Avenue

Rian Peter Ging, Ballyclider

Aidan Ace Mubidu, Birchgrove

Noah Simas Lynch, The Grange.

Who was baptised last weekend.

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The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre is operating as normal – we are currently following National Cancer Control Programme guidelines. Facemasks are required to be worn for all attendees. The welfare & care of those attending & working in the centre as always is our priority.



Mondays

WALKING GROUP

Our walking group brings participants through a walking programme gradually increasing fitness over time.

The walking group helps people diagnosed with cancer take positive steps towards better health. Exercise has been shown to help with fatigue for cancer survivors.

THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME

This is a self-management programme for cancer survivors with the aim of improving their quality of life to better manage daily health. (Developed by Stanford University)

**Starting, Monday,
12th Feb
10am-12 noon
Booking Essential**

ENTITLEMENTS

A Citizens Information Adviser will give you advice about the financial help you may be entitled to and will help you to navigate the process. e.g., medical card application etc

CANCER SUPPORT NURSE

Our cancer care nurse will provide you with information to help you with the emotional and psychological impact of your cancer diagnosis.

Tuesdays

MEN'S GROUP

**1st Tuesday of each month
from 10am-11am
Next Group 7th March**

MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

11am-12noon
7th February

PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY

14th February
Spaces Available.
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MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

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PILATES

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Wednesdays

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Thursdays

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CLIMB PROGRAMME

Helping Children Understand Cancer. This programme is fun and creative, using drama, arts and play and aims to help children cope with a cancer diagnosis in the family
February 2023

WORK & CANCER PROGRAMME

This is a 6-week programme which will equip you with strategies and skills to help manage everyday symptoms which can impact on work. This programme was developed by TCD and is supported by TCD & NCCP.
Booking Essential
April 2023

COUNSELLING

By appointment only

NEW – AQUA AEROBICS

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Thursday 23rd February at 11am

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086-8372168 | amunnally@alzheimer.ie

LAOIS ALZHEIMER

Family Support Group Meeting



THE ALZHEIMER
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Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise

Wednesday 22nd February at 6.30pm

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7th March



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Portlaoise Active Retirement Club meet every Wednesday in the Parish Centre at 3pm for activities, fun and friendship. No bowls this Monday.

Tuesday 21st Feb.; Rehearsals for show at 2pm in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 22nd Feb.; Day trip to the Altamata Gardens in Carlow, leaving the Parish Centre at 10:45am. Cost €10, name to be given to any committee member.

Thursday 23rd Feb.; Cards in Sue Ryder Centre Kilminchy at 3pm.

Spring holiday to Castleross Park Hotel for €75 p.p.s., final names to be given by Wednesday 1st March. Any further information call Sheila 087-6204617.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 14th February:

Top score: Frank Keenan | **1st Lady:** Patricia Horan & Bridie Kennedy (tied) | **1st Gent:** Angela Brennan
2nd Gent: Tom Kearns | **1st Half:** Margaret Flanagan | **2nd Half:** C. Fitzpatrick

Raffle: 1st P. Horan | 2nd B.O.B. | 3rd P. Stevenson | 4th Frances Gleeson | 5th Frank Keenan | 6th B. Cahill
Thanks to everyone for their support. Whist continues every Tuesday night, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Anyone interested in learning to play, contact Breda Cooley.



PATH Portlaoise Action to Homelessness; An Open Meeting will be held at the Parish Centre on Tuesday 21st February at 8pm.

Are you, or someone you know living with a long term Health Condition? If so, then you may be interested in the 'Living Well Programme'. Living Well is a *Free ONLINE*, 6 week group self-management programme for adults living with long term health conditions, such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart conditions, stroke and others to name but a few. The Living Well Programme supports people to develop the skills and confidence to live with their health condition. There are spaces available on our March 2023 Programmes. To book your place please contact Aine (041) 6850676 / (087) 1140371 or Joanne (041) 6860710 / (087) 4308735 or www.hse.ie/livingwell

RELIGIOUS NOTES

The Legion of Mary will pray for all those recently bereaved this week.

Fatima Pilgrimage 8th-15th June 2023; Owing to cancellation, 2 seats available. We will be in Fatima for the anniversary on 13th. Contact Maura 087-1210263 or any committee member.

Rosary will be prayed for Lent in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, Monday-Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 3pm.

Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat; Sts. Peters & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise, Saturday 25th February 10am to 1.30pm. Holy Mass 10am - Confessions available. Retreat continues in the Parish Centre from 10.45am to 1.30pm. Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry. Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O' Domhnaill P.P. All are welcome.

Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 7 Night Package July 5th to 12th; Costs €745 p.p.s. Flight Dublin to Split. Spiritual Director: Fr. Sean Hyland C.C. For bookings contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305.

Desert Fathers - A Lenten Program for Men; This Lenten program for men has been developed by an Irish Priest to help men make this Lent different. The program contains four pillars - Prayer, Penance, Spiritual reading and Charity. To find out more and join an online group, a zoom information meeting is scheduled for Sunday 19th Feb. at 8:30pm. Meeting ID 494 625 9738. Password: 997298. Email desertfathers40@gmail.com for a copy of the program.

Online Lenten Retreat; The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a FREE online retreat 'Reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent as Stepping Stones on our Journey to East'. Visit our website www.prioryinstitute.com to register or find out more.



Turn the Other Cheek

Imagine this scene on the playground at school. Children are playing at recess when one child pushes another. That child pushes back. Then the first child retaliates by hitting the another child who then hits him back. Soon, the two are involved in a knock-down, drag-out fight.

The teacher soon arrives and asks,

"What's going on here?"

"He pushed me!" one child responds.

"Well, he pushed me first!" replies the other.

"He hit me!"

"He hit me back!"

I'm sure you have seen something like this happen on the playground at school. What do you think? If someone pushes you, isn't it OK to push them back? If someone hits you, isn't it fair for you to hit back?

I think it would be a good idea to see what Jesus has to say about this in today's Gospel. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his followers, "You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also." That doesn't sound fair, does it?

But Jesus went even further! "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say, love your enemies! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? If you are only kind to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?"

So, that is what Jesus said and that is what he expects of us. We can only do that if we ask God to help us.



OUR PRAYER

Father, sometimes we want to strike back when someone hurts us. Give us the strength and courage to do as Jesus taught us and "Turn the other cheek."

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lent begins Next Wednesday

Remember these are the three things we are asked to focus on for Lent.

Praying: Spend a little more time with God.

Sacrificing: Giving up something that you really like.

Almsgiving: Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.





The Season of Lent



Facts about Lent:

- Lent is a time when Christian people get ready for Easter.
- Lent is a sacred time within the Church calendar. It is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.
- Lent lasts for forty days reminding us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert doing penance and fasting. It begins on **Ash Wednesday (22nd February 2023)** and finishes before sunset on Holy Thursday. We don't count Sundays in the forty days because Sundays are days of celebration in the Church calendar.
- Purple vestments are worn by the priest during Lent.
- The Gloria and alleluia are not prayed at Mass during Lent.
- Lent comes for the word "lente" which means springtime.
- Many people promise to do something during Lent to help them to be more like Jesus. Sometimes they give up something they like, they fast from sweets, or television. Other people promise to do something like being kinder, going to Mass, saying prayers or to put money in the Trócaire box to remind them to help others who are not as lucky as they are.
- What we do during Lent helps us to get ready for Easter.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the First Day of Lent. On Ash Wednesday people are asked to fast. On Ash Wednesday the priest blesses the ashes and uses them to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads. The priest or minister says '*turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*', or similar words. Wearing ashes is a sign that a person is going to make an extra special effort during Lent to use his/her gifts for the good of others.

We remember in our thoughts and prayers for all the people in Syria and Turkey at this sad time. Maybe during Lent, you can say this prayer every day with your family.



Prayer for Syria and Turkey

All our hearts are going out to the people of Syria and Turkey .

May the people of these lands

have the courage and strength to keep living each day.

May they have all the supports, aid, love and compassion needed.

Syria is suffering so much pain and turmoil from war and conflict.

May leaders open all borders so that all resources can get through.

May generosity and God's blessings bring strength

and hope to everyone who has been affected

May minds and hearts be moved to remember loved ones

who have died, those who are injured and missing,

We hold them all in our hearts this day,

Amen.



Time to Think!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent

Feb 22nd, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This is a season of reflection that leads us towards the three days of the Triduum, with Easter Sunday falling on Sunday, April 9th. It is a time to ask questions, a pause time on a journey, a time when we might re-examine the baggage we carry from month to month, maybe a time to lighten the load. The third verse of a hymn from the late Sixties, *'God's spirit is in my heart'* has these words. *"Don't carry a load in your pack, you don't need two shirts on your back, a workman can earn his own keep, can earn his own keep"*. That just about sums up the story of our journey. So the signing of the cross on our foreheads, using ash from last year's burnt palms is a reminder of where we have come from and where we are headed and the ever-present need to take stock.

Lent is a time of return, when that which was lost is found again and a new beginning sought. The *'lost sheep'* is a recurring symbol of our experience. A few years ago I came across a solitary sheep cropping the roadside verge. It gave rise to these few lines.

"It had strayed beyond the barbed fence, head down, to graze the grass verge by the roadside. Careless of traffic, a single sheep, carrying a rust-red stain of identity, had walked away from the field flock. Slowly it cropped the road edge, unhurried, waiting to be found".

The mark of our baptism identifies us with our flock. With Ash Wednesday and the start of the Season we call Lent, there is a call to spiritual awareness, an opportunity to strip lives down to the bare essentials and see what really matters. T.S. Eliot in his poem *Ash Wednesday*, published in 1930 writes of the Christian pilgrimage.

"...and pray to God to have mercy on us and pray that I may forget these matters that with myself I too much discuss, too much explain, because I do not hope to turn again, let these words answer for what is done, not to be done again, may the judgement not be too heavy on us"

Too often we are quick with our answers on matters of faith and morality when really we should look more at the options that are open and the context of our choice. We easily forget that black and white are separated by many uneven shades of grey. Maybe that is what Lent gives us, a pause time to ask the difficult questions, not of others but of ourselves. And if the answers are not immediate, then we should not worry. Not all questions have answers that are clear cut and obvious, but the asking of the question at least means that we have considered an issue important enough to question. Waiting patiently is the story of our search for faith. A question posed doesn't always have a gift wrapped answer waiting to be opened.



Two years ago, the reflections of Francis on the recent Synod were published under the title *'Beloved Amazon'*. In his words he addressed many of the social issues facing the poor of South American countries and the need for those in government to treat their people with fairness and care. His Franciscan tradition was much in evidence. However the headlines in the media focused their response to his statement on what was not said. There was no word on a pressing issue, addressed by the Synod, that there should be due consideration of the relaxation of the celibacy discipline in order to meet the chronic shortage of priests in so many communities. It was a matter of great disappointment to those who had hoped for encouragement to follow this path.

But neither did he reject the option of change which makes it imperative that the discussion continues with even greater urgency. It is a question that we cannot sidestep time and again, for the needs of the people must not be ignored. In our own country, the age profile of priests ministering in our parishes is a matter of increasing concern. If we ignore the road signs on our journey, we are in danger of finding ourselves in a cul de sac. So maybe there is a good question that we could all address this Lent, how might the Church meet the needs of the community without resorting to worn platitudes? Early morning brightness lights the sky once dawn breaks and the night time hours fade. We should encourage each other to face reality and trust that we might follow God's Spirit as it moves in our hearts.

*"So do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"*.
Isaiah 41:10

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 28,750 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



Best wishes to our Confirmation Candidates, who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next weekend.

We have four ceremonies next Friday and Saturday at 12noon and 2pm. We have over 340 boys and girls enrolled this year. We pray that the Holy Spirit with his gifts will enrich the Confirmation Candidates and through them enrich the life of their families, their schools and our Parish. Our thanks to their teachers and all who have been involved in their preparation programme. Please God we will have a good weather and all will have an enjoyable and great confirmation day.



TRÓCAIRE *Portlaoise Parish 2023*
Working for a Just World
Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

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Address.....

There has been a very generous response to our

**TURKEY / SYRIAN
EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

Launched last weekend.

Over €8,500 has already been donated.

Following this weekend the amount collected will be forwarded to Trócaire who are partnering with Caritas Syria and Caritas Turkey who are on the ground helping those whose lives have been devastated by the disaster.

THANK YOU!



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5pm-6pm*

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WHEN?

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- ~ all winnings pooled
- ~syndicate starts on March 17th 2023

Tickets can be purchased from any committee member
This is a fundraiser syndicate
T&C available on request
shanahoecommunityhall@gmail.com



CONCERN worldwide

ENDING EXTREME POVERTY WHATEVER IT TAKES

Portlaoise Concern Group

Thank you to the people of Portlaoise for the generous response to Concern one day collection on 26th November 2022. The amount collected was an amazing total of €4,941. Thank you to all who gave their time and collected on the day to make this possible.

Concern is a world wide organisation who are on the ground for most vulnerable people to empower the dignity and respect and give a better quality of life. At present they are responding to Turkey and Syria with medical supplies, food and tents.

Thank you again for your support for over 45 years.

Thank You



Laois Open Door Theatre "It's the Real McCoy"

by Tommy Marren and directed by Eadaoin O'Connell

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th February

In the Dunamaise Theatre and Arts Centre, 8pm

This year Laois Open Door Theatre brings you a rip roaring rural comic drama set in 1960's (Mayo). With two love stories, a dominant wife, a frightened husband, a confused curate, a gormless postman and two pedigree gossips, this production has all the ingredients for an unforgettable night of theatre.

Tickets €16-€18 available from the box office 057-8663355 | www.dunamaise.ie



WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING



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11AM & 8PM

Laois Open Door Theatre Presents

'It's the Real McCoy'
by Tommy Marren



24-26 FEB
8PM | €18/€16

THE PECULIAR SENSATION OF BEING PAT
by INGOLDSBY



WED 1 MAR
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THURS 23 MAR
8PM | €26

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**OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;**



PAUL CONROY
O' Moore Place
Portlaoise.



BRIDGET FINGLETON
Park, Stradbally



AIDAN BYRNE
55 Borris Little, Portlaoise
and Tullamore

*Even though I walk through the darkest
valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff - they comfort me.*

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to
the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

In Loving Memory of

ALICE McEVOY (née Tobin)
Dysart, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 22nd February 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this **Saturday 18th February at 5pm.**

Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by Bernard, Robert, Caroline,
Kathleen, Margaret, Marie,
extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Alice

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL RIGNEY

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs 18th February 2023.



*No words can tell, no tears express,
The love, the loss, the emptiness.
You are not just a memory or part of
the past, you are ours to remember,
as long as life lasts.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by
your loving wife Kathleen, family & friends.

May Mick Rest in Peace

† In Loving Memory of †



**Mary Kate (Kitty)
McCormack**

Late of Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise
Who died 20th February, 1984 RIP.
39th anniversary.

Whose anniversary occurs at this time

*Time may pass and fade away,
But silent thoughts and memories stay.*

Loved and always remembered
by all your family

In Loving Memory of

MAY WHITE

26 Newpark, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this **Sunday 19th February at 10am.**

Along the road of suffering you found
a little lane, that took you up to
Heaven and ended all your pain,
You may be out of sight, we may be
worlds apart, but you are forever in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by Tomás, Timothy, Declan, Sineád,
grandchildren, brothers, sisters and extended family.*

Rest in Peace May

Be compassionate as your
father is compassionate

Luke 6:27



In Loving Memory of
DICK (Richard) SIDES

6 Ridge Rd., Portlaoise. Died 19th January 2023.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 18th February at 6:30pm.

*Your presence we miss,
Your memories we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving family; Ann, Noel, Aoife, Áine, Damien and William.

Acknowledgement

We the family of the late Dick Sides, Ridge Road, - his daughter Ann, son-in-law Noel, and granddaughters Aoife and Áine would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who sympathised and showed great kindness to us following the loss of Dick. Thank you to Dick's many friends, neighbours, relatives and well-wishers for their kindness and generosity, who called to our home, sent Mass cards, called or text, dropped off food, travelled long distances and sent flowers or attended his Wake, Rosary, Removal or Funeral Mass. We were deeply moved by the volume of online tributes, and Mass cards received. We thank you for helping us celebrate his long life.

Thank you to all of Dick's friends and neighbours, too many to name, but you all really enriched his life and filled him with joy. From Cowboy recommendations to GAA match synopses to a great chat, we really are grateful to you all.

A special word of thanks to all those who looked after Dick; Dr. White and staff, Dr. Fleming, Doctors, Nurses and staff of the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, Jim, Deirdre and staff of Hughes Pharmacy, and especially his carers; Jim, Josie, Elaine, Dolores, Bebe and Liz who gave him the utmost care and attention in a joyful way.

Thank you also to the Portlaoise GAA club and St. Joseph's Accordion Band who did a guard of honour for Dick on his final journey from our home on the Ridge to Sts. Peter & Pauls Cemetery. We really appreciated the kind gesture and we are sure he would have loved it.

Thank you to Matthew Keegan Funeral Directors and also the gravediggers in Sts. Peter & Paul's Cemetery for their sensitive, professional handling of arrangements, and attention to detail. We would also like to thank all those who helped us throughout the funeral, with the house, the tea-making, cooking dinners, and traffic control. It really is appreciated.

Finally, thanks to Monsignor John Byrne for his beautiful and personal funeral Mass, Fr. Simon Jin for all his support and kindness, Michelle in the Parish Centre and the Priests and staff of the Parish for all their help and kindness. Also thank you to Nuala Kelly for the lovely music. We would like to thank those who carried Dick's coffin and participated in his Mass. Thank you to all at the Midlands Park Hotel for their hospitality.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone, we trust that this acknowledgement will be accepted as a token of our sincere appreciation.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for you all.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

In Loving Memory of
PETER LALOR

32 The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary in Heaven occurs 23rd February 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 18th February, at 5pm.



*My love, losing you was hard,
but living without you every day
is the hardest,
My heart and soul still seeks for
you, but it knows that you are at
peace in Heaven.*

*I miss you so much more than
words can say.
Forever loved and missed by your
loving wife Jean xxx*

Rest in Peace Peter

In Loving Memory of
PETER LALOR

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 23rd February 2023



Brother;
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knows why.
My heart still aches in sadness,
And secret tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.

Loved and missed every day, Ger xx

Brother/Uncle;

May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in
your ear, how much we love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.

Love and miss you every day P
Marie, Christy, Kyle and Finn xxxx

Brother/Uncle;

To hear your voice, to see your smile,
To sit and talk to you a while,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.

Loved and remembered always
Daithí, Mags, Shauna, Oisín and Cillian xxxxx

Brother/Uncle;

I wish I could have you back a while,
I miss your laughter, I miss your smile,
I would hold you tightly and never let go,
And tell you how much I miss you so.

Everyday is hard without you
Olive, Willie, Ciara, Aimee, Jodie and Tierna xxxxxx

Rest in Peace Peter

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH (Joe) O' TOOLE**

Shanahoe, Abbeyleix.
6th Anniversary occurred 16th February 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Shanahoe on Sunday 26th February.

*Gone from our lives, one so dear,
But in our hearts, forever near.*

*Loved and remembered always by his
loving family; Anne, Siobhán, John,
Pamela, Gráinne and their families.*

Rest in Peace Joseph

**In Loving Memory of
MAURA LOUGHLIN**

144 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 21st February 2023



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Tuesday
21st February at 10am.

Broken

*To no longer see your face
breaks me everyday,
So suddenly you were taken that
I didn't get to say;*

*Just how much I love you and that you were my life,
The hurt that I felt when you passed,
cut me like a knife.*

*I'll never be complete again,
I never will be free from this grief, a solid thing
deep inside of me.*

*I wear a mask of coping, but am in complete
despair, I cannot mend what's broken,
My heart's beyond repair.*

*I'll smile if I have to but that is just a mask,
And I'll say that I'm ok when people kindly ask,
But I can not be happy, it is something that I lack,
I never will be whole again, for I cannot get
you back.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her
husband John, daughter, sons and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Maura

**In Loving Memory of
Our Sisters**

MARGARET LAWLESS *née Lawlor*
Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 18th February 2023

KATHLEEN LAWLOR

24 Clonrooske, Knockmay, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 24th February 2023



Anniversary
Mass will be
celebrated in
Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish
Church, on
**Friday 24th Feb.
at 10am.**



Our time together was so special, so were the
memories we made, and although you live in Heaven
now, those memories will never fade.

We bow our heads in silence, and remember you both
with love, and we know that you are up there,
watching over us all from above.

Everyday is a struggle, and nothing feels the same,
And our hearts still break a little more, every time
we hear your name.

You will always be remembered and time may heal
our hearts, but a piece of us is missing since the day
we had to part.

Someday the time will come, when we no longer feel
this pain, that is the day when Heaven calls and we
will see your smiling faces again.

*Loved with a love beyond telling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.*

*Missed, loved and remembered by their
sisters, brothers and extended family.*

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MAURA LOUGHLIN**

144 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 21st February 2023



Friendship

*Friends give hope when life is low,
Friends are a place where we can go,
Friends are precious,
honest and true,
We feel so lucky our friend was you.*

*Sadly missed, never forgotten by
Margaret and Frances.*

Rest in Peace Maura



**Give and there will be
gifts for you**

Luke 6:27

In Loving Memory of

Our Loving Father WILLIAM KERRY

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise. Died February 1999.
24th Anniversary occurs 19th February 2023.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 19th February at 10am.

*Your gentle face and patient smile,
with sadness we recall, you had a kind
word for each and died beloved by all.*

Sadly missed by your loving family.

Rest in Peace William

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St. Mary's Sports Hall

St. Mary's Sports hall has served the town of Portlaoise and the wider community for over 40 years providing much used and appreciated facilities for indoor sport. We owe a debt of gratitude to those whose vision and voluntary efforts and contributions provided such a facility in a very different town and indeed a very different time. Portlaoise Parish holds the Sports Hall in trust for the community. It has been managed and run by a voluntary committee for all those years who have worked hard to keep the hall upgraded and available to the many groups and sports clubs that use it.

Covid intervened to frustrate plans for a major project of refurbishment and improvement scheduled to begin in January 2021. Over €50,000 was spent on plans and preparatory work on this project in the past 2 years including gaining planning permission. A tender price of €400,000 had escalated to over €600,000. The escalation in price caused the committee to pause and to consider the future of the Hall and how it can best serve the much expanded and growing community of Portlaoise both now and into the future.

In considering all the options for the future of the Sports Hall discussions were opened with Laois County Council. The Council were very receptive to explore how they might play a significant part in ensuring that this very important facility is utilised and developed in the best possible way. It is accepted that it is no longer appropriate or feasible that a parish would continue to bear this responsibility. The Council will have access to grants and funds that a parish committee cannot access. Portlaoise parish, with the consent of the Diocese, were prepared to transfer the effective ownership, management and development of the Hall to Laois County Council by way of a long term lease at no cost. And so a long term lease has been signed recently with Laois Co. Council.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those associated with St. Mary's Sports Hall over the years. It was a remarkable achievement for a parish to provide such a facility and the amount of maintenance, expansion, development and upgrading that took place is great credit to the voluntary committee that oversaw the Hall on behalf of the Parish. All who have enjoyed the facilities of the hall and the community in general owe them a debt of gratitude. I express my sincere thanks.

Our very best wishes to Laois Co. Council and those who take over the task of running the Hall as a community sports facility. We look forward to the developments that will inevitably take place.

ST. MARY'S SPORTS HALL OPENED 1978 — A BRIEF HISTORY OF IMPROVEMENTS

1996	New Maple floor	9,800
1998	Toilet & changing facilities	22,265
2000	Asbestos roof replaced with new insulated panels	41,800
2001	New Gas heating systems installed	20,800
2002	Major upgrade; new entrance lobby, new windows	
	New kitchen, upgrade to comply with fire regulations	113,421
2004	Electrical upgrade	21,500
2013	Resurface Car Park	13,500
2017	Boxing Club assisted to vacate adjoining hall	35,000
2020	Boxing Hall demolished in preparation for new development	17,200
2021	Plans prepared & planning permission granted for development	52,200

The Hall Committee organised and oversaw these developments over their tenure in charge. They were assisted at various times with grants from National Lottery/Sports Capital grants to the tune of €96,000. This was in the context of an overall spend of over €500,000. They, at various times, were in debt with Bank Loans guaranteed by the Parish. The above figures represent a lot of hard work and commitment on behalf of all who served on the Committee—some now gone to their eternal reward, may they rest in peace. We commend them for their hard work and repeat our gratitude to them—Thank You.

John Byrne, P.P.

Portlaoise Parish



Results for

16th February 2023



One €17,000 Jackpot Winner

Winner: **Lynda Deegan**

Promoter: **Catherine Burke**

WINNERS

Mary White
Pauline Gorman
Carmel Dillon
Patrick Duane
John Gorman
Joan McCarthy
Fergal O'Reilly
Alan & Owen
Susan Dempsey
Pauric Lynch
Brigid Whelan
Una Fitzgerald
Nina Deegan
Paul Phelan

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

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Online Lotto
Nuala Arrigan
Anne Ging
Kathleen Brown
Mary Collins
Martley's
Bernie Lalor
Nicola Byrne
Paddy O'Connor
Parish Centre
Paul Dooley
Mary Costello
Betty Phelan

Next Week's Jackpot is €10,000

Join us live on Facebook every Thursday evening
at 5pm for our parish lotto draw

Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364

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viewed on our website and our Church Porches.
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Kathleen Sherry safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly
Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek
Accounts Michelle Conroy
Sacristans Parish Church
Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

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Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18 | Psalm 102:1-4.8.10.12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23 | Matthew 5:38-48

Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of the collection baskets at
Sunday Masses for support. *Thank you* to the many who have found new
ways of continuing to support the Parish. The generosity of so many means
we **continue to** be well supported. Please find your way to contribute.

Donation boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre

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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

(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

THANK YOU

The Parish Shop

At the Parish Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF
CARDS AND GIFTS FOR CONFIRMATION

Prayer Books - Rosary Beads - Rosettes
Personalised Cards and Candles
Photo Frames - Gift Sets - Bookmarks
Sterling Silver Necklets, Chains and Crosses
Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories
Confirmation Certificates

Confirmation Dates;

Portlaoise Parish 24th February. Abbeyleix/Ballyroan 2nd March.

