

Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



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

28th July 2024

“Do not cast me off in my old age”

Pope Francis message for the Fourth World Day
of Grandparents and the Elderly.



Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them!

They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them!

As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasures of sound religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience. Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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



God Provides

As children we were fascinated by the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. Like a circus audience trying to spot the mechanics behind a woman seemingly being sawn in half, we tried to spot the mechanics of Jesus' miracles. As we grow in faith and maturity, we realise that the mechanics of Jesus' miracles are not in question, more important is the lesson they aim to highlight.

The feeding of the five thousand is a lesson in trust and faith. If we hunger for what is right, Jesus tells us that God will be our nourishment. God will provide what we need. This perhaps is hard to believe, especially when we have prayed hard and not had our prayer granted. If God promises to provide, why does he leave many of our prayers unanswered? We are well used to the reply to this question of course. "If our prayers weren't answered," we are told, "then it means God knows a better way for us." Whilst this answer might feel a little frustrating, the truth remains that when we look back at life, we realise what a mercy it was that some of our prayers were not answered. We think we know what is best for us, but we can only make our prayers from our own insular and human agenda and not from God's universal perspective.

God can often provide little miracles in our day-to-day lives that we tend not to appreciate, because they are not necessarily what we have prayed for. Start to notice how God provides in ways we wouldn't expect. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

Mass times for the coming week (Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday: 7.30am & 10am

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

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 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.



Communion for the Sick

The priests will attend those on the list of the sick and housebound on the first Friday (2nd August). If you are not on this list and would like a priest to call please contact the Parish Centre 057 862 1142.

We Need Bread, But...

Remember the old legend about the lighthouse keeper who knew that there were poor people living nearby, in hovels, who were cold at night because they couldn't afford oil for their heaters. He pitied them greatly, so he doled out to them the oil that was meant to keep the light lit. The people were a little warmer for a while, but the great light eventually went out, and, as a result, there was a shipwreck, and hundreds died. It is a good parable to illustrate how we can be so concerned to meet people's immediate needs that we neglect their larger needs. We need oil to keep us warm, but we also need a light to show us the way. We need bread, but we also need the Word of God.

William R. Boyer, The Bread of Life



We welcome into our Parish Community

Rían Patrick Murphy, Clonroosk Abbey
Ben Max Dillon, Grenville

Dottie Drew Doheny, St. Brigid's Place

Zack Thomas Farren, Woodlawn Villas

Cillian Luke Murphy, Esker Hills

Who were baptised last weekend.

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Wed: 9:00am -5:30pm

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with

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Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 23rd July:

Top Score: B. Murphy | **1st Lady:** C. Fitzpatrick | **2nd Lady:** N. Delaney | **1st Gent:** C. Galvin
2nd Gent Tied: L. Cooper & O Dooley | **1st Half:** F. Gaynor | **2nd Half Tied:** M. Fitzpatrick & P. McEvoy
Raffle: 1st S. Duff, 2nd B. Hogan, 3rd C. Galvin, 4th O. Doyle, 5th B O Keeffe, 6th K Farrell, 7th M. Flanagan.



Whist continues every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7:30pm, new players welcome. Lessons available, please leave your name and number at Parish Centre reception.

Graiguecullen Bingo Tuesday 30rd July in St. Fiacc's Hall at 8.30pm:

Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,130. Double number €1,860. Lotto €1750.

Alanon Family Group for family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with Alcoholism.

Alanon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further info. contact; 086-8706017.



Laois Forest School Wellbeing Festival: Calling all adults, children and families! Join us at the Laois Forest School Wellbeing Festival on 10th and 11th August, from 10am to 1pm each day. Enjoy mindful forest walks, yoga, drama, and natural crafts in a beautiful forest setting. Tickets are available at www.laoisforestschool.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

RELIGIOUS NOTES

Divine Mercy Chaplet 3pm every Sunday in the Parish Church.

Rosary in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath: Daily 2pm (Monday-Saturday). Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

Vocations Society of St. Joseph: Holy Hour, Adoration, Prayer for vocations, 3pm every Friday in the Parish Church.

Emmanuel House Clonfert, Co. Galway - Day of Prayer and Reflection including First Saturday Fatima

Devotions, led by Eddie Stones and Team; Saturday 3rd August at 11am, talks, music, adoration, healing service, confessions and Holy Mass. Also Day of Prayer with Relics of St. Philomena available - **Wed. 6th August** at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch.

LAOIS VINTAGE 27th Annual Vintage Run

In aid of Laois Hospice
Saturday 17th August 9.30am
At Treacy's Bar & Restaurant



PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Sunday 18th August

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Maura O'Brien 087-1210263

Helena Corbett 087-9611331



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Sunday, 29th September 2024

Registration 1.30 pm

in Shanahoe National School

€20 fee

Monies raised will help support the school.

MASS IN HONOUR OF

"The Miraculous
Doorkeeper"

**BL. SOLANUS
CASEY**

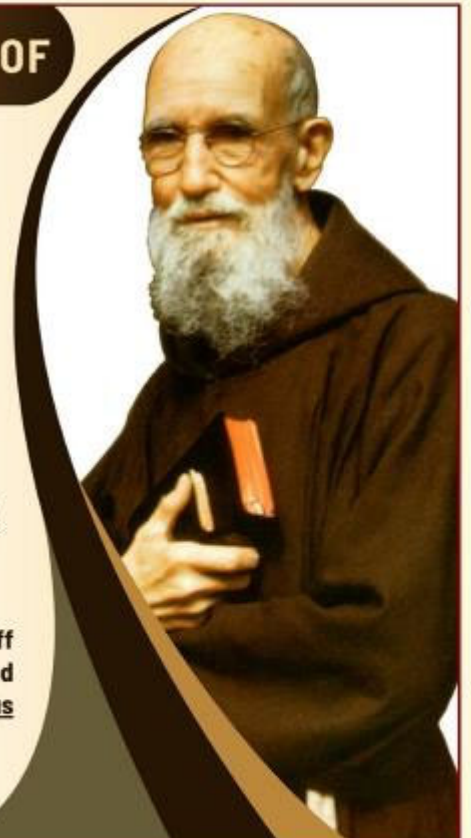
Monday July 29th

- Time 7:30PM
- St. Fintan's Church,
Ballyfin, Laois (R32 TD61)
- Cuppa and Chat
afterwards

Have faith in God, shake off
excessive worry, and thank God
ahead of time! - **Blessed Solanus
Casey**



Contact Ber
087 1178346



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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and sailed across a lake one day. When they reached the other side, they went up onto the side of a mountain and sat down to rest. But when Jesus looked, he saw a great crowd of people coming toward him. They wanted Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. So, that is exactly what he did. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven.

Soon it was time to eat. Jesus asked one of the disciples whose name was Philip,

"Where can we buy enough bread to feed all of these people?"

Philip answered,

"Eight months wages wouldn't buy enough bread for each person to have one little bite!"

Andrew, another one of the disciples, spoke up,

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus told the disciples bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people.

Was it enough? It was more than enough! The Gospel tells us that when everyone had eaten as much as they wanted, he told his disciples to gather up what was left over. I'm sure you know what happened. They gathered up enough food to fill twelve baskets!

The Gospel is trying to tell us that when we come to Jesus, his blessing is enough. No, it is more than enough.

My Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your goodness.

You give us all that we need and more.

We thank you in Jesus' name.

Amen.

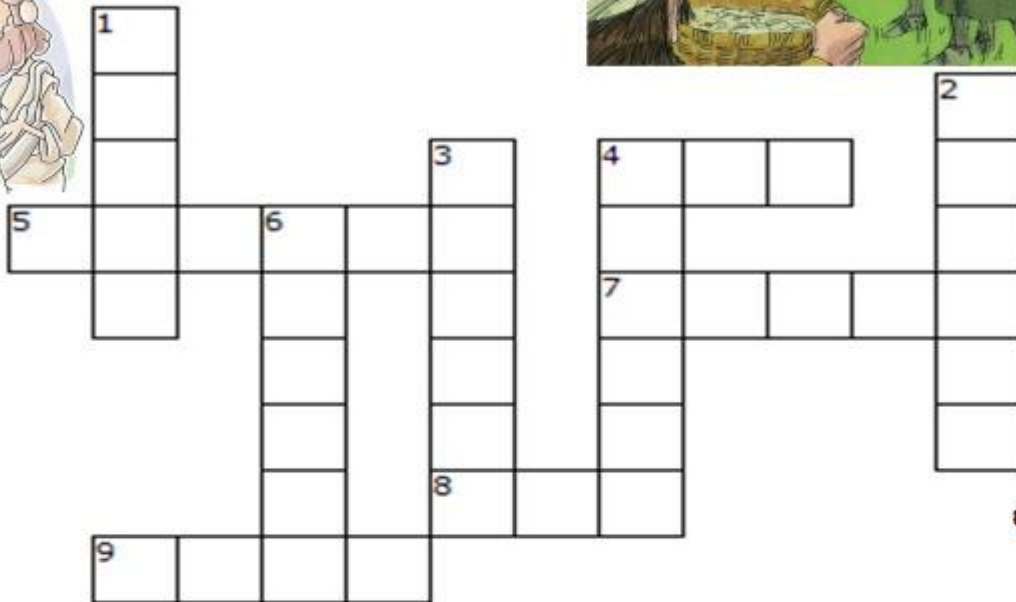


"ASK JESUS TO STOP MULTIPLYING BREAD AND FISHES...
IT'S THE PLATES WHAT WE NEED NOW."

Jesus Feeds the 5,000

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."
John 6:12

Based on John 6:1-15



ACROSS

4. A male child
5. One more than eleven; two and ten; twice six; a dozen.
7. Opposite of large
8. To take food into the body through the mouth
9. A cold-blooded animal with fins and gills that lives in water.

DOWN

1. A large number of persons gathered together
2. The number equal to 6 plus 6
3. Human beings—as a group
4. A container made of woven materials such as straw or twigs
6. Bread baked in one long piece (plural)

BASKET	CROWD	SMALL
	EAT	PEOPLE
BOY	TWELVE	TWELVE
	LOAVES	FISH



Today is World Day
for Grandparents and the Elderly

Tell your
grandparents or
someone special
that you love
them!





Time to Think!

August.....A Time to Harvest

Time and seasons come and go, so far 2024 seems to have moved very quickly, it's hard to believe, this week we begin the month of August. Traditionally August is associated with harvest and thanksgiving. The ancient Celtic festival of Lúnasa was a celebration for all that had been gathered. People were grateful, to their creator God, who had provided enough sustenance for them to face the more vulnerable months of the year with confidence. I pray as this harvest season begins, for a prolonged period of fine weather.

Imagine that you had to employ a gardener. You ask around among your friends and neighbours, and eventually you hear of two gardeners who are available. From people who have employed them, you are able to draw up the following profiles of the two. The first gardener plants a variety of vegetables and flowers. Periodically he comes along and inspects them. Whenever he sees a plant or a flower that is not doing well, he pulls it up and throws it on the compost heap or into the bin. He has planted plenty of seeds and plants, so this practice does not greatly affect the yield or the appearance of the garden. Small, stunted and yellow cabbage plants, wallflowers that slugs have had a feed on, frost-bitten blossoms, all of these go out. There are a lot of advantages in this approach. The appearance of the garden is always pretty and healthy. And diseased plants do not get a chance to infect other plants. The second gardener also plants a variety of vegetables and flowers and periodically inspects them. But his approach is different. He is on the lookout for plants that are not doing well to see what he can do to make them healthier. If a cabbage is looking yellow, he gives it more feed. If a flower is attacked by slugs, he puts down extra slug-killer. If some of the blossoms are frost-bitten, he puts a glass cloche over them to protect them and give them a chance to recover. He hates to see any plant or flower dying. His gardens are not as pretty as those looked after by the first gardener, as some of the plants are clearly ailing.

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

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

Saint Paul, once acknowledged, "When I am weak then



I am strong". As we give thanks for the gift of harvest, let us be fuelled with a spirit of gratitude. May this new month of August be a blessed one for us all. Be mindful that each one of us produces rich fruits, often because of patience, endurance, resilience and courage. May we celebrate that the rich diversity, that is the garden of life, there is room for everyone, as the melody sings... All God's creatures have a place in the choir.

Perhaps this harvest time is an opportunity for us all, to acknowledge the fruits that we all have in the depth of our being. Fruits that take a lot of time to grow and mature into the beautiful personality and unique qualities that are particular to all our stories. The gift of Grandparents who embody the story of every harvest. Parents who respond so generously to the needs of their children. Parenting I'm sure in many ways could be likened to tending the needs of the vineyard, it is constant, demanding, most challenging and in many ways totally dependent on the unconditional generosity and reservoir of love, that provides for the needs of family life. I am often truly inspired by the time and indeed sacrifices that so many wonderful parents, so often make for their children, to allow them to grow and realise the best possible harvest for their family. No fruit or talent can realise its potential without effort and work. May the Lord bless all our lives with health of body and peace of mind.

The following prayer to St. Francis of Assisi is most appropriate for this time.

For a Harvest shared by all

St Francis of Assisi, your whole life sang in harmony with God, nature and others. With you, we praise God for Brother Sun, full of beauty and splendour, warming the earth, summoning shoots from darkness into daylight. We praise God for Sister Water, so useful and humble, precious and pure, greening arid ground, growing life in desert places. Pray for us Francis, that, like you, we may care for all that exists, until Brother Sun and Sister Water produce a harvest shared by all, in love and solidarity, justice and peace. Amen.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 32,700 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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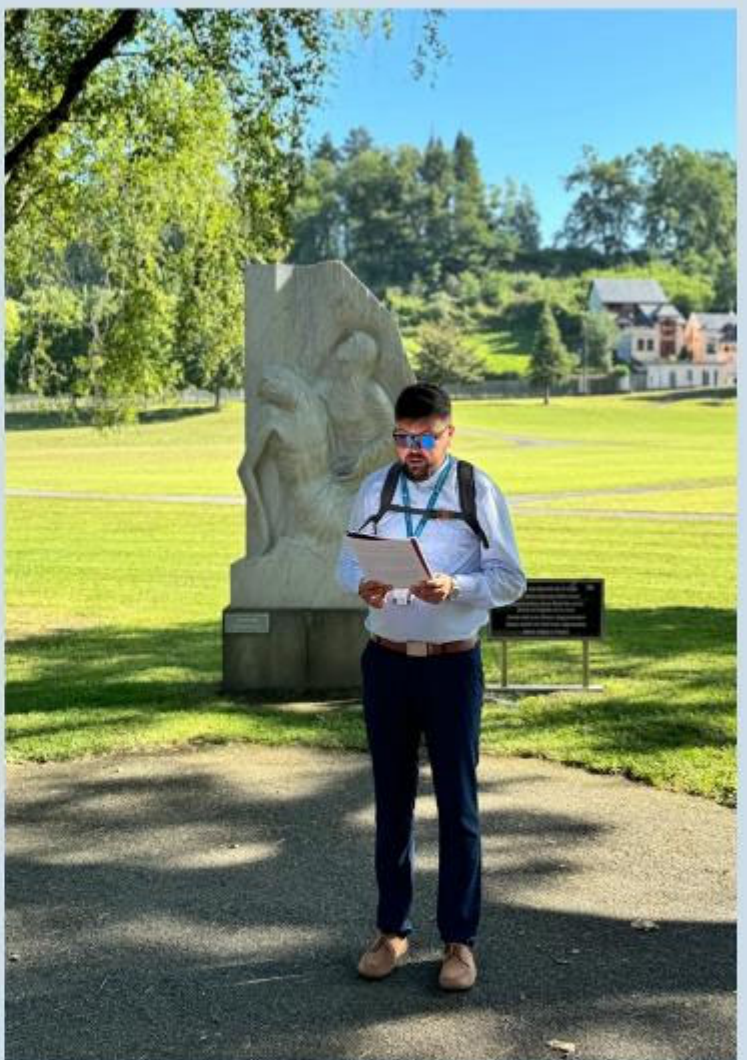
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Portlaoise with Stradbally
Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024





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



Esther (Babs) Whelan
Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise



Sr. Mary O'Grady
Presentation Sisters
Thurles and Portlaoise



Mary (Kitty) O'Halloran
née Fingleton
Naas / Ratheniska



Kathleen Downey
née Beere
Monasterevin / Clonkeen



Anne Clooney
Lower Boley, Abbeyleix

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**In Loving Memory of
TOMMY SKELLY**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

2nd Birthday away from home; 30th July 2024



*We cannot have the old days back
when we were altogether,
But silent tears and loving
thoughts will be with us forever.*

*Missed, loved and remembered
always by your loving wife
Laura and family.*

Rest in Peace Tommy

**In Loving Memory of
JOSIE GATH**

Late of Elmlawn, Portlaoise.
14th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this **Saturday 27th July at 6.30pm.**

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

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

Rest in Peace Josie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
DONAL BREEN**

8 Oaklawn, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 29th July 2024



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, on Saturday 27th July at
6.30pm.

Donal's family would like to thank all
those who sent Mass and sympathy
cards and offered condolences in
person and online. We greatly
appreciated your support at such a
difficult time.

Sincere thanks to Fr. Ciprian who celebrated the
Requiem Mass and to Fr. Simon who visited Donal
regularly on his Communion rounds. Thank you to
Sarah Troy for the beautiful music which enriched the
ceremony and to all who helped in any way.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone
individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an
expression of our deepest gratitude and sincere
appreciation.

Donal is lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his
loving wife, family and friends.

Rest in Peace Donal

**In Loving Memory of
AGNES LAWLESS**

29 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

26th Anniversary occurs 28th July 2024



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

**Always remembered and
never forgotten by Mick xxx**

May Agnes Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JOHN DELANEY
ROBERT DELANEY
KATHLEEN DELANEY
Green View, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.



John's 69th Anniversary, Robert's 32nd Anniversary
& Kathleen's 24th Anniversary occur at this time.

John's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this Sunday 28th July at 12:30pm.

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

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

Also remembering John Bosco at this time,
recently deceased.

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

A Dear Husband who passed away

DANNY O' LOUGHLIN

152 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 2nd August 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, Friday 2nd August, 10am.

Silent thoughts, a secret tear,
A constant wish that you were here,
No need for words except to say,
We love and miss you everyday.

*Always loved and never forgotten by your loving
wife Margaret x*

Dad; Just a prayer from the family who loved you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.

Granddad; Of all the special gifts in life, however
great or small, to have you as our granddad was the
greatest gift of all.

*Sadly missed by your loving sons, daughters,
sons-in-law, daughters-in-law,
grandchildren, extended family and many friends x*

Rest in Peace Danny

In Loving Memory of
DEAN BERGIN

14 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 1st August 2024



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

*To a Son, Brother, Uncle
A heart of gold stopped beating, two shining
eyes at rest, God broke our hearts to prove
to us, He only takes the best.*

*To some you are forgotten, to others just part of the past,
But to us who loved and lost you,
The memory will always last.*

*Loved and sadly missed by your Mother Mossie, sisters
Martina, Lisa and Sandra, nieces, nephews and friends.*

Also remembering your father Ray at this time xxxxxxxxx

Rest in Peace Son

In Loving Memory of
KEVIN FRANCIS MURPHY

Late of Beladd, Portlaoise.

Died 23rd July. 21st Anniversary occurs at this time.



*Time unfolds another year,
Memories keep you very near,
No need for words except to say,
You're loved and missed
each passing day.*

Sadly missed by your loving wife
Mary, daughters Sinead & Niamh,
sons Cathal and Tadhg,
son-in-law James, daughters-in law
Clare & Susan, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

May Kevin Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MARY NEVIN

Formerly of Mountain View Square, Portlaoise.
14th Anniversary occurs 31st July 2024



Mass will be offered for Mary in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
Wednesday 31st July at 10am.

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

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

Always love you, Never forget you.

Rest in Peace Mommy

Birthday Remembrance
OLIVER BARTLEY

91 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise
10th Birthday away from home
(86th Birthday - 27th July)



*Thinking of you on your Birthday
It's especially difficult today not to
have you here,*

*To celebrate the times we've
shared, over another joyful year.
I wish I had just one more chance
to see your happy smile, to laugh
and celebrate with you,
Just for a little while.*

*I'll hold onto you forever deep within my heart,
And though you are not here with me,
Know that we'll never part.*

*This day was always special, so I just want to say,
That I'm thinking of you with love, on this,
your Birthday.*

*Sadly missed, loved and forever remembered by
his daughter Monalisa, son-in-law Donal,
grandsons Darryl and Stefan, sons John, Oliver,
Shay & Darren, daughters-in-law, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and the Bartley family.*

May Oliver Rest in Peace



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In Loving Memory of
BRIGID LEWIS *née Whelan*

"Inch" Stradbally, formerly 3 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 28th July 2024.



*Time unfolds another year,
Memories keep you very near,
No need for words except to say,
You are loved and missed each
passing day.*

*Loved and missed by all her loving
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Brigid

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Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

In Loving Memory of
KEITH McEVOY

80 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurred 22nd July 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Saturday 27th July at 6.30pm.
*In God's care you rest above,
In our hearts you rest in love,
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered everyday.*

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Keith

HENRY RANKIN

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087-2562137



Portlaoise Parish



Results for
25th July 2024



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

John Conran
Helen Dunne
Sile McEvoy
Peter Ryan
Brunos Gang
Mark and Robert Sythes
Brunos Gang
Morrin Family

MATCH 3s €1,000



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Theresa Morrin

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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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 Kings 4:42-44 | Psalm 144:10-11, 15-18
Ephesians 4:1-6 | Mark 6:1-15

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

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Please choose a way to make your contribution

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- * 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

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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 Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Lana Lebedieva

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



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space

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