

Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Lovely Things

by H. M. Sarson

Bread is a lovely thing to eat -God bless the barley and the wheat!

A lovely thing to breathe is air -God bless the sunshine everywhere!

The earth's a lovely place to know - God bless the folks that come and go!

Alive's a lovely thing to be -Giver of life - we say - bless Thee!



The Parish Centre 057 8621142 E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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



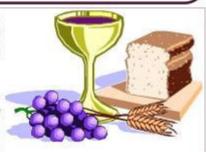


HEATH CEMETERY MASS Thursday, 15th August

Feast of the Assumption Procession, Rosary at 7pm Mass at 7.30pm

Saint Augustine prays, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

Today's Gospel is a continuation of the feeding of the five thousand. Impressed by Jesus' ability to



miraculously feed them, the crowds chase after him eager for more of the same. Jesus however knows that for his new found fans, witnessing a miracle doesn't automatically lead to faith. Jesus knows that they have shared the meal, shared the miracle, but missed the message. "Very truly" he tells them, "you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." Jesus gives the crowd one single piece of life changing advice. "Do not work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life."

It's a life changing piece of advice but hugely difficult for us to follow. It is difficult for us to believe that more money and a better lifestyle won't make us happy. It is hard for us to believe that writing a best selling book, winning X Factor, climbing a mountain or winning a medal won't bring ultimate fulfilment. We look at people who are seemingly happy with not very much and imagine that they are easily satisfied because they aren't very bright or perhaps they are just a bit lacking in ambition. The key to true fulfilment is in Jesus' example. Jesus didn't try to amass possessions, nor did he try to 'be something'. Jesus simply poured out his life for others. It is when we pour ourselves out for others that we are closest to being fulfilled and at peace. It is when our lives are more about our love for others than our own selfish pursuits that life's hunger is satisfied.

Jesus is the bread of life not for what he puts into our stomachs but in how he teaches us to live. In Communion, Jesus shapes us to give, in the same way as he gives himself. "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven.' Mass times for the coming week (Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday (Bank Holiday): 10am Tuesday - Friday: 7.30am & 10am

> 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.



Today (Sunday 4th August) is the Eleventh Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Denis Nulty. Bishop Denis celebrates the 11th anniversary of his

ordination as Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

Feast of the Transfiguration Tuesday 6th August

The first and single most important factor in staying motivated is to have a vision. Having a vision gives us a reason to act.



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

Visit our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie



We welcome into our Parish Community

Robyn Rae Daly, Summerhill Lane Grace Catherine O'Connor, Aghnaharna Dr. Mathew Albin Ard Brannagh Mia Maire Croke, Sation Grove, Portarlington.

Who were baptised last weekend.

MULHALL MEATS

Est. 1931

Now 25% off



Mulhall's Fresh Irish Sirloin Steak

Offer Available Tues 6th Aug - Sunday 18th Aug



Full Range Of Fresh \Longrightarrow FISH \Longrightarrow Available 7 Days A Week!

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

AUDIOLOGIST HEARING AID

consultant

Patricia Kilmartin B.A.A.T., M.I.S.H.A.A. (28+ years experience with Private & Public Sector)



- Comprehensive Hearing Assessment
- Full range of Digital Hearing Alds available incl. FREE PRSI HEARING AIDS TO VALUE OF €1000 TO ELIGIBLE CLIENTS
- Pre-employment tests/Occupational Screening Tests
- Ear moulds, Custom made Swim Plugs, Musicians Moulds, etc.
- · Hearing Aid Batteries, Minor Repairs, etc. (incl. postal service)
- Ear Wax Removal Service

In Attendance

10 Lismard Court, Portlaoise Co. Laois.

(Entrance beside Macra Na Feirme Hall on Timahoe Road)

By Appointment Only

Tel: 057 8692289 Mobile: 085 8568808

E-mail: pkaudiology@gmail.com

Website: www.kilmartinaudiology.ie

""STRICT SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE, IN LINE WITH ADVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT & HSE GUIDELINES"



The Coach House, 4 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.

JOHN SUGRUE BS-MS-MISCP NICOLA CALDBECK BS-MISCP MMCP
CONOR BOLTON BS-MS-MISCP

Online booking: www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie
To book by phone: 087 666 4808

Services include

- Manual Therapy
- · Exercise Prescription
- · Post-Operative Care Programmes
- Taping
- Home Visits
- Dry Needling
- Exercises Classes
- Ergonomic Assessment & Presentation

Now offering Parkinsons specific Physio

Opening Hours:

Mon: 9:30am-5:40pm Thurs: 9:00am-6:30pm Tues: 9:00am-6:50pm Fri: 8:50am-5:20pm

Wed: 9:00am -5.30pm

Thanks as always for your support

Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

ABBEYLEIX PARISH FETEG

62nd Rectory Garden Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 5th August, 2pm In the Abbeyleix Rectory walled garden - R32 C6N1

You can buy home made cakes, jams and country produce, eat a hot dog, have a go on the bottle stall and wheel of fortune, browse the book and white elephant stalls and play games (including duck racing and the many in Kids' Korner) and much more, and then have tea!

Thanks to all those far and near who support the Fete every year. It is very much appreciated.



♠ A DAY OUT FOR THE FAMILY ♠



St. Mary's Hall, Dublin Road, Portlaoise

Every Monday, 7.30-8.30pm Every Wednesday 7pm-8pm



For more details contact;

Susanne 087-1448052

Please note; No Zumba this Bank Holiday Monday

a simple solution to world hunger



The annual Step by Step to Feed the Next Child - Mary's Meals walk from Kilkenny to Knock will start at the Church of St. John the Evangelist Kilkenny on Wednesday 7th August and continue with a planned overnight in Portlaoise, 8th August leaving the next day on the 9th and onwards through Mountmellick to overnight in Killeigh.

Mary's Meals is a simple solution to world hunger, feeding hungry children in their place of education in 17 of the world's poorest countries.

€22 will feed a child for an entire school year.

Please go to www.marysmeals.ie to learn more and support this amazing charity.

Please contact Josephine Donaghey, Route Co-Ordinator on 087-2037173, if you would like to get involved.

FÁTIMA





FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

Led by Spiritual Director and Fr Pat Hennessy Group Organiser: Maura O'Brien

12TH JUNE 2025

7 nights

€899 per person sharing

(€70 off per person if paid in full by 18th October 2024)

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lisbon
- 20kg bags included
- » Return airport transfers in Fatima
- » 7 nights Hotel Avenida
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- Full religious programme
- » Guided tour of Sanctuary & Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary
- Visits to Aljustrel & Valinhos
- » Optional: travel insurance & single supplement

For information and bookings, please contact:

Maura O'Brien 087 1210263

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88 www.joewalshtours.ie | info@joewalshtours.ie | Reservations; 01-2410800 PetrivaUd T/A. to Wilsh Toursishanded and licensed by the Commission for Adation Regulation in Indend - T0273 and T49934 - In compliance with the Radage Travel and Linked Travel Americans the Sedage Regulation



BREEN STEEL SHEDS

STEEL SHEDS

CATTLE CRUSHES

ALL WEATHER CLOTHESLINES







- Various sizes of Cattle Crushes and all weather Clotheslines available to order.
- Maintenance free Steel Mobile Garden Sheds in a choice of colours.
- PVC coated with non drip sheeting to avoid condensation.
- Timber or Concrete floors fitted.
- Delivered and erected on site, can be transported in sections or fully assembled.
- All sizes manufactured; 7x5, 8x14, 10x8, 10x17, 10x20, 20x24
- Our range of Steel Sheds include two variations of buildings with many uses; garages for vehicle storage in residential areas, small workshops, office accommodation, store rooms, games rooms.
- Manufacturing Security Steel Frames for Windows and Doors.

Drim, Mountrath, Co. Laois | Tel; 087-9444098 / 086-1732542 | E-mail; info@breensteelsheds.ie



Business

Irish Enterprise Awards 2022

BEST PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN AGENCY - MIDLANDS 2022

* ECO-CONSCIOUS EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022

THE PRINTER YOU NEED TO KNOW



GRAPHIC



MERCHANDISE & PROMOTIONAL













Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EH11

057 8634050

Henry Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 TF83

433569























 NEED TRACTOR DIESEL? Call Sean Smyth 086-3561669



PROFESSIONAL PIANIST

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES BASED IN ABBEYLEIX, LAOIS

- ANY LEVEL

- RIAM EXAMS

- ANY GENRE

- LEARN FOR FUN

TOM CONROY

Resident Pianist in Ballyfin Hotel for 10 years

087 205 4720

www.pianomantom.com

LAOIS JET WASH SERVICES LTD



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



NOW ENROLLING FOR SEPTEMBER

SCHOOL COLLECTION AVAILABLE

BREAKFAST CLUB 7 AM - 8: 30 AM

AFTERNOON I PM - 6 PM

OPEN FULL DAYS DURING MIDTERMS, EASTER AND SUMMER HOLIDAYS

FOR CHILDREN FROM JUNIOR INFANTS - 6TH CLASS

HOMEWORK SUPERVISION

REGULAR TRIPS TO THE LIBRARY, LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

HOT SNACKS PROVIDED

COMPETITIVE RATES & NCS DISCOUNT AVAILABLE



RAILWAY STREET . PORTLAOISE . REZTWIC

CHECK US OUT ON

FACEBOOK (INSTAGRAM

INFORMATION ENTRY TALK







with Dr. SAMANTHA CUSHEN, PhD, UCC

• BEYOND TREATMENT

NUTRITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR MENOPAUSAL

FEMALE CANCER SURVIVORS

Wednesday, 7th August, 2024

11.00am
Places are limited

FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING:
Cuisle Cancer Support Centre,
Block Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8681492

NEW YEAR - FRESH START TIME TO DECLUTTER?

All Scrap Metal collected free; washing machines, cookers, lawnmowers etc. Garden sheds cleaned out, fences or sewer problems solved, mini-digger and small tipping trailer for hire. Richard 085-2529893



24/7 Emergency Service. Auto - Home - Commercial 086-2624270 085-2833064

Shop: 05786-20135

www.jacknolan.ie

ACTIVE BUILDING SERVICES

Domestic Plumbing. Oil Fired Central Heating. Plumber on call, Portlaoise and surrounding areas. Tel.;

Fergus 089-4541868

TV SERVICES

Repairs to TV and home entertainment equipment. Also we supply and fit and repair Saorview, Aerial and Satellite systems. Contact: 057-8732998

087-3636497 / 083-3742600

PLUMBER AVAILABLE

All domestic, solid fuel and oil servicing.

Water softener installation. Full Bathroom Renovations.

> Contact Alan; 085-1141395

WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIRS

- Hinges/Handles
- Letterboxes
- Slide Patio Door Rollers
- Window and Door draught proofing
- Fully Insured

083-3153211

www.kukic-hms.ie

PAINTING & DECORATING

- Interior & Exterior
- Spray Painting
- Powerwashing
- 15 years experience
- Fully Insured

089-4459958

www.kukic-hms.ie

PAT LALOR TARMACADAM Church Avenue, Stradbally

- Tarmacadam
- Kerbing
- Drainage Free Quotations VAT Registered

Tel. 083-0211577 E-mail; patlalor37@gmail.com

Mountain View Eco Wood FIREWOOD SALES

- Net bag softwood logs €5
- Net bag hardwood logs €7
- Net bag kindle wood €3
- Trailer load logs (hardwood/softwood)
- Trailer load Turf
- 20kg bags Coal now €17
- Free delivery Fuel Vouchers Available
- Phone card or cash payments accepted

Contact Fintan 087-7645855

CARPENTRY SERVICES

All Carpentry work carried out Supply and fit New front Composite Doors Design your own door at home Call Dave for more info.

086-8209640

CLARE'S DOG SERVICE

Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise

Quality Service Dogs required for Student grooming. Discounts apply.Tel.

089-4890869

www.claresdoggroomingschool.ie

FRENCH GRINDS AVAILABLE

Portlaoise-based. €40 per hour €50 long lesson Contact Dermot; 087-9652471

GARDENING &

POWERWASHING

Lawns, Hedges, Tree Pruning Powerwashing Driveways etc. All small jobs.

Ex. Phoenix Park O.P.W. Tel.

Terry 087-3233336

MEDJUGORJE

Special Offer!

Medjugorje Trip 7th-14th October

For more details contact;

George 087-6402614

S&R SERVICES

Painting/Decorating Kitchen Fitting Furniture Assembly Flooring, Carpentry Tiling, Bathrooms General Maintenance

087-4896429

FRENCH & GERMAN

GRINDS

Leaving and Junior Cert. levels Experienced teacher and state examiner. Please contact:

087-2982913





Ray 085-2055198

RAMPS & RAILS

FOR THE HOME

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



Contact David;

087-2675106

FOR SALE

Scoil Chríost Rí Jacket, size L, as new. Also Two High Counter Chairs, perfect condition. Contact;

087-0527489

FOR SALE



Trailer loads of Hardwood and Softwood Logs Delivered

Contact;

085-2437088

WEEKEND CARER REQUIRED

for elderly person, required for 1 or 2 days (either Saturday/Sunday or both). Abbeyleix area. Please call Anna on

085-7209220

PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

1st-5th September 2024 Two Tickets available at short notice. For info. tel. John 087-1254841 Mary 086-3653168



Quick, Cost Effective Appliance Repairs Portlaoise

087-9080211



Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe

will host their Annual Tractor, Truck and Vintage Run Fundraiser



Sunday, 29th September 2024 Registration 1.30 pm in Shanahoe National School €20 fee

Monies raised will help support the school.

Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla; 087-2068972 | 🚱 seandoylelightengineering

Clothes line poles, Rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle stands.

Results of Whist Drive held in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 30th July;

Top Score: Margaret Flanagan | 1st Lady: Paddy Purcell | 2nd Lady: Betty Murphy

1st Gent: Theresa Mulhare | 2nd Gent: Ann O' Dowd | 1st Half: Paddy Murphy | 2nd Half: Paula McEvoy

Best of 3: Kit Farrell & Tom Kearns | Least of 3: Tom Jacob | Raffle: 1st Margaret Flanagan, 2nd Mary Dunne,

3rd Mary Lillis, 4th Paddy Murphy, 5th Billy O Keeffe, 6th Sadie Chester, 7th Ann O' Dowd.

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.

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 with Relics of St. Philomena available, led by Eddie Stones and Team, Wednesday 6th August at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Sunday 18th August

Bus leaving Lyster Square Carpark, Portlaoise at 9am.

For more information contact

Maura O'Brien 087-1210263 Helena Corbett 087-9611331 LAOIS VINTAGE 27th Annual Vintage Run In aid of Laois Hospice Saturday 17th August 9.30am At Treacy's Bar & Restaurant



ROSARY AT THE SHRINE, MARKET SQ. PORTLAOISE

This Sunday and the First Sunday of every month Time: 2:30pm. All are welcome.





LOOKING FOR A SIGN

We see signs all around us every day. As we walk down the halls at school we may see signs that identify the different rooms in the school such as the staff room, office, library, computer lab, or music room. Each classroom probably has a sign by the door with the teacher's name on it so that the students will be able to find their classroom.

When we travel around our town we see signs that tell us what we should or should not do. We see signs for a school zone ahead and we should drive slowly and watch for children. Or on the main roads we could see a sign to tells us to stop. We should be watching for the stop sign and be prepared to stop.

Or we could see a sign in a public building that has an X with a cigarette – That is a sign that we should all obey. NO SMOKING!

The Gospel today is about signs of a different kind. It is a story about some people who were looking for a sign that would prove to them that Jesus had been sent from God. Do you remember the story about Jesus feeding five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two fish? As you might imagine, that made Jesus very popular with the people, so when the crowd realised that Jesus and his disciples had left, they went looking for him. They found him way over on the other side of the lake. When they found him, they asked him, "Teacher, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them, "You came looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you. You shouldn't be so concerned about things like food. Instead, you should be seeking the eternal life that I can give you."

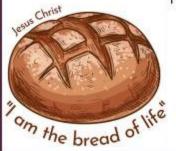
The people wanted proof. "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? After all, Moses gave our ancestors bread from heaven to eat when they were in the wilderness. Can you do that?"

Jesus answered them, "The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Give us that bread! Give it to us every day," the people said.

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Some people today are still asking for some special sign that will prove that Jesus was sent from God. God has given us all the signs we need right here in the Gospel. All God wants is for us to believe in the One He sent.



My Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Son,
the Bread of Life.

We don't need a sign, we believe in your Holy Word.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



I am The Bread of Life John 6:35

LOOKING FOR A SIGN

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

| 1. | To accept someth A. think | ing as being true B. hope | C. believe | D. wish |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2. | To have desire for A. hungry | water B. thirsty | C. tired | D. weary |
| 3. | To last forever; to A. eternal | be without end B. short | C. long | D. brief |
| 4. | The period between A. youth | en birth and death B. life | C. childhood | D. adult |
| 5. | A signal that some | ething exists or mi | ght happen in the f | future D. believe |
| 6. | The place where (| God and the angels B. Jerusalem | live C. earth | D. eterna |
| 7. | A food made from A. manna | flour and water, n | nixed together and C. corn | baked D. candy |
| 8. | The earth with its A. heaven | inhabitants B. desert | C. bread | D. world |
| 9. | To put food into your mouth, chew it and swallow it. A. drink B. eat C. sleep D. thirsty | | | |
| 10. | To have a desire f | for food B. eat | C. hungry | D. tired |



5 Loaves and 2 Fish
There is never enough
Until you start
giving it away

Love is like



"I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you bread from heaven."

> Taken from today's Gospel



Time to Think! Laughter is good for the Soul....

Earlier this summer, Pope Francis, hosted more than a hundred comedians from around the world at the Vatican. The entourage of comedians included some famous names, such as Whoopi Goldberg, Stephen Colbert and Conan O'Brien, famed television comedic personalities in the States. Our own Tommy Tiernan and Ardal O'Hanlon were also present. The gathering was organised by the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education. Pope Francis told the comics that they have the ability to unite people because laughter is contagious; it is easier to laugh together than alone. Laughter breaks down social barriers and creates connections among people. Humour, the pontiff suggested, "helps to spread peace and overcome difficulties and daily stress, while helping people to endure problems both big and small." He added that they make God smile when they manage to draw knowing smiles from the lips of even one spectator. (He was quoting a passage from the Book of Proverbs here).

I must say I was intrigued by that gathering of comedians. As I reflected on it, it helped me to appreciate the importance of laughter and comedy in our lives. Freedom and creativity are great gifts of leadership that Pope Francis exemplifies. St. Paul in his epistles encourages us to speak with grace seasoned with wit. St. Augustine, in his famous work, The City of God, assures us that comic spirit must reside in that City. There are medieval collections of holy jokes, jests and stories used by saints to show themselves to be cheerful. A medieval monk named Odo who lived in the famous monastery of Cluny was said to have made his companions laugh until they cried or were unable to speak to one another.

Dante in his famous poem, The Divine Comedy, sticks the melancholy in hell because they had remained "so stubbornly sullen in the sweet air of God's sun". As he left the realms of purgatory and followed Beatrice into paradise Dante heard a sound he never heard before, celestial laughter, the laughter of the Heavens. Some of the great Christian philosophers, such as Soren Kierkegaard, have written extensively on the comic dimension of Christian faith. Kierkegaard claimed that "Comedy is an escape from despair, a narrow escape into faith." So what is the connection between comedy and faith?

Ministry to the elderly is one of the great privileges in our work, visits to the housebound and celebrating Mass in nursing homes on a regular basis. The ability of the elderly to laugh, their appreciation of the comic dimension is such a tonic. I think of the hope and faith of a blind widower, who, perceiving unhappiness in another of his frail elderly companions at a daycare centre, reaches back in memory to tell silly jokes, which brings a smile back to the face of the man sitting in the next chair. I remember a widow, who, having just had her cancerous colon removed, refuses to yield to the



absolutes of the diagnosis and had all her doctors and nurses laughing with her over their own reports. Laughter was a reaction to the immediate incongruities in the lives of these elderly people. Humour expressed a certain heroic defiance in the face of life's most crushing defeats, approaching death and a cancer diagnosis. In both instances, they demonstrate an unquenchable nobility of spirit that refuses to permit a given fate to define them.

The Christian would sense in the humorous exchanges of these patients an intuition, a signal of true redemption, that is of a world made whole and in which the miseries of the human condition have been abolished. We would experience faith as the only possible response to the ultimate incongruities of existence, which threaten the very meaning of our lives. The comic vision then is one of the byproducts of faith that can accept even life's incongruities, the comic vision fulfilled in what Dante called The Divine Comedy. This implies that the Christian relies on faith in the God whose greatest stunt of all was the resurrection where life won over death, possibility over tragic necessity... Which gives us the freedom not to take anything human ultimately seriously. Comedian Woody Allen is good at expressing fear around this whole question of life and death. He said he doesn't mind dying, he just does not want to be around when it happens! He also said he does not believe in an afterlife, although he is bringing a change of underwear. The comic vision of the Christian convinces that death does not have the last laugh.

"The human heart desires joy. We all desire joy, every family, every people aspire to happiness. But what is the joy that the Christian is called to live out and bear witness to? It is the joy that comes from the closeness of God, from his presence in our lives. From the moment Jesus entered history, with his birth in Bethlehem, humanity received the seed of the Kingdom of God, like the soil receives the seed, the promise of a future harvest. There is no need to look further! Jesus has come to bring joy to all people for all time. It is not just a hopeful joy, or a joy postponed until paradise: as if here on earth we are sad but in paradise we will be filled with joy. No! It is not that, but a joy already real and tangible now, because Jesus himself is our joy ..."

Pope Francis



St Vincent de Paul Committee are organising a day trip to Rathwood Garden Centre Tullow on Tuesday 13th August.

Bus departing from Sts. Peter & Paul's Church (Stradbally Road side) at 11am. Lunch and train ride in Rathwood, cost €10.

For further information please phone 085-8819765 | 086-3431952

WELCOME



Another member of our 'virtual' congregation visiting us from Montreal, Canada, Silvia Adane.

During the Covid pandemic Silvia found us via Shalom World and continues to join us weekdays. She feels so close to our congregation that she decided to take her vacation this year in Portlaoise and will be here until mid August. She is very welcome as she joins us each day for Mass.

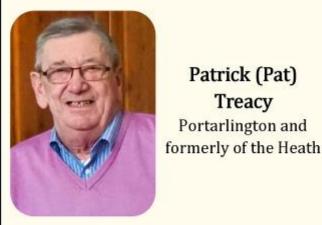
Congratulations to two lovely couples recently married in Abbeyleix Parish





Every good wish and blessing for a happy future together.

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY;



Patrick (Pat) Treacy Portarlington and



Phil Coughlan née Dundon Mountrath Road, Portlaoise

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 EUGENE O' CONNOR



St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. 13th Anniversary occurs 4th August 2024.



Thinking of you today, on your anniversary, as we do everyday,

Never Forgotten Loved and missed by your loving family and friends, children and grandchildren.

Rest in Reace Sugene

In Loving Memory of EUGENE O' CONNOR



St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise. 13th Anniversary occurs 4th August 2024.



Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part, God has you in His keeping, We have you in our hearts.

Always loved and remembered by James, Zoe, Odin, Zane and Ange xxxxx

Rest in Reace Eugene

In Loving Memory of KIERAN DELANEY



A Dear Son, Uncle, Brother and Daddy Late of Green Mill Lane & St. Brigids Place, Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary occurs 2nd August 2024



When I come to the end of my journey and I travel my last weary mile, Just forget, if you can, that I ever frowned and remember only my smile. Forget unkind words I have spoken, Remember some good I have done, Forget that I ever had a heartache, And remember I've had loads of fun. Forget that I've stumbled and blundered and sometimes fell by the way,

Remember I have fought some hard battles and won, ere the close of the day.

Then forget to grieve for my going; I would not have you sad for a day, but in summer just gather some flowers and remember the place where I lay. And come in the evening when the sun paints the sky in the west, stand for a few moments beside me and remember only my best.

Always in our thoughts Kie; Mam, Angie, Kelley, Tracy, Brendan, Sean, Laura and his son Adam, nieces, nephews, great-nephew and all his loving family.

May Kieran Rest in Reace



In Loving Memory of

Bridie Keenan

80 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise Died 5th August 2023

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Ss. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on Sunday, 4th August at 11.15am.

May She Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of FINTAN KEEGAN

2 Green Road, Portlaoise. 2nd Anniversary occurred 31st July 2024



A whisper on a July evening, You heard a gentle call, You took the hand of Jesus and gently left us all.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by Mary and family, Kay and family, nieces and nephews.

Rest in Reace Sintan



In Loving Memory of TOM PHELAN

Clonkeen, Portlaoise and formally Ballinakill. 2nd Anniversary occurred 31st July 2024.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 3rd August at 6.30pm.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush. Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there.
I did not die.

Loved and always remembered by Andrea, Ruairi, Ciara and Tomas and their mother Marie, daughter-in-law Carol, sons-in-law Brian and Paul and his adored grandchildren Alex, Emma, Oisín, Rebecca, Sarah, Tommy & Jim along with his extended family and many friends.

Rest in Reace Com



In Loving Memory of NOEL BRACKEN



Beladd, Portlaoise. 2nd Anniversary occurs 5th August 2024



You were always there when we needed you, No task too great or small, With a loving heart and willing hands, For us you did it all.

Loved and missed today and every day. From his wife Elsie, children Brendan, Fintan and Noelle, daughters-in-law

Janice and Jenny, son-in-law Mick, grandchildren and all your loving family and friends.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 4th August at 12.30pm.

Rest in Reace Noel



In Loving Memory Of JOHN DUFF



Died 13th August 1968 (56th Anniversary) And his Son PATRICK





Kyle, Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

Softly the leaves of memory fall, gently we gather and treasure them all, for the ones we loved so dearly.

John and Patrick's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sat. 10th August at 6.30pm.

Sadly missed and always remembered by all their loving family.

Rest in Reace John and Ratrick



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE In Loving Memory of ALICE NEVIN



Formerly Mountain View Square, Portlaoise. 6th Birthday away from us.



Birthday Remembrance Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on

Saturday 10th August at 10am.

No morning dawns, no night returns, but that we think of you. Those left behind are very good, but none replaces you,

Many a silent tear is shed, when we are all alone, The one we love so very much, the one we call our own.

Happy Birthday in Heaven

Sadly missed and always remembered, love from Paddy, Kathleen and family and grandchildren.

Rest in Reace Alice



In Loving Memory of *JOE CAMPBELL*

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. 23rd Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 4th August at 11:15am.

Our thoughts are ever with you though you have passed away, and those who have loved you dearly are thinking of you today.

Loved and remembered by all his loving family.

Rest in Reace Joe



In Loving Memory of PAULINE HOOBAN

16th Anniversary occurs 6th August 2024.



Because you were so special, No words could even say, How much we love and miss you, Today and everyday.

Loved and remembered always by your loving sister Mary and family.

Rest in Reace Rauline



In Loving Memory of PATRICK CONROY Jnr.

Ballymacken, Portlaoise. 41st Anniversary occurs 3rd August 2024.



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

> Remembered always by his loving family.

Rest in Reace Ratrick





BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Of our Father WILLIAM KERRY

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise.

25th Birthday away from home occurred 2nd August '24. Aged 90 yrs.

And our Mother ROSANNA KERRY

7th Birthday away from home occurs 9th August '24. Aged 83 yrs.



A picture of you I carry in my heart, I close my eyes to see it when the world gets dark.

A memory of you I carry in my soul, I wrap it close around me when the nights get cold.

If you ask how I am, I'd say just fine, But the truth is if you could read my mind, Not a day goes by that I don't think of you both.

Happy Birthday Mam and Dad, from your loving daughter Annemarie and granddaughters Katie, Rachael and Roisín xx

Rest in Reace Mam and Dad



Take time to think ...

it is the source of power.

Take time to play ...

it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read . . .

it is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray ...

it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved ...

it is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly . . .

it is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh . . .

it is the music of the soul.

Take time to give ...

it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work . . .

it is the price of success.

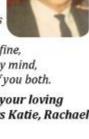
Take time to do charity ...





































ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

EILEEN LOUGHNANE née Murphy

Rathnamanagh, Portlaoise.



The Month's Mind Mass for Eileen will take place on Saturday, August 10th, at 6:30pm in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise.

We, the family of the late Eileen Loughnane, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who supported us following her unexpected passing.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the healthcare professionals for the excellent care provided to Eileen and our family during this difficult time.

A special thanks to Monsignor John Byrne and the Priests of the Parish, for the beautiful send-off, to Matthew Keegan, our funeral director, for guiding us through this challenging process, to Heather Fogarty for her heartfelt music and singing, and to Portlaoise An Garda Síochána for escorting the cortege. We also appreciate the sweet gesture from the management, teachers and students of Scoil Chríost Rí who formed a touching guard of honour.

We would like to thank our extended family, friends, neighbours, and work colleagues for their kindness in visiting the house, attending the wake, Requiem Mass, and burial. We are grateful for the Mass cards, letters, floral tributes, other expressions of sympathy, food, and all the ways you offered help. Your thoughtful prayers and unwavering support have provided us with immense comfort during this difficult time. We are also deeply touched by the heartwarming stories and cherished memories of Eileen that you have shared with us.

Thank you all for your compassion and for helping us remember and celebrate Eileen's life.

Rest in Reace Wileen





Five Generations in Stone Cutting

Established in 1991 by Terry Swayne manufacturing superior quality headstones.

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

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

Visit our Showroom

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

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

Tel: 057 8660258 Moblie: 087 2538930

www.portlaoisestone.ie

† KEEGAN'S **†** FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew **087-2549195**David **087-2369887**

HENRY RANKIN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise

087-2562137

The Parish Shop



For Your Special Day
Stocking a wide selection of Wedding Candles, Gifts and Cards



ALSO STOCKING

- * Large selection of Baptismal Candles, Cards and Gifts candles may be personalised
- * Essential Oils/Incense
- *Happy Days Soy Candles, made locally in Portlaoise
- *Inspirational Books and Gifts
- *Sacred Art items for your home
- *Bibles & Spiritual Books for adults and children







At The Parish Centre

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm 057 862 1142 www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Portlaoise Parish

Results for



1st August 2024









No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Chloe Groarke

Ellen Brennan

Chris Coss

Noreen Ryan

Imelda Furlong

Maura Hyland

Mary Dunne

Rita Fennell

Frank Cullen

Anna Mai Dowling

Mrs McQuillan

Joanne Boyce

Ann Conroy

Derek McGinn

Play PARISH



MATCH 3s €1,000

14 Match 3s Receive €72 each PROMOTER

Kathleen Brown

Tommy Brennan

Stefan Crabb

Parish Centre

Nancy Conroy

Maura Hyland

Mary Dunne

Mary Doran

Frank Cullen

Peter Ryan

Peter Ryan

etel Kyali

Peter Ryan

Paul Dooley

uui booicy

Derek McGinn

Follow Us

@PortlaoiseParis

& Like Us ()

portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15 | Psalm 77:3-74, 23-25, 54 Ephesians 4:17, 20-24| John 6:24-35

Supporting our Parish

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

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

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

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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





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

Parish Centre

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

MANAGER Declan Kelly

<u>Parish Secretaries</u> 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
E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP 057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Greenfeet Lawncare



Lawncare Treatment Specialists

086 770 5510

New Lawn ConstructionsSod/Seed options

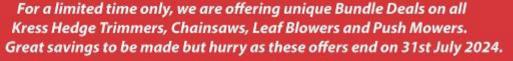
Robotic Mowing SolutionsSales/Installation/Service

Green Space Professionals and Sports Surfaces



DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL RANGE





Visit our online shop at www.greenfeetshop.com



www.greenfeet.ie