

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**
19th January 2025

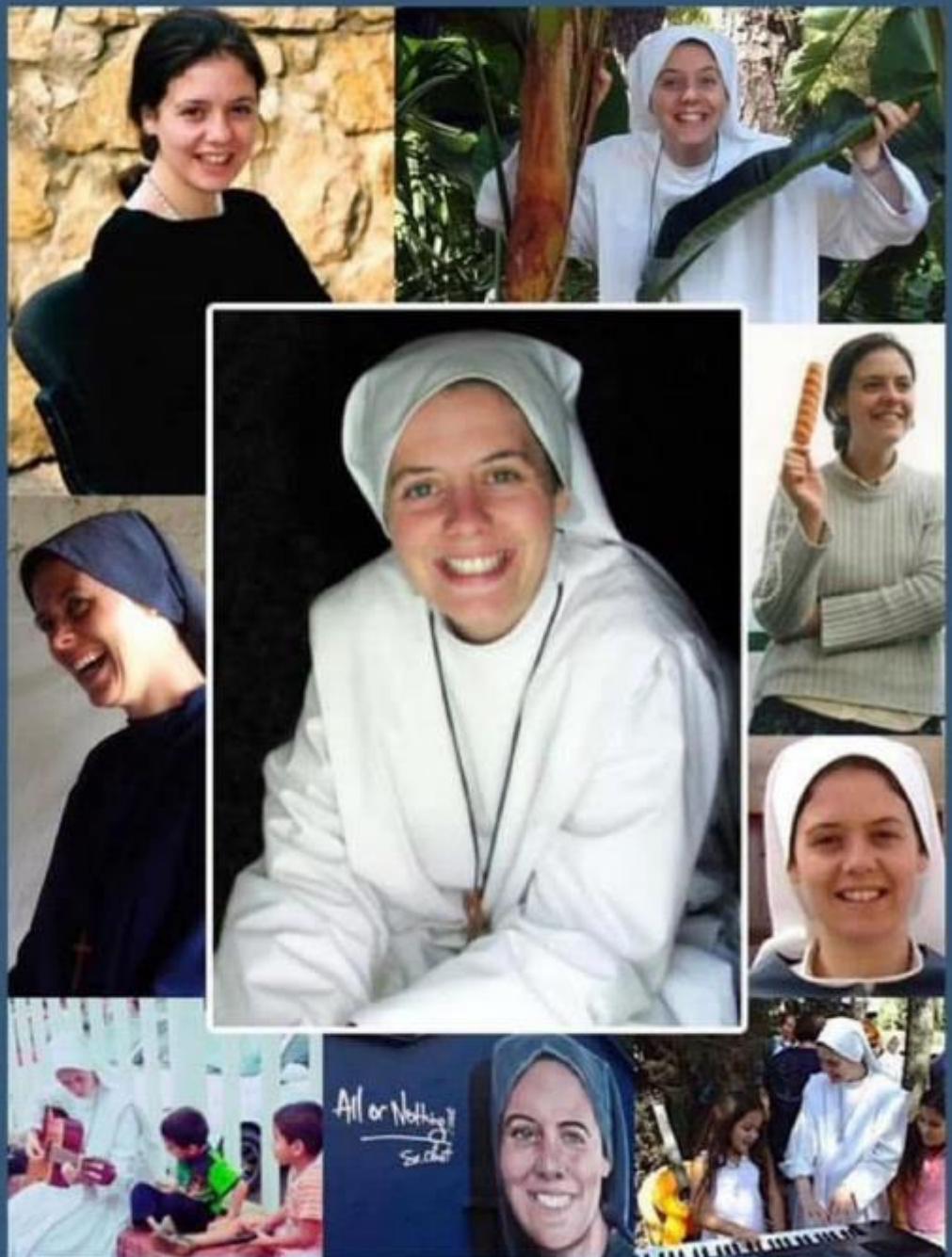
**Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

**Sr. Clare Crockett
An Extraordinary
Nun's Story**



Sister Clare Crockett turned away from a career as an actor to dedicate her life to God. She died in an earthquake in Ecuador in 2016, aged 33yrs. And now her cause is being advanced for Canonisation - not because of how she died but because of how she lived. She has been declared a 'servant of God', the first step on the road.

Read Fr. Paddy's 'Time to Think' (page 16) for more about Sister Clare.



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

Follow Us & Like Us @PortlaoiseParish fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois
fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

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



A Sign of Better Things To Come

If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention

with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end third world poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason. John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St. John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.

The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday - Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

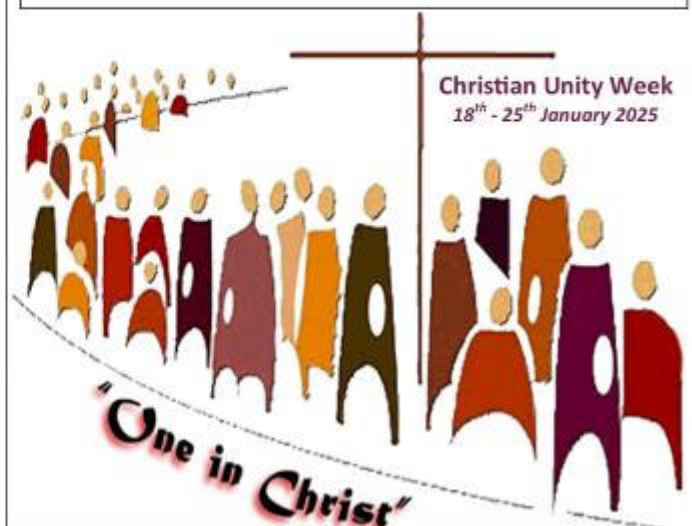
8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: After 10am Mass & after 6.30pm Mass.



Catholic Schools Week begins today.

Winter is a time of grey,
velvet weather drifting towards us.

It arrives on 'little cat feet'
and curls itself around us like the fog
in Sandburg's poem.

The weather is a friend if you make it one.

I look forward to the grey,
quiet time for solitude, contemplation, reading,
long conversations with friends.

Colours are softer, sounds have more depth,
the pace is gentler.

Instead of resentment at the lack of sun,
snuggle into the grey velvet
quilt and make yourself a cup of tea.

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Parish Centre:

New block of Physio-led Pilates evening classes
resuming in the Parish Centre with
Physiotherapist Laura on the 13th of January.
Intermediate level 6-7pm
and beginner level 7-8pm

Please email or call our clinic to join these classes.

Classes Available

Monday: Osteo class with John in Parish Centre 9:30am

Tuesday: Senior exercise classes with Conor in clinic
11:00am.

Wednesday: Osteo class in clinic 10:30am,
Online Pilates 9:30am.

Thursday: Osteo class in clinic 5pm.



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P.O.P.A

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The 58th Senior Citizens Annual
Dinner will take place on

19th January 2025

in The Killeshin Hotel
Dinner is at 2pm sharp followed by an
Afternoon of Music & Dancing.

All Parish residents aged 65+ are welcome to
join us. Tickets are available from
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THE FULL JOB DESCRIPTION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CAREERS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE. FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.LAOISPARTNERSHIP.IE

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.

Lost Bracelet:

Bracelet lost around Mulhall's Supervalu Portlaoise on Friday 3rd January between 11am-12pm. If found please contact the Portlaoise Parish centre; 057-8621142

Alzheimer Family Support Group

Family support group will be held Wednesday January 22th 6:30pm—8pm. Alzheimer café will be held Thursday January 30th 11am—1pm

P.A.T.H Church Collection: Thank you to everyone for your generosity towards our Church gate collection which took place on the 21st/22nd December. A total of €4,450 was raised. And a thank you to everyone who volunteered—P.A.T.H team.

Dancing with Maureen: All are welcome to join us for this exciting project commencing this Monday Jan. 20th in Parish Centre at 11a.m. Continuing each Monday, culminating with a "Céilí Mór" on Monday March 10th..We will dance all your favourites at your own pace...20 euro for complete project. Further info Catriona at Laois Sports Partnership or Maureen Culleton 0876482038....seanchistin@gmail.com. Come alone or bring a partner. Don't miss out on this celebration of our culture.

Graigecullen Bingo:

Tuesday 21st January, St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8:30pm.
Jackpot on 43 numbers €1090,
Double number €320, Lotto €1550

Portlaoise Active Retirement

meets every Wednesday afternoon in the parish Centre at 3pm for afternoon of friendship and fun and activities New members always welcome

Monday 20th bowls in St Mary's sports hall 2pm to 4pm

Wednesday 22 club sing along with Caroline at 3pm New members always welcome

Thursday 23rd Cards and chat in Sue Ryder centre Kilminchy at 3pm New members always welcome
tuition given for further information please ring pro Sheila at 0876204617

RELIGIOUS NOTES

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

Rosary in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath:

Daily 2pm (Monday to Saturday).
Sunday 3pm (Adoration).

Rosary will be recited in Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church every evening at 7pm.

Vocations Society of St. Joseph; Holy Hour,

Adoration, Prayer for vocations, 3pm Friday in the Parish Church.

Day of Reflection Including First Saturday Fatima Devotions,

Emmanuel House, Clonfert, Co.Galway. Saturday February 1st at 11am. Talks; Confessions; Music; Healing Service; Holy Mass, Led by Eddie Stones and team. Please bring a packed lunch.

Divine Mercy Conference: RDS Dublin, Day return bus (from Jn17 plaza Portlaoise)

Saturday 22nd February. Fantastic speakers including His Excellency Archbishop Farrell, Fr. Pat Collins, Fr. Jim Blount and many more, great day of spiritual inspiration and refreshment.

€70 for bus and entry ticket. Contact via WhatsApp/text please: Karen 087-4160385 or Séamus 087-2752578 for enquiries and bookings. €40 deposit via Revolut, PayPal or Post secures bus seat.

Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community, Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat:

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise Saturday 25th January 2025 [10:00am to 1:30pm]

Holy Mass at 10:00am—Confessions available. Retreat continues in Ratheniska Room Parish Centre after Mass at 10:45am. (Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry)

Contact: Michael Nerny 086-8157305. Spiritual Director Fr.Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P

www.spioraidnaoimh.com, All welcome.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th February 2025.

€699.00 pps. Price includes return train, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 094 900 6426 or 087 1890 236 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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At The Parish Centre

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www.portlaoiseparish.ie**



100th Birthday
Prayerful Congratulations
& good wishes to
Frances Conroy
Born 18/01/1925
Pictured left is Frances
with her sons Joe,
Bernie and her daughter
Mairead





SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST



One day, Jesus went to a wedding. His mother was there and so were his disciples. Everyone was having a good time until the wedding host ran out of wine. The party was about to be ruined when Jesus' mother went to him and asked him to help. Then she told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do.

Nearby there were six stone water jars, each holding about twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so the servants filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did as they were told, and when the master of the banquet tasted the water, it had been turned into wine. Not only that - it was the very best wine he had tasted all evening.

The master of the banquet called the bridegroom aside and said to him, "Most people serve the best wine first and then serve cheap wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best until the last."

This was the first of Jesus' miracles on the earth, but it wasn't his last. When we walk with Jesus every day, we become accustomed to the miracles he performs. He does so many great and wonderful things for us. He supplies everything we need -- a roof over our head, and a nice warm bed. We have clothes to wear and plenty to eat and drink. Oh yes, he is so good, but do you know what? He is saving the best for last. What is it? Eternal life. If we put our trust in Jesus as our Saviour, we will live forever in heaven with him. Now, that's what I call "saving the best for last!"

OUR PRAYER

Dear Father, we thank you for all of the good things which you provide each and every day, but most of all, we thank you for eternal life which we have in Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



A Prayer for Students and Teachers

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding.

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students.

Amen.

Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between 18th January and 25th January. It is an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days.



Confirmation Candidates

There will be a special Mass for all the boys and girls who will receive their Confirmation next Saturday 25th January in the Parish Church at 5pm.



Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2025

Sunday, 19th January to Saturday, 25th January



This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "**Alive in Christ.**" It helps us think about what it means to live life to the fullest with Jesus. We learn that we are meant to care for each other, our families, and everyone around us. Being "**alive in Christ**" means living with hope, love, and kindness, and knowing that God has a special plan for each of us. As we grow, we understand more about true freedom and what it means to live happily and fully with God's help.

Sunday: Celebrating Your Parish

Sunday is a special day to celebrate our parish, the church family that helps us grow in faith. We can thank God for our priests and leaders by going to Mass, praying, and joining activities that bring us together. It's a reminder that we are all part of God's big family.



Monday: Celebrating Your Community

Monday is a day to celebrate our community! It's a time to think about how we can share kindness and help others. We can say thank you, help those in need, or work on projects to make our community better. Together, we can spread God's love to everyone.

Tuesday: Celebrating Your Students

Tuesday is a day to celebrate all the students in our school! It's a time to recognize the talents, hard work, and kindness each student brings. Whether through fun activities or learning something new, it's a day to remember how amazing every student is.

Wednesday: Celebrating Families

Wednesday is a day to celebrate our families who love and support us. We thank God for them and show our appreciation by spending time together, praying, and doing something special. Families are a gift from God.



Thursday: Celebrating Vocations

Thursday celebrates vocations, the special callings God gives us. Some are called to be priests, sisters, or parents, while others serve in different ways. Today, we pray and think about how God wants us to use our talents to help others.

Friday: Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers

Friday is a day to celebrate our teachers, staff, and volunteers who make our school great. They help us learn and share God's love with kindness. Today, we can say thank you with cards, prayers, or kind words to show our appreciation.



Saturday: Celebrating Families

Saturday is the last day of Catholic Schools Week, a day to celebrate our families. We thank God for their love and support, spending time together and showing appreciation for all they do.

Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.

Pope Francis



DANA'S Cross & Cloak CONCERT

IN AID OF THE ALL-IRELAND SACRED HEART CRUSADE



SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

Featuring local artists

7:30pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

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Tickets €25 (Book on [eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie))

For more information contact

Antoinette: 0860803047



Thurs 30th Jan 2025

7.30pm - 9pm

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AND LEARN ABOUT INDIVIDUAL
AND GROUP SUPPORTS

ALL ARE WELCOME



Volunteers Needed for Portlaoise Meals on Wheels



NATIONAL
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WHEELS
NETWORK

Residential Care Food Service - Portlaoise



A meeting will be held at the **Portlaoise Parish Centre** on **Thursday, 23rd January 2025, at 7:30 PM** to discuss the absence of a Meals on Wheels service in Portlaoise since June 2023.

We invite everyone to attend and explore how we can address this gap. Local councillors, TDs, and National Meals on Wheels Network representatives will be present.

If you can spare time to help, your contribution would be invaluable. We look forward to seeing you on the **23rd** to help make this essential service a reality for Portlaoise.

For more information : **Contact : 087 9355761**





Catholic Schools Week 2025

Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th

Alive in Christ!

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!" – Pope Francis.

Reflecting on the theme, Catholic schools will explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ. Sensitive to the age appropriateness of the various classes and years, the theme will explore how we exist for one another in Christ, building from the wellbeing of the individual, extending the notion of true wellbeing to others, to our families and communities, and to The Other, in God. The theme will meditate on hope, the true purpose and meaning of human life, and, in the more senior years, on true freedom.



As is usual, the theme will be connected at primary level with Grandparents' Day on the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week, and with the Family in post-primary.

We are very grateful for the Catholic Schools of our Parish and all who contribute to their wellbeing; pupils and their families, teachers and staffs, boards of managements and all associated with them.

Thank you to our pupils and their families, teachers and staffs, boards of management, parents associations and all who make up our Catholic Schools.

We are blessed to have such good schools.





Time to Think!

Sr. Clare Crockett.. an inspirational life

The beatification cause of Sister Clare Crockett, an inspirational young Irish religious sister who died in 2016, formally opened Sunday January 12th with a ceremony at the Cathedral of Alcalá de Henares in Madrid, Spain.

The ceremony marked the beginning of the diocesan phase of the process, in which an elected tribunal will investigate her life, virtues, and reputation for holiness. Crockett, who died in a 2016 earthquake in Ecuador at the age of 33, is now titled "servant of God," the first step in the Catholic Church's path to sainthood. More than 100 people travelled from her hometown of Derry, Northern Ireland, to attend the event, including Bishop Donal McKeown. South American Cardinal Fernando Chomalí Garib, the archbishop of Santiago de Chile, also attended.

In Derry, approximately 500 people gathered at a movie theatre to watch the ceremony broadcast live "The people of Derry are so proud of her," said, Bishop McKeown. Crockett's story "is a very striking example of someone who had a conversion experience and dedicated their life to Jesus." Crockett was born on Nov. 14, 1982, in Derry. As a charismatic and fun-loving teenager, she had a gift for acting and was contracted to present a television show on Channel 4 in the U.K., attracting interest from Nickelodeon. Already in her early teens she was frequently partying, drinking, and smoking. But her life changed when she attended a Holy Week retreat in Spain at the age of 17 with the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, a community founded in 1982 with a focus on the Eucharist, Marian spirituality, and outreach to youth. She recalled later in her personal testimony that when she arrived in Spain she was "very superficial and a wild child." But that began to change when she took part in the Good Friday adoration of the cross, kissing the feet of Jesus. "I do not know how to explain exactly what happened. I did not see the choirs of angels or a white dove come down from the ceiling and descend on me, but I had the certainty that the Lord was on the cross, for me," she remembered. "And along with that conviction, I felt a great sorrow ... and prayed the Stations of the Cross. When I returned to my pew, I already had imprinted in me something that was not there before. I had to do something for him who had given his life for me."

It was the start of a long journey of conversion and healing that led to her joining the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother. Despite initial struggles to leave behind a life of "superficiality and sin," she entered religious life in 2001 in Spain, making her first vows in 2006 and her final vows in 2010. Known for her infectious joy and dedication to others, she served in Spain, the United States, and Ecuador. Sister Clare died on April 16, 2016, when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the school in Playa Prieta, Ecuador, where she was teaching music. Five postulants also lost their lives in the collapse.

A documentary about her life, "All or nothing Sr. Clare Crockett," has amassed over 4 million views on YouTube in Spanish and English, and her story continues to inspire vocations and deepen faith worldwide.

In the years since her death, stories of graces and miracles attributed to Crockett have poured in from around the world, according to Sister Kristen Gardner, the postulator of her cause. "Desperate souls on the verge of suicide have regained hope, university students lost in vice have found strength to return to the Lord," Gardner said during the ceremony on Jan. 12. "There is a very characteristic common note in the messages received," she said, "and that is that many describe Sister Clare as their friend, even without having met her, she is their friend." Her family, present at the ceremony, expressed pride and gratitude for the recognition of Sister Clare's life. "Never in a million years did we think she was going to be a nun, never mind make her way to sainthood," Sr. Clare's sister Shauna shared after the ceremony.

Saints are not removed from the reality of life. The story of Sr. Clare is both inspirational and very real. Her tremendous generosity and charismatic personality, offers hope, particularly to young people. Her radical embrace of the Gospel of love, highlights the continued relevance Jesus has in the everyday. Claire was a true "Derry Girl" A city now transformed by peace and reconciliation. We are all called in life by God to let our light shine. Saints are defined by their wholeness, often the cracks of their humanity, allow God's grace, shine through their brokenness. Empathy, compassion and love is the pathway, we are all encouraged to walk. "Every Saint has a past, every Sinner has a future." It is in the little things, the mundane, the bits and pieces of our daily lives, where we can allow God's extraordinarily grace touch our ordinary living.

Sister Clare's Prayer.

Heavenly Father, for your Glory, that of [of] your beloved Son, that of the Holy Spirit and that of the Mother Of God, we ask that grant us the grace (mention your request in the silence of your heart) ... as a sign that the life of our Sister Clare Theresa Crockett has been pleasing to you on this earth and that she is now rejoicing with you in Heaven. We ask this through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 33,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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



John Burke
Ballyknockan,
Portlaoise



**Ellen (Nellie)
Brennan**
St. Brigid's Place,
Portlaoise



**Catherine (Tess)
Stodel**
Buttercup Avenue,
Esker Hills



Alan O'Brien
Ashley Gardens,
Portlaoise



**Thomas
Dempsey**
Grenville,
Portlaoise



Michael Cloney
Ballyfin Road,
Portlaoise



Louise Allen
Grattan Street,
Portlaoise



Emily Culhane
Boley,
Abbeyleix



John P Halloran
Carlow Road,
Abbeyleix

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

**In Loving Memory of
PADDY O' BRIEN (THE PROPHET)**

2 Millview, Portlaoise. 8th Anniversary occurs 20th January.



*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 family and friends.

May Paddy Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**

Ballyduff House, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurred 17th January 2025



*Those we love remain with us,
For love itself lives on,
Cherished memories never fade,
Because one loved is gone,
Those we love can never be,
More than a thought apart,
For as long as there is a memory,
They live on in our hearts.*

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

May Michael Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Paddy) CONNELL**

Late of 57 Marian Place, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurs 21st January 2025



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Saturday 18th January at 6:30pm.

*The rolling stream of life goes on,
But still the vacant chair,
Recalls the voice, the smile, the love,
Of a Dad who once sat there,
Loved and missed beyond compare.*

Missed and remembered by your loving family.

Thinking of our dear Mam, Mary at this time.

Rest in Peace Paddy

**In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH (Lill) FARRELL**

Green Mill Lane, Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 27th January 2025



Lill's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Sunday 26th January at 12.30pm.

*Deep in our hearts your memory
is kept, to love and to cherish
and never forget.*

*We love and miss you, from your loving husband
William, children Gemma, William and Eoin,
son-in-law Kevin, daughters-in-law Lisa & Jessica
and grandchildren Dylan, Zak, Liadh, Grace,
Sophia, Alex and Lily xxx*

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

*In Loving Memory of
A Cherished Husband,
Father and Grandfather*

WILLIAM (Willie) O' REILLY

28 Lakeglen, Mountmellick Rd. Portlaoise.

7th Anniversary occurs at this time 25/1/2025



*If we could sit in heaven even for day, the pain
in our hearts might temporarily go away,
We would put our arms around you and
whisper words so true, that living life without
you is the hardest thing to do,
There's no morning, noon or night that we
don't think of you,
Today marks a day of holding onto your
memory*

*Your absence this year did not stop the seasons
from changing,
The pages of time keep turning
Your chapter remains our favourite,
Remembering you is easy we do it everyday,
But missing you is the heartache that never
goes away.*



*Never more than a thought away.
Sadly missed by your wife Anne, sons and
daughters, son -in-law, daughters-in-law
and grandchildren xxx*

Rest in Peace William

**In Loving Memory of
MAY & FRANK WHITE**

Late of 26 Newpark, Portlaoise.

May's 2nd Anniversary occurred 17th January 2025.

Frank's 3rd Anniversary occurred 16th January 2025.



Anniversary Mass will
be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
**Saturday 18th
January at 6:30pm.**



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

*Loved and remembered by Tomás, Timothy, Declan,
Sinéad, extended family and close friends.*

Rest in Peace May & Frank

**In Loving Memory of
FRANK & MAY WHITE**

Late of 26 Newpark, Portlaoise.

May's 2nd Anniversary occurred 17th January 2025.

Frank's 3rd Anniversary occurred 16th January 2025.



Anniversary Mass will
be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
**Saturday 18th
January at 6:30pm.**



*I miss you both in so
many ways,*

*I miss the things you used to say,
And when old times I do recall,
It's then I miss you both most of all.*

Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by Mary.

Rest in Peace Frank and May

**In Loving Memory of
LARRY DUNNE**

Ballyfin Rd, Portlaoise

Larry's Month Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on Sunday
26th January at 12:30pm.



*Always in our thoughts,
Forever in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed by all his
loving family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Larry

Birthday Remembrance **ELIZABETH FARRELL**

Chestnut Drive, Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.

5th Birthday away from home occurred 13th January 2025

To a Loving Mam/Wife

*Wishing you were here today,
For even just a while,
So we could say Happy Birthday,
And see your loving smile.*

*The only gifts today will be,
Your sweet memories left behind,
Of laughter, joy and happiness,
That echo off in our minds.*

*We will gaze upon pictures,
And think of you with love,
And hope your doing fine,
In Heaven up above.*

*May Angels hold you closely,
And sing you a happy song,
And we will be sending you wishes,
Today and all year long.*

**Sadly missed always by your Loving husband Frank, sons
Michael, David, Kenneth, daughter Regina & extended
family.**

Miss you always Gran

*Our hearts ache whenever this day comes,
And you're not here with us.*

*We are forever grateful to you for our
beautiful memories and love.*

Wishing you a Happy Birthday in Heaven Gran xx

**Forever missed by your Loving grandchildren Jennifer,
Stephen, Ava, Saoirse, Leon & Jaxon**

Rest in Peace Elizabeth



In Loving Memory of **RICHARD ANDERSON**

Late of 37 Upper Beladd, Portlaoise

Whose 6th Anniversary occurs on 19th January 2025

In Loving Memory of my Husband

*Thank you for endless love that
helps me through each day,
And thank you for the memories
that never fade away.*

*You're the man I loved,
And I was proud to be your wife,
And every day, in some small way,
I celebrate your life,*

*And though it's sad to think about the
way things were before,
When we're reunited,
It will be forevermore.*

**Loved and missed always,
Your loving wife Cecilia and family. X**

Rest in Peace Richard

ACKNOWLEDGMENT **In Loving Memory of** **TONY CURRAN**

Liogard, Portlaoise

Death occurred 5th December 2024



*Rony's wife Sheila, children Adrian & Edel
would like to sincerely thank all those
who sympathised with us on our recent
loss.*

*Our heartfelt thanks to the many
relatives, neighbours & friends for your
support over the last number of years.
Thank you to everyone who called to the
house, attended the
rosary, attended the funeral Mass
either in person or via the Parish
webcam, sent cards & messages of
condolences following Tony's passing.*

*A special note of thanks to prof. Richard Walsh,
consultant neurologist, Tallaght Hospital, to Dr. Simon Honan
& all staff of Maryborough Family Practice for all their help
and guidance over the last number of years. Also thank you to
the staff of Portlaoise General
Hospital, in particular the staff in ICU for their excellent care
for Tony during his last few days.*

*Thank you to Fr. Simon Jin for attending Tony
during his time in hospital.*

*Thank you to Msgr. Byrne for Tony's beautiful Funeral Mass
and to Sarah Troy & Emlyn O Reilly for their
wonderful singing. Also thank you to Matthew Keegan &
David Goode for their outstanding support &
professionalism with Tony's funeral arrangements*

*As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually,
please accept this acknowledgment as an expression of our
deepest gratitude.*

*In lieu of memorial cards, the family will make a donation to
the Parkinson's Association.*

Rest in Peace Tony

In Loving Memory **Of our brother, uncle & nephew** **TONY GREENE**

St. Brigids Place

*2nd Anniversary away from home occurred
Thursday 16th January.*



*Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day,
No longer in our life to share,
But in our hearts he's always there.*

*Missed every day Tony.
From your sister Mary, brothers
Christy, Joe, Paul aunt Ellie,
sisters-in-law, nieces & nephews.*

May Tony Rest In Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARY McEVOY**

Late of 104 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
23rd Anniversary occurs 19th January 2025.



*It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 18th January at 6.30pm.

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

We also remember Mary's husband Alo, her sons, her two sisters, Alice and Esther and Mary's grandson Daryl Dargan at this time.

Rest in Peace Mam

**In Loving Memory of
EAMON KELLY**

Ballymackan, Portlaoise

Whose 1st Anniversary occurs on 28th January 2025



*You always had a smile to share,
A laugh, a joke and time to care,
A good life came to an end,
You died as you lived,
Everyone's friend.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 25th January at 6:30pm.

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Eamon

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN DOWLING**

Newpark, Portlaoise

1st Anniversary occurs 26th January 2025

John's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 26th at 10am



*Loved with a love beyond all feeling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.
Sadly missed and remembered by his loving wife Marcella, son Paul, daughter Helen, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace John

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
In Loving Memory of
LORRAINE LYONS**



Lorraine's husband John, son Ricky together with her father Sonny's sisters Martina and Debbie and all the extended family wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for all the kindness and love we have received during our time of bereavement.

Thank you to all of those who called to the house, attended the rosary and funeral.

Deepest gratitude to the Abbeyleix fire station, Gardai, nurse from Grove house and all the staff of Portlaoise general Hospital. Sincerest thanks to Fr.Paddy and Fr.Pedro for celebrating the funeral Mass and for your support and kindness. Thanks to Kelly's funeral undertakers, sacristans, gravediggers, the choir, Christine and Elaine Lamb. It's impossible to thank everyone, please accept this acknowledgment of our sincere gratitude to all.

Lorraine's Month Mind Mass will be celebrated in the Church of Holy Rosary Abbeyleix, on Saturday 18th January, at 5pm.

Rest in Peace Lorraine

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK & ELLEN MAHER**

Grange, Stradbally whose anniversaries occur at this time. Also remembering Eileen, MaryAnn, John Margaret and daughters-in-law.



*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.*

Lovingly remembered by all your family.

May They Rest in Peace

*You are the
Light
of the World*



In Loving Memory of **ANTHONY REDDIN**

1st Anniversary occurs 21st January 2025.

Dad



You are at peace, your soul is at rest,
But that won't stop the tears,
As I remember the special times,
We shared over the years.
You thought me oh so many things,
And you showed me the way.
You helped me overcome hard times,
To be the person I am today.
Though I am no longer a child,
And you're no longer here,
I'll never let go of the memories,
I'll always hold them dear.

Love, Son Cole.

Rest in Peace Anthony

In Loving Memory of **VERA AND NEVIN BREEN**

Formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

Vera's 13th Anniversary occurs 27th January 2025
Nevin's 7th Anniversary occurs 19th January 2025



Anniversary Mass
will be
celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on
**Wednesday 22nd
January at 10am**



*Missing you is a heartache that will never go
away,*

*You are always in our thoughts and live forever
in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all
their loving family and friends.*

May Vera and Nevin Rest in Peace



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In Loving Memory of **MARTIN (Murt) KIRWAN**

Anngrove, Kilbricken, Mountrath.
3rd Anniversary occurred 17th January 2025



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Brigid's Church Shanahoe, on
Sunday 19th January at 12 noon.

God saw you were getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
He closed his arms around you,
And whispered "Come to Me".

In tears we watched you sinking,
We watched you fade away;
And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard
working hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go,
God only takes the best.

No matter how life changes, no matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts, is always kept for you.

Also remembering Murt's son, John Paul at this time.

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.

Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered
by his loving wife Ann and his sons Martin, Anthony,
James, daughters Mary, Martha, Noirin, his adoring
grandchildren and extended family.

Rest in Peace Martin



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Portlaoise Parish



Results for 16th January 2025

06

11

12

21

No €15,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

John Beere
Vincent Keegan
Philip Fagan
Tommy O'Connor
Mary Clear
Bridget Moore
Brigid Lalor
Barbara Dowling
Annemarie Toolan
Mary Fallon
Anita & Denis Tierney
Liam Preston
Teresa Doyle
Mary Brennan Conway
Sophie Ball
Conor Mason

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16
Match
3s
Receive
€63.
each

PROMOTER

John Loughlin
Parish Centre
Philip Fagan
Paddy O'Connor
Richard Phelan
Joe Moore
Brigid Lalor
Barbara Dowling
Anne Brennan
Ann Ward
Anita Tierney
Anthony Preston
Greg Keenan
Greg Keenan
Jerry Dooley
M Keegan

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 be 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](https://twitter.com/portlaoiseparis)

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church and the Heath Church are live streamed on our website



LINK UP

Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm or
12 noon Wednesday (Subject to availability of space)

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 95:1-3, 7-10

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support but have not reintroduced them since Covid. **Thank you** to the many who have found new ways to support the Parish. The generosity of so many means we **continue to** be well supported and our liturgies are not interrupted - Please find your way to contribute.

* Making your offering in the boxes at the entrances

* Using the Envelope boxes for regular donations - boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre

* Direct payment by cheque or cash

* Cashless Point at the back of the 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

The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D

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