

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*I hope in your Word (Ps. 119)*  
*(The theme for this year)*



Sunday of the Word of God was established by Pope Francis in 2019 to highlight the importance of Scripture in our lives. And to help us to deepen our love and understanding of the Bible and to integrate the Word of God more fully into everyday life. It's a reminder that the Scriptures aren't just texts to be read, but a living message that nourishes and shapes our faith.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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## Great Words

Everyone loves listening to a great orator. Everyone appreciates an orator's ability to captivate and inspire audiences with powerful and motivational speeches.

Great speeches create a sense of purpose and continuity. Successful orators recognise that great truths can be remembered best by one small quote. Keeping things short and succinct will make one's words more memorable than a great big rambling speech. Then of course it takes a big personality to put the weight of truth and integrity behind his or her words.

When Jesus is invited to stand up and preach back at his own hometown synagogue he chooses his reading with care. What Jesus chooses to read is to be a statement about his own mission priorities. He chooses to speak of social injustice. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me," he reads, "... because he has anointed me to proclaim glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed." Then Jesus points to himself as the fulfilment of the ancient prophecy before handing back the scroll and sitting down. Jesus has obeyed all the rules of public speaking, he has considered the purpose of his reading, chosen words that will best convey his purpose, and delivered them powerfully and succinctly. How will Jesus' listeners respond to his claim? Today's reading doesn't give us the listeners' response so we have time to imagine what our own response would have been. Would we have been inspired and motivated to hear Jesus speak these words? Would we suddenly see the ancient prophecy as just that, an ancient prophecy, or as mission to be fulfilled under Jesus' exciting new leadership? Can we hear the poetry of these words resonating two thousand years later?

### Thought for Today!

The branches of growing trees not only reach higher,  
but their roots grow deeper.  
It's impossible for a strong tree to have high branches  
without having deep roots.  
It would become top-heavy and topple over in the wind.  
The same is true with Christians.  
It's impossible for us to grow in the Lord  
without entwining our roots around His Word  
and deepening our life in His commands.'

– Joni Eraeckson Tada

## 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.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Cillian David Ryan, Clonkeen

Who was baptised last weekend.

## Saint Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday January 28th

Against strong family opposition, St. Thomas became a Dominican friar and in 1250, was ordained a priest. He was sent to teach at the Dominican school in Paris where he became increasingly famous for his teaching, preaching and writing. St. Thomas takes his place in history as one of the greatest and most influential theologians of all time.



## St. Brigid Saturday - 1st February Patroness of our Diocese

St. Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care for the sick. She was born c.454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her life to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524. The St. Brigid's Cross was used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith. Along with Saints Conleth and Lazarian, Brigid is Patron of our Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.





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To book by phone: 087 666 4808.

There are still some spots available in our beginners' Pilates class. Please email or call our clinic to join these classes.

A new block of Parkinson's-specific classes will begin on Wednesday, 5th February, at 11:20 AM. These classes are designed for individuals with early to moderate Parkinson's.

Please call the clinic to reserve your place.

### 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.



**Thurs 30th Jan 2025**

**7.30pm - 9pm**

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The Laois Alzheimer Café will provide a warm, welcoming space for people with dementia, their family and friends, social and health care professionals, to meet, exchange ideas and learnings. All are welcome.

For further information please contact  
Grainne Roche Duff 087-6075037  
grainne.rocheduff@alzheimer.ie



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## **COMMUNITY NOTES**

**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.**

### **Couch to Céilí - Dance with Maureen:**

All are welcome to join us for this exciting project, which continues every Monday (except Bank Holidays) in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise, at 11 a.m., culminating with a Céilí Mór on Monday, March 10th. We will dance all your favourites at your own pace.

For further information, contact Catriona at L.S. Partnership or Maureen at **087 648 2038 / seanchistin@gmail.com**. Come alone or bring a partner. Don't miss out on this celebration of our culture!

### **Portlaoise Lions club - Collection:**

Portlaoise Lions Club will hold their annual Church Gate Collection next weekend, 1st and 2nd February. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

### **Bridge Lessons for Beginners:**

If interested, please contact **Catherine Brennan at 087-4121913** for details.

### **Portlaoise Active Retirement:**

Meets every Wednesday at 3 PM in the Parish Centre. Friendship, activities, and fun—new members welcome! Monday, 27th: Bowls, 2–4 PM, St. Mary's Sports Hall. New members welcome, tuition provided.

Wednesday, 29th: A.G.M. at 3 PM in the Parish Centre. Full attendance appreciated.

Thursday, 30th: Cards and chat, 3 PM, Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy.

New members welcome, tuition provided. For more information, **contact Sheila at 087-620-4617.**

### **Jack and Jill Volunteers Needed:**

Jack and Jill are seeking volunteers to assist in their warehouse with sorting stock and donations. If you can spare some time to help, please **contact Abbie at 087-258-9730.**

### **Results of Whist Drive - Parish Centre, Tuesday, January 21st**

Top Score: T. Gowing

1st Lady: Tied - Kit Farrell & Mary Killeen

1st Gent: A. M. Farrell, 2nd Gent: F. Keenan

1st Half: Ter Dunne, 2nd Half: T. Jacob

Fifteen Tricks: L. Kelly & T. Gowing

Raffle: 1st - Kit Farrell 2nd - C. Fitzpatrick 3rd - A. M. Farrell


Thank you to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7:30 PM in the Parish Centre.

New members are always welcome. Condolences to the Delaney and O'Brien families on their recent bereavements.

**Graiguecullen Bingo:** Join us on Tuesday, 28th January at St. Fiacc's Hall, starting at 8:30 PM.

Jackpot: €1,220 (on 44 numbers) Double Number: €390 Lotto: €500

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## **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.

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

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## ROSARY AT THE GROTTTO

Rosary will be recited at the Grotto on the First Friday (7<sup>th</sup> February) at 8pm.  
*All are welcome.*



## FATIMA PILGRIMAGE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Due to a cancellation, two seats are now available for the pilgrimage to **Fatima on June 12th, 2025**. For more information, please contact **Maura O'Brien at 087-1210263** or reach out to any member of the committee. Don't miss this special opportunity!

## HOUSE KEEPER REQUIRED

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## CONCERN worldwide PORTLAOISE CONCERN GROUP COLLECTION - 29/11/2024

A heartfelt thank you for your generosity and to everyone who gave their time to help. A total of €4,982.00 was raised.

**Helen Corbet**  
Portlaoise Concern Group



## PORTLAOISE LIONS CLUB AND TIDY TOWNS UNITE TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AT FAIRGREEN



Portlaoise Lions Club and Portlaoise Tidy Towns Collaborate to Enhance Biodiversity at Fairgreen Portlaoise Lions Club has proudly supported the outstanding work of Portlaoise Tidy Towns (PTT) by funding one of the projects outlined in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2028. This collaboration, in partnership with Michael Buckley, horticulturist with Laois County Council, has resulted in the creation of a green wall and tree planting scheme at Fairgreen on Mountmellick Road. Green wall planting has been one of PTT's most successful initiatives, benefiting many parts of the town. Speaking about the collaboration, Vincent Booth, Chairperson of PTT, said: "It is very encouraging and heartwarming when a group like Portlaoise Lions Club contacts us to offer their support for the work we do. We deeply appreciate it. Portlaoise has a strong community spirit, with all interested groups working together to make the town a better place." This collaboration has been a resounding success, and PTT extends heartfelt thanks to Portlaoise Lions Club for their generous support.

Let me know if you need further refinements!







## God's Promises Fulfilled



People make promises every day. Sometimes we give something to another person as a sign of our promise, sometimes we sign our name to seal our promise, other times we just give our word to another person that we will do something.

I'm sure you know what a wedding ring looks like? When a man and woman get married, they usually make promises to one another. They say something like, "I promise to love you for

better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health as long as we both shall live." Then they exchange rings as a symbol of that promise.

You are too young to have a credit card, but one day you probably will. Most adults have a credit card which they use to buy things. When you buy something using your credit card, you have to sign a ticket. When you sign the ticket, you are promising that you will pay for the items you purchased using the credit card. Your signature is your promise.

People make promises every day. Do they always keep their promises? Unfortunately, some people don't. God makes promises too. The Bible is full of God's promises. Does God always keep his promises? Yes he does! One of my favourite verses in the Bible is one that says, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. (2 Cor. 1:20) That is what our Gospel teaches us today.

Jesus was in the city of Nazareth on the Sabbath day so he did what he always did on the Sabbath. He went to the synagogue. He stood up and began to read the words of the prophet Isaiah from the Scripture. He read where it says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord a favour has come."

When he had finished reading, he sat down. All eyes were on Jesus. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture that you have just heard read has been fulfilled this very day!" Jesus came to earth to fulfill the promises of God. All of God's promises are fulfilled in him.

Wouldn't it be great if you and I were as faithful in keeping our promises to God as he is in keeping his promises to us?

### OUR PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, thank you for your faithfulness in keeping your promises. Help us to be faithful in keeping our promises to you.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





## St. Brigid - Saturday 1st February

Born: 453 Died:523



St. Brigid is the Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. A few years after St. Patrick arrived, a little girl named Brigid was born at Faughart, County Louth, in Ireland. Her father was an Irish Lord named Dubtach and her mother was a Christian slave named Brocca. As Brigid grew up, her love for Jesus grew deep. She once heard St. Patrick preach and never forgot his teaching for the rest of her life. She looked for Jesus in the poor and often brought food and clothing to them. One day she gave away a whole pail of milk and then she began to worry about what her mother would say. She prayed to the Lord to make up for what she had given away. When she got home, her pail was full again. Another day Brigid gave away her fathers precious sword to a poor man so he could sell it to buy food. She was always helping the poor. Brigid's father wanted her to marry but Brigid had decided in her heart to give herself entirely to God. She did not want to marry anyone. Brigid finally got her wish and her father let her enter a convent. Brigid became a nun under Saint Mel and shortly afterwards she founded a monastery on land given to her by the King of Leinster. The land was called Cill Dara (Kildare) or "The Church of the Oak". Wouldn't it be great if you and I were as faithful in keeping our promises to God as he is in keeping his promises to us?

### Prayer to St. Brigid

You were a woman of Peace,  
you brought harmony where there was conflict,  
You brought light to the darkness,  
You brought hope to the downcast,  
May the mantle of your Peace  
cover those who are troubled and anxious and may  
Peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.  
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.  
Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.  
Strengthen what is weak within us.  
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.  
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind,  
body and spirit.  
Amen.

St. Brigid  
pray for us.







# Time to Think!

## St. Brigid, a Woman of Hope

February marks a time of growth as the light of spring begins to overcome the winter darkness. The story and celebration of St. Brigid are deeply relevant today. Her tolerance, compassion, kindness, and inclusive spirit challenge the attitudes that divide us. Brigid symbolizes beauty, creativity, and hope. The traditional St. Brigid's Cross, woven in green, is a symbol of deep Christian hope, bringing life and freshness, especially as spring begins.

Imbolc, celebrated from February 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, marks the first stirrings of spring. After months of rest and hibernation, life begins to stir again. Spiritually, this is a time of new life coming into manifestation. Though we may see only small signs above the surface, things are moving in the darkness.

February is a month of hope, and St. Brigid's Day brings with it a story of compassion, generosity, healing, and renewal. Though it may still feel cold, brighter evenings, emerging green shoots, and snowdrops signal the arrival of spring. The darkness of winter is being transformed into the light of new beginnings. Spring is a season of hope and renewal, calling us out of darkness into God's light.

I love this time of year, embracing brighter evenings and early mornings. Snowdrops are emerging from the winter soil, and on February 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate St. Brigid of Kildare. Children in schools sing, "Saint Brigid brings the spring," and I pray that this season of hope will bring rejuvenation to us all.

Brigid was dedicated to helping those in need, living by the principle, "the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Born in the 5<sup>th</sup> century in Faughart, County Louth, she became a nun and founded the convent of Cill-Dara, now Kildare. She died there on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 525.

Her community served others through acts of mercy, and her oratory became a center of religion and learning. She founded two monastic institutions—one for men and one for women—and held jurisdiction over both. After the Norse raids in the 9th century, her relics were moved to Downpatrick, where they rest alongside those of St. Patrick and St. Columcille.

St. Brigid remains dear to Irish hearts. Her name is still common, and hundreds of places are named in her honor. St. Brigid's Well in Faughart still attracts pilgrims today.

St. Brigid's Day marked the beginning of the agricultural season, a time of ploughing, sowing, and blessing the work of hands. As we celebrate her legacy, may we ensure that the Creator is at the heart of all we do, living with kindness, compassion, and peace.

**May St. Brigid continue to guide us with her light, hope, and spirit of renewal.**

### Brigid



*You were a woman of peace.*

*You brought harmony where there was conflict.  
You brought light to the darkness. You brought hope  
to the downcast.*

*May the mantle of your peace cover those who are  
troubled and anxious,  
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our  
world.*

*Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God  
has made.*

*Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.  
Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into  
a quietness that heals and listens.*

*May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body  
and spirit.*

**- Amen.**

### St. Brigid's Well



*"We set out this night toward the well of St. Brigid,  
sailing from the island of Innis Orr.*

*Then by foot on through Doolin to follow that trail  
that skirts the sheer drop off the Cliffs of Moher.*

*Then we scramble the Burzen over rock walls and pastures  
to a foothill of magic in the County of Clare...*

*where a spring of cold water runs through a cold cave  
and the water is wishes from the wells of our hearts,*

*that the ones that we love might be plucked from  
their sickness*

*or freed from despair so the healing might start."*

*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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)*



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



**Jeremiah  
(Jerry)  
O'Connell**  
Kilminchy  
Portlaoise  
and Kerry



**Bernadette  
(Bern)  
McRedmond**  
Knockanina,  
Mountrath, Laois



**Joan Sheehan**  
Blackrock &  
Abbeyleix



**Breda  
Campion  
(née O'Gorman)**  
Dunboyne,  
Meath &  
Abbeyleix



**Kathleen King  
(née Delaney)**  
Moate,  
Westmeath &  
Ballinakill

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

*The Family Tree*

*A limb has fallen from the family tree  
I hear a voice that whispers, 'Grieve not for me'  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the songs  
The good I lived while I was strong  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you  
Keep on smiling, the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest  
Remembering all...how I was truly blessed  
Continue traditions, no matter how small  
Go on with your lives, don't stare at the wall  
I miss you all dearly so keep up your chin  
Until that fine day we're together again.*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**Fr John Cummins P.P.**  
**Abbeyleix Parish**

*6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January*



Mass will be celebrated in  
his memory at 10am on  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
*Ar dheis Dé go raibh  
a anam uasal.*  
*"A Blessed Life Well Lived"*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**EOIN DOOLEY**

**Brittas Mountmellick.**

**11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**



*We thought of you today, but that is  
nothing new, we thought of you  
yesterday and will tomorrow too,  
We think of you in silence and make no  
outward show, for what it meant to  
lose you, only those who love you know,  
Remembering you is easy,*

*We do it every day,*

*It's the heartache of losing you, that never goes away.  
Treasured memories of a loving son, brother and father,  
missing you always, love Mam, Dad, Diarmaid, Grainne,  
Sarah, Eileen, daughter Molly and your extended family.*

Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church,  
Mountmellick, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Febuary at 7:30pm and  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am, also in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
Portlaoise at 11:15am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

*May Eoin Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**COLETTE CROSSAN**

**St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.**

**21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 11:15am.

*Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by  
Michael, Padraig, Kjeran and families.*

*You are the*  
**Light**  
*of the World*





**In Loving Memory of  
MARY LALOR**

**Ballycarroll, Portlaoise.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.**



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, The Heath, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am.**

*"Those we love we never lose, for always they will be, Loved remembered, treasured, always in our memory"*

**Sadly missed and always remembered by Paddy, Patricia, Jennifer, Seamus, Carol, Padraig Mary and families.**

*"Our thoughts are ever with you, though you have passed away, And those who have loved you dearly, are thinking of you today. Your memories are so precious, your presence missed so much, Forever remembered and missed by all of us".*

**Also remembering Paddy's parents Ellen & James Lalor whose anniversaries occurred on 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, And Mary's Mother Christina Lalor, Green Grove, Portlaoise, whose Anniversary occurred on 15<sup>th</sup> January**

*May They All Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JAMES REDMOND**

**11, Boris Road Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurred 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



**Anniversary Mass was celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm.**

*Always in our thoughts  
Never forgotten.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by loving wife Orla, Son Martin and friends.*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN (Ulick) CONROY**

**Beladd, Portlaoise.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10am.**

*Loved and sadly missed by all his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace John*

*let His light shine.*



**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
In Loving Memory of  
STEPHEN O'SULLIVAN**

**St Brigids Place, Portlaoise.**



*The family of the late Stephen O' Sullivan wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the messages of sympathy and kindness shown to us on his passing last year.*

*To our relation, neighbours, work colleagues, and wide circle of friends we want to thank you for your presence and kindness which brought great comfort to us at a time of grief, to all who assisted at his requiem service and removal, we thank you.*

*The family would also like to thank all the staff at Tullamore Hospital, where he received great care, especially Dr Geraldine McCormack. We also thank Fr. David Vard, Undertakers Matthew Keegan, David Goode, The staff of Hughes' Pharmacy and the Cedar Clinic*

**Stephen's Anniversary Mass will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at 6:30pm in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise.**

*Rest in Peace Stephen*

**In Loving Memory of  
PADDY DALTON**

**St. Johns Square, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



**Paddy's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am.**

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his sister Catherine, family and friends.*

*May Paddy Rest in Peace*



# Acknowledgement

In Loving Memory of  
**Joseph (Joe) Styles**

1 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.



*Joe's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated alongside his beloved sister Margaret Byrne's on 2nd February at 12:30 pm in St. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.*

*The family of the late Joe Styles, 1 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many messages of sympathy and acts of kindness shown to us following Joe's passing.*

*We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped search for Joe when he went missing on St. Stephen's Day, and for the support we received when he was found and in the days leading up to his passing. To our relations, neighbors, and wide circle of friends, your presence, messages of sympathy, and kindness—both in person and online—were a great comfort to us.*

*We sincerely thank those who visited our home, brought food, helped with catering, and assisted with tea-making and cleaning. Special thanks to Sharon, Martina, Catherine, Lorraine, James Tynan, Michelle, Philip Holmes and family, Pam and Dermot, Niall Holmes and family, and Carmel and James Brown. Your support means the world to us.*

*To Msgr. John for the beautiful Mass, Alan Smyth and James O'Connor for the wonderful singing, our readers and gift bearers who made Joe's Mass so personal and special, and Anna Ward for her heartfelt poem, we are deeply grateful. Thanks also to John Styles and Katelyn for their touching song.*

*We extend our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Pat Bourke and their son Niall from Pat Bourke Undertakers, Clonaslee, for the outstanding service they provided, going above and beyond in every way.*

*A heartfelt thank you to the incredible staff of the I.C.U. at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. A special mention to Nurse Caroline, who provided exceptional care and support on the day Joe passed, and to the lads at the gate and parking booth, who helped the family with parking every day.*

*Thanks to Ellie Foran for the Rosary, Bosco for the catering after the burial, the staff of the Parish Centre for their assistance, Adrian Dunne and Brendan the grave diggers, and the Portlaoise G.A.A. for the fantastic guard of honor that made Joe so proud.*

*We owe a special thanks to Ann Marie Ward and Ger Dempsey, who were hands-on from the start, doing everything they could to support us.*

*To everyone who helped in any way, your contributions did not go unnoticed. We also want to thank our loving partners and children, who have been with us every step of the way. We are so lucky to have you in our lives.*

*It is impossible to thank everyone individually, so please accept this as an expression of our sincere appreciation.*

*Rest in Peace, Joe. Gone but never forgotten*



**Birthday Remembrance  
In Loving Memory of  
MICK McDONALD**



*St. Jude's, Portlaoise.  
1st birthday occurred 24th January 2025*

*Your presence I miss,  
Your memory I treasure,  
Loving you always,  
Forgetting you never.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by your loving wife May,  
sons Stephen, David & family.*

*May Mick Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MICHAEL DEMPSEY**

**3 Roselawn, Portlaoise and late of Rathdowney.  
9th Anniversary occurs 1st February 2024**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
on Thursday 1st February at 10am  
and Saturday 3rd Feb. at 6.30pm.

*Looking back on all our years and  
things that we've been through,  
Of all the choices that I made,  
I'm glad I married you.*

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Marie.*

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

*Lots of love Dad from Joe, Patricia, Mickey, Helena and  
Aine, daughters-in-law, son-in-law & grandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Michael*

**In Loving Memory of  
ANNE GING**

**70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
18th Anniversary occurs 25th January 2025.**



*Missing you is a heartache that will  
never go away, you are always in our  
thoughts and live forever in our hearts.*

*Loved and remembered today and  
everyday, by your loving son Liam,  
daughter Helena and families.*

*May Anne Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY (May) CONNELL**

**31 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.  
20th Anniversary occurs 28th January 2025**



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
**Saturday 25th January, 6.30pm.**

*January comes with sad regret,  
The day, the month, we'll never  
forget,  
In our hearts you will always stay,  
Loved and remembered forever  
each day.*

*Sadly missed by Liz, Liam, Noreen, John, Mary, Domo  
and Freda.*

*Rest in Peace Mary*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARTIN WALSH**

**118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
5th Anniversary occurs 21st January 2025**  
Martin's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
Saturday 25th January at 6.30pm.



Our lives go on without you  
Martin but nothing is the  
same.

The special years will not  
return when we were all  
together.

Thinking of you today and  
always forever in our hearts.

*Your ever loving wife Margaret, Son Joseph  
Daughters Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia  
Colette, Sons in law, Daughters in laws  
Grandchildren and Great grandchildren.*

Also remembering Martin's Son's Martin Jnr and  
Anthony at this time.

*May they Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
KATHLEEN BRENNAN**

**Rathleague, Portlaoise.  
15th Anniversary occurs 26th January 2025**



*Think of her as living in the hearts  
of those she touched,  
for nothing loved is ever lost,  
and she was loved so very much.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered  
by her loving children, grandchildren,  
family and friends.*

*May Kathleen Rest in Peace*

*Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of  
DICK (RICHARD) SIDES**

6 Ridge Road, Portlaoise . Died 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Remembering Dick on his 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary



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

Sadly missed and always remembered by  
his living family

*Ar Dheis Dé Go Raith A Anam*

**Acknowledgement  
and 1st Anniversary**

*In Loving Memory of  
Esther Heffernan (née Tynan)*

*Esker Hills, Portlaoise.*

*Predeceased by her cherished daughter  
Angel Marie, and her beloved mother, Una Tynan.*

1st Anniversary occurs 28th January 2025.



Anniversary Mass will  
be celebrated in  
St. Peter and Paul's  
Church on Sunday,  
26th January 2025,  
at 12:30 p.m.

The Tynan family and Esther's daughters, Kayleigh  
and Tianna Lee and her husband Mark, wish to  
thank everyone who sympathised with them on the  
devastating loss of Esther.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone  
who attended Esther's wake and funeral service.  
We are also deeply grateful to those who sent mass  
cards, made phone calls, and posted messages of  
condolence for Esther online.

A heartfelt thank you to Monsignor John Byrne for  
his presence at Portlaoise Hospital on the morning  
of 28th January 2024. We will be forever grateful.

The celebration of Esther's funeral mass by  
Monsignor John Byrne, accompanied by the  
beautiful singing of Aishling Rohan, brought us  
great comfort. We wish to thank you both.

Sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan Undertakers for  
the kindness, professionalism, and courtesy shown  
to us as a family.

We would also like to thank everyone at Portlaoise  
Cemetery for preparing Esther's final resting place  
with such care.

We can never thank the first responders and the  
staff of Portlaoise Hospital enough for their care of  
Esther and our family on the morning of  
28th January 2024. It will always be remembered.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone indi-  
vidually, we would like you all to know that your  
contributions of care towards us as a family made  
our loss more bearable. Please accept this acknowl-  
edgment as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

The Holy Sacrifice of Mass has been offered for all  
your intentions.

*May Esther Rest in Peace.*

**In Loving Memory of  
ESTHER SZWAGLIS**

Late of 170 St. Brigid's Place. Died 29<sup>th</sup> January 1999.  
26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from home.



"From sunrise to sunset, every moment would have  
been more wonderful if you were with us today.  
Your memories will never be forgotten".

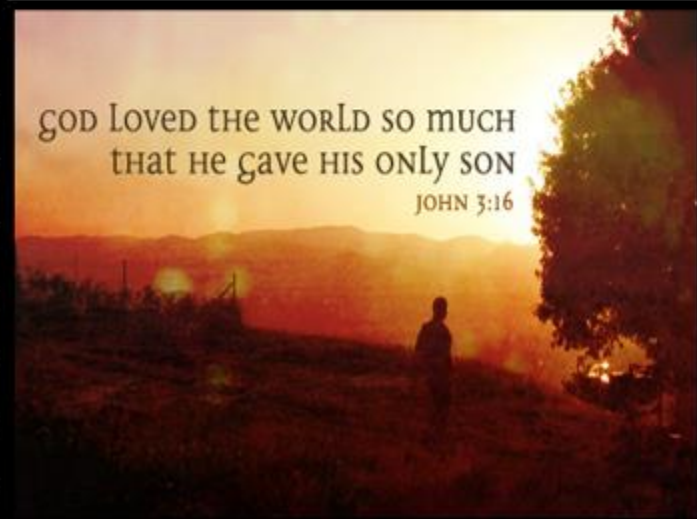
*Missing you every day from your loving husband Les,  
your children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*Also remembering her daughter Vanda, son-in-law  
David and her sisters Alice and Mary at this time.*

*May Esther Rest in Peace*

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON

JOHN 3:16





## BIRTHDAY REMEMBERANCE

### In Loving Memory of **MARY TOBIN**

Elm lawn, Portlaoise.

whose first birthday away from home occurs on  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2025



*If Roses Grow In Heaven Lord,  
Please pick a bunch for us,  
Place them in our mothers arms,  
And tell her they're from us*

*Tell her that we love her and  
When she turns to smile,  
Place a kiss upon her cheek,  
And hold her for a while*

*Because remembering her is easy,  
We do it every day,  
But there's an ache within our hearts,  
That will never go away.*

*We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our  
family and friends for their support since Mam's passing.*

*Your kind words and presence have brought us comfort  
during this difficult time. Without your support, the loss  
of Mam would have been an even greater burden to bear.*

*Your sympathy and kindness are deeply appreciated.*

*Happy Birthday Mam.*

From Susan, Catherine, Tracey, Nicola, Ciera, Henry, Rachel,  
Aideen and from your son in laws, and your loving  
grandchildren and great grandchildren.

*Rest in peace, Mary, reunited with your  
loving husband, Henry, and your beloved  
daughter, Sharon.*



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## HENRY RANKIN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise

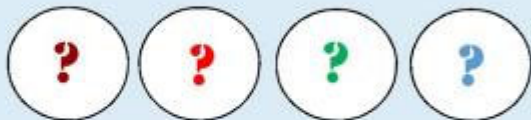
**087-2562137**







## This week's Numbers



## Wouldn't we love to know!

Its Thursday morning and the whole country is bracing itself for storm Eowyn and we have to get the Link Up to the printer well before our draw at 5pm when we play for a Jackpot of €16,000 so next week it will be either €17K or €10K .

You can check for this week's results on our website or on our Twitter (X) or Facebook.

Please God we will all be safe during the Red alert.



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

Responsorial Psalm 18:8-10.15

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## 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

THANK YOU



## 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](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Twitter: @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



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