

PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
**link  
up**

9th February 2025

## Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

*"Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5)  
but strengthens us in times of trial*

In his message for the 33rd World Day of the Sick, observed on February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pope Francis stated that sickness can lead to a transformative encounter with God when one remains open.



# HOPE AMID TRIAL LEADS TO GOD, POPE SAYS IN MESSAGE FOR WORLD'S SICK

World Day of the Sick  
Tuesday 11th February  
Celebration of the Eucharist  
and Anointing of the Sick  
After 7.30am and during 10am  
Masses in our Parish Church  
There will also be a special  
blessing for all who care for  
the Sick.  
All are Welcome.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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Sometimes we can have a strong sense of our own unworthiness when we are in the presence of the Lord. Several characters in the gospels express this sense of

unworthiness before Jesus. John the Baptist expressed his unworthiness to baptise Jesus; the Roman centurion expressed his unworthiness to have Jesus come to his home. In this morning's gospel reading, Simon Peter expresses his unworthiness just to be in the presence of Jesus.

Each of these characters felt that the gap between themselves and Jesus was so great that they simply weren't worthy to have him draw close to them. Yet, on each occasion, Jesus brushed aside the objection. He insisted on John baptising him; he insisted on going to the home of the Roman centurion; he insists to Simon Peter that he will not be departing from him. On the contrary, Simon Peter was called by Jesus to share intimately in his work of catching people, gathering people into God's kingdom.

The Lord does not want our sense of unworthiness to become a block between himself and us. Yes, we are unworthy, but the Lord does not ask us to be worthy. Rather, he asks us to be willing, to be responsive to his will for our lives. His purpose for our lives is always so much more generous than the plans or purposes we might have for ourselves. Like Simon Peter in the gospel reading, we can discover that at the very moment when we are most aware of our unworthiness, the Lord is looking ahead to the person we can become and to the role we can play in his work in the world.

## Our Lady of Lourdes

Tuesday 11th February

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over sixty miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles - now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.



## Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

**Monday to Friday:**

7.30am & 10am

**Saturday:** 10am

**Sunday**

Vigils 5pm & 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

**Sunday:** 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

**Sunday:** 10am

**CONFESSIONS**

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

## Prayer for St Valentine's Day • 14 February

Saint Valentine,

true servant who shed his blood  
in defence of the sacraments and faith in Jesus Christ,  
intercede for us today, we pray.

Gain for us the strength to be steadfast like you  
in witnessing to the true faith to the end of our days,  
and help us never to lose hope in the Lord  
who is always near us.

Intercede for those men and women  
who are preparing for marriage:  
help them to know one another and the true meaning  
of the sacramental bond they are preparing to enter.

Intercede for those who are joined together  
in the sacrament of marriage,  
that they may never give up when trials come their way  
but may remain faithful to each other,  
and to the Lord who blessed their union.

May your love for the Lord be an inspiration for  
our love for each other, for the love  
between husband and wife,  
and for the love and charity  
we extend to all whom we meet.

Amen.

*Courtesy Whitefriar St Church*

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Online booking: [www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie](http://www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie)

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,  
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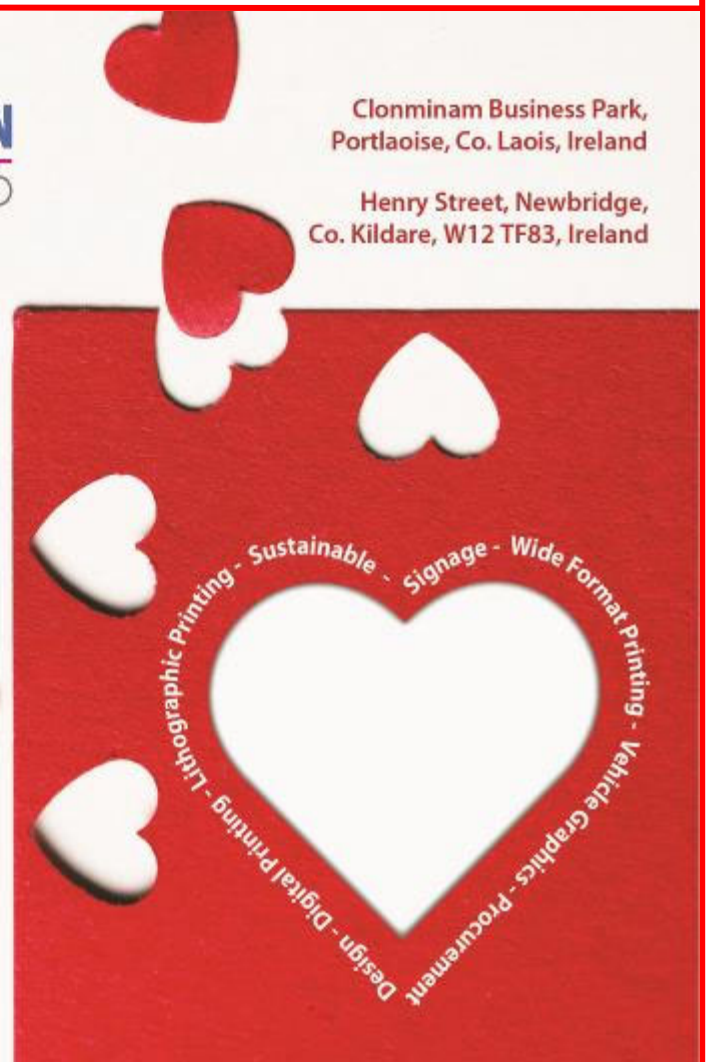
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## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**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** All are welcome to join us each Monday at 11am in Parish Centre, Portlaoise for learning and practising of all your favourite dances in preparation for a Céilí Mór on Monday 10th for Seachtain na Gaeilge. A truly enjoyable celebration of our culture is promised. Come alone or bring a partner. For further details contact Catriona at Laois Sports Partnership or Maureen at **087-6482038**

**Portlaoise Active Retirement** meets every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm in the Parish Centre for afternoon of friendship, fun and activities. New members welcome!

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** Bowls in St Mary's Sports hall, 2pm to 4pm. New members always welcome. Tuition given.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** Club in Parish Centre, at 3pm. Yoga Chair Exercises

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** Cards and chat in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm. New members always welcome. Tuition given. For further information please contact P.R.O. Sheila on 087-6204617

**Chime – Free Hearing Loss Support Clinic in Portlaoise :** Chime – National Charity for Deaf and Hearing Loss in Ireland - Laois Outreach Clinic held in Portlaoise Parish Centre, Wednesday 26th February (10.00am – 12.30 pm). Our free and confidential clinic provide one to one support , information and advice about deaf and hearing loss. For more information contact Chime 057-9351606 / text (086-1436476)



**Results of Whist Drive - Parish Centre, Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**Top Score:** Thersa Mulhare | **1<sup>st</sup> Lady:** Lena Kelly | **2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** Bernie Cahill | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** Tom Jacob | **2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** P J Cahill | **1<sup>st</sup> Half:** Paula McEvoy | **2<sup>nd</sup> Half:** Terry Dunne | **13 Tricks:** Mary Delaney & Lena Kelly | **Raffle:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Dunne | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sadie Chester | 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Lillis | 4<sup>th</sup> Sheila Duff | 5<sup>th</sup> Bridie Kennedy Thanks for all your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. New members always welcome.



**Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla; 087-2068972 | Seandoylelightengineering**  
Clothes line poles, Rotary clotheslines, winders, pulleys, saw horses, bicycle stands.

## 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.

**Divine Mercy Conference:** RDS Dublin, Day return bus (from Jn17 plaza Portlaoise) **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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. For further information contact 094 900 6426 or 087 1890 236 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

### Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:

Join us on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje - organized throughout the year.

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**For Enquiries, please contact us.**  
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### CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

Ratheniska Parents Association will hold a Church Gate Collection this weekend, **8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February.** Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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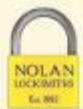
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## **FATIMA PILGRIMAGE TICKETS AVAILABLE**

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!

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for more information.**

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church, **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February** in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners. Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm.

## **NEW YEAR - FRESH START TIME TO DECLUTTER?**

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Starting: Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February for 4 weeks  
Time: 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.  
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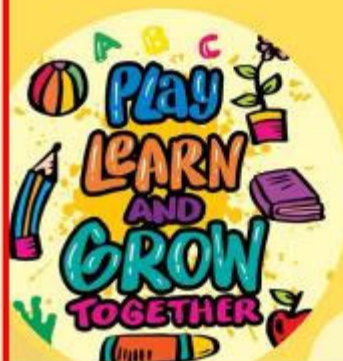
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## **Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe**

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Sunday  
September 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

# CateKIDS

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HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## What a Catch!

Have you ever wondered why so many people like to go fishing? There are many reasons why people go fishing. Some people go fishing because they like to eat fish and catching the fish yourself might be less expensive than buying it at the grocery store. For others, fishing is just a hobby. It gives them a chance to get away from their daily routine for a time of rest and relaxation. I have even heard some people say they don't even care if they catch any fish, they just enjoy going fishing. I would never fit in that last group. If I am going to go fishing, I want to catch fish. I want to catch a lot of them and I want to catch them right now!



You know, the Bible has a lot to say about fishing. The reason for that is that the first disciples that Jesus called were fishermen. They didn't fish for fun and relaxation and it wasn't a hobby. They fished because that is how they made their living. Do you think they cared whether they caught any fish or not? You had better believe they cared.

In the Gospel today we hear about one of the disciple's fishing trips. The story begins with Jesus preaching on the shore beside the sea of Galilee. There was a huge crowd of people gathered around him and they kept pressing closer so that they could hear him better. Jesus noticed two empty boats at the water's edge where the fishermen were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats and asked Simon, the boats owner, to move it out a little further from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and preached to the people from there.

When Jesus had finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Move on out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Simon answered him, "Master, we have fished all night without catching a thing, but if you say so, I will let down my nets again." This time the nets were so full of fish that they began to break. A call for help brought their fishing partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were so full of fish that they were about to sink.

When Simon saw what had happened, he was filled with awe and perhaps with fear to be in the presence of someone with so much power. He fell on his knees before Jesus.

Jesus said to him, 'Do not be afraid: from now on it is men and women you will catch.'

When they reached the shore, they pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed Jesus.

What did Jesus mean when he told them they would be fishing for men and women? Obviously, he didn't mean that they would go out and throw a net over them. What he meant was that just as they had been bringing the fish into their boats, they would now be bringing people into the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants you and me to be fishers of people too. That means that we will tell the people we meet about Jesus so that they can know him and become his followers too.

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, even when others refuse to believe that Jesus has the power to heal and forgive, help us to remain faithful and true. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**



## Our Prayer



Heavenly Father, just as Jesus called his early disciples to fish for people, he has called us to tell others about his love so that we might bring them into the Kingdom. Help us to be faithful to become fishers of people. In the name of Jesus we pray.

**Amen.**

## Be Not Afraid

**Jesus said 'Do not be afraid, from now on it is men you will catch.'**

**Then bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.**

BOATS  
AFRAID  
LUKE  
JOHN  
JAMES  
SINFUL  
MASTER  
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JESUS  
PETER  
MEN  
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FISH  
FISHERMEN

U	X	U	E	U	J	M	K	V	F	Y	D	N	S	Z	L	Y
X	S	M	U	L	U	F	N	I	S	C	J	E	Y	A	N	J
P	U	N	U	X	J	D	S	D	Y	R	U	E	K	C	L	B
I	G	S	W	C	J	H	G	W	I	O	V	E	P	A	G	F
B	I	T	Y	R	E	A	J	Y	N	W	F	D	E	L	E	S
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F	I	V	U	S	P	J	E	C	C	V	W	B	T	Y	Z	N
I	J	A	M	E	S	F	P	X	T	Y	I	H	M	N	A	R
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N	L	I	F	X	Y	V	A	W	B	T	S	T	A	O	B	K





# Time to Think!

## St. Valentine's Day

This week, we celebrate St. Valentine's Day, a day traditionally associated with romance and love. Its origins, however, are complex and intriguing. There were at least three men named Valentine, all executed by Roman emperors in the 3rd century. Over time, their stories merged into one figure—St. Valentine. In the 5th century, Pope Gelasius further entwined history by linking February 14th with the pagan festival of Lupercalia. By Shakespeare's era, Valentine's Day had evolved into a celebration of romance, far removed from its ancient Roman roots, which involved running through the streets with strips of goat hide.

Today, it has become a highly commercialized occasion, bringing with it expectations—flowers, chocolates, and grand gestures. But for those without a romantic partner, what does Valentine's Day mean?

Perhaps, instead of focusing solely on romantic love, this day can remind us of the many forms of love in our lives. It's a time to reflect on the relationships we cherish—with family, children, grandchildren, friends, and our communities. It's an opportunity to reassess our connections, strengthen them, and appreciate the love we already have.

In Dublin, devotion to St. Valentine at Whitefriar Street dates back 189 years when Carmelite priest Fr. John Francis Spratt brought sacred relics of St. Valentine, believed to include his heart. Historically, Valentine was a Roman priest who defied Emperor Claudius II's orders by secretly performing Christian marriages. Legends suggest he fell in love with his jailer's daughter, restored her sight, and sent her a note signed "from your Valentine." Fact and fiction blur over the centuries, but his story continues to inspire.

One of the most profound affirmations of love comes from the Gospels. When asked about God, Jesus simply replied, "God is love." St. Paul also reminds us:

*"Love is patient, love is kind.*

*It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

*It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

An old story tells of an island where all emotions lived—Happiness, Sadness, Vanity, and Love. One day, the island was sinking. Everyone left in boats, except Love. Richness sailed past, but his boat was full of gold. Vanity passed by but feared Love might ruin her boat. Sadness was too lost in sorrow to help, and Happiness was too busy celebrating to notice. Suddenly, an elder arrived and took Love to safety. When they reached land, Love asked Knowledge, "Who helped me?"

"It was Time," Knowledge replied.

"Time?" Love asked. "But why did Time help me?"

Knowledge smiled and said, "Because only Time understands how great Love is."

Love transcends conditions and boundaries. It is not just words, but actions. It is the open door, the reassuring hand, the silent strength in difficult times.

A teacher once told her students:

*"Become possibilarians. No matter how dark things seem, raise your sights and see the possibilities. Always see them, for they are always there."*

These times are challenging, yet when we reflect on life's fundamentals, we realize we have much to be grateful for. Life is our greatest teacher, and perhaps its most valuable lesson is this: the more we love, the greater we truly live.

## Happy Valentine's Day!



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 ;**



**Giovanni  
(Nino)  
Ciamberlano**  
Glenregan  
Portlaoise



**Jackie O'Neill  
(née Farrell)**  
Parkside,  
Portlaoise &  
The Curragh



**Sr. de Sales Egan  
(Presentation  
Sisters)**  
Mountmellick  
& formerly  
Parnell Crescent



**Gerard  
(Patrick)  
Lowry**



**Sean Quinn**  
Ballyroan



**William  
(Liam)  
Rohan**  
Abbeyleix



**Eileen Connell  
(née Cooke)**  
Newry, Co. Down  
& formerly  
Dublin Road

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



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**In Loving Memory of  
AIDAN BYRNE**

**Borris Little, Portlaoise.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**



*Thinking of you every day,  
A memory that will never  
fade away,  
You made our lives so much  
better, in our hearts  
forever and ever.  
A blanket of love given by you,  
We cherish the memories  
always.*

*Sadly missed and always  
remembered by your loving  
wife Nellie, sons John and George, daughter  
Esther and all his loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Aidan*

**In Loving Memory of  
VANDA RAFTER**

**Glenside, Portlaoise.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurred 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**



*If roses grow in Heaven Lord,  
Please pick a small bouquet,  
Place them in my daughters arms,  
And tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love and miss her,  
And when she turns to smile,*

*Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while.*

*Always missed and sadly remembered by  
your loving Dad Les, sisters Philomena & Rita,  
brothers Clive & Les, daughter-in law, son-in-  
law, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.*

*Rest in Peace Vanda*

*let His light shine.*



**In Loving Memory of  
VANDA RAFTER**

*"Ardville" Glenside, Portlaoise.  
2nd Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday **8th February at 6.30pm.**

*Sunshine passes, shadows fall  
Love's remembrance outlasts  
all*

*Though years be many or  
few, all are filled with  
remembrance of you.*

**Missed always by your daughter Amy, son Stefan and partner Jennifer, grandson Daithí and your loyal friend Teddy xxx**

*My Dearest Daughter-in-Law Vanda  
The years may pass but still you stay,  
As near and dear as yesterday.*

**Missed today and always, Betty xxx**

*Vanda*

*Chance made you my sister-in-law,  
But the fun and laughter made us best friends,  
You are always just a thought away.*

**Loved and missed beyond words,  
John, Martina and Craig xxx**

*Ship Beyond The Horizon  
The human soul is like a ship  
Sailing proudly on life's seas,  
With sails hoisted in magnificence  
She sails upon the buoyant breeze.*

*Then, as she fast approaches  
The horizon far away,  
She slips gently from our sight  
Towards another day.*

*Although we cannot see her  
Nor no longer gaze in awe,  
She still sails proudly onward  
To a far-off distant shore.*

*Those waiting on that distant shore  
For our loved ones who have passed,  
With open arms will welcome them  
And embrace them at long last.*

**Fondly remembered by Jimmy, Claire and family xxx**

*Rest in Peace Vanda*

**In Loving Memory of  
EILEEN PHELAN**

*New Road, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 11.15am.**

*In God's care you rest above,  
In our hearts you rest in love,  
Never more than a thought away,  
Loved and remembered everyday.*

*In Heaven you rest,  
No worries or pain,*

*God bless you...until we meet again.*

**Sadly missed by your loving family and friends.**

*Rest in Peace Eileen*

**In Loving Memory of  
MADGE McEVOY**

*Capoley, Portlaoise.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.  
Much loved and cherished Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 12:30pm.**

*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.*

**Sadly missed and always remembered by;  
Sarahann, Ailish, Mary, Joe, Breda and their families.**

*May Madge Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY CONROY**

*18 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.*

*12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

**For a Wonderful Mum**

*Along the road of suffering, you  
found a little lane, that took you up  
to Heaven, and ended all your pain.*

*You may be out of sight,  
We may be worlds apart,  
But you are always in our prayers  
and forever in our hearts.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 10am**

**Love you always Mam, from your loving daughters  
Marie, Phil and Josephine.**

*Rest in Peace Mary*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARY DOOLEY**

29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025



11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.

*Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered everyday,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts, you're always there.*

*Sadly missed by all her loving family, neighbours and friends.*

*Mary*

*No more tomorrows for us to share but yesterday's memories will always be there.*

*Always remembered by Jim and Maureen Lynch and family.*

*May Mary Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
CHRISTY WHELAN**

138 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 11:15am.

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

*Always loved and sadly missed by your loving wife, Lily, and family.*

*Rest in Peace Christy*

**In Loving Memory of  
BRIGID & JOE CARROLL**

4 Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise, whose 39<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversaries occur at this time. (February and March)



*We won't forget ye,  
We won't even try,  
We just miss ye more,  
as time goes by.*

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



*May Bridget & Joe Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
HELEN BYRNE**

St Martins, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025.



*Helen's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St Peter & Paul's church, Portlaoise on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 11.15am*

*"God called your name so softly,  
that only you could hear,  
and no one heard the footsteps of Angels drawing near.  
The golden gates stood open,  
God saw you needed rest,*

*His garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best"*

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

*Rest in Peace Helen*

**In Loving Memory of  
LOUISE ALLEN (née McGurk)**

Grattan Street, Portlaoise



*Louise's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Church on Sunday, 16th February, at 12:30 PM.*

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

*Sadly missed by all her loving family & friends.*

*Rest in Peace Mum*

**In Loving Memory of  
BRÍDÍN MULHALL**

Ballyroan, Laois and Rathmines, Dublin.

9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



*Dearly loved daughter and sister - you are greatly missed and lovingly remembered today and everyday by Seamus, Ursula, John, James and Gerard.*

*The much loved niece of Sr. Gerard (RIP), Sr. Kay and Sr. Patricia, Frances (RIP) and Michael, Evelyn (God Mother) and Eamon, Sean (RIP) and Elizabeth.*

*Sadly missed by all her cousins and extended family and forever in the minds and hearts of her many friends.*

*The just will live in the company of the lord: Psalm 37*

*Bridin's family would like to thank the community for their continued support over the years.*

*Rest in Peace Bridin*

**In Loving Memory of  
DICKIE MC DONALD**

*Cullion House, Mullingar.*



**The 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, 16th February, at 9:30 AM in Ballyroan Church, Abbeyleix, Laois.**

*Today is such a painful day,  
Filled with sadness and grief for me,  
As I mourn the moment that you left,  
Recalling how life used to be.*

*You were someone very special,  
Who left your mark on many lives.  
Things just haven't been the same  
Since we said goodbye.*

*The bond we shared will never end,  
Even though we are apart.  
I find comfort in the memories,  
Deep within my heart.*

*This heartfelt message is for you—  
I miss you more than words can say.  
The world lost someone precious  
On the day you went away.*

**Sadly missed and always remembered by your Mum, Dad, Malcolm, Clodagh, T.J., Céire, Aoife, and extended family and friends.**

*Rest in Peace Dickie*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARGARET (Peggy)  
KELLY**

**1 Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.**

**3rd Anniversary occurs 16th February 2025.**



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 16th February at 10am.**

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

**Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her loving husband and family.**

*Rest in Peace Peggy*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOSS ROBINSON**

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

**3rd Anniversary occurs 12th February 2025**



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 8th February at 6.30pm**

*We think of you in silence, we often speak your name, but all we have are memories and a picture in a frame.*

*Your resting place we visit,  
We put flowers there with care, but no one knows our heartache as we turn and leave you there.*

**Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his wife Peg, sons Joseph and Michael, daughters Jackie and Margaret and grandkids and great grandkids.**

*Rest in Peace Joss*

**ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE  
In Loving Memory of  
ALICE NEVIN**

**Formerly Mountain View Square, Portlaoise.**

**6th Anniversary away from us.**



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 8th February at 10am.**

*So much has changed since your gone,  
Through ups and downs our lives move on,*

*But as time rolls by one thing remains true,  
We'll always have memories of you.*

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

*Rest in Peace Alice*

**In Loving Memory of  
THOMAS ROBINSON**

*Beladd, Portlaoise.*

**12th Anniversary occurs 15th February 2024.**

*May the God of love and mercy,  
Care for our loved one that is gone,  
And bless with consolation,  
Those left to carry on.*



*Always remembered by your loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Tom*

HE IS NOT HERE  
*he is risen*

Christ Lives!





*In Loving Memory of*  
**FINT GORMAN**

84 Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Heaven occurred 5<sup>th</sup> February.



Today is your birthday in  
Heaven above,  
My blessing I send on the wings  
of a dove,  
Not just for today, but for  
everyday,  
I think of you always  
with all my love.  
**Happy Birthday**

Always loved, forever missed by your wife Ann, sons,  
daughters, grandchildren great-grandchildren

*Rest in Peace Fint*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**PETER ALLEN**

Eyne, Portlaoise.  
27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.



Those we hold most dear  
Never truly leave us.  
They live on in the kindness they showed,  
The comfort they gave,  
And the love they brought into our lives.  
*Fondly remembered and sadly  
missed by Bridie and all your  
loving family xxx*

*Rest in Peace Peter*

*In Loving Memory of*  
My Husband  
**CHARLIE CLARKE**

5 Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise.  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025



We miss your smile, your joking ways  
We miss the things you used to say  
Always remembered by his loving wife  
Peggy and his daughter Dorothy.

*May Charlie Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**MARY KEALEY**

(NÉE TYNAN)

Sheffield Cross, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025.



The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter and Paul Church on  
Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, at 6:30 PM.

Every day, in some small way,  
Memories of you come our way.  
Though absent, you are always near,  
Still missed, loved, and always dear.

Sadly missed and always remembered by your  
loving husband Paddy, children Mary, Sonny,  
Martin, Caroline, and Brian, grandchildren,  
great-grandchildren, extended family, and friends.

*Rest in Peace Mary*

**ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE**

*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOSEPH BUGGIE**

3 Kylebeg, Stradbally.

9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary away from Home occurs 8<sup>th</sup> February.



Wonderful memories woven in  
gold,  
This is a picture we tenderly hold,  
Deep in our hearts a memory is  
kept, to love, to cherish,  
never to forget.

Always remembered by your  
loving wife Patricia, daughters,  
Celina, Margaret and Samantha  
and grandkids Haleema, Alannah, Kayla and J.J.

*Rest in Peace Joseph*



"My sheep hear my voice; I know  
them, and they follow me".  
John 10:27

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**Ireland**  
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English  
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**FEBRUARY 2025**

16<sup>Sunday</sup>  
10 AM

18<sup>Tuesday</sup>  
9 AM

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
**NORA DELANEY**

*(née Maher)*  
*Cullenagh, Portlaoise*



*Nora's Months  
Mind Mass will be  
celebrated in St.  
Patrick's Church,  
Ballyroan,  
on Friday, 14th  
February 2025  
@ 7.30p.m.*

*Judith, Margaret, Olive, Mary and their families would like to express our sincere gratitude for the many messages of sympathy on our mother's recent death.*

*We are truly indebted to all our extended families, relations, neighbours and friends, who helped and supported us in so many different ways during and after Nora's funeral.*

*We are especially grateful to the **Home Instead and Comfort Homecare** teams who visited Nora regularly for the past few years, enabling her independence in her own home. A special thank you to the medical and nursing staff at the **Midland Regional Hospitals in Tullamore and Portlaoise. To Sonya and the Palliative Care Team, Denise and the Public Health Nursing Team**, we thank you for your professional nursing care, for which Nora was so appreciative.*

*Thank you **Fr. Paddy** for your spiritual direction in Nora's final days and for celebrating with **Fr. Petru and the Ballyroan Choir**, a meaningful requiem Mass.*

*To the **Bourke Family Undertakers, Sheila, Niall and Pat**, a special thank you for the guidance, love, dignity, care and compassion shown to Nora and our family at this time, especially in such difficult weather conditions.*

*A donation from her funeral has been made to the **Day Care Centre, Abbeyleix** where Nora enjoyed many fulfilled days.*

*May Nora Rest in Peace*



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## Portlaoise Parish



## Results for 6th February 2025



### No €18,000 Jackpot Winner

#### WINNERS

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Superwoman

Veronica, Ken & Bridget Byrne

Sister Act

Sadie & Florence

Breda Phelan

Vera Richardson

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Receive  
€143  
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Paddy O'Connor

Peter Ryan

Anne Brennan

Thelma Brown

Peter Ryan

Parish Centre

Vera Richardson

## 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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Subject to availability of space

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### PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

## Development Fund Envelope Boxes Available at the Church Porches



We invite you to take a box for your Weekly  
contribution to the Parish Development Fund.  
The boxes also contain envelopes for the other  
collections during the year.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of the collection baskets  
at Sunday Masses for support. *Thank you* to the many who have found new  
ways of continuing to support the Parish during this time of Lockdown.  
The generosity of so many means we **continue** to be well supported and  
can pay our way at this time.

### Ways to contribute to our Parish

Envelope 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**



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**SUPPORT NURSE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**



## AQUA AEROBICS

PLEASE GIVE THE CENTRE A CALL IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS CLASS.

## TUESDAY

**THRIVE & SURVIVE PROGRAMME**  
THIS IS A SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR CANCER SURVIVORS WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE TO BETTER MANAGE DAILY HEALTH.

(DEVELOPED BY STANFORD UNIVERSITY)

NEXT PROGRAMME STARTING APRIL 2025

**MINDFULNESS FOR MEN**  
2:30PM - 4:00PM  
STARTING 11TH FEBRUARY



## CITIZENS INFORMATION ADVISER

WILL GIVE YOU ADVICE ABOUT THE FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS YOU MAY RECEIVE AND HELP YOU WITH THE PROCESS. E.G., MEDICAL CARD APPLICATION ETC.

## WEDNESDAY



## CHAIR YOGA

10:00AM - 11:00AM  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
STARTING 5TH FEBRUARY

**'LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER'**

11:30AM - 1:00PM  
PLACES LIMITED  
(STARTING APRIL 2025)

**BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)**

FUNDED BY LAOIS HOSPICE

## MANUAL LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE

A SPECIALISED GENTLE MASSAGE FOR PATIENTS WITH LYMPHOEDEMA, WHICH MAY RESULT FROM SURGERY OR RADIOTHERAPY.  
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

PART FUNDED BY LAOIS HOSPICE

## ART

2:00PM - 4:00PM  
STARTING 12TH FEBRUARY

## THURSDAY

**CREATIVE ARTS**  
10:00AM - 12:00PM  
(DATE TBC)



## PLAY THERAPIST

AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN FROM 3 YEARS UPWARDS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY A CANCER DIAGNOSIS IN THE FAMILY



## CHAIR YOGA

10:30AM - 11:30AM  
(CLOSED GROUP)

## PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY.

STARTING 20TH FEBRUARY  
SPACES AVAILABLE  
(BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

## GARMENT FITTING

SERRA NOVA SLEEVE/LEG GARMENTS FOR LYMPHOEDEMA.  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
STARTS 6TH MARCH

## CLIMB PROGRAMME

HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CANCER. THIS PROGRAMME IS FUN AND CREATIVE, USING DRAMA, ARTS AND PLAY AND AIMS TO HELP CHILDREN COPE WITH A CANCER DIAGNOSIS IN THE FAMILY.  
(STARTING APRIL 2025)

The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre is a charity, and all our services are provided free of charge.