

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

16th March 2025

Second Sunday of Lent



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Image of St. Patrick
on Stained glass in
Ratheniska Church



Martin Maher (St. Patrick)
greeting the crowd.

Photo by Laois Today

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

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



Saint Patrick

St. Patrick was born very probably in the early years of the fifth century in Roman colony of Britain. He was taken captive at the age of sixteen and brought to Ireland where he was sold as a slave. He tended herds on Slemish Mountain for six years. His captivity had a very positive effect on his spiritual life. He prayed many times each day, his faith growing stronger and his love and reverence for God increasing. He escaped back home at the age of twenty-two. It was obvious to him that God was calling him to return to convert the Irish. The voice of the Irish was calling him to come and walk among them once more. He studied probably in France, returned to Ireland as a bishop 457-61, or as early as 432 according to another tradition. His mission was not immediately greatly successful but eventually he would make a tremendous number of converts. Two writings survive: the Letter to Coroticus, a protest to the soldiers of a British prince who had killed some converts and sold others as slaves, and his Confession written near the end of his life, showing him as one living by the faith he preached and allowing Christ to direct his whole life. He died 491, though again other dates have been suggested, 480 or as early as 461.



Saint Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary 19th March

It is disappointing considering the importance of St. Joseph's role, that the gospels do not tell us more about him. All we really know of his character is that he was a 'holy and righteous man who generously co-operated with God's grace.' Early Christians must have been more interested in imitating Joseph's virtues than recording biographical details. So today, as the early Christians did, we honour Joseph for trusting in God's plan even though he had limited understanding of its reasons or consequences. We offer petitions to him as patron saint of fathers, guardians, workers and of the dying.



Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday St. Patrick's Day

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am (As Gaeilge) and 7.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

Tuesday to Friday:

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

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.

St. Patrick's Day

Monday 17th March

To mark the celebration of the feast of our National Patron, the 11.15am Mass on Monday will be celebrated 'as Gaeilge'

Remembering all who died during Lockdown will take place on Friday 28th March in the Parish Church, at 7.30pm.

Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre. **Thank You!**

LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Rylan William Lynch, Cosby Avenue
Aóibh Síle Dunne, Aghanaharna Drive
Shay Patrick Byrne, Rossvale

who was baptised last weekend

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Weekly Classes Schedule

Parish Centre : Monday Morning: Osteo with John - 9:30 AM
Evening: Physio-led Pilates with Laura
6:00-7:00 PM (Intermediate)
7:00-8:00 PM (Beginners)

Clinic : Tuesday Morning: Senior Exercise Class - 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Wednesday Morning: Osteo Class - 10:30 AM
Thursday Afternoon: Osteo Class - 4:00-5:00 PM

Online : Wednesday Morning: Pilates - 9:30-10:30 AM

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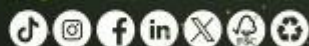
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DR ALGEO IS A CLINICAL SPECIALIST OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (CANCER SERVICES) AT ST. JAMES HOSPITAL. INFORMATION ON THE NIGHT WILL EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENT PATTERNS OF FATIGUE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Wednesday 26th March at 11am

BOOKING ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING CALL THE CENTRE ON
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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**.

Céilí Mór – Celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge! Join us for music, dance, and fun at **Seanchistin, Ballyfin, on Monday, March 10th, at 11a.m.** Free admission, all welcome! For details, contact Maureen at 087 648 2038 or seanchistin@gmail.com.

Daffodil Day – Friday, 28th March : The annual street collection for the Irish Cancer Society takes place on 28th March. To volunteer, contact **Portlaoise Daffodil Day** on Facebook or message **Cathy at (086) 879-7907**. Fresh daffodils for fundraising can be dropped at Martley's shop in the days before.

Portlaoise Active Retirement Portlaoise Active Retirement meets every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for friendship, fun, and activities—new members always welcome! Please note, no bowls on Monday 17th March (Bank Holiday). Join us Wednesday 19th March in the Parish Centre at 3pm with Moez, and Thursday 20th March for cards and chat in Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm. Tuition provided. For more info, **contact Maria on 087 918 7157**.

Whist Drive Results – Tuesday, March 11th, Parish Centre: Top Score: Kit Farrell.

Ladies: 1st Rita Arrigan, 2nd Tom Gowing.

Gents: 1st Mary Killeen, 2nd Catherine Galvin.

Halves: 1st Mary Delaney; 2nd Paula McEvoy & P.J. Cahill (tie).

Raffle: 1st Mary J. Dunne, 2nd Kit Farrell, 3rd & 4th Christy Fitzpatrick.

Whist continues every Tuesday at 7.30pm, Parish Centre. New members welcome!

Graiguecullen MONSTER Bingo: Tuesday, 19th March, St. Fiacc's Hall at 8:30 pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers: €2130. Double number: €740. Lotto: €550.

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.

Legion of Mary – Meetings: Every Wednesday at 6.30pm in the Parish prayer hall. All are welcome!

Relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux & Her Parents, St. Louis & St. Zélie Martin: The relics will visit St. Peter & Paul's Church, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare. **Saturday, 22nd March 2025:** 6.30pm Mass with veneration afterwards. **Sunday, 23rd March 2025:** 9.00am Mass and 11.30am Mass celebrated by **Bishop Denis Nulty**, with veneration afterwards.

10th Anniversary of Night Prayers Broadcast: This St. Patrick's Night, our Night Prayers mark 10 years of continuous broadcast. Please join us any night on the parish radio or webcam. St. Patrick's Night broadcast marks the 3,600th broadcast of our Night Prayers.

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CHAT WITH OUR TEAM AT OUR RECRUITMENT EVENT IN PORTLAOISE!

Portlaoise Parish Centre
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Portlaoise
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THURSDAY 20TH MARCH
10:00AM - 3:00PM

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East Midland Parkinsons: East Midlands Parkinsons Support Group will hold a General Meeting for all people with Parkinsons and Carers on Saturday March 29th at 2pm in The Community Centre, Monasterevin W34 FH24. The meeting is open to all persons with Parkinsons in counties Laois and Kildare. Kathy Foley, Parkinsons Nurse Specialist will give a presentation on the day on all aspects of Parkinsons Disease. For further information please contact John 087 2712448

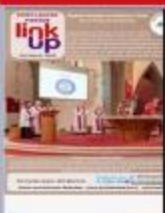
Walk in the Park for Parkinsons will take place on Saturday, 5th April at 11am in Colt G.A.A grounds, Raheen, Abbeyleix R32 V085. To register in advance visit www.parkinsons.ie Refreshments will be served afterwards in Doogues Bar, Raheen. All support greatly appreciated.

ADORATION - SS Peter & Paul Church, Portlaoise

Adoration takes place Monday to Friday after 10am Mass until 7pm, Saturday 2-6pm, and Sunday 2-7pm.

We invite anyone who can commit to spending time in adoration each week to contact Helena (087 9611331) or Ray (089 2502878), to help ensure someone is present with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at all times.

"Could you not watch with me one hour?" - Mt 26:40



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Public Information Notice



Important Information:

The public are advised that due to the Portlaoise St. Patrick's Day Parade and Street Festival 2025 vehicular access to Main Street will not be possible during the hours of 7am and 7pm on the 17th of March.

The parade will start at 12.30pm from Laois County Council. Those taking part are asked to be there for 11.30am.

Parking in Laois County Council during parade preparation is prohibited. Parking areas are outlined on the route map below.

Please obey Stewards on the day. They are there for your safety.

If you are travelling to Portlaoise on the day, please expect traffic delays.

For more information follow Patrick's Day Parade Portlaoise on Facebook.

PORTLAOISE St. Patrick's Day Parade 2025



Map Legend

- Pedestrian Route
- Vehicular Route
- Emergency Access Route
- Stage/Performance Area
- Wheelchair Viewing Area
- Starting Area

THE HEATH'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE!

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MARCH 17

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My Soul is Troubled

Have you ever come across a stone that is small and flat and fits into your hand in such a way that you can rub it with your thumb. Many people carry a stone like this in their pocket. They call it a "worry stone." Whenever they are troubled about something, they just reach into their pocket and rub the worry stone. They believe that rubbing the smooth surface of the stone gives them a peaceful feeling and helps them to quit worrying about their troubles.



If we really want to know what we should do when we face trouble in our life, we should look at what Jesus did.

Just a few days before he was to be crucified, Jesus said, "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Jesus knew that he was going to die on the cross. He could have asked God to save him. Instead, he only asked that his Father's name would be glorified. Why do troubles come into our life? I believe that troubles come for the very reason that Jesus said - so that God's name will be glorified. I have known people who followed the example of Jesus when they faced trouble in their life. I have even known people who faced death with



My Prayer



Dear Father, we all face trouble in our daily life. Instead of asking you to take them away, let us ask that you help us to face those troubles in such a way that your name will be glorified. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



SOME OF THESE SUGGESTIONS MIGHT HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO FOR LENT:

I will share a smile.



I will pray for those who are hungry.

I will help my mammy.

I will put some money in the Trócaire Box

I will pray for those who have died.

I won't eat sweets.

I will play with my little brother/sister

I will help my teacher.



I will share my lunch with my friend.

I will write a letter to my nana.

I will clean my room without complaining.

I will be kind to someone.

I will go Mass.

I will give my daddy a hug.

I will make a card for my granddad.

I will say I am sorry when I am wrong.



ST. PATRICK



As a teenager, Patrick was captured by Irish raiders and forced into slavery for six years. During this time he learned the language and customs of the Irish people. He also grew close to God. After the six years, he escaped and made his way back to his family. Then he decided that the people of Ireland needed him. So, he began to learn the Bible and train for mission work. Once he was ready, he returned to Ireland and preached to the people for 40 years before he died. As he converted the Irish, he made disciples out of them. Many of his followers went on to become renowned religious leaders as well.

Saint Patrick left behind a great example for us to follow. He could have hated the people who stole him from his family, but he knew that they needed God's love. He loved his

enemies and wanted them to know God like he did. In addition to converting many, he spent time training them to lead others. We need to learn from his example of not only converting the lost but training them in God's Word after they convert. Patrick's love, forgiveness, service, and leadership provides us with an excellent example to emulate.

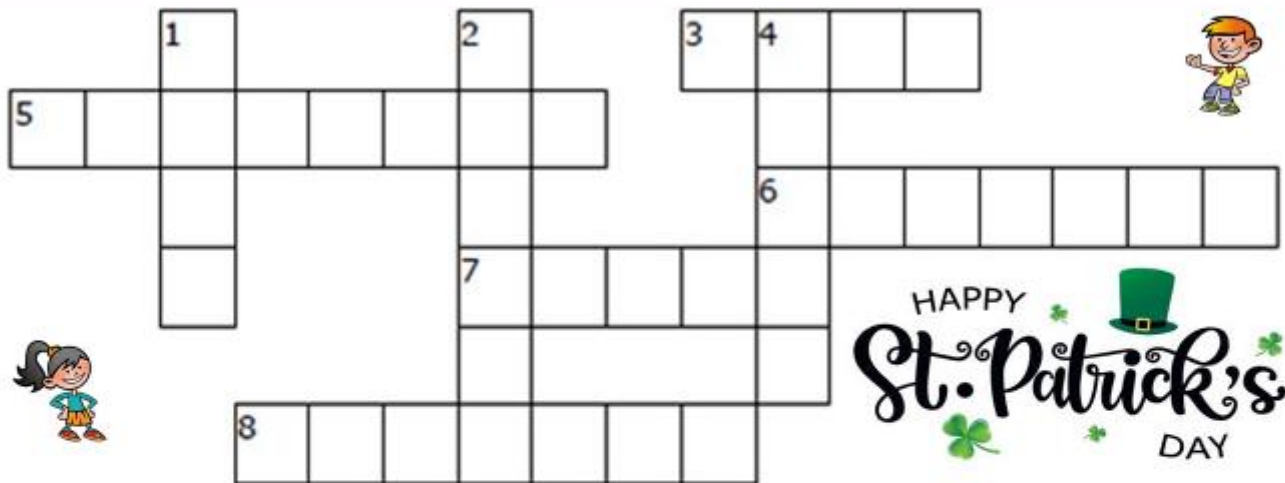


Do you know what this is?



"My Soul is Troubled"

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" John 12:28-28.



ACROSS

3. To rescue from danger
5. To have problems or difficulties
6. To honour or praise
7. The sound people make when they speak or sing
8. A booming noise that follows lightening.

DOWN

1. The spiritual part of a person that continues to live after the body dies
2. The home of God and the angels
4. A heavenly being who serves God.

GLORIFY

ANGEL

THUNDER

HEAVEN

TROUBLED

VOICE

SAVE

SOUL



Time to Think!

happy St. Patrick's Day

St Patrick inspires faith...

As I write this article, Taoiseach Micheál Martin is scheduled to meet U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on March 12, 2025, as part of the traditional St. Patrick's Day celebrations. This meeting continues a long-standing tradition where the Irish Taoiseach visits the U.S. president to mark the occasion, reflecting the deep cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the United States.

The visit was formally confirmed when President Trump invited Martin in a letter, congratulating him on his recent appointment and emphasizing the "special bond" between the two nations. The Taoiseach has expressed his delight at the invitation and looks forward to the meeting, which is expected to include a bilateral discussion in the Oval Office, the presentation of a bowl of shamrock, and other events such as the Speakers' lunch on Capitol Hill.

Key topics anticipated for discussion include U.S. tariffs, which Martin plans to address by highlighting their potential damage to Ireland's small, open economy, as well as the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Martin has emphasized a respectful approach, intending to present Ireland's perspective while acknowledging Trump's views, particularly on achieving peace in Ukraine and consolidating a ceasefire in Gaza. He has also indicated he would "absolutely" invite Trump to visit Ireland, a customary gesture extended to U.S. presidents.

This meeting occurs against a backdrop of global tensions, including Trump's threats of 25% tariffs on EU goods and his recent suspension of military aid to Ukraine, posing diplomatic challenges for Martin. The Taoiseach has stressed the importance of protecting Irish economic interests and maintaining the strong, two-way relationship with the U.S., especially given Ireland's significant trade ties and investments there. I pray that this important diplomatic mission goes well for Ireland.

Saint Patrick's feast day, is now a global event. The Irish diaspora, have contributed significantly to the four corners of the world. In this regard, civic buildings and national monuments will cheerfully be Greened to celebrate our National Holiday. Saint Patrick, was a courageous, faith filled and prophetic voice. His intelligent delivery of Christianity embraced a rich Celtic Spirituality, that celebrated life and seasons, when he walked upon our shore. I pray that this great feast day will continue to offer hope and inspiration. Parishes and villages across the country will gather together and celebrate the great gift of community, volunteerism, sport, music and culture. This indeed is a sacred time and I pray, that this Saint Patrick's weekend will be filled with every blessing for you all.

On St. Patrick's Day we celebrate our Irishness and our faith. For so long in our history they have been intertwined, perhaps at times identified. As a result we may have been tempted to take our faith for granted. Admittedly we did not have to fight for it or die for it as our ancestors did. They were challenged by their faith and responded generously to that challenge.

Today, Irish people all over the world and we here at home rejoice in the new opportunities which are available in our country – for education, employment and a good quality of life. Indeed many of our exiles will tell you that they regret the fact that these opportunities were not available to them before they emigrated. However, a worrying trend, of highly qualified young people, emigrating because of the lack of affordable housing, is a cause of deep concern.

In the past the challenge to our faith came from outside of ourselves – from Penal Laws and from oppressive regimes. Today the challenge is not so obvious and it comes from within ourselves. Faith is not something that has myths of compartmentalisation; rather it impinges on all areas of human living. Today there is probably no area of life in which faith is not being challenged and in which it does not have a significant contribution to make.

As individuals and families, whether in our work, socialising, education or whatever, our faith impinges or we can refuse to allow it to do so. At times we misinterpret and misunderstand the nature of faith. Great faith is not a faith that walks in the light and knows no darkness. Real faith perseveres in spite of God's seeming silence.

When one considers the obstacles with which Patrick contended – taken captive from his own people and his home, slavery on Slieve

Mish, eventual escape and yet prepared to return as a missionary and preach Christ's gospel to those who had held him captive.

The wholeheartedness and single mindedness of Patrick are clear pointers to his faith. He is a man of flesh and blood whose whole life was fed on faith in God's love. Faith must have been a struggle for him, as it is for you and me. In the experience of slavery it must have been tempting for him to abandon faith and yield to despair. Yet he recognised his real helplessness and turned to God as a helper and a true friend.

Slavery in the 21st century takes on a more sinister and subtle form. Work, pleasure, comfort, the celebrity status.

Almost unnoticed God can be excluded and pushed out to the margins of life in a busy competitive world. With so many voices clamoring for our attention we have to make an effort to keep the lines of communication open with God in prayer and in our participation at Mass and the sacraments.

In a confused and complex culture we need a compass to provide us with a sense of direction. Enabling us to cope with and respond to the various challenges which meet us every day. I am convinced that faith, properly understood and genuinely lived can provide us with such a compass. Faith can enable us to see beneath and beyond the situations in which we find ourselves. Just as in Patrick's life, faith made it possible for God to enter, so in our lives faith makes it possible for God to become involved in our busy world and our hectic activity. As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy celebration and pray that the faith that Patrick brought to our shores will sustain all of us in challenging times.

If St. Patrick were looking at the 6:1 News this evening, he would undoubtedly be surprised to find that his name was associated with the greening of the Great Wall of China and of the Pyramids in Egypt. The marketing people have been very clever in turning our national feast day into an opportunity to promote tourism and to seek opportunities for overseas trade. Fair play to them. If these things help to strengthen our economy and to ensure that all our people can live with dignity and enjoy the fruits of citizenship, then there is nothing wrong with that. But we who believe in Jesus need to be doing a bit of marketing ourselves. St. Paul reminds us that the time will come when many people will not want to hear the message of the Gospel. The image of the weeds and the wheat growing together is a common theme in the Gospels, it is a reminder that faith and unbelief exist side by side in our society. It is not the responsibility of politicians, economists or entrepreneurs as such to promote faith. It is our task as Christians, together with Christians of other religious traditions throughout Ireland, to ensure that the primary focus of St. Patrick's Day remains the reception of the Gospel and that the values of the Gospel permeate our civil society.

St. Patrick's Breastplate is a popular prayer attributed to one of Ireland's most beloved patron saints. According to tradition, St. Patrick wrote it in 433 A.D. for divine protection before successfully converting the Irish King Leoghaire and his subjects from paganism to Christianity. (The term breastplate refers to a piece of armour worn in battle.)

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @fpaddybyrne, now over 33,800 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

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or Text/WhatsApp 085 818 7470
www.thearcproject.ie



LAOIS ALZHEIMER Family Support Group Meeting



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY of IRELAND



Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Wednesday March 19th,
6.30pm-8.30pm

This meeting is a support for carers and families who

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

LAOIS ALZHEIMER CAFÉ



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY of IRELAND



Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Thursday 27th March 11am-1pm.

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

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



ANDY MOLLOY
*Mountmellick
& Portlaoise*



EDWARD DOOLEY
*Killamuck
Abbeyleix*



**MARY ANGELA
GEOGHEGAN**
*(née Marum)
Dublin & Portlaoise*



**MARY
BURGEES**
*(née Keogh)
Coolrain &
formerly Portlaoise*



**KATHLEEN
MARGARET
MCDONAGH**
*(née McDonagh)
Mountmellick
whose Requiem Mass
was celebrated in Portlaoise
during the week*

**MAY THEY
REST IN
PEACE**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*In Loving Memory of
DYMPNA WALSH
(Nee Moran)
Chapel Street, Ballyroan.*



*Dympna's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in St Patricks Church, Ballyroan on Sunday 23rd
March at 9.30am*

We the family of Dympna Walsh would like to sincerely thank all those that sympathised, travelled long distances and called to support us on our recent heartbreaking loss. To all those that attended the wake, Requiem Mass and burial, sent mass cards, floral tributes and the kind messages we are truly grateful.

Our Heartfelt thanks to the Emergency Services and the staff of the Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise. Thanks to the Doctors and Staff of Maryborough Family Practice for all your help and understanding down through the years.

Sincere thanks to Msgr John McEvoy, Fr Paddy Byrne, Fr Paddy Hennessy and Fr Willie Hennessy for a beautiful Requiem Mass supplemented by our beautiful choir. Thanks to Sacristans Ritchie and Nora for preparing the church for the funeral mass.

We would like to express our collective gratitude to the team that managed traffic, pedestrians and refreshments during the wake. Thanks to our relations, friends and neighbours for sending food and refreshments to the house.

A special thank you to Des & Carmel Moran Undertakers for your compassion and professionalism with Mam's funeral arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all your friendship and support.

Dympna is remembered, loved and greatly missed by her loving husband Peter, Son Barry, Daughter Michelle, Brothers Sean, Paddy, Des, Sister Anne, Daughter in Law Gemma, Son in Law Mark, Grandchildren Cillian, Ellie, Caitlin, Oisín, Conor, Tomás, Sisters in Law, Brother in Law, Nieces, Nephews, Aunt Marion and extended Family.

*May Dympna's Gentle
Soul Rest in Peace*



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**In Loving Memory of
Dr. LIAM HANNIFFY**

*"Pine View", Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 17th March 2025.*



*Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Church, Portlaoise on
Monday 17th March at 10am.*

**A Psalm for the Dying by
Edward Hays**

*Relatives and friends, I am about
to leave; my last breath does not
say "goodbye," for my love for you
is truly timeless, but I leave myself to your memory
with love.*

*I leave my thoughts, my laughter, my dreams to
you whom I have treasured beyond gold and
precious gems*

*I give you what no thief can steal, the memories of
our times together: the tender, love-filled
moments, the successes we have shared, the hard
times that brought us closer together, and the
roads we have walked side by side. I also leave you
the solemn promise that after I am home in the
bosom of God, I will still be present, whenever
and wherever you call on me.*

*My energy will be drawn to you by the magnet of
our love. Whenever you are in need, call me; I will
come to you, with my arms full of wisdom and
light to open up your blocked parts, to untangle
your knots and to be your avenue to God. And all I
take with me as I leave is your love and the
millions of memories of all that we have shared.
Fear not nor grieve at my departure, you whom I
have loved so much, for my roots and yours are
forever intertwined.*

*Loved and missed by all his loving family,
extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Liam

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**

Boughlone Way, Portlaoise.

*3rd Anniversary occurs 15th
March 2025*



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

*How we miss the welcome footsteps
Of the one we loved so dear,
Oft we listen for his coming,
Fully sure that he is near.
Thou are gone but not forgotten,
Fresh our love will ever be,
For as long as there is memory,
We will always think of thee.*

*Sadly missed and remembered by Tom Fitzpatrick
and family.*

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
MARY MCEVOY**

(née Houlihan)

"St. Martin's" Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

*4th Anniversary away from home on
14th March 2025*



*I treasure every moment you spent
with me,
I hoped to have you longer, but it
wasn't meant to be.
I know you're in a far better place,
Free from pain, You are happy.
Yet still, you live in my heart,
Until we meet again, **my love.***

Also remembering her Daughter

CECILIA MCEVOY

*56th Anniversary away from home
on 13th April 2025*

*Your life was a blessing, your
memory a treasure,
You are loved beyond words and
missed beyond measure.*



*Dearly missed by loving Husband & Father Joe
and family.*

May You Both Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL McEVOY**

Late of Montrath Road, Portlaoise.

*5th Anniversary occurs on 21st March
2025*



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
on Saturday 22nd March at 6.30pm in
Sts. Peter and Paul's Church
Portlaoise.*

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

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET KERRY/CLARKE**

New Road, Portlaoise.

*Remembering on her 5th anniversary
on March 15th.*



*Forever loved and deeply missed,
In our hearts you will always exist.*

*Sadly missed by husband Gerry,
daughter Natasha and son Lee and
family.*

Rest in Peace Margaret

In Loving Memory of
BREDA HOLOHAN

Killeen, The Heath



*11th Anniversary occurs
19th March 2025*

*A day without a thought of you is very
hard to find,
I'm always thinking of you and you are
always on my mind,
All the things we did together,
I'll remember them forever.*

*Sadly missed by your loving
husband Michael, sisters Mary & Betty and
neighbours and friends.*

May Breda Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
JIM DELANEY

Late of Borris Road, Portlaoise.



*29th Anniversary occurred on 13th
March 2025*

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

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

May Jim Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
PETER FRAWLEY

Lynden Court, Portlaoise.

2nd Birthday away from us - 19th March



*Its hard to believe your no longer here,
We think of you, you feel so near,
In some small way every single day.
Memories of you come our way.*

Happy Heavenly Birthday.

*Sadly missed loved &
remembered by your Mam (Nancy),
sister Sylvia, brother John,
brother-in-law Pat, sister-in-law Tanya, nephew
Craig & Aine, niece Rebecca and Jay.*

May Peter Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL LALOR

Ballycarnan, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurred 10th March.



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Sunday 16th March at 11:15am.*

*Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day, no
longer in our lives to share, but in our
hearts you're always there.*

Sadly missed by his wife Peg and family.

Rest in Peace Michael

In Loving Memory of
EILEEN CLOONEY

(née DUNNE)

Lower Boley, Abbeyleix.

11th Anniversary occurs on 21st March 2025



*Anniversary mass will be
celebrated in*

*St Brigids Church, Shanahoe,
on Sunday 23rd March
at 12 noon.*

*There is a lady in Heaven,
So precious and so rare,
That lady is our Mother,
The best beyond compare,
The face we love is missing,
The voice we love is still,
The hands that did so much
for us,
Are resting at Gods will.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
Catherine, Bernadette, Geraldine,
William, Patricia, Fintan, Rosemary, Gem-
ma, John and all your grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of
**PATRICK (Bumper)
WHELAN**

16 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

*15th Anniversary away from
home.*



Dad:

*I am sending a dove from
Heaven with a parcel on its
wings:
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs:*

*To say how much I miss you,
And to send you all my love.
I hold you close within my heart, and there you will
remain: to walk with me throughout my life,
Until I see you again.*

*Love and miss you Dad, sadly missed by all
your loving family.*

May Patrick Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
PATRICK WALSH
33 Beechfield, Portlaoise.



The family of Pat Walsh, 33 Beechfield and formerly of Dysart, Stradbally Road, retired Superintendent, An Garda Síochána, would like to express their thanks and appreciation for all the support and sympathy which they received at the time of Pat's passing. We are particularly grateful to the many relatives, friends, neighbours and former colleagues who helped us to celebrate his life at the funeral, but also to all, both near and far, who were unable to attend but sent us messages of support or have visited since then. Your kindness brought us great comfort at this difficult time.

Our sincere thanks to Monsignor Byrne and his team at the Parish Centre for their patience, sympathy and kindness throughout and for the wonderful service. We would also like to thank our readers, musicians and singer for a moving ceremony. Sincere thanks also to Matthew and David of Keegan's undertakers for their sympathetic and professional handling of the funeral arrangements.

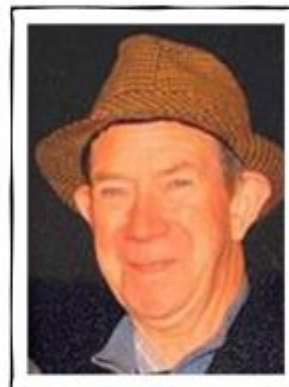
Over the last years of his life Pat received fantastic support from many healthcare workers, at the Midland Regional Hospital, at the Cedar Clinic and also in the community setting. This allowed him to remain at home almost to the end and greatly improved the quality of his life, for which we are truly grateful.

The family has requested a Mass for everyone who has supported them.

May He Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
BARTLE DUNNE
Clonrooske House, Portlaoise.



Bartle's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
SS Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise, on
Saturday, 22nd March at 6.30pm.

The family of the late Bartle Dunne would like to sincerely thank all those who sympathised and supported us on our recent loss.

Thank you to everyone who called to the house, attended Bartle's repose and funeral Mass, and to those who sent Mass cards and messages of sympathy.

We are deeply grateful to Fr. Adriano de Oliveira, Fr. John Brophy, and Msgr. John Byrne for their spiritual support. Special thanks to Heather Fogarty for her beautiful singing, and to the sacristans and all the staff at Portlaoise Parish Centre.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Geraldine McCarthy at the Mater Hospital, the vascular team at St. James's Hospital, and the staff of Portlaoise Hospital.

Thank you also to the Cedar Clinic, Chemco Pharmacy, the HSE Home Care Team, and Oakdale Nursing Home for their exceptional care during Bartle's final days.

A heartfelt thank you to Keegan's Undertakers, Matthew and David, for their kindness and professionalism in handling the funeral arrangements.

We are also grateful to our kind neighbours, relatives, and friends for their support, and to Portlaoise GAA for providing a guard of honour.

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

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all your intentions.

May Bartle Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*In Loving Memory of
NOEL HUME
The Downs, Portlaoise.*



*Noel's Months Mind
Mass will be
celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Saturday 15th March
at 6.30pm.*

We the family of the late Noel Hume, would like to sincerely thank all those who sympathised and supported us on our recent loss.

We are immensely grateful to our relatives, friends and wonderful neighbours for their unwavering support and kindness throughout Noel's illness and funeral.

We are deeply appreciative of Dr Anna Gullane for her dedicated care and kindness to Noel over the years. Our thanks also extend to Drs. Sharon and Adrian Mc Donald, the staff at Clann Medical and everyone at Hughes Pharmacy, Portlaoise for their dedicated care.

A heartfelt thank you to the palliative care team and public health nurses for their exceptional care of Noel.

We are forever grateful to Noel's long-term carers (Jim, Noel & Julieanne), thank you for everything.

We are deeply grateful to Msgr. John Byrne, who visited Noel at home and who celebrated the funeral mass, and to Nuala, who sang so beautifully.

A special thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode Undertakers for their professionalism.

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

Rest in Peace Noel

Month's Mind

*In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN CARROLL (née Carroll)
St Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.*



*Kathleen's Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's
Church, on Sunday 23rd March at
10.00am.*

Tenderly we treasure the past, Memories that will always last. When we cease to think of you, Will be when God has called us too.

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

Rest in Peace Kathleen

In Loving Memory of ORLA CONROY-KELLY

*25 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise.
10th Anniversary occurs 16th March 2025.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday
16th March at 11.15am

*Without your kind and gentle
smile and sweet familiar face,
A treasured life is missing,
And the world's a sadder place.
You lived your life so graciously,*

*You always did your best, and now you're with
the angels, it's time for you to rest.*

*As peace surrounds you everywhere in Heavenly
skies above, here on earth you're deeply missed
and thought about with love.*

*We see the stars at night time, shining bright
and clear, and as we say goodnight, God bless,
we know that you will hear.*

Loved and missed so much Orla

From your heartbroken daughter Lydian and husband Sean, son Paddy, granddaughters Orla-Mae and Emmy, Mammy, Daddy & Brendan, Sharon & Jim, Lorena & Shane, Lynda & Damien, Olivia & Brian, Geraldine & Rocky and your adored nieces and nephews who miss you so much.

May Orla Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of EILEEN ROCHFORD (née Farrell)

Lakeglen/St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

*18th Anniversary occurs 17th March
2025*

*Anniversary Mass for Eileen will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, Sunday 16th March at 12:30pm.*



*A day that is filled with sadness,
Is here with us to stay,
To mark the time you left us,
In such a sudden way.*

*To us you were so special,
What more is there to say,
We only wish with all our hearts, that you
were here today.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your
sisters and brothers, nephews and nieces.*

Rest in Peace Eileen

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*Come Celebrate
Divine Mercy Sunday*



'Where, if not in the Divine Mercy, can the world find refuge and the light of hope?'

John Paul II



Welcome to the Feast of Mercy being celebrated at:

**Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.
Sunday 27th April 2025**

*Ceremonies commence with Confessions from 2pm,
Mass starting at 2.45pm*

Blessing with Blessed Sacrament.

Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image

Blessing with St. Faustina's Relic

All are welcome



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



**Friday evenings during Lent
at 7.30pm**

**St. Bridget's Church Shanahoe,
Abbeyleix. R32AH90**



**Please note: On Sunday 27th April
(Divine Mercy Sunday)
there will be no adoration in
Shanahoe Church**

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RUAIDHRI TIERNEY

every Monday, 6pm -7pm

St. Brigid's Place Community Centre,
111 St Brigid's Place, Portlaoise, R32 XK33

For more info or to register call
Avril 0874044950 or Ann 0830190923



Every Thursday and Friday Night in St. Mary's Hall

Starts 8pm

Buses collecting from their usual pick-up points in the Portlaoise area at 7:30pm.

May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

- Irish Blessing



Portlaoise Parish



Results for
13th March 2025

13

14

27

30

No €13,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Caroline Begadon
Helen Brennan
Kay Doocey
Frank Farrell
John Carroll

MATCH 3s €1,000

5
Match
3s
Receive
€200
each

PROMOTER

Lucy Kelly
Kathleen Brown
Parish Centre
Paul Dooley
Pam Killeen



Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish
& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Next Week's Jackpot is €14,000

Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only Tel: 0852134285

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

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 of Lent

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms 26:1, 7-9, 13-14

Phil 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28-36

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



PORTLAOISE

P Saint PATRICK'S DAY



MONDAY **17** STARTS
MARCH 12:30PM

PARADE AND STREET FESTIVAL

Please join us to make the St. Patrick's Day more fun for all the family.

**STREET ENTERTAINMENT, BOUNCY CASTLES,
LIVE MUSIC, FOOD & CRAFT STALLS,
CARNIVAL RIDES & MUCH MORE!**

For more information:

**If you are a local business or group that would like to
get involved, please contact us via our
Facebook page!**

