

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
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up**

23rd March 2025

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Laetare Sunday)**



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A Mother's Day Prayer

Thinking of you on Mother's Day

And saying a special prayer

That God, who knows how dear you are

Will keep you in His care.

That he will bless your daily life

With joys of every kind

With perfect health and happiness

And peace of heart and mind.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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Mothering Sunday is celebrated today, Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home... a day off to visit their mother and family, usually taking gifts of cake or flowers. Nowadays it's a day to show our mothers that we appreciate and love them.

Happy Mothering Sunday.

Remembering Mothers

'A mother's hug lasts long after she let's go.'
– Unknown

'All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel
mother' – Abraham Lincoln

'If I had a single flower for every time I think of you, I could walk
forever in my garden.' – Claudia Ghandi

'I love you every day. And now, I will miss you every day.'
– Mitch Albom

'There are no goodbyes, wherever you are, you will always be in my
heart.' – Mahatma Gandhi

'It's not easy being a mother. If it were, fathers would do it.'
– Golden Girls

'Becoming a mother makes you realise you can do almost anything
one-handed.' – Unknown



Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday—Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

Saturday

10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

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

Laetare Sunday



Most Catholics today are used to the Mass being conducted in English, and they hardly ever think about the fact that Latin remains the official language of the Catholic Church. But occasionally, Latin reasserts itself, as it does in the case of Laetare Sunday. Laetare Sunday is simply the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Laetare is the Latin for "Rejoice". It's the Sunday in Lent on which the austerity is briefly lessened. Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday or Refreshment Sunday and also Mother's Day.

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.

Stations of the Cross

Friday during Lent after 7.30pm Mass in Parish Church.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Alissa Nelly Rose Nevin, Harpurs Lane

Hubert James Nevin, Conniberry Way

Cian Jack Nolan Dunphy, Westlands

Aida Murphy, The Heath.

who were baptised last weekend

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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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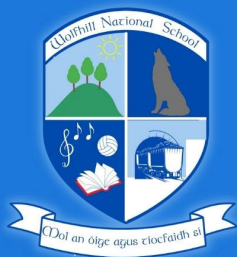
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- ❖ Athy Community College.

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4th & 5th

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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**.

Portlaoise Active Retirement Meet every **Wednesday at 3 PM** in the Parish Centre for friendship, fun & activities – new members welcome! **Mon, 31st March:** Bowls at St. Mary's Hall, 2-4 PM (tuition available). **Wed, 2nd April:** Memorial Service for our **20th Anniversary** in the Parish Church at 2:30 PM, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. All members, ex-members & family welcome.

Thurs, 3rd April: Cards & chat at Sue Ryder Centre, 3 PM (tuition available). For info, contact **Maria: 087-9187157**.

National Guide Dog Day – Volunteers Needed National Guide Dog Day takes place on May 23rd. If you would like to volunteer for Guide Dogs, please contact **Paul at 087-725264 or Jim at 087 4746519**, or leave a message on WhatsApp at Laois Guide Dogs. Guide Dogs are also seeking puppy walkers—please visit the Guide Dogs website to register. Thank you for your support.

Whist Drive Results – Tuesday, March 25th, Parish Centre Top score – Sheila Duff; **1st Lady** – Paric Dowling; **2nd Lady** – Bernie Cahill; **1st Gent** – Tom Dunne; **2nd Gent** (Tied) – P J Cahill & Tom Kearns; 1st Half (Tied) – Mary Gowing & Catherine Galvin; 2nd Half – Molly O'Brien. **Raffle winners:** 1st Billy O'Keeffe, 2nd Sadie Chester, 3rd Frank Keenan, 4th Mary Dunne. Thanks for your support! Whist continues every Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre—new members welcome.



Graiguecullen Bingo: Tuesday 1st April, St. Fiaccs Hall at 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,390. Double number €880, Lotto €650

Lourdes Savings Group: The Lourdes Savings Club will be finishing up on the 10th April. Any further outstanding payments can be made directly to Marian Pilgrimages.

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!

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Stations of the Cross: Friday evenings during lent at 7.30pm. St. Brigid's Church Shanahoe, Abbeyleix R32 AH90.

LOURDES MOTHER'S DAY CAKE SALE

Join us for a special **Mother's Day Cake Sale** this weekend!

Date: Saturday, 29th March & Sunday, 30th March

After: 6:30 PM Mass (Saturday) & 12:30 PM Mass (Sunday)

Support this worthy cause and treat yourself or someone special to delicious homemade cakes. Plus, don't miss our **Mother's Day Cake Raffle!** Your support is greatly appreciated!

COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE FRIDAY, 11TH APRIL

In aid of the Fatima Fund Committee. The committee would be very grateful to anyone who would like to bake for the sale.

Our raffle will also take place during the event. Anyone with outstanding tickets, please return them to Maura or any committee member, or leave them in the Parish Centre.

For more information, contact

Maura: 087 1210263.



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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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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



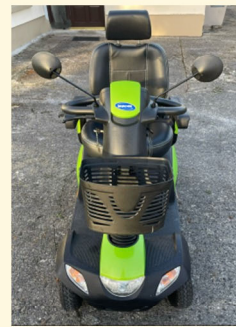
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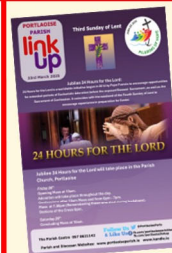
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Three Wishes

I am sure that most of you have read a book, seen a movie, or at least heard the story about "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp." In one version of the story, Aladdin worked in a shop that exchanged new lamps for old ones. Aladdin's job was to polish the lamps and make them look like new. One day, as he was polishing a lamp, a genie came out of the lamp and promised to grant Aladdin anything he wished for. With the help of the Genie, Aladdin gained great wealth and won the love of a beautiful princess.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have your every wish come true? You might think so, but the truth is, sometimes the things we wish for are not good for us. That is what a young man discovered in today's Gospel. The Gospel today is about a young man who had three wishes:



1. He wished for a lot of money.

2. He wished to travel and see the world.

3. He wished he could be his own boss.



The young man got his wishes, but they were not granted to him by a genie. The young man went to his father and asked him to give him the inheritance that would be his when his father died. Even though the father was sad that his son wanted to leave, he gave him his share of the family fortune and the young man left home and travelled all around the world. He visited all of the places he had always wanted to visit and did whatever he wanted to do. He was happy that no one was telling him what to do. Since the young man had a lot of money, if he saw something he wanted, he bought it, and since he had a lot of money, he also had many friends.

This sounds like very happy story, doesn't it? Well, that isn't the end of the story. After a while, the young man ran out of money. When he ran out of money, his friends ran out on him. He was so desperate that he went to work for a man who sent him to feed his pigs. The young man was so hungry that he would gladly have eaten the food he was feeding to the pigs. As he looked at the filthy pig pen, he thought about the mess he had made of his life. He thought about his father and the home he had left behind.

"Even a servant in my father's house lives better than this," the young man said to himself. "I will return to my father and tell him that I am sorry for the way I have behaved and ask him to give me a job as one of his servants."

Do you think the father was willing to take him back? Yes, but not as a servant. He welcomed him back home as a son. He called his servants together and told them, "Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was lost, but now is found."

Well, the story had a happy ending after all, didn't it? This story that Jesus told is really a story about you and me and the way we sometimes behave.

Sometimes you and I make bad choices just like the young man in our story. We sometimes wish for things that are not good for us. We sometimes don't want to listen to God and obey what the Gospel tells us we should do. When we act that way, we really make a mess of our life, Well, I have good news for you! Just like the father in our story, God, our Heavenly Father, is always willing to take us back if we will admit that we were wrong and return to Him.

My Prayer

Dear Father, we sometimes make bad choices.

Thank you for being a loving Father who will always take us back when we come home to you. Amen.



HAPPY

Mother's

DAY



And Grandma's Too

While we honour all our mothers
With words of love and praise.
While we tell about their goodness
And their kind and loving ways.
We should also think of Grandma,
She's a mother too, you see.....
For she mothered my dear mother
As my mother mothers me.

Author Unknown

The Parable of the Lost Son

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___1. **A male parent**
A. kiss B. found C. father D. sons
- ___2. **the number that is equal to one plus one**
A. two B. feast C. sons D. father
- ___3. **Your male children**
A. two B. kiss C. sons D. pig
- ___4. **A large amount of money and other valuable possessions.**
A. wealth B. lost C. kiss D. two
- ___5. **Farm animals with pink, brown, or black skin, short legs and a flat nose.**
A. pig B. sons C. wealth D. father
- ___6. **To touch or press your lips against another person as a greeting or to express love.**
A. feast B. father C. two D. kiss
- ___7. **A large special meal to celebrate something or honour someone**
A. kiss B. feast C. father D. sons
- ___8. **To not be able to be found (I _____ my dog.)**
A. two B. found C. sons D. lost
- ___9. **When something which was lost has been relocated. (I _____ my dog.)**
A. lost B. found C. father D. feast





Time to Think!

Prayer... food for soul

Prayer... Food for the soul.

As we get closer to Holy Week it is good to reflect on how we pray. Prayer is often personal and perhaps is best practiced in silence. Thomas Green S.J. wrote a famous book called "When the well runs dry". Green detailed how on a walking tour of Ireland, he took shelter from the rain in a little hut at the side of the road. Inside was an old man who was praying. They fell into conversation and at one point they talked about prayer. Green asked the old man did he pray much to which the reply was 'Nearly all the time'. There was a pause and the old man continued, "You know" he said, matter of factly, **"The Father (God) is very fond of me"**.

Green, whose book is a classic of modern spirituality and who all his life was a practitioner of contemplative prayer (more about this later), understood exactly what the old man was saying – that he (the old man) had moved in his life across a telling boundary between a childish perception of God and a more contemplative space that has helped him to appreciate the presence of God in his life as a focus of a loving and fruitful relationship.

In my years in parish life I've met many people like that old man who instinctively knew, even though they might not have the words to articulate it, that God 'loved them beyond all their imagining' and that they succeeded for whatever reason to move from a childhood and childish image of a God of fear to a God of love and, in the process, who have discovered that (in the words of Donogh O'Shea, in his book *A Hundred Roads to Here*, *Introductions to Meditation*) **'God's love is not a bounty we have to earn, but a gift that's offered to us that's life-enhancing, liberating and often a sheer joy'**.

And sadly too, I've met many people who have not transitioned from fear to love of God and in old age remain stuck on that road. So many wonderful, good-living, moral and holy people whose later years are blighted by worry, regret and unnecessary scrupulosity about sin and even imagined sin, when in the words of poet-mystic, Edwina Gately, God only wants to look upon you with love. Unlike the old man hiding from the rain, they don't realise and will never know that God is very fond of them. The word 'fond' denotes a close, personal, even intimate relationship that has words like 'tenderness', 'warmth' and 'loving' sewn into its seams. Factors that only very rarely describe the relationship most people have with God. We are more familiar with a more distant connection that has other more likely words associated with God – 'obligation', 'duty' and even sometimes 'fear'.

This is very much reflected in the way we pray and in our formal contact with God.

For some people prayer is an experience of being personally cherished – as in the fondness of a loving grandparent for his or her grandchild. For a small constituency of believers who call themselves 'contemplatives', (or like the old man, above, may be unfamiliar with the word though not the experience), prayer is a joy – though challenging in its own way. For most of the rest of us prayer is a duty, an obligation, a difficult and even more frustrating task with a distant, even colder God. While the contemplative warms to prayer, and the experience is usually (but not always) refreshing and life-enhancing for others it is less defined as it's by duty rather than satisfaction.

While for contemplatives like the old man who senses that God is 'very fond of him', prayer reflects above all a sense of loving gratitude to God, for the second much more populous constituency of believers God is hard going. For contemplatives prayer is about sitting with God, basking in his (or her) company, 'saying nothing, doing nothing' as one contemplative describes it,

and not using formal, ritualized prayers like the Rosary. It's about indulging in the presence of a God who 'loves us beyond all our imagining' and who longs to be with us, just to savour our company. For the rest of believers prayer is about **'saying our prayers'**.

That's why, for the latter group, 90 per cent of prayer is petition. Asking for things. Or imagining it's a way of getting God to do what we want him to do. Or reminding him of what we want, as if he doesn't know. Or, at times, attempting to manipulate God. The spiritual writer, Richard Rohr, draws a distinction between what he sees as a secular mind and a contemplative mind. The first is calculative, selfish, egocentric – what can I do to get God to love me? How can I get to heaven? The second is a right relationship with God, a new way of seeing things, a life transformed by a sense that God loves me **'beyond all imagining'**.

The difference is really between contemplative prayer – the way Jesus prayed – and 'saying our prayers'.

So what are the marks of contemplative prayer? How is it done?

Fr Laurence Freeman, internationally renowned as an expert on the subject, helpfully explains contemplative prayer in five simple lessons:

1. To pray go into your inner room and close the door. If you don't believe that God is with you where you are, you won't find him anywhere.
2. Be silent. You don't need to babble prayers – as Jesus said about pagans, God knows what you need. You don't have to ask him. Jesus tells us.
3. Let go of your worries and anxieties. Contemplation, Rohr writes, is essentially about letting go. Put your worries in a boat and let it down the river.
4. Be attentive, it is the heart of contemplation. (This is why mindfulness is now so popular).
5. Stay in the present moment. Don't worry about the past or the future. Contemplation is about sitting still and doing nothing – though sometimes doing nothing, is the hardest thing to do.

Prayer is the language of the soul. I pray, you all will know how fond God is of you.

PRAYER

Spirit, use me today,
not in some miracle
that would make others marvel
and would make me proud.

Not in the word of wisdom
that would stay in the mind
and make me always remembered.

Not in the heroic act
that would change the world for the better
and me for the worse.

But in the mundane miracles
of honesty and truth
that keep the sky from falling.

In the unremembered quiet words
that keep a soul on the path.

And in the unnoticed acts
that keep the world moving
slowly closer to the light.

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

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



MARY CARDIFF
(née Phelan)
Heathfields,
Portlaoise



PADDY KEALEY
Sheffield Cross,
Portlaoise



PETER MURRAY
Kilminchy,
Portlaoise



KEVIN HIGGINS
Ballyroan House
Ballyroan

*Even though I walk through the darkest
valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff - they comfort me.*

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to their families.

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to
the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices



**THANK YOU
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**
In Loving Memory of
JEAN FITZPATRICK
The Hermitage, Portlaoise.



Sunrise
July 1953

Sunset
Nov 2024



Billy, Carol, Kenneth, Gerard & James
together with their families and the
McEvoy family would like to express
their deep gratitude to all who attended
the funeral service, phoned, sent mass
cards, letters and called to our home.

The support and love you gave us as our
dearest Jean journeyed through her
illness and her passing have meant so
much to our family and will always be
remembered.

Special thanks to Rev Beverley Barbour,
Archdeacon Rev. Alex Purser, Barbara
Stanley, Jean's workmates in M.R.H.P.
Shane Reynolds, Palliative Care Team,
Monsignor. John Byrne, Prof. Hardiman
& team, Beaumont Hosp., James & Joan
Bennett, Portlaoise

Methodist Church, Mochua Print,
Keagans Undertakers for their
professionalism at a most difficult time.
St. Vincent De Paul Abbeyleix,
Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Mountrath,
Stradbally, Mountmellick and Regional
office Waterford.

Jean will always be remembered for the
love, the joy and kindness she brought to
her family & friends and of course her
timeless glamour.

In God's Presence is fullness of Joy

May Jean Rest in Peace



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In Loving Memory of
My Wonderful Son
CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN

11th Anniversary away from home - 26th March



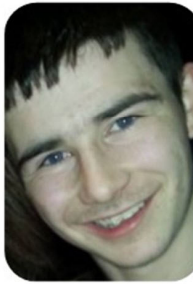
*Of all the special gifts in life, however
great or small,
To have you as my son Craig, was the
greatest gift of all.
A special time, a special face,
A special son I cannot replace,
With an aching heart I whisper low,
I miss you Craig xxx and love you so.*

*Sadly missed and loved always, your broken hearted Mother,
Mudas, brothers Brandon, Noah, Junaid and sister Aisha.*

May Craig Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN

*105 Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.
11th Anniversary occurs 26th March 2025.*



*Treasured thoughts of one so dear,
Often bring a silent tear,
Thoughts of scenes long past,
Years roll on but memories last.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by
your loving father Michael, brother
Brandon and sister Chloe, your niece and
nephew, Grace and baby Liam,
extended family and friends.*

May Craig Rest in Peace

MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

*Fondest memories of our
beautiful Mother*
KATHLEEN PAISLEY
Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.



*Sending all our love to heaven,
We hope it reaches you there.
It's a Mother's Day wish from us to
you,*

To show how much we care.

*We wish you were here to cele-
brate together,
But you live on in our hearts—
Today, tomorrow, and forever.*

*Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered every day.*

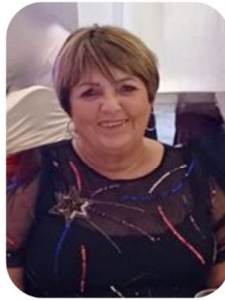
*For those who think of her today,
a little prayer to Jesus say.*

Happy Heavenly Mother's Day, Kate.

*With love from Pauline, Catherine, Maria, Jean,
Fidelma, Brian, Joe, and all your
extended family. xxx*

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN FOGARTY
Ridge Road. Portlaoise.



*On her 70th Birthday
Wishing you were here today
for even just a while.
So we could say Happy
Birthday and see your loving
smile. The only gifts today
will be the memories you
left behind of laughter and
happiness.*



*May your family and friends
in heaven hold you closely
and sing you a song,
and we will be sending you
birthday wishes with hugs and
kisses.*

Love you always.

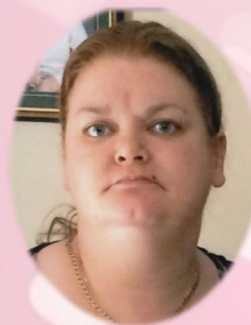
From all your loving family .

Rest in Peace Kathleen

In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA GING

*44 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary away from home - 31st March 2025*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday
29th March at 6.30pm.*



*You left us without warning
Not even a goodbye, and
eight years on, we still can't
seem to stop asking the
question "why?".*

*We didn't see this coming, it hit
us by surprise, and when you
left for Heaven, a small part of
us died.*

*Your smile could brighten anyone's day,
No matter what they were going through,
And everyday for the rest of our lives, we will be*

Missing You

♥ *Thinking of you in Heaven today and always* ♥

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

Rest in Peace Patricia

In Loving Memory of
CHRISSIE GRAHAM

Ridge Road. Portlaoise.

19th Anniversary occurred on 20th March 2025



*No special day is needed,
for us to think of you,
For you were someone special,
and we thought the world of you.*

*Loved and remembered always by
your husband Jim, son and
daughters and grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Chrissie

71st BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
GERARD DUNNE

Braccas, Ballacolla, formerly Borris Little, Portlaoise.



*When ties of love are broken,
And loved ones have to part,
It leaves a wound that never heals,
In ever aching hearts.*

*Sadly missed and always
remembered by his loving wife
Kathleen and family xxx*

Rest in Peace Gerard

In Loving Memory of
JOHN WHEELAN

20th Anniversary occurs 2nd April 2025.



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Wednesday, 2nd April at 7.30pm.*

*Your Presence we miss
Your memory we treasure
Loving you always
Forgetting you never*

Remembered with love by all his family

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
Our Dear Mother

MOIRA WALSHE

Laurel Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 28th March 2025



*You left us special memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.*

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

Rest in Peace Moira

In Loving Memory of
Our Beloved Sister
BERNIE COYNE-LALOR

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

10th Anniversary occurred on 29th March 2025.



*Death leaves a heartache no one can
hear. Love leaves a memory no one
can steal.*

*Dearly loved and sadly missed by
sisters Kitty, Donnie and family.
Mary, Peggy and Trish and
all families*

May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
Our Beloved Mother
BERNADETTE COYNE

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

*10th Anniversary occurs 29th March
2025.*



*If Roses grow in heaven Lord
Please pick a bunch for us
Place them in our mother's arms and
tell her they are from us.
Tell her we love and miss 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 is an ache within our hearts that will never
go away.*

*Always loved and deeply missed by her loving
family.*

May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

BREDA WALSH

(née Keogh)

Late of Chelmsford, Essex and Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.



*Wishing you were here today
for even just a while, so we
could say Happy Birthday and
see your loving smile.*

*But we'll gaze upon your
pictures and think of you with
love, and hope you're
celebrating in Heaven up
above.*

*Forever Loved
Never Forgotten
Always Missed*

*Matty, Jason, Helena,
Emma, Shane, Viola and all
the grandkids and extended
family.*

May Breda Rest in Peace

A Mother's Day Remembrance

**For The Loving Memory Of
ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY**
64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
10th Mother's Day away from home



Mum Missing you on Mother's Day

A Mums love is special, a gift
beyond compare,
You only know the meaning, when
she is no longer there.
A special time, a special face,
A special Mum I can't replace,
With an aching heart I whisper low,
I miss you mum and love you so.

Mum

I remember you loved flower and you'd plant
them every year,
But when you slipped into heaven, I saw
flowers through my tears.
Now whenever I see flowers, I can picture
how you'd smile,
But it didn't happen quickly, it has taken quite a while.
Happy Mother's Day today Mum,
I will go and buy some flowers
Know that I will be thinking of you and my memories for
hours.



Mother's Day Love Sent to You

I think of you often and speak your name with love,
You live within my memories, though you're high above.
I hold you close within my heart, where you will always
stay,
To guide me through my journey,
until we meet some day.

Happy Mother's Day in Heaven Mum

The hardest thing in life to bear, is to want your mum
and she is not there.
So forgive me Lord if I still weep, for a mum I love and
long to keep.
The sorrow I feel I cannot explain, the ache in my heart
will long remain.
This I ask Lord tell my Mum, I love her and I will be
thinking of her on Mother's Day.

Forever in my heart Mum on Mother's Day

If you could be here with me to celebrate today,
We'd laugh and smile the way we did before you went
away.
I often shed a tear for the way things used to be,
And Mother's Day will always be the saddest time for
me.
But I can still draw comfort, from the memory of your
touch,
And I send my love forever to the Mum I miss so much.

For My Mum in Heaven on Mother's Day

Mum you're missed here always, but missed more on
special days,
These days arrive and we're apart, though you're forever
in my Heart.

In Loving Memory of my wonderful mother in Heaven on Mother's Day.

**Missing you always Mum
Forever cherished, eternally missed,
James xxx**

May you My Dear Elizabeth,

Rest in Peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
EDWARD DOOLEY**
Killamuck, Abbeyleix.

14/09/1930—10/03/2025



**Edward's Month's Mind
Mass will be celebrated in
The Church of the Most
Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix on
Sunday 13th April
at 11AM.**

Edward's son Laurence would like to thank
most sincerely all those who sympathised with
him on the recent death of his father.

Thank you to all my relatives, friends,
neighbours, and everyone who travelled long
distances to attend the Guard of Honour in
Killamuck, the Wake and Rosary on Wednesday
evening and the Removal, Funeral and Burial
on Thursday.

To all who sent floral tributes, messages of
sympathy on-line, text messages, calls,
mass cards.

Thank you to the nurses, doctors & staff at the
CARE facility Urlingford
for all their care.

To Dr. Kempell A.H.C, Mary (Receptionist) and
nurses Denise and Tara for their care and
attention to Edward.

To Mrs. Evelyn Casserley and staff of
Casserley's Pharmacy. To the Matron Serena
and staff of Abbeyleix C.N.U. for their care and
attention to Edward during his respite stay and
to ladies who delivered Meals on Wheels to his
home every week.

To Fr. Peter & Sacristan Nora for a beautiful
mass and their attention to all details.

Thank you to the musicians who provided the
music which added so much to the ceremony. It
was beautiful.

To John and Ann Comerford (Undertakers) for
their professionalism.

To grave diggers & our neighbour Henry
Hutchinson who lined the grave for Edward's
final resting place.

To all the staff of The Manor Hotel Abbeyleix for
providing lovely refreshments on both days.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone
individually, I hope this acknowledgement will
be accepted by all as an expression of my
sincere appreciation & deepest gratitude.

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

May Edward Rest in Peace

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
AND 1ST ANNIVERSARY**
In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA DOWNEY
Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.



Patricia's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, Portlaoise on Saturday the 5th of April at 6:30pm.

Patricia's family would like to thank all who sympathised with us on our recent sad loss.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended Patricia's wake, Requiem mass (either in person or via the Parish webcam) and burial. We would like to thank all those who sent mass cards, sympathy cards, called or wrote messages of condolences on RIP.ie. Thank you sincerely for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful neighbours and friends in Cherrygarth for all their help and support during Patricia's funeral. A special thank you for the lovely guard of honour. It was deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

A special word of thanks to Dr Westrup and all the doctors, nurses and staff of the Beacon Hospital who attended to and treated Patricia with such care and kindness. Many thanks to Dr White who looked after her over the years.

Our thanks to Msgr. Byrne and Fr Adriano for celebrating Patricia's Requiem Mass. Thanks to all who participated in the mass. A very special thank you to Nuala for the beautiful music. Our sincere gratitude to Michelle in the Parish Centre for her assistance with the funeral arrangements.

We would particularly like to thank Matthew Keegan and David Goode from Keegan's Funeral Directors for the professional, compassionate and thoughtful manner in which they carried out Patricia's funeral. Many thanks to the gravediggers who prepared Patricia's final resting place with such care.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

May Patricia Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.
In Loving Memory of
ANN GORMAN
Cherry Grove, Portlaoise.



Ann's Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter and Paul's Church on Wednesday, 2nd April, at 7:30 PM.

Ann's children, grandkids, and great-grandkids would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathized, sent Mass cards, attended the rosary and funeral Mass.

To all Ann's neighbours and friends who were so good to us over Mammy's funeral—thank you.

Thanks to An Garda Síochána, Matthew Keegan, and David Good from Keegan's Funeral Home for their kind and professional manner in carrying out Ann's funeral arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everybody individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude to all who knew Ann.

May Ann Rest in Peace

MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
ANN GORMAN
Cherry Grove, Portlaoise.

1st Mother's Day in heaven.



If roses grow in heaven Lord,
Please pick a bunch for me.
Place them in my mother's
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.

Because remembering her is
easy, we do it every day,
But there's an ache within
Our hearts that will never go away.

Love always, Mammy
Your 8 children, grandkids, and
great-grandkids

May Ann Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
SADIE BOHAN**

Late of 34 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
41th Anniversary occurs 2nd April 2025



We cannot forget the face we loved or the memory of your smile or the countless things you did for us to make our lives worthwhile,

It has been lonely here without you and grows lonelier everyday,

The world has been a sadder place since the world took you away, but we know you walk beside us, and when our lives are through we pray that God will take our hands and lead us straight to you.

Always remembered by her sons Billy, John, Michael, Maurice, Eugene, Dermot and Brian, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

May Sadie Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
EUGENE CONROY**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
27th Anniversary occurred 26th March 2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 29th March at 6.30pm

In loving care you rest above,
In our hearts you rest with love.

Sadly missed by his loving wife
Josie and family.

Rest in Peace Eugene

**In Loving Memory of
SEAN FENLON**

19 Liogard, Portlaoise.
19th Anniversary occurs 29th March 2025



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Saturday 29th March at 10am

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.

Always remembered by his loving wife
Bridie, daughters Mary and Theresa, grandchildren,
extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Sean

**In Loving Memory of
PHIL BUTLER**

Ballycullen, Abbeyleix.
20th Anniversary occurs on 4th April 2025



Deep in our Hearts, You are always there
A Smile for all, a Heart of gold
One of the Best this world could hold
Never Selfish, always Kind
Beautiful Memories left Behind.

Sadly Missed & loved always by
Your loving Wife Kay, Son Peter &
daughters Una & Lisa.

Rest in Peace Phil

**In Loving Memory of
BERNARD DEVANEY**

Newpark, Portlaoise.
Died 28th March 2020



5th Anniversary occurs at
this time

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

Greatly missed and fondly
remembered by his family and friends.

Rest in Peace Bernard

**In Loving Memory of
MARIA MORAN**

Dr Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
8th Anniversary occurs 9th April 2025.



8th Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on
Sunday, 6th April at 10am.

Sadly missed by her loving husband
and family.

May Maria Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ANN and BILLY O' CONNOR**

Beechlawn Portlaoise,
MICHAEL LEWIS Newpark, Portlaoise.
whose anniversaries occur at this time



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



May They Rest in Peace

L E N T
FAST PRAY GIVE

In Loving Memory of
Our Daddy
KENNETH(KEN) CLEAR

44 O Moore Place, Portlaoise.

11th Anniversary away from home occurs on
 1st April 2025.



Next Tuesday is the anniversary of the day that we lost you
 And for a time it felt as though our lives had ended too
 But your loss has taught us many things and now we face each day
 With hope and happy memories, to help us on our way

And though we are full of sadness that you're no longer here
 Your influence still guides us and we still feel you very near
 What we shared will never die, for it lives within our hearts
 Bringing strength and comfort while we have to be apart
 They say that times a healer, but as the time goes on
 We seem to find it just as hard to face the fact you've gone
 You'll never be forgotten and every year we'll shed a tear
 But it's only because we love you and wish you were still here
 Oh daddy if we could turn back time and once more hear your voice
 We'd tell you out of all the daddy's you'd still be our only choice
 Please always know we love you and no one will ever take your place
 Though the years will come and go your memory will never be erased
 Today God as you're listening from your home in Heaven above
 Would you go and find our daddy and give him all our love.

Always just a thought away, loved and missed everyday
 Becky and Dylan and your grandson
 Thomás William.

May Ken Rest in Peace

MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN (KATE) CURTIS (née Quinn)

St. Martin's Avenue, Naas

Remembering you with love on your
 1st Mother's Day in Heaven



Softly the leaves of memory fall
 Gently we gather and treasure them all
 Some may forget now the you are gone
 We will always remember no matter how long.

Sadly missed and always remembered by your daughters,
 Chris, Caroline & Geraldine and your loving family.

Rest in Peace Kathleen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
GAVIN JOHN YOUNG

London, formerly of Newpark, Portlaoise.



Gavin's family in Portlaoise and Galway, the Youngs and Murphys, gratefully acknowledge and deeply appreciate your support and expressions of sympathy in our bereavement.

We thank those who attended Gavin's funeral, many of whom travelled long distances, called to our home, sent messages of sympathy, and our friends and neighbours who supported us at this sad time.

We wish to especially thank the ICU staff at Homerton Hospital, Hackney, London, the ICU staff at North Middlesex Hospital, Enfield, London, and all the staff at Cartherhatch Road, Enfield, London. We also extend our gratitude to Gavin's numerous friends on the River Lea, Hackney.

We thank Monsignor Byrne and the clergy and staff at Portlaoise Parish for their support, as well as the musicians who provided the beautiful music and singing at the Mass.

Mass has been offered for your intentions.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this message as an expression of our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

May Gavin Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
A Wonderful Wife, Mother and Friend
ELIZABETH 'Liz' FLYNN

Clonagh, Ballyfin

18th Anniversary occurred 25th March 2025



Sadly missed by her husband Mick, sons, Michael (Calgary, Canada) Darren, Barry, (Vancouver, Canada) Shaun (Australia), her daughters, Leeza, Jenna, Ciara (Australia), her grandchildren Jack, Olly, Tommy, Kayla, Luke, Conor (Calgary, Canada), daughters-in-law Christina and Michelle (Calgary, Canada) and son-in-law Lawrence.

Never a day without thoughts and memories of you.
 It's true that we never get over our dearest departed, it's just a little bit easier to live with it. Your legacies live on in your children and grandchildren. Love always X

Rest in Peace Liz

Mother's Day Remembrance
In Loving Memory of a loving Mother and Grandmother

JANE SHIELS



No length of time can take away,
Our thoughts of you today,
Happy Mothers Day with love
from your daughter, sons,
son-in-law, grandchildren and
great grandchildren

May Jane Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of
TERESA SHIELS

28 Beladd , Portlaoise.
1st Birthday away from home 31st March 2025.



Special Sister

*Always a face before me
A voice I loved to hear
A smile I will always
remember of a sister so
very dear.*

Remembering you on your special day with love from your sister Nancy and brother-in-law Sean.

*Your life was a blessing
Your memory a treasure
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure*
From your brothers Billy and Pat

Aunty Teresa

*We hold you close within our hearts
And there you shall remain
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.*

Missing our telephone chats but especially on your birthday.

Love from Nora Ann, Logan and Patrick.

Teresa,

*Today is full of memories, happiness and tears.
Of birthday celebrations we shared throughout the years*

*And though we'll always miss you
The endless joy you brought
Warms our hearts with gratitude
And fills our every thought*

With love on your first birthday away from us from Martin, Chris, Isabelle.

May Teresa Rest in Peace



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Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David 087-2369887

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
27th March 2025

02

07

11

22

No €15,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Olive O'Flaherty
Frances Doheny
Francis McEvoy
Elaine Bannon
Breda Keenan
Ita Taylor
Gerard Gowing
Kitty Walsh
Colin Delaney
Thomas O'Brien
Mary Sexton
Kathleen Clancy
Peggy Clarke
Maura Haslam
Elizabeth Lynch
Breda Ryan
Ericka & Emily
Liam O'Grady
Carrie Thompson
Christine Holohan
K.H.E.B.C.
Ciara Callaghan
Kayleigh Hickey
Liz Ann Molloy
Mary Costello
Ann Lanham
Jenny Duggan

MATCH 3s €1,000

27
Match
3s
Receive
€38
each

PROMOTER

All Books
Parish Centre
Theresa Kelly
Online Lotto
Online Lotto
Parish Centre
Parish Centre
Mary Doran
Mary Delaney
Marie O'Brien
Lucy Kelly
Lucy Kelly
Dorothy Clarke
Bobby Haslam
Betty Lynch
Betty Lynch
Ericka McCarthy
Anthony Preston
Annette Lawlor
Parish Centre
K.H.E.B.C.
Greg Keenan
Carmel Whelan
Greg Keenan
Mary Costello
Ann Lanham
Betty Tynan

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Clergy of the Parish



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



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



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

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

Supporting our Parish

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

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Please choose a way to make your contribution

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

Portlaoise Parish Account: IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

liveWELL EXPO

23rd April 2025
12.30pm-6.00pm
Portlaoise College,
Portlaoise, Co Laois.

100 ways to LIVE WELL ...

Be SOCIAL



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