

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**  
**link  
up**

**9th March 2025**

First Sunday of Lent



*'Come back to me with all your heart'*

The call of Lent and the opening line of the Readings  
for Mass on Ash Wednesday.



**God of goodness and mercy,  
Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you.  
Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul,  
noticing the times I turn away from you.  
Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.**

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

**Follow Us**  **@PortlaoiseParish**  
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**Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)**



**On Friday 14th March at our 7.30pm Mass the order of Acolyte will be conferred on five candidates on the way to ordination as Permanent Deacons for our Diocese by Bishop Denis Nulty.**

# Acolyte Ministry

'Acolyte derives from the Greek term, akolouthos, which means 'server', 'companion or 'follower'. In our church those conferred with the ministry of Acolyte assist in liturgical celebrations, especially the Eucharist.

The 5 men receiving the 'order' of Acolyte next Friday evening are in a formation programme leading to ordination as permanent Deacons for service in our Diocese. We congratulate them on this step and wish them all the best in their preparation. Among them is our parishioner John Delaney along with Jody Callan, Declan Prendergast, Sebastian Kopijka and Michal Mizgala.

## People being solicited for money in the Church and Car Park

It has been brought to our attention that people using the Car Park and visiting our Parish Church are being given a 'hardship' story by an individual to elicit money from them. Please do not respond to this request. The story is not the reality and the person in question has been asked to desist. Please ask him, or anyone else 'begging' in the Church or grounds, to go to the Parish Centre or the Vincent de Paul where appropriate help is available.

## Fasts and Feasts for Lent

- Fast from judging others. Feast on Christ living in them
- Fast from Darkness. Feast on the reality of light
- Fast from anger. Feast on patience
- Fast from bitterness. Feast on forgiveness
- Fast from emphasis on difference. Feast on the unity of life.
- Fast from thoughts of sickness. Feast on the healing hand of God.
- Fast from worry. Feast on the providence of God.
- Fast from pessimism. Feast on optimism
- Fast from negatives. Feast on the affirmation.
- Fast from complaining. Feast on appreciation.

*Redemptorist Publications*

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday to 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.



## Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings during Lent  
after 7.30pm Mass in Parish Church.

**Remembering all who died during Lockdown**  
**Friday 28th March at 7.30pm**

**in the Parish Church.**

If you would like them to be remembered by name at this Mass please give the details to the Parish Centre by calling in or email [michelle@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:michelle@portlaoiseparish.ie)



A family member will be invited to light a candle in their memory. If we have a photo of the deceased it will accompany their name on the screen in the Parish Church.

(A photograph may also be displayed if you wish to provide one).

Please have this into the Parish office by Monday 24th March.

Thank you.



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.  
Thank you for your continued support.

## 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. Thank You.

# MULHALL MEATS

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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.**

### 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

**All are welcome!**



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Sunday

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**MUSIC**

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**MUSIC**

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# CUISLE CENTRE

*cancer support group*



Block Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

✉ info@cuislecancersupport.com

☎ 0578681492

🌐 cuislecancersupport.com

## MONDAY

**MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME**  
10:30AM - 11:30AM  
(BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

**REFLEXOLOGY/REIKI**  
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

**COUNSELLING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**



**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  
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**ART**

2:00PM - 4:00PM  
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## 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.**

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**GARMENT FITTING**

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(STARTING APRIL 2025)

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



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Suitable for beginners.  
€10 per class.

For more info, please call or text  
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## HAPPY RETIREMENT



Retirement is something many of us look forward to, but it can also be challenging. Issues like loss of identity, self-esteem, missing the buzz of work, isolation, and fear are common. Lack of purpose and strained relationships can also arise.



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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**.

**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.

**Pro-Life Collection – Thank You:** A sincere thank you to all who supported our Pro-Life Church Gate Collection on the weekend of February 15th & 16th, 2025. Your generosity helped us raise €523.67. We truly appreciate your kindness and support.

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

**Mon.10<sup>th</sup>:** Bowling in St. Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. New members welcome. Tuition given.

**Wed. 12<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Centre 3pm. Celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Please wear something green if possible.

**Thurs.13<sup>th</sup>** Cards and chat at Sue Ryder Centre at 3pm. New members welcome. Tuition given.

Memorial service on **2nd April** in conjunction with our clubs 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2.30pm in Parish Church. Afterwards refreshments in Parish Centre. All members and ex members welcome. For further information please contact P.R.O Maria on **087-9187157**

**Table Quiz** :Join us for a **Table Quiz** in **Casey's Pub** on Tuesday, March 13th, at 8 PM in aid of **Portlaoise Tidy Towns**. Table of 4: €50. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

**Results of Whist Drive - Parish Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> March: Top Score:** M. Gowing |

**1<sup>st</sup> Lady:**K. Farrell | **2<sup>nd</sup> Lady:** T. Mulhare | **1<sup>st</sup> Gent:** M. Delaney | **2<sup>nd</sup> Gent:** T. Gowing |

**1st Half (tied):** C. Fitzpatrick & L. Kelly | **2nd Half:** M. Lillis. **Raffle Winners:** M. Hunter, M. J. Dunne, K. Farrell, B. Murphy, T. Dunne. Whist continues Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Centre—new members welcome!. Thanks for your support!



**Graiguecullen Monster Bingo Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** St Fiaccs Hall, at 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €2,000. Double number €670. Lotto €500

### 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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**THE HEATH'S**  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
**PARADE!**  
STARTING AT  
8:45 AM,  
FOLLOWED  
BY MASS.  
Please contact-  
theheathparade@gmail.com



**People being solicited for money while praying in the Church**

It has been brought to our attention that people calling into our Parish Church to spend some time in prayer are being approached by an individual while in the carpark and in the Church and given a 'hardship' story by this individual to elicit money from them.

**Please do not respond to this request.** The story is not the reality and the person in question has been asked to desist. Please ask him to go to the Parish Centre or Saint Vincent De Paul where appropriate help is available.



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

**RAMPS & RAILS  
FOR THE HOME**

We install concrete ramps to allow freedom of movement and steel handrails to provide safe access for everyone



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Within a 30-minute cycle of the Midlands Hospital, Portlaoise (approx. 8 km)

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**Portlaoise Cemetery  
Committee** will hold their Church Gate Collection on the weekend of **March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.**  
*Your support would be greatly appreciated.*

YOU  
CAN'T START  
THE NEXT  
CHAPTER  
OF YOUR LIFE  
IF YOU KEEP  
RE-READING  
THE LAST ONE.

# CateKIDS

Portlaoise Parish [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## Resisting Temptation

There was a bowl of sweets sitting on the coffee table in the living room of Mary's house. Mary's mother noticed that she was looking at the sweets and said, "Now, don't you eat any sweets until after dinner or you will spoil your appetite." The sweets looked so good and the temptation was so great. "Surely just one little piece won't hurt - and mother will never know the difference," Mary thought to herself.



Have any of you ever had an experience like that? Here is another story which might sound familiar.

"Put away your books and take out one sheet of paper and a pencil," the teacher said. "We are going to take our weekly spelling test." Johnny had an empty feeling in the pit of his stomach. He knew that they were going to have a spelling test today, but he watched TV last night instead of studying for the spelling test and he wasn't ready for the test. As the test began, Johnny looked around the room and realised that he had a clear view of Sally's paper. "It won't hurt if I look at Sally's paper just this once," Johnny thought to himself. "I promise - I'll never do it again and nobody will ever know."

All of us have faced temptations such as these, haven't we? Did you know that Jesus was tempted just as we are? The Gospel tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with Scripture!

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days. He was hungry, and Satan knew he was hungry, so he said to him, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but he didn't. Instead, he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took Jesus up to a high place and showed him the worldly kingdoms below. "All of this belongs to me," he said. "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give it to you."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and led him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angels to rescue you."

Again, Jesus quoted the Scripture, "'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

Satan tempted Jesus just as he tempts you and me. Jesus resisted Satan's temptation, and we can too, by answering him with Scripture.

## My Prayer

Dear Father, help us to learn what the Bible teaches us to do so that when the devil tempts us, we can do what Jesus did - answer him with Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



We know that Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and praying. During Lent we try to follow Jesus' example by doing something special to show how much we love him and want to be like him. This is not easy and sometimes it is difficult to decide what we want to do and even more difficult to keep doing it for forty days.

There are three things that we are asked to focus on during Lent.

They are:



# LENT

**PRAYING:** Spend a little more time with God.

**SACRIFICING:** Giving up something that you really like.

**ALMSGIVING:** Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.

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

I will share a smile

I will help my mammy

I will write a letter to my 

I won't eat sweets

I will play with my little brother/sister

I will share my lunch with my friend I will clean my room without complaining

I will be patient

I will make a card for my mammy

I will eat my dinner

I will help clean the kitchen

I will say thank you to Jesus

I will do what my teacher asked

I will forgive someone who hurt me

I will give my daddy a hug

I will read a story to my sister

I will share my toys

I won't watch television

I will pray for those who are hungry

I will put some money in the Trócaire Box

I will pray for those who have died

I will make a card for my granddad

I will help my teacher

I will be kind to someone

I will pray for those who are sick

I will share my pencils with my friends

I will put my litter in the bin

I will help mind the baby

I will go to Mass

I will call my grandparents

I will pray for peace

I will say 'sorry'

I will make my bed

I will give away something that I like.





# Time to Think!

## Vocation is a fulfilling way of life....

There is a real sense here in Ireland, that the vocation crisis, to the priesthood, is having real consequences in terms of aging clergy and many priest-less parishes. Here in Kildare and Leighlin Diocese, the average age of clergy is 70 years of age. Many priests serve parishes well into their 80s and 90s. I have no doubt that the many scandals revealed over the past 25 years has played a significant factor in the very few younger priests who are annually ordained here in Ireland. This reality is in stark contrast with other continents where vocations to the priesthood continues to grow. It is well worthwhile to encourage and promote vocations to the priesthood. My experience has been very positive. It is a rich and deeply fulfilling way of life in service to the people of the various parishes where I minister. On the ground most priests feel encouraged and supported by parishioners. I fear that in a very uncertain future, we clergy, will become part of folklore and history. Of course, it need not be like this but pragmatically our current age profile makes for a dramatic change in all our parishes.

Vocation is how we live our lives as followers of Christ. Vocation is much more than a job or career, its a way of life, a pathway where best we can be in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus the Good Shepherd, who cared for his flock with compassion, sensitivity and inclusion. By his life, Jesus presents the gift of vocation as a radical service that is counter cultural. Giving without counting the cost. Seeking out the lost, the marginalised, befriending the stranger, embracing those who are cast to the periphery and often the victims of Gossip, racism and discrimination. A Christian vocation is to live lives that build those cornerstones of our heritage, faith hope and love. Vocation is lived by all who are baptised in rich and varied roles. However it is a worthy endeavour "To ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to the harvest" I find priesthood to be an exciting and wonderful vocation. Would I do it again.... absolutely !! Priesthood is a very special gift. Its an invitation from the Lord to serve and when we serve well, we as priests receive great joy and inner peace. A good pastor models his life on Jesus the Good shepherd. A priest who is present, available, kind and encouraging. A shepherd who finds inner peace and brings calm and confidence to so many seeking a listening and compassionate response often in moments of crisis and uncertainty. Parishes need shepherds of love wounded by their vulnerability and as a result bring warmth and empathy to those seeking the Lord.

This is a fantastic time to consider what does it mean to serve the Lord as a priest or religious. Pope Francis, whose inspirational witness even now in his poor health reflects on this invitation.. "The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch. God in fact desires that our lives not become banal and predictable, imprisoned by daily routine, or unresponsive before decisions that could give it meaning. The Lord does not want us to live from day to day, thinking that nothing is worth fighting for, slowly losing our desire to set out on new and exciting paths. If at times he makes us experience a "miraculous catch", it is because he wants us to discover that each of us is called – in a variety of ways – to something grand, and that our lives should not grow entangled in the nets of an ennui that dulls the heart. Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us.

Embracing this promise naturally demands the courage to risk making a decision. The first disciples, called by Jesus to be part of something greater, "immediately left their nets and followed him" (Mk 1:18). Responding to the Lord's call involves putting ourselves on the line and facing a great challenge. It means being ready to leave behind whatever would keep us tied to our little boat and prevent us from making a definitive choice. We are called to be bold and decisive in seeking God's plan for our lives. Gazing out at the vast "ocean" of vocation, we cannot remain content to repair our nets on the boat that gives us security, but must trust instead in the Lord's promise. In encountering the Lord, some may feel the attraction of a call to the consecrated life or to the ordained priesthood. It is a discovery that can excite and at the same time frighten us, since we feel called to become "fishers of men" in the barque of the Church by giving totally of ourselves in commitment to faithful service of the Gospel and our brothers and sisters. Such a decision carries the risk of leaving everything behind to follow the Lord, to devote ourselves completely to him, and to share in his work. Many kinds of interior resistance can stand in the way of making this decision, especially in highly secularised contexts where there no longer seems to be a place for God and for the Gospel. And yet, there can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Do not yield to fear, which paralyses us before the great heights to which the Lord points us. Always remember that to those who leave their nets and boat behind, and follow him, the Lord promises the joy of a new life that can fill our hearts and enliven our journey" In this jubilee year of hope, it is important not to be overwhelmed with tomorrow and fail to life in the joy of today. In the Scripture, God promises to be "With us always." We are not alone; God is very close to us. In a turbulent world that is often polarized and unequal, all of us are called to be bearers of Good News. This reality is abundantly present in family life, school communities, sporting groups and all who practice the virtues of kindness and compassion. The greatest Gift in responding to God's call is to have courage to say yes. That yes is both life giving and deeply rewarding.

### LORD OF THE HARVEST,

**BLESS** young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

**INSPIRE** all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.  
**INSTILL** those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

**UNITE** us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.



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

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**Congratulations to the 326 boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February & Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March in Portlaoise**



**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**







# Confirmation 2025



## Family Support Meeting

To Help People Affected by Addiction

Join Us for Tea, Coffee, and Connection!

All Are Welcome!

Safe Space for Individuals & Families

- Share experiences, access info, and receive support
- Explore new approaches to addiction & recovery
- Learn tools for coping, communication, and boundaries

Date & Time: Every Monday, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Laois Partnership Building (Prefab)  
New Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 VY22

Come as you are - We're here to listen, support, and grow together.

Contact:

[thearcprojectoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thearcprojectoffice@gmail.com)  
or Text/WhatsApp 085 818 7470  
[www.thearcproject.ie](http://www.thearcproject.ie)



## Mick Murray Memorial ROAD RUN SUNDAY 16TH MARCH 2025

REGISTRATION 12PM OLD BOYS SCHOOL BALLYROAN  
ROAD RUN COMMENCES 1PM

€20 PER VEHICLE (ALL VEHICLES WELCOME!)  
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

### Cabaret - 9pm Skies O'er Many Spot Prizes on the Night



All Proceeds to  
Friends of Abbeyleix Hospital

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



**PATRICIA  
LYNCH**  
*Borris Rd,*



**ANN  
GORMAN**  
(née Bergin)  
*Cherrygrove,*



**ROBERT (BOBBY)  
YOUNG**  
Killenny, The Heath

**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)

*In Loving Memory of*  
**GERARD (PATRICK)**  
**LOWRY**  
*Munny, Stradbally*



*Ger's Months Mind Mass will be  
celebrated in the Church of The Sacred  
Heart, Stradbally on Sunday  
March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am*

*We the family of the late Ger Lowry, would like to  
sincerely thank all those who sympathised &  
supported us on our recent loss.*

*Thank you to all who called to the house and  
attended Ger's funeral Mass in Stradbally. We are  
deeply grateful to all who sent Mass cards &  
messages of sympathy following Ger's passing.*

*Our thanks to Fr. David & Fr. Sean Kelly, Stradbally  
for attending the house and officiating at Ger's  
Requiem Mass. Thanks also to Monsignor  
John Byrne for his presence at the graveside in  
Ratheniska. We would also like to thank  
John Maher, Sinead, Aisling, Ross and Anne for the  
lovely music and singing at the Mass and also to  
sacristans, Michael Stapleton in Stradbally and  
Arthur Drennan in Ratheniska for their help.*

*Sincere thanks to the emergency services & to  
Matthew Keegan & David Goode Undertakers, for  
their professionalism with the funeral  
arrangements. Thanks also to the grave diggers in  
Ratheniska.*

*A special thanks to our kind neighbours, relatives &  
friends for their support. We are especially grateful  
to members of Park Ratheniska GAA for assisting  
with car parking at the house & in Ratheniska.*

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be of-  
fered for all your intentions.*

*Rest in Peace Louise*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**DAN and MAUREEN DUNNE**

*St. Judes, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.*

*Dan's 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Maureen's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025*



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



*Will those who think of  
them today,*

*A little prayer to Jesus say.*

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

*May Dan & Maureen Rest in Peace*



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*In Loving Memory of*  
**CHRISTY CAHILL**  
*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise*

*1st Anniversary occurs on 9th March 2025*



*Along the road to yesterday  
That leads us straight to you  
Are memories of the happy days  
Together we once knew  
And always every evening  
We seem to have a way  
Of wandering back to meet you  
On the road to yesterday.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by Tony,  
Christine, Christopher and Padraig*

*May Christy Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**CHRISTY CAHILL**  
*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise*

*1st Anniversary occurs on 9th March 2025*



*Life is a beautiful memory  
His death is a silent grief  
He sleeps in God's beautiful  
garden  
In sunshine of perfect peace  
I miss him oh so much  
But realized God knew best  
He let me have him many years  
Then gently bid him rest.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his Daughter  
Elizabeth and grand daughter Stephanie*

*May Christy Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**CHRISTY CAHILL**  
*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise*

*1st Anniversary occurs on 9th March 2025*



*The years may wipe out many  
things  
But this they'll wipe out never  
The memory of those happy days  
Which we have spent together.*

*Sadly missed and always  
remembered by your Wife Lily and  
Son Christy*

*May Christy Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**CHRISTY CAHILL**  
*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise*

*1st Anniversary occurs on 9th March 2025*



*Deep in the heart has a picture  
Of a loved one laid to rest  
In memories frame we keep it  
Because he was one of the best.*

*Sadly missed and always  
remembered by your Daughter  
Geraldine and Colm, granddaughter Jenna and Shaun,  
great granddaughters Sadie and Florence.*

*May Christy Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**CHRISTOPHER LaCUMBER**  
*The Cottage, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.*  
*4th Anniversary occurred 5th March 2025*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &  
Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 9th  
March at 11:15am.*



*Many the thoughts I give to you,  
As the long hours go by,  
Thinking of the things we used to  
do and say, just you and I.  
Sometimes they make me smile,  
Sometimes they make me cry,  
But are precious to me alone,  
Memories of You and I.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by his  
loving wife Bridie and family and brother Jim.*

*May Christopher Rest in Peace*

*Treasures memories of a Loving  
Husband and Father*  
**JOHN GING**

*Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.*  
*6th Anniversary occurs 11th March 2025*



*A loving husband and father so true,  
No one on this earth will find like  
you*

*For us you always did your best  
God grant your soul eternal rest.*

*Loved and remembered dearly by  
your wife Phyllis, your seven  
children, seventeen grandchildren,  
daughters-in-law, & sons-in-law,  
all of whom you can be so proud of.*

*Rest in Peace John*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**LOUISE ALLEN**  
*(née McGurk)*  
 Grattan Street, Portlaoise



The family of the late Louise wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who sent messages of sympathy, mass cards, and for the kindness shown to us following the death of our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

A special thanks to all the wonderful staff at Ballard Lodge Nursing Home, who looked after Mam with such love and kindness.

We are deeply grateful to Msgr. John Byrne, who celebrated the funeral mass, and to Julie, who sang so beautifully, and Louise, who played the organ.

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 acknowledgment as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

**Mass will be offered for your intentions.**

*Rest in Peace Louise*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**PATRICK LEWIS**

*Raheen, The Heath, Portlaoise.*

*9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, The Heath, this Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30am.*

*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 remembered by his wife Kathleen and family.*

*May Patrick Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOHN COUGHLAN**

*"Curragha", Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.*

*10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025*



*Gone are the days we used to share  
 But in our hearts you are always there.  
 The gates of memory will never close.  
 We miss you more than anybody knows.  
 With tender love and deep regret,  
 We who loved you will never forget.*

*Thinking of you always, Stephanie, Pauline,  
 Bernadette, David and our families*

*Rest in Peace Daddy*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**MICHAEL (Mick)**  
**KENNEDY**

*Shanahoe, Abbeyleix.*



*2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00pm.*

*It doesn't take a special day  
 to bring you to our mind,  
 For days without a thought of  
 you are very hard to find.  
 You always tried to do your best,  
 Your heart was true and tender,  
 You simply lived for those you loved,  
 And those you love remember.  
 We hold you close within our hearts,  
 And there you shall remain.  
 To walk with us throughout our lives,  
 Until we meet again.  
 So rest in peace dear loved one,  
 And thanks for all you've done,  
 We pray that God has given you,  
 The crown you've truly won.*

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

*Rest in Peace Mick*

*He fasted for forty days  
 and forty nights*

*Birthday and Anniversary  
Remembrance*  
**LILY KELLY**  
Lr. Boley, Abbeyleix.



*Forever in our  
Hearts*

*Remembered by  
her loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Lily*

**ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY  
REMEMBRANCE**  
*In Loving Memory of*  
**PATTY HOLOHAN**

*formerly 1 Liogard, Portlaoise*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025



*It's hard to believe you're no longer  
here, we think of you, you feel so near,  
In some small ways every single day,  
Memories of you come our way.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by  
Ger, Alex, Noah and Beata, grand  
children extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Mam*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**BRIGID O'BRIEN**

*Ridge Road, Portlaoise*

*Died 10<sup>th</sup> March 1968.*  
*(57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)*

*Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently we gather and treasure them all,  
Unseen, unheard, you are always near,  
So missed, so loved, so very dear.*

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

*May Brigid Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**SIOBHAIN MCGRATH**  
*Leith, Edinburgh*

*(Sadly passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> January)*



*Beloved daughter of Mary McGrath,  
formerly of Cashel, Ballyroan.*

*'Death leaves a heartache no one can heal;  
love leaves a memory no one can steal'*  
*Dearly loved and sadly missed by Anna,  
Dinny, Gabriel, Paul, Denise  
and families.*

*Rest in Peace Shivie*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*In Loving Memory of*  
**PATRICK (PAT) SCULLY**  
*Cherry Hill, Ballyhyland, Portlaoise.*  
*who entered eternal rest on 24th June 2024*



*Pat's wife Kathleen, son Donald,  
daughter Lisa, brothers Tom &  
Peter and the extended family wish  
to express their heartfelt gratitude  
to everyone who shared in their  
deep loss. We are immensely  
grateful to our relatives, friends  
and wonderful neighbours for*

*their unwavering support and kindness  
throughout Pat's illness and funeral.*

*A special thank you to all who assisted with  
hospitality, car parking and those who  
generously brought food to our home. Our  
sincere appreciation also goes to Bosco  
Ramsbottom and his team for providing  
refreshments during Pat's reposal.*

*We are truly touched by everyone who sent  
Mass cards, text messages, online condolences,  
floral tributes, travelled long distances and  
attended the wake and funeral. Your support  
and kind words in remembrance of Pat brought  
an immense comfort to us all.*

*We extend our gratitude to Fr. Francis Cotter  
for leading us in spiritual prayer during Pat's  
wake and to Monsignor John Byrne, Fr Simon  
Jin, Fr. Martin Delaney, Durrow and Fr. Tom  
Dooley, Emo for the beautiful and meaningful  
Requiem Mass in Pat's honour.*

*A sincere thank you to Keegan Undertakers,  
Matthew and David, for their kindness and  
professionalism in handling the funeral  
arrangements and to Heather Fogarty for her  
beautiful singing and music.*

*We are deeply appreciative of Dr Anna Gullane  
for her dedicated care and kindness to Pat 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 Mr Martin Murphy and  
all the staff in the Beacon Hospital, Dublin for  
their exceptional care during Pat's final days.  
We are also grateful to Dr. Bergin and his team  
at the Regional Hospital, Tullamore and to  
Marie, Ger and everyone in BBraun Wellstone  
Midlands Renal Care Centre, Portlaoise for  
their invaluable support to Pat during his  
dialysis.*

*As it would be impossible to express our thanks  
to everyone individually, please accept this  
acknowledgement as an expression of our  
heartfelt appreciation.*

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

*May Pat Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**THOMAS McDONALD**

*Crubbin, Ballyroan*

*30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs on*  
*9<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*

*Your life was one of kindly deeds*  
*A helping hand for others needs*  
*Sincere and true in heart and mind*  
*Beautiful memories left behind.*

*Loved and remembered by McDonald family.*  
*May Thomas Rest in Peace*



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David **087-2369887**

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[www.portlaoisestone.ie](http://www.portlaoisestone.ie)



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



Friday evenings during Lent  
at 7.30pm

St. Bridget's Church Shanahoe,  
Abbeyleix. R32AH90

**East Midland Parkinsons:** East Midlands Parkinsons Support Group will hold a General Meeting for all people with Parkinsons and Carers on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> 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 on 087-2712448

**Walk in the Park for Parkinsons** will take place on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 11am in Colt G.A.A grounds, Raheen, Abbeyleix R32 V085. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Doogues Bar, Raheen. All support greatly appreciated

*The Parish Shop*

**WE STOCK A WIDE RANGE OF CARDS AND GIFTS FOR CONFIRMATION**

Prayer Books - Rosary Beads - Rosettes  
Personalised Cards and Candles,  
Photo Frames - Gift Sets - Bookmarks  
Sterling Silver Necklets, Chains and Crosses  
Keepsake Boxes for those cherished memories  
Confirmation Certificates

At the Parish Centre  
Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm



## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

06

13

21

23

No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

John Moylan  
Donna Bowler  
Philip Laffan  
Michael Comerford  
Stephen Dallas  
Ann & Dermot  
Michael Conlon  
D Brown  
Sean Timmons  
Patrice Dunne  
Sean Timmons  
G, A, W & T  
Ned Wynne

MATCH 3s €1,000

13  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€77  
each

### PROMOTER

Ross Moylan  
Pat Bowler  
Online Lotto  
Parish Centre  
Mary McDonald  
Catherine Young  
Kathleen Brown  
Peter Ryan  
Chris Lacey  
Liz Hilliard  
Chris Lacey  
Greg Keenan  
Paul Dooley

Play PARISH



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Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000

## 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](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



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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

## Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclesiasticus 24:4-7

Psalms 91:2-3, 13-16

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

## 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!**

