

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

**13th April 2025**

**Palm Sunday  
of the Lord's Passion**

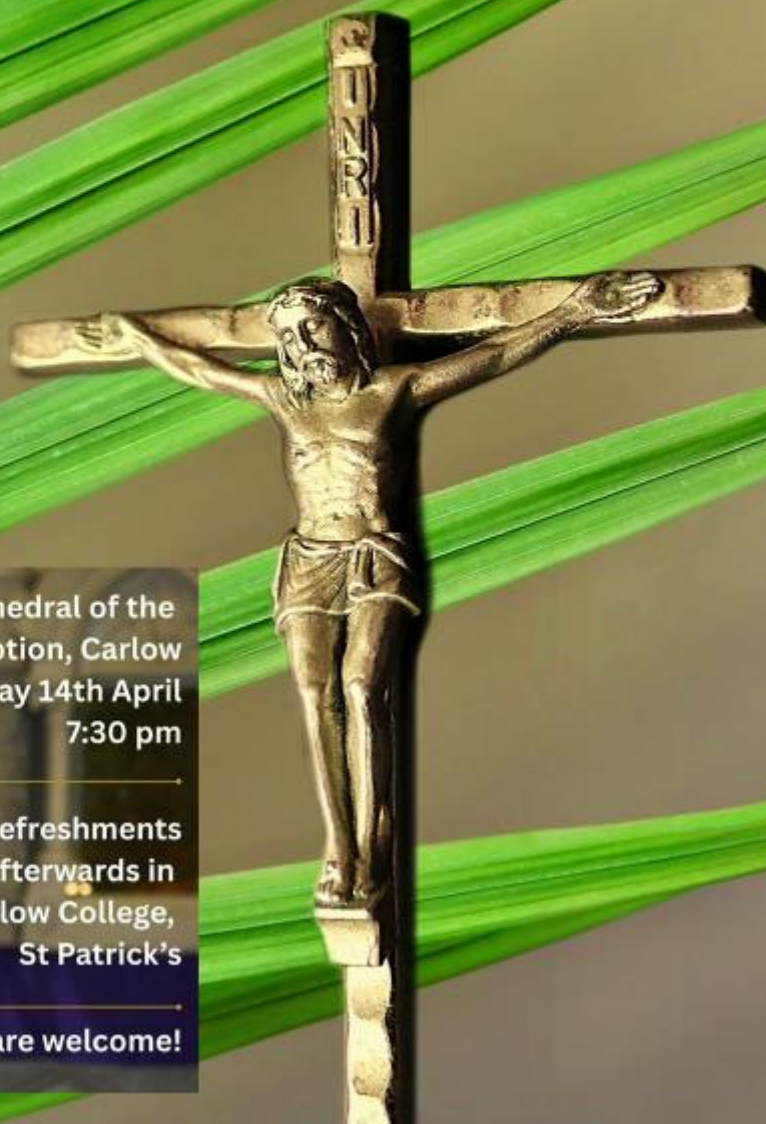


Today we celebrate the First Day  
of Holy Week, Palm Sunday.

Holy week Timetable  
on the back cover.

Our Good Friday and Easter Vigil  
ceremonies will be transmitted by RTE

*God Most High,  
gracious and glorious,  
blessed is the one who comes  
in your name.  
Lead us now on the road to the cross.  
May we follow with faithfulness  
and joy, shouting  
Hosanna in the highest heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and  
Lord.*



**CHRISM MASS 2025**

KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

Cathedral of the  
Assumption, Carlow  
Monday 14th April  
7:30 pm

Refreshments  
afterwards in  
Carlow College,  
St Patrick's

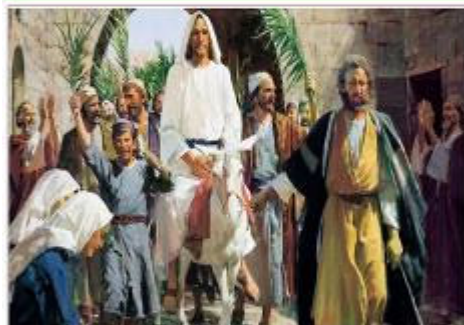
All are welcome!

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

**Follow Us**  @PortlaoiseParish  
**& Like Us**  [fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois](https://fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois)  
[fb.com/portlaoiselinkup](https://fb.com/portlaoiselinkup)

Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)





## What Makes Holy Week Holy?

Here we are again at the beginning of Holy Week, but what is it that makes Holy week holy? As we process into Church on Palm Sunday waving our palms

or weaving them into crosses, it's tempting to feel that this is all just a commemoration of the past. But if Holy Week doesn't impact on our lives a little more with each passing year, then it really is just a story about something that happened a very long time ago.

It's the very first 'Palm Sunday' and the excitement is growing like wildfire. Jesus rides into Jerusalem and his followers throw down palms and robes. Only Jesus seems aware that something is very wrong with this triumphant parade. The followers are misguided. They think that Jesus has come like some great military deliverer to overthrow the authorities. But in truth, Jesus doesn't ride into Jerusalem on a stallion with great might and power, he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and he comes in peace, humility and servitude. He comes to stand up for what he believes without any hint of compromise or aggression. He comes ready to lay down his life. He comes to show humanity what real love means and he brings the promise of his heavenly kingdom for all those who can realise his teaching.

Those original Palm Sunday crowds had a very poor grasp of what Jesus was about, and so it's no wonder that by the end of Holy Week they had switched to shouts of 'Crucify!' Like those original Palm Sunday crowds, we celebrate Jesus' life, but we celebrate for the right reasons. Hopefully we are not celebrating someone we think can wave a magic wand and make everything right for us. Holy Week brings into sharp focus what Christianity should be about. Each year we endeavour to make Holy Week holy with greater insight and a greater maturity of faith. Each Holy Week we endeavour to become better ambassadors for Christ.

## Trócaire Boxes

Please bring Trócaire boxes to Mass on Holy Thursday. Place them in the basket provided in the Church.

Please do not leave Trócaire Boxes in the Church while unattended. You may return it to the Parish Centre during office hours, Monday to Friday, 9am—5pm. You may also donate to Trócaire online via their website, [www.trocaire.org/donations/now/](http://www.trocaire.org/donations/now/)

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday and Tuesday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

### Wednesday

7.30am & 10am

### Penitential Service, Parish Church at 7.30pm.

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

### Easter Sunday

Easter Vigil 11pm (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

## Our Easter Ceremonies on RTE

RTE television will broadcast the Good Friday and Easter Vigil ceremonies from our Parish Church. Our Good Friday Passion ceremony will be at 3pm and the Easter Vigil at 11pm (later than usual to facilitate RTE).

All our ceremonies will be transmitted via Shalom World and our own webcam and parish radio. See Holy week Timetable on the back cover.

Chrism Mass in the Cathedral, Carlow at 7:30pm on Monday, April 14th. All welcome.



## Traditional Eastern European Blessing of Food

by Fr. Piotr Jakubiak on Holy Saturday at 12noon in the Parish Church. All are welcome.

## Easter Collection

### For the support of our Priests

Easter Collection for the priests of the parish takes place over the Easter period. Envelopes at the Church porches for those not using an Envelope Box. You may also donate to this collection via our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) or directly to our Clergy Account, details inside the back cover.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



# MULHALL MEATS

Est. 1931

Now  
**25%**  
off



## Mulhall's Fresh Irish Sirloin Steak

*Offer Available Mon 31st March - Sunday 13th April*



Full Range Of Fresh **FISH** Available 7 Days A Week!

Mulhall's Butcher Counter is located within Mulhall's SuperValu. Phone 057 86 21044

## AUDIOLOGIST HEARING AID Consultant

**Patricia Kilmartin**  
**B.A.A.T., M.I.S.H.A.A.**  
(28+ years experience with Private & Public Sector)



- Comprehensive Hearing Assessment
- Full range of Digital Hearing Aids available incl. FREE PRSI HEARING AIDS TO VALUE OF €1000 TO ELIGIBLE CLIENTS
- Pre-employment tests/Occupational Screening Tests
- Ear moulds, Custom made Swim Plugs, Musicians Moulds, etc.
- Hearing Aid Batteries, Minor Repairs, etc. (incl. postal service)
- Ear Wax Removal Service

## In Attendance

**10 Lismard Court, Portlaoise Co. Laois.**  
(Entrance beside Macra Na Feirme Hall on Timahoe Road)

By Appointment Only

Tel: 057 8692289 Mobile: 085 8568808

E-mail: [pkaudiology@gmail.com](mailto:pkaudiology@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kilmartinaudiology.ie](http://www.kilmartinaudiology.ie)

\*\*STRICT SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE, IN LINE WITH ADVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT & HSE GUIDELINES\*\*



## Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

*live life physically well*

The Coach House, 4 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.

JOHN SUGRUE *BSc MSc MScP* NICOLA CALDBECK *BSc MScP MScP*  
CONOR BOLTON *BSc MSc MScP*

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!**





**Scoil Mhuire, Wolfhill, is now accepting enrolments for all classes for the 2025/'26 school year. We are a Catholic, rural DEIS school, welcoming all faiths and none.**

**We offer your child:**

- ❖ Education in a tranquil, scenic setting
- ❖ Low pupil/teacher ratio & special education and EAL support
- ❖ Daily hot lunches
- ❖ School bus service from Ballylinan
- ❖ A welcoming, inclusive learning environment for all learners
- ❖ Wide range of curricular activities – sporting, cultural, creative, and environmental
- ❖ Inter-school projects & competitions – GAA, tag rugby, debating, and STEM (Lego Spike & coding)

**We celebrate:**

- ❖ Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- ❖ Autism Awareness Day
- ❖ World Book Day
- ❖ Internet Safety Week
- ❖ Jersey Days.
- ❖ Friendship Week and many more.

**We are a feeder school for:**

- ❖ Heywood Community School
- ❖ Knockbeg College
- ❖ Ardscoil na Tríonóide Athy
- ❖ Athy Community College.

@scoilmhuiREWOLFhill

@wolfhillNS

**Enrol now**

**info@wolfhillns.com | www.wolfhillns.com**

**Contact us: Mob.: 087- 2076140**

# Wolfhill National School



**ORIGINAL THERAPIES**

**We are local and here for you**

## Private Occupational Therapy



### Housing Assessments

- Housing Adaptation Grant assessments and reports.
- Stairlifts, adapted bathrooms, ramps, extensions, etc.



### Paediatric Assessments

- Occupational Therapy assessments to help your child grow.
- Supporting children's development at home, in school, and during play.

**Contact Us Today for an Appointment:**

info@originaltherapies.ie 083 150 6755

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



**Kylecon**

**DECORATIVE STONE  
SAND AND GRAVEL  
TOPSOIL COMPOST  
BARK MULCH**

**KYLE  
PORTLAOISE  
R32 T2V9**

**085  
7020537**

**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

## J&L LANDSCAPING TREES & GARDENING SERVICES



### **QUALIFIED TREE SURGEON**

- NPTs Certified
- Hawthorn
- Silver Birch Comitors
- Willow Spiremore
- Trees etc. Pruned
- Dangerous Tree Removal
- Fully Insured

- Hedges Trimmed
- Rose Bushes Lopped
- New Turf Lawns Laid
- Lawns Rotavated
- Lawns Cut
- Fencing
- Garden Tidy ups

### **POWER WASHING**

- Block Paving
- Crazy Paving
- Concrete Drives
- Tarmacadam
- Walls Stonework
- Decking
- Steps
- Rubbish Removal

No job too large or small • Free estimates • Over 15 years experience • Work carried out through the Four Seasons  
Email: info@jllandscapingandtreecare.ie

**www.jllandscapingandtreecare.ie**  
**Call or text John 089 4115912**



# BREEN STEEL SHEDS

*Drim, Mountrath, Co. Laois*

**Tel; 087-9444098 / 086-1732542 | E-mail; [info@breensteelsheds.ie](mailto:info@breensteelsheds.ie)**



- ♦ Maintenance free Steel Mobile Garden Sheds in a choice of colours.
- ♦ PVC coated with non drip sheeting to avoid condensation.
- ♦ Timber or Concrete floors fitted.
- ♦ Delivered and erected on site, can be transported in sections or fully assembled.
- ♦ All sizes manufactured; 7x5, 8x14, 10x8, 10x17, 10x20, 20x24
- ♦ Our range of Steel Sheds include two variations of buildings with many uses; garages for vehicle storage in residential areas, small workshops, office accommodation, store rooms, games rooms.



## **DUNKEEN OIL**

**YOUR LOCAL OIL DISTRIBUTOR**



Locally owned and locally run for a personalised, reliable and friendly service at all times. We believe in fast efficient service, either the same day delivery or a no hassle following day delivery with 5 trucks looking after your area. There has never been a better time to order your heating oil from Dunkeen Oil!

Dunkeen Oil, Mountmellick Rd., Portlaoise  
Our depot offers kerosene and tractor diesel at discounted prices

**Contact Marcus directly**  
on 086 2904029 (any time)  
**Contact our office on 057 86 62777 (8am to 6 pm)**  
or order online on [www.dunkeenoil.ie](http://www.dunkeenoil.ie)



# Ready To *Hear* Better?

**Virtually Invisible.**

Small and practically invisible.

**Rechargeable.**

No more need for small batteries.

**Ai Technology.**

Ideal for hearing in background noise.



**FREE**  
HEARING  
TESTS

**15%**  
DISCOUNT ON  
HEARING AIDS

**WAX**  
REMOVAL VIA MICRO  
SUCTIONING



**HEARMED**  
ACOUSTIC HEALTHCARE  
*hear when you need us*

Appointments available within 48 hours

**057 863 8181**

Unit 4, Bridge Street Centre, Portlaoise, Co.Laois



**MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN**  
GET YOURSELF NOTICED

EU Business

Irish Enterprise  
Awards 2022

★ BEST PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN AGENCY  
— MIDLANDS 2022  
★ ECO-CONSCIOUS EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022

## THE PRINTER YOU NEED TO KNOW



GRAPHIC  
DESIGN



MERCHANDISE &  
PROMOTIONAL  
ITEMS



BOOK  
PUBLICATIONS



MAIL  
MARKETING



CORPORATE &  
RETAIL PRINT



WIDE FORMAT  
PRINTING



VEHICLE  
GRAPHICS



PROCUREMENT  
PICK & PACK

Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EH11  
☎ 057 8634050

Henry Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 TF83  
☎ 045 433569



**mochuaprint.ie**







**2<sup>ND</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> 20  
MAY 25**

**MUSIC WORKSHOPS  
SESSION TRAIL  
FESTIVAL CLUB  
CONCERTS  
BATTLE OF THE BANDS  
ALBUM LAUNCHES**

**CHECK ONLINE @ [PORTLAOISETRADFEST.COM](http://PORTLAOISETRADFEST.COM)**

## PORTLAOISE TRADFEST HEADLINE ACTS



### DERVISH

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> May | 8pm  
Dunamais Arts Centre  
Tickets €32



### YE VAGABONDS

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May | Doors 9pm  
Kavanagh's Bar  
Tickets €27.50



### SCULLION

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> May | Doors 8pm  
Kavanagh's Bar  
Tickets €24.20

**Unislim Portlaoise will be open from  
7:00 am to 12:30 pm on  
Tuesdays at the Portlaoise Parish  
Centre. For more  
information, contact  
Breda at 087 6382545.**

**UNISLIM**



**LAOIS JET WASH SERVICES LTD**



**C.C.T.V. PIPE & DRAIN INSPECTION  
HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN CLEANING  
TEL/FAX 057-8681720 MOBILE 087-7749519  
HAVE YOU A PROBLEM WITH YOUR DRAINS?**



## Egg-citing FAMILY GET AWAY

**Only  
€219**

for a family of four.

Package includes an **overnight stay**  
in a **family deluxe room** with **breakfast**  
in the morning. **Activity pack** for the kids  
in the room, family activity in the afternoon  
and a **delicious dinner** in the evening.

[hello@sohotels.ie](mailto:hello@sohotels.ie) • [sohotels.ie](http://sohotels.ie)





## **GARDEN SERVICES**

**Hedge trimming, regular garden tidy ups, grass cutting.**  
phone Richard locally based:  
**087-9828558**



## **NOLAN LOCKSMITHS**

24/7 Emergency Service.  
Auto - Home - Commercial  
**086-2624270**  
**085-2833064**  
**Shop: 05786-20135**  
www.jacknolan.ie

## **ACTIVE BUILDING SERVICES**

Domestic Plumbing.  
Oil Fired Central Heating.  
Plumber on call, Portlaoise and surrounding areas. Tel.  
**Fergus 089-4541868**

## **PAINTER AVAILABLE**

Portlaoise and surrounding areas covered. Contact  
**087-6885017**

## **FITZPATRICK TARMACADAM**

Kerbing, Concreting & Tarmacadam  
13-Tonne Excavator & Mini Digger Available  
**Contact:**  
**085-1447774**

## **WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIRS**

- Hinges/Handles  
- Letterboxes  
- Slide Patio Door Rollers  
- Window and Door draught proofing  
- Fully Insured  
**083-3153211**  
www.kukic-hms.ie

## **PAINTING & DECORATING**

- Interior & Exterior
- Power washing
- 15 years experience
- Fully Insured

**089-4459958**  
www.kukic-hms.ie

## **PLUMBER AVAILABLE**

All domestic, solid fuel and oil servicing.  
Water softener installation.  
Full Bathroom Renovations.

**Contact Alan:**  
**085-1141395**



## **GREG THE HANDYMAN**

- Home improvements and Repairs,
  - Flooring, tiling, carpets
  - Fence maintenance and repair
  - Painting inside/outside and decorating
  - Repairs of toilet, faucet and shower units
  - Furniture assembly and installation
- Contact 089-9567135**

## **KPS CLEANING**

- School Cleaning
- General House Cleaning
- Deep Cleaning
- End of Tenancy Cleaning

Cleaning of offices, schools, shops, salons etc. Contact us for all your cleaning needs.

**087-9737073**

## **MATHS GRINDS AVAILABLE**

- Junior Cycle – €30
- Leaving Cert – €35

**Contact Caoimhe**  
**089-4822249**

## **TV SERVICES**

Repairs to TV and home entertainment equipment. Also we supply and fit and repair Saorview, Aerial and Satellite systems. Contact:

**057-8732998**  
**087-3636497**  
**083-3742600**

## **DS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & GROUNDWORKS**

Patio areas, driveways, stump removal, lawns, kerbing, hedging, fencing and drainage.



Call now for a competitive quote!

**085-7759975**

dsgroundworks22@gmail.com

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

All Scrap Metal collected free; washing machines, cookers, lawnmowers etc. Garden sheds cleaned out, fences or sewer problems solved, mini-digger and small tipper truck for hire.

**Richard 085-2529893**

## **LAWN CUTTING AVAILABLE**



Estate green maintenance, Private lawn maintenance, once off heavy cuts.

**Good Rates**

**Feel free to contact Shaun!**

**085-1754009**

## **S&R SERVICES**

Painting/Decorating Kitchen Fitting, Furniture Assembly, Flooring, Carpentry, Tiling, Bathrooms and General Maintenance

**087-4896429**

## **PROFESSIONAL PAINTER AND DECORATOR**

**20+ Years Experience**



Interior/Exterior Residential/Commercial Hand painted Kitchens and Bespoke Furniture

**Contact Gary Kelly:**  
**086-0717172**

## **PAT LALOR TARMACADAM Church Avenue, Stradbally**

- Tarmacadam
  - Kerbing
  - Drainage
- Free Quotations  
VAT Registered

**Tel. 083-0211577**

**E-mail: patlallor37@gmail.com**



## CLARE'S DOG SERVICE



Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise

Quality Service

Dogs required for Student grooming. Discounts apply. Tel.

**089-4890869**

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

## PRECIOUS POOCHES BOARDING AND DAYCARE



**For small dogs  
Quality Service**

- 20 minutes  
from Portlaoise  
- 4 minutes from  
Mountrath.

**085-1384078**

@PreciousPoochesDayCare

@preciouspoocheskennelslaois

## CARPENTER/CABINET MAKER

**Specialising in Kitchen  
Respraying, Refurbishment**

Wood panelling, Doors, Skirting  
boards, Architrave, Flooring

**No job too small. Call Paul:  
085-7762298**

## PODIATRIST MAY COLLINS

Bsc (Hons) Podiatry MCHSI  
2 Kellyville Park, Portlaoise.  
Tel.;

**086-3785327**

By Appointment only.  
VHI-Aviva-Laya approved

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.

## HANDYMAN SERVICES

Offering a wide range  
of reliable services:



- Gutter Cleaning
- Power Washing
- Grass Cutting
- Window Cleaning
- Interior & Exterior  
Painting

**No job too big or small!  
Affordable rates and  
professional service.**

**Contact Mick  
Phone: 085-2151277**

## FOR SALE

**Lawn Mower**

**Electric weed burner**

**(Brand new)**

**Contact John  
- 086-1628556**



# PARK/RATHENISKA GAA ACADEMY

Gaelic Football & Hurling for **BOYS** and **GIRLS**  
from **AGE 4-17** starting in March

**Eircode: R32 WR94  
FOR MORE DETAILS**

**f** parkratheniska **ig** parkratheniska **X** @parkratheniska  
[www.parkratheniskagaa.com](http://www.parkratheniskagaa.com)

**Email** [secretary.parkratheniska.laois@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.parkratheniska.laois@gaa.ie)



**Ages 4-6 Ratheniska Rascals Football & Hurling  
Starts Sunday April 13th at 11AM**



- U7-U11 Hurling Sunday mornings 11am
- U7-U11 Football Monday evenings 6.30pm
- U8 Girls Football Tuesday evenings 6.30pm



WHERE WE ALL BELONG







## A Joyful Celebration



Today is Palm Sunday. It's a day when we remember how people celebrated when Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a Sunday around two thousand years ago. You may have already heard the story, but let me tell it again.

Jesus was walking with His disciples toward Jerusalem. As they came near to the city, Jesus told two of his disciples to go on ahead into the town. He told them that they would see a young donkey tied there that had never been ridden.

"Untie the donkey and bring it to me. If anyone asks you what you are doing, tell them, 'The Lord needs it. He will send it back to you soon.' "

The disciples did what Jesus told them to do, and it happened just as He had told them. They found the young donkey, untied it, and started to lead it away. Some men were standing nearby, and they said to the disciples, "Where are you taking that young donkey?" They told them what Jesus had said, and the men let them take the donkey.

The disciples brought the young donkey to Jesus, and they put their coats on it to make a soft place for Jesus to sit. As they made their way into the city of Jerusalem, people went ahead of Jesus shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Others followed behind, and they were also shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest!" All the while, people lined the streets cheering and waving palm branches.

It was a wonderful celebration, as people cheered loudly for Jesus.

Just as those people celebrated two thousand years ago, we have come here today to celebrate Jesus. What better day to do that than on Palm Sunday? The Bible says, "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)



Dear God, we celebrate today just as those people celebrated in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. This is the day that You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!

In Jesus' name, Amen.







# Time to Think!

## Easter 2025 .. a time of hope

These days of bright blue skies, and spring blossoms, make it easy to identify with the Easter message. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Easter reminds us we belong to such a positive and wonderful reality. Despite the turmoil of war in Gaza, persecution of Christians in Syria and economic uncertainty, Easter 2025 is a mighty gift.

This Easter of 2025 is especially meaningful. For the first time in years, Christians of the East and West—those following the Gregorian and Julian calendars—celebrate this holy day together on April 20. What a beautiful sign of unity! It reminds us that the resurrection is not a gift for a few, but for all. It bridges divides, heals wounds, and calls us to be one family in Christ. Today, we join hands with believers across the world, proclaiming with one voice:

**"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"**

**"He is not here, he is risen"**, is the signal message which the women receive as they make their way to anoint this dead body of Jesus. That the Lord is truly risen is a fundamental element of the Christian faith.

The Old Testament readings at the Easter Vigil liturgical celebration are all about how God created every dimension of the cosmos as good and that when humankind drifted away from God's original plan, God remained faithful.

Throughout the centuries God guided those with faith away from the path of oppression and persecution and domination towards that new liberty which would then be fully achieved in Jesus death and Resurrection. Jesus came to save us, to liberate us for new life. Christianity is a faith of new life and of liberation. Saint Paul, tells us, "In baptism we are joined with Christ's death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life".

"Christianity is a faith of new life and of liberation". What does that mean? For many Christianity has been experienced in precisely the opposite sense. For many, Christianity had been turned into a faith of prohibitions. Certain theologians spoke about freeing people from sin, but had developed a concept of sin and sinner which made it almost impossible for a sinner ever to feel himself or herself truly liberated. There were so many rules that many were left with a sense of scrupulosity which left them trapped and oppressed by guilt and doubts. We had created a religion of fear, so much that even when we tried to live the good life we were never left with a sensation of being free.

The Lord is truly risen. It is not an easy thing to believe. It defies rationality. We note in the various Gospel accounts how the disciples who head out to visit the tomb, head out to anoint a dead body and that when told they find it hard to understand that Jesus is truly risen. Despite what they had heard from Jesus, after his death they found the idea of his rising from the dead almost impossible to believe. Rising from the dead seems impossible. But if Jesus has risen from the dead his message to us is that with faith in him even what seems impossible in our lives can be attained. Rather than a faith that imprisons us in our weakness, Christianity is a faith which opens horizons of possibility. The mercy of God is a sign that the Lord wants us to rise with him to great things.

Saint Paul wrote: "As Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory we too might live a new life". We are not called to reflect or discuss the new life. We are called to live the new life. The Christian cannot live at peace in word where people are oppressed. If Christianity is a faith of liberation, then the Christian and the Church of Jesus Christ must be a place of real witness to the reality of the powers of darkness which still today trap people in oppression. None of us can claim to be free if we live immune to the fact of so much oppression and need for liberation. Freedom is not the privilege of the few: it is a call to take responsibility for all.

**Too often however we acquiesce in watching oppression.**

Too often the Church has fallen into the logic not of new life but of siding with power and conformity and safety. A Christian theology is always a theology of liberation. But it is not an ideology of liberation. Not every ideology of

liberation is really one which will enable people to be free. A true theology of liberation is not purely political. True liberation theology is one which will never leave any politics happy.

Liberation is present in the Church through the presence of the Risen Lord who enables us – and challenges us – to live the dangerous and perplexing path of freedom. We should not be fearful of the fact that freedom may sometimes lead us in the wrong direction; it is oppression which always leads in the wrong direction.

The Lord is truly risen. Our belief is in the resurrection of the body. The risen body of Christ is the light and the hope for our bodies. How then can we be insensitive to the needs and the suffering of the bodies of children who are victims of violence and abuse; how can we not be angry with those who support an industry which fosters a drug trade which holds people trapped in addiction; how can we hide away from the fact of the sexual exploitation especially of women; how can we be insensitive to hunger and yet spend millions of a false culture of the body; how can we be unconcerned by political and economic cultures which leave men, women and children unable to realise their full abilities.

Jesus is raised to new life. As Christians we are called to live newness of life, a life which is founded on integrity and truth, on honesty and love. The Christian life is a calling for all Christians. There is legitimate separation between Church and State; but the Christian cannot avoid working to ensure that the new life of Christ reaches out into every corner of a society. The Christian cannot remain insensitive to a politics which becomes sterile through tiredness and negativity. The Christian cannot remain insensitive to a Church which becomes trapped in its own self-interest. There is legitimate separation between Church and State, but both can benefit from the contribution of authentic believers.

We celebrate the mystery of Christ who died and Christ who is risen to bring us new life. We thank God for the gift of the new life of the Risen Lord. We open our hearts to the Risen Lord so that we can become heralds of new life to all who lives are troubled, beleaguered and oppressed in mind or body. Easter is a powerful gift of Hope!!!

This Easter Season may we be anointed with great Hope and peace. O God and Heavenly Father, Grant to us the serenity of mind to accept that which cannot be changed; courage to change that which can be changed, and wisdom to know the one from the other, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. So, what does this mean for us today? Easter is not just a story of the past—it's a promise for our present and future. The risen Christ walks with us in every moment. Are you carrying a burden? He offers you peace. Are you facing uncertainty? He brings you hope. Are you longing for a fresh start? He gives you new life. The resurrection tells us that no darkness is too deep, no situation too hopeless, for God to redeem. Just as spring bursts forth after the long winter, Easter bursts forth with the promise that God is always making all things new.

Let me share a simple image with you. Think of a seed buried in the ground. To the eye, it looks dead—small, dry, lifeless. But beneath the soil, something miraculous happens. It breaks open, and from that death comes a shoot, a flower, a tree. That's what Easter is: the moment when the seed of Christ's life broke through the tomb, bringing forth a harvest of grace for all of us. And here's the good news—you and I are part of that harvest! We are called to bloom, to grow, to share the beauty of this new life with the world.

So today, let's live as Easter people. Let's carry the joy of the resurrection into our homes, our workplaces, our communities. Smile at a stranger. Forgive someone who has hurt you. Reach out to someone in need. The risen Christ is alive in us, and His light shines through our acts of love. This Easter, let's be bold in our hope, unshakable in our faith, and radiant in our joy.



HE is Risen

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)



# liveWELL EXPO

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

100 ways to LIVE WELL ...

**Be SOCIAL**



**Be HEALTHY**



**Be ACTIVE**



**Be CREATIVE**



**NEW Adult Create and Play Zone**

**Special Guest**  
**Anna May McHugh**  
Laois AgeFriendly  
Ambassador

**Quiet Time**  
11.00am to 12.00pm.  
Strictly reservations only  
to Tom or Emma  
Contact details below

**Free Admission & Refreshments**



Healthy  
Laois

**For more information contact**

**Tom Curran on 086-0363426 and Emma on 086-0665215**  
**or email [livewell@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:livewell@laoiscoco.ie)**

**Over 100 Exhibitors offering Health & Wellness advice and information**  
**Inspiring Live Talks & Expert Demonstrations** **Fun Music & Dance Performances**  
**Interactive Activities** **Discover Local Health resources & wellbeing tips**



Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> April saw a crowd assemble in the Council Chamber in Laois County Council for the launch of the 3rd Live Well Expo in Co Laois. This initiative, which came to be after Age Friendly Laois and Healthy Laois came together to address a need identified by consultations and conversations with not just older people in Laois, but the general population. The need was for awareness of supports and services available in the county. We looked at not only health supports but all the other supports that contribute to your health and wellbeing, among them being

- **Social**- we have many community groups exhibitors.. see what's out there for you!
- **Information** - can you access information? Are there barriers? Laois Libraries and LOETB have been at all the expos to date and they are a great resource for information and getting the skills to get information
- **Are you active?** Laois Sports Partnership, Abbeyleix Vitality Hub, Vicarstown Park Run will be with us again and Laois Sports Partnership will have an activity programme running outside on the day
- **Finance and funding.** Laois County Council and Laois Partnership will be there on the day with information on grants and on how your groups can be supported. The Peoples First Credit Union and AIB bank will also be there to the day to give advice



This year's launch saw a re brand of the logo to reflect what the Expo is all about

**A lot of information a lot of activities, a lot of health and wellbeing and a lot of fun!**

2025's event will once more see over **100 exhibitors** in the main hall, with additional attractions this year

- Adult create and play area - featuring chess, bridge, cards and more
- Laois Crafts
- Active Zone on new astro turf area with Laois Sports Partnership (let's hope for good weather)
- Library Corner where we will have a mini Library. The LOETB will be close by as they along with the libraries are a huge resource for information, education and training
- Portlaoise Hospital will be providing a wealth of information on their services and their staff will be exhibiting at the EXPO for the first time

- Additional Health screenings by Hidden Hearing, Vision Ireland and the Irish Heart Foundation

Anna May McHugh, Laois' Age Friendly ambassador launched the Expo once more and had the following to say to the exhibitors at the launch. "I am honoured to be Laois' Age Friendly Ambassador and this event covers every aspect of Age Friendly. We never give up learning and we learn from today, not to mention at the Live Well Expo itself at Portlaoise College. You are all in the position to advise people of what is out there for them- there are lots of people who do not know how to get involved. When I look around at the number of people here today, it is absolutely fantastic and you all have to be congratulated for your efforts. It is working together as a group that we achieve things. I am also looking forward to going to Ballybrophy for their launch as an Age Friendly Train station." Anna May's last words of advice to young and old were "Get up early and be focused on what you have got to do and that is to **Live Well and Be Active**"

## LAOIS ALZHEIMER

### Family Support Group Meeting



THE ALZHEIMER  
SOCIETY of IRELAND

**Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise**  
**Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup>,**  
**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**

## HENRY RANKIN

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise*

**087-2562137**



## LAOIS ALZHEIMER

### CAFÉ



THE ALZHEIMER  
SOCIETY of IRELAND

**Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 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

## KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS

50 Years of Professional Service in Portlaoise.



Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**



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



**PATRICK DUNNE**  
Clonad



**KAREN FLYNN**  
Forestpark,  
Portlaoise



**ELIZABETH (LIZ)  
QUINLAN**  
Abbeyleix



**ANTONINA  
CHORNIIVSKA**  
Abbeyleix

*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..*

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



**MOCHUA PRINT & DESIGN**  
MEMORIAL CARD SPECIALIST

**A SPECIAL MEMORY  
OF YOUR LOVED ONE**

📍 Clonminam Business Park  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois  
R32 EH11

☎ 057 86 34050

✉ info@mochuaprint.ie

🌐 www.mochuaprint.ie



*In Loving Memory of*

**ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY**

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise

**10th Anniversary in heaven and  
away from home occurs on  
Friday 25th April 2025**



*Elizabeth's anniversary mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul  
Parish Church on Friday, 25th  
April, at 7:30 am and 10:00 am.*

*Someone Special*

*You are too precious to be  
forgotten,  
and too priceless to  
ever replace.  
I wish I could share  
another moment with you  
and see that smiling face.  
Someone so special as you  
is truly rare to find,  
someone with a heart so pure,  
so caring and so kind.  
I'll cherish the memories  
we made,  
all the times we spent together,  
and I'll hold them dearly  
in my heart  
from now until forever.*

*A Loving Mum in Heaven*

*As the sun sets upon this life,  
and your body is laid to rest,  
I know you'll be up in heaven,  
because God only takes  
the best.  
I know you're watching over me,  
and it takes away the pain.  
I will carry you in my heart  
until we meet again.  
My world is a little darker  
now that we're apart,  
but the memories are shining  
brightly  
within this broken heart.  
You touched the lives of those  
you loved,  
and we wanted you to stay,  
but you were needed  
up in heaven,  
and God whispered,  
"Come this way."  
I know whenever I'm lonely  
and this smile becomes a frown,  
I'll look up to the sky above,  
and there'll be an angel looking  
down.*

*In Loving Memory of My  
Mum*

*Something will remind me,  
I never know just when.  
It might be something  
someone says,  
and it all comes back again.  
The times we spent together,  
the happiness, the fun.  
Once again, I feel the pain  
of life without my mum.  
It's said that time's a healer,  
I'm not sure this is true.  
There's not a day goes by, Mum,  
that I don't cry for you.*

*Loving Memories of you Mum*

*You were such a special Mum,  
In whom I always could  
confide,  
always on my side.  
We shared  
so much happiness  
in times of yesterday,  
and to say  
how much I miss you,  
I could never find a way.  
When I think  
of all the memories  
that will never fade away,  
I'm so thankful  
to have had a mum  
who brought joy to every day.*

*Mum*

*In my heart, a memory lingers,  
Sweetly, tender, fond, and true.  
There is not a day, dear mother,  
that I do not think of you.*

**Too dearly loved  
to be forgotten.  
Love, James xxx**

*Rest in Peace Elizabeth*



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

**Late of 6 Marian Ave., Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 11:15am.**

God saw you getting tired,  
And a cure was not to be,  
So He put his arms around you,  
And whispered "Come to me".  
With tearful eyes we watched you,  
And saw you pass away,  
Although we love you dearly,  
We could not make you stay.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
but you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by her  
husband Billy, loving daughters and sons;  
Elizabeth, Liam, Martina, Michael.*

*Rest in Peace Mam xxx*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
&**

**1<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
In Loving Memory Of  
FRANCES CRIPPS  
(née Carroll)  
New Rd., Portlaoise .**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's  
Church on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April  
at 10.00am.**

As the first anniversary of Frances  
Cripps approaches, the family would  
like to sincerely thank the staff of  
Drominin Nursing Home, the priests  
and staff of the Parish

Centre, the emergency services, Matthew Keegan  
Funeral Directors, friends, neighbours, and all those  
who sympathized with and supported us  
during our loss.

*On the first anniversary of her passing, we also  
lovingly remember her daughter Kathleen, who was  
predeceased a year ago.*

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

*May They Both Rest In Peace*

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
In Loving Memory of  
DAVE WALSH**

**68 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. Died 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011.**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm.

*Words are few, feelings are deep,  
Memories of you we will always keep.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife  
and family.*

*Also remembering his Mother, Patricia Walshe,  
Dublin whose anniversary occurs at this time.*

*May Dave Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN and BILLY CARROLL**

**Newtown, Ballyroan.**

**John's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> April  
Billy's 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 11<sup>th</sup> April**



*Rest in peace dear loved  
ones, thanks for all that  
you have done.*

*We pray that God has  
given you, the crowns  
you have truly won.*



*Sadly missed by all their loving families.*

*May their gentle souls Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARGARET SCULLY**

**19 Millbrook, Portlaoise.  
Died on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015**



Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish  
Church, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
at 12.30pm.

*Ten years have passed since that  
sad day when one we loved was  
called away, God took her home,  
It was His will, but in our hearts  
she liveth still.*

**Mam**

*There is a sad but sweet remembrance, there is a  
memory fond and true, there is a token of affection  
Mother and a heartache still for you.*

*Love you always, your daughter Sharon, Cliff and  
grandchildren Ryan, Emma and Kate.*

*May Margaret Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of**  
**ANGELA FINGLETON**

**Munny, Stradbally.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



Angela's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am.

Every day, in small ways, memories of you come our way.  
Though absent, you're always near,  
Still missed, still loved,  
and always dear.

Sadly missed and loved always by your loving husband Har. Ann, Pauline, Ciaran, Deirdre, Adrian, David and families.

*May Angela Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of Our Son and Brother**

**CATHAL CLOONEY**

**Ballytarsna, Abbeylax.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



Those we love never truly leave us,  
There are things that death cannot touch.

We miss you so much, Cathal,  
Always in our hearts,  
Forever by our sides.

**Love Mam and Dad xx**

**Brother**

I wish I could have you back awhile,  
I miss your laughter, I miss your smile.  
I'd hold you tightly and never let you go,  
And tell you how much I miss you so.

**Love Liam x**

*May Cathal Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**MATHEW (Matt) BROPHY**

**Rathevan, Portlaoise.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 11.15am.

Someone Special;  
We miss you so much  
More than words can ever say  
We cherish every memory and  
Think of you each day.

Lovingly remembered by his loving Wife Pauline,  
Son Mark, Daughters Yvonne and  
Attracta, Daughter-in-law Sinead, Son-in-law Joe and  
Grandchildren Robbie, Leah, Jessica, Arabella, Paige  
and Broody. Sisters and Brothers and extended family.

*Rest in Peace Matt*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**MICHAEL (Mick) McDONALD**  
**"The Gateaux Man"**

**"St Jude's", Dublin Rd, Portlaoise .**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm.

You always had a smile to share,  
A laugh a joke and time to care,  
A good life came to an end,  
You died as you lived,  
Everyone's friend.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife Mary, sons Stephen and David, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

*May Mick Rest In Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**SYLVIA WHELAN**

**Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.**

**Died on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023**



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 10:00 a.m.

Greatly missed and fondly remembered by her family and friends.

*Rest in Peace Sylvia*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOE DOYLE**

**Maryborough Village, Portlaoise.**

**6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**



**Remember Me**

Remember me when flowers bloom, early in the spring.  
Remember me on sunny days, in the fun that summer brings.  
Remember me in the fall, as you walk through leaves of gold,  
And remember me in wintertime, in the stories that are told.

But most of all, remember each day,  
right from the start  
I will be forever near, for I live within your heart.  
Always loved, never forgotten, forever missed,  
by Clare.

Also remembered by The Delaney and Doyle families and friends.

*Rest in Peace Joe*



**In Loving Memory of  
PHYLLIS (Phil) CULLETON**

*(née Bowe)*

**Rossleighan, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday,  
Unseen, unheard but always near,  
Still loved still missed  
Still very dear.*

*Loved and missed by Paula,  
Mary and families.*

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**In Loving Memory of  
PHYLLIS (Phil) CULLETON**

*(née Bowe)*

**Rossleighan, Portlaoise.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



*Quietly today your memory we treasure,  
Missing you always forgetting you never.*

*Sadly missed and fondly  
remembered by Sean,  
Patricia and Family.*

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**In Loving Memory of  
A dear Father & Grandfather  
BRENDAN DELANEY**

**Green Mill Lane and St. Brigid's Place,  
Portlaoise.**

**Brendan's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday occurred 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



*It's lonely here without you,  
We miss you more each day,  
For life is not the same to us,  
since you were called away.  
To your resting place we visit and  
place flowers there with care,  
But no one knows our heartache  
when we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed, never forgotten by Angie, Kelley, Tracy,  
Brendan, Séan, Laura, grandchildren  
and great-grandson.*

*Remembering our beloved grandmother, Mary  
Delaney, whose anniversary occurs on 13th April, and  
our dear mother, Barbara Anne, who passed away  
on 23rd January 2025.*

*Rest in Peace Brendan*

**In Loving Memory of  
MARK WALSH**

**Hawthorn Way, Esker Hills, Portlaoise**



**The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise, on  
Sunday, 20th April at 11:15 a.m.**

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

*Sadly missed by his wife Clare, daughter Fiadh, son Daniel  
and extended family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Mark*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

**In Loving Memory of  
HENRY TOBIN**

**Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.**

**Happy Birthday in Heaven, Daddy.**



*We looked at the sky and whispered low,  
"Happy Birthday Daddy- we miss you so"  
No candles to light, no gifts to give,  
Just all of our love, for as long as we live.  
Now you're with Mammy and Sharon too,  
Together in Heaven, where love is true,  
We send our wishes up above,  
Wrapped in forever, sealed with love.*

*Happy Birthday Daddy, with love from Susan, Catherine,  
Tracey, Nicola, Ciera, Henry, Rachel and Aideen.*



**Portlaoise  
Stone Centre**

**Five Generations in Stone Cutting**

Established in 1991 by Terry Swayne manufacturing superior quality headstones.

All work undertaken by Portlaoise Stone Centre is guaranteed and carried out to the highest standard by certified & qualified craftsmen.

Unique Headstones can also be designed and created to your own special requirements.

**Visit our Showroom**

to discuss your requirements  
and view our range of  
headstones and grave  
accessories.

Unit 3B Clonminam  
Business Park  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
R32 DW71

Tel: 057 8660258  
Moblie: 087 2538930

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





## 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**.

**Portlaoise Active Retirement** : Active Age meets every **Wednesday at 3pm** in the Parish Centre for an afternoon of friendship, fun, and activities.

**Monday, 14th April**: Bowls in St. Mary's Hall from 2-4pm. New members welcome; tuition provided.

**Wednesday, 16th April**: Afternoon with Moez.

**Thursday, 17th April**: Cards and chat at Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy, at 3pm. New members welcome; tuition provided. For further information, contact **Maria at 087-918-7157**.

**National Guide Dog Day – Volunteers Needed** National Guide Dog Day takes place on May 23rd. If you would like to volunteer for Guide Dogs, 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.

**Parkinson's Boxercise in Portlaoise**: If you're one of the 22,000 people in Ireland living with Parkinson's and based in Co. Laois, join Portlaoise Parkinson Boxercise to help improve balance and movement. The next session takes place on **Saturday, 12th April at 10:00 a.m.** in Portlaoise Boxing Club ( R32 K7TX), led by Pat Ryan. For more info, contact Pat: 086 833 5558, Frank: 086 841 5815.

**Theatre Night Out – Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise**: Theatre Night Out on **Thursday 15th and Friday 16th May** in the Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise. A comedy play, ***I Do Not Like Thee, Doctor Fell*** by Bernard Farrell and presented by Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group. Booking: 057 8663355 or online at [www.dunamais.ie](http://www.dunamais.ie). Not to be missed.

**Fun Run/Walk**: 4 mile & 1 mile. Good downhill finish. Wednesday 28th May at 7.30pm. Registration from 6.30pm. Shanahoe Community Hall. Refreshments served. Adults and over 16s 4 mile €15. Juvenile 1 mile €5. Cash and spot prizes to be won. In aid of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa. Shanahoe

**Whist Drive Results – Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, Parish Centre** : **Top score**: Christy Fitzpatrick.

**1st Lady** was tied between C. Galvin and M. Delaney, while B. O'Keeffe won **1st Gent** and

M. Dunne took **2nd Gent**. A. O'Dowd won **1st Half**, and P. Stephens secured **2nd Half**.

**Raffle winners** were S. Bennett (1st & 4th), A. O'Dowd (2nd), and F. Keenan (3rd).

Thanks for your support! Whist continues every Tuesday at 7:30 PM in the Parish Centre.

New members always welcome.



## 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!

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

**Radio Maria Ireland** Thanks to our listeners and supporters, RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station, we offer commercial-free content including Prayer, Catechesis, Music, Talks, and Interviews. Listen to us on 1.Saorview Channel 210 2.Free "RADIO MARIA IRELAND" App 3.[www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie) 4. 'Listen Live' on Facebook.



## Martin Ryan Lawnmower Sales & Service

- Solo Ride-ons • Oleo-Mac
- Legacy • Weibang Lawnmowers

Adj. to  
Portlaoise Golf Club

AVONDALE,  
ABBEYLEIX ROAD,  
PORTLAOISE



086 2493723

## Come Honour the Holy Face of Jesus

32 County Holy Face of Jesus Public Vigil  
**Good Friday, 18th April 2025 | 12:00–1:00pm**

"A Heaven-revealed remedy for our times"

Portlaoise Vigil: The Shrine, Top Square

Contact: 086 0696295

"Whoever acknowledges me before others,  
I will acknowledge before my Father in Heaven." – Matt 10:32



Smyth Services & Fuels Ltd.

- **NEED HOME HEATING OIL?**
- **NEED TRACTOR DIESEL?**

**Call Sean Smyth 086-3561669**



**Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**St Aonghus Hall Ratheniska**  
following 10 o'clock Mass

Your support would be greatly appreciated.





## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

08

15

20

24

No €17,000 Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

Sean & Frances Darcy  
Jas O'Reilly  
Claire Scully  
Maura Buggy  
Tom & Caroline  
Pat Dunphy  
Brian & Sarah  
Margaret Langford  
Phil Dwane  
Delma O'Connell  
Annemarie Conroy  
Larry & Margaret Maguire  
Bill Meagher  
Mattie Rice

MATCH 3s €1,000

14  
Match  
3s  
Receive  
€72  
each

### PROMOTER

Sheila Kavanagh  
Maura Buggy  
Mary Flanagan  
Mary Delaney  
Lotto Gift  
Lotto Gift  
Lotto Gift  
Margaret Langford  
Thelma Brown  
Parish Centre  
Peter Ryan  
Margaret Maguire  
Paul Dooley  
Pam Killeen

Play PARISH



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

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish

& Like Us

portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot is €18,000

## 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

## Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm: 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

## 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



# Holy Week Celebrations

### Monday & Tuesday

**Holy Mass 7:30am, 10am & 7:30pm**

## Wednesday

Holy Mass	7:30am & 10am
Penitential Service	7:30pm

## Holy Thursday

**Morning Prayer 10am**  
**Confessions 10:15am to 12noon**  
**and after the 7:30pm Celebration**

Mass of the Lord's Supper:

- Parish Church	<b>7:30pm</b>
- The Heath & Ratheniska	<b>7pm</b>

Quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

## Good Friday

Morning Prayer	10am
Confessions	10:15am to 11am
	6pm to 7pm

**Commemoration of Lord's Passion:**  
- Parish Church **3pm**  
- The Heath & Ratheniska **7pm**

Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church:  
**7:30pm**

## Holy Saturday

Morning prayer	10am
Confessions	10:15am to 12noon
Polish Blessing of Food	12noon
Vigil Mass - Parish Church	11pm

## Easter Sunday

- The Heath Dawn Mass	6:00am
- Parish Church	8:30am, 10am, 11:15am & 12:30pm
- The Heath	9:30am
- Ratheniska	10am

