

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

20th April 2025

**Easter Sunday
the
Resurrection of our Lord**



ALLELUIA!

'It was early on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone had been rolled back'

John 20:1

Dawn Mass at the Heath 6am Easter Sunday

*May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year
Bring peace and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear
And may Christ, Our Risen Saviour, be always by your side*

Sun Rise at the Heath

Photo courtesy of Elaine McGinn

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

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



What if We Had Reached the Tomb Earlier?

Do you ever wonder how different things would have been if we had reached the tomb a little earlier? What if we had reached the tomb in time to witness the detail of what happened next? Would witnessing what happened next have changed the way we live? We are told that the empty tomb gives our life purpose.

Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ. So given that the resurrection is essential to our faith, is it a little disappointing that this bit of the Bible does not give us more detail? Are we left feeling as confused as the original disciples?

We are not at of course required to solve the unwritten details of something that happened over two thousand years ago. In our human search for certainty all we can do at his point is put the resurrection into the context of the rest of Jesus' life and teachings. We have to trust that everything Jesus has told us is true, and that the resurrection is not just an invention to give a tragic story a happy ending, but the realisation of the promises Jesus made all along. Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as truth. Scientists teach us that something has to be proven repeatedly before we can call it a truth, but as Christians, we know that truth abounds all around us whether anyone has proved it or not. Truth does not wait to be proven.

We are not of course, asked to leave our brains at the church door, but we are asked to approach Easter with a broad mind and an open heart, and not to see 'truth' as something we can only find with a textbook and a microscope.

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/

Thank you for your support.

Mass times for the coming week
ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Easter Sunday

Vigil 11pm & Dawn Mass in the Heath at 6am
8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

Easter Monday to Easter Friday: 10am

Easter Saturday: 10am

7.30am Mass will resume on Monday 28th April

CONFESSIONS

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



We welcome into our Parish Community

Taylor Lilly Josephine Marum
Doyle, Hillview Dr., Theo Hanley
Tancos, Dunamais View
Jack Anthony Finn, Foxburrow
Meghan Rebecca O'Donoghue,
Colliers Court

Aoibhín Olivia Dowling, The Orchard, Dunamais
Daniel Joseph Greene, Dun Masc, Dublin Road

Who were baptised recently.

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 or directly to our Clergy Account, details inside the back cover.

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Weekly Classes Schedule

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

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

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

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

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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**.

Irish Franciscan Lourdes Fund – Church Gate Collection: The Irish Franciscan Lourdes Fund church gate collection will take place next Saturday, 26th, and Sunday, 27th April 2025. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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

Schedule Updates: Monday, 21st April – No bowls (Easter Monday)| Wednesday, 23rd April – No club meeting. Please support the **Live Well Expo** |Thursday, 24th April – Cards and chat in the Sue Ryder Centre, Kilminchy at 3pm. Tuition provided.

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.

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. Not to be missed.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal – Volunteer Info Session: Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal brings joy to children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa. Volunteers are needed in Portlaoise to help sort shoeboxes this October–November. An info session will be held on **Tuesday 29th April at 2.30pm in Portlaoise Library**. Come along to learn more and meet the team! For details, call 01-2940222 or visit [www.teamhope.ie](<http://www.teamhope.ie>).

Whist Drive Results – Tuesday, April 15th, Parish Centre : **Top Score** – Terry Dunne;

1st Lady – Paric Dowling; **2nd Lady** – Leslie Hunter; **1st Gent** – Tom Gowing;

2nd Gent – P.J. Cahill; **1st Half** – Sadie Chester; **2nd Half** – Liam McCarthy;

Raffle – **1st** Billy O'Keeffe, **2nd** Christy Fitzpatrick, **3rd** Tom Jacob, **4th** Paraic Dowling, Terry Dunne. Thanks to all for your support – Whist continues every Tuesday at 7.30pm 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.

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

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Wednesday May 28 | 7.30pm

Registration from 6.30pm

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He is Risen!

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Stay connected with all local news, events, and notices in Link Up – your weekly parish newsletter. Pick up your copy every weekend at the church or parish center.

Come Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday



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

John Paul II



Welcome to the Feast of Mercy being celebrated at:

Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Portlaoise.

Sunday 27th April 2025

Ceremonies commence with Confessions from 2pm,

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The Time to Think! Saint Carlos Acutis



Blessed
Carlo Acutis

Sunday 27th of April, Carlo Acutis, will be formally canonized and declared saint. This will take place in an open air ceremony in Saint Peters square the Vatican. He will be the first saint, born in this new Millennium. His life is a testimony, to how we can achieve wonderful fruits, when we are open to the spirit of the living God. Carlo has a particular attraction for young people, he was accustomed to what it is to live in a culture so influenced by technology and social media. Despite his young life, his faith, resilience, courage and deep compassion, offers inspiration to all our lives. In this Easter Season we are encouraged to indulge in the power of hope. Easter is a time of rich grace. I pray, these days, we all will feel a sense of new life and engage with that Easter message to begin again.

Carlo Acutis was born on May 3, 1991, in London to Italian parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano. His family moved to Milan shortly after his birth. Despite his parents not being particularly religious, Carlo showed an early and profound interest in Catholicism. By age seven, after his First Communion, he attended daily Mass, prayed the Rosary regularly, and developed a deep devotion to the Eucharist, which he called his highway to heaven.

Growing up in Milan, Carlo lived a typical teenage life, enjoying soccer, video games (especially on his PlayStation, though he limited playtime to one hour a week as a form of discipline), and computers. He taught himself coding and created a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles worldwide, which has been displayed in thousands of parishes across five continents. His tech skills earned him the nickname "patron saint of the Internet."

Carlo was known for his kindness and empathy. He defended classmates who were bullied, especially those with disabilities, and supported friends going through tough times, like parental divorces. He used his pocket money to help the homeless, often buying sleeping bags or food for those in need. His faith inspired conversions, including that of his mother and a Hindu au pair who worked for his family.

In October 2006, at age 15, Carlo fell ill with what was initially thought to be the flu. He was soon diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukaemia (M3), a particularly aggressive form. Despite intense pain, he offered his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and the Church, saying, "There are people who suffer much more than me." He received the Anointing of the Sick and Eucharist on October 10, fell into a coma the next day due to a brain haemorrhage, and died on October 12, 2006. At his request, he was buried in Assisi, reflecting his love for St. Francis of Assisi.

Carlo's cause for sainthood began in 2013. He was declared "Venerable" in 2018 and "Blessed" in 2020 after a miracle involving the healing of a Brazilian boy with a pancreatic

disorder was attributed to his intercession. A second miracle, the recovery of a Costa Rican girl from severe head trauma in 2022, led to his canonization approval. He is set to be canonized on April 27, 2025, becoming the first millennial saint.

His body, exhumed in 2019, was found intact but not incorrupt, and is displayed in a glass tomb in Assisi, dressed in jeans and sneakers, reflecting his casual style. His heart is considered a relic. Carlo's life continues to inspire, showing that holiness is attainable even in a modern, tech-driven world. Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future. We are all called to let our light shine, to be the best version of who we really are. Saints are those who embrace the vulnerability of our human condition, with acceptance and hope. Holiness is closely connected to wholesomeness. May we feel grounded and at peace this Easter Season.

PRAYER TO SAINT CARLOS ACUTIS

*Oh God, our Father,
thank You for giving us Carlo,
a life example for the young
and a message of love for everyone.
You made him become enamoured with
Your Son Jesus, making of the Eucharist
his "Highway to Heaven."
You gave him Mary as a most loving Mother,
and, with the Rosary, You made him
a poet of her tenderness.
Receive his prayer for us.
Above all, gaze upon the poor,
whom he loved and helped.
Grant for me too, by his intercession,
the grace that I need...
And make our joy fulfilled,
placing Carlo among the Saints
of Your Church, so that his smile
may shine again for us in
the glory of Your name.*

- 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



I've Just Seen Jesus

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and another disciple, whose name was John. She told them, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!" Peter and John started out for the tomb. They were both running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed -- for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary stayed behind and stood outside the tomb weeping. As she knelt down and looked inside, she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken her master and she didn't know where they had taken him. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought he was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard his voice, she recognised Him. After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Some people, like Mary, Peter, and John can't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in a grave or on a cross. He isn't there! He is risen and is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. If you want to see Jesus, look in His Word, He will reveal Himself to you, just as He did to Mary!



A wonderful new film in cinemas right now is called **The King of Kings**.

The movie begins with Charles Dickens trying to read his story A Christmas Carol, but his playful son Walter keeps interrupting because he's pretending to be King Arthur! To calm him down, Charles' wife suggests telling Walter a story about an even greater king — Jesus Christ. Walter isn't too sure at first, but he agrees to listen.

As the story goes on, Walter becomes so interested that he imagines himself right there beside Jesus! He sees Jesus being born in Bethlehem, getting baptised, doing amazing miracles like healing people, feeding thousands, and even walking on water. Walter learns what it means to have faith, to love, and to give.

He also sees Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, ride into Jerusalem as a king, and clean the Temple. At the Last Supper, Jesus shares a special meal with his friends and tells them what is about to happen. Then Jesus is arrested and taken away.

Walter is very sad when he sees Jesus being treated badly and put on a cross. But in a beautiful moment, he imagines Jesus saving him and realises just how much Jesus loves everyone.

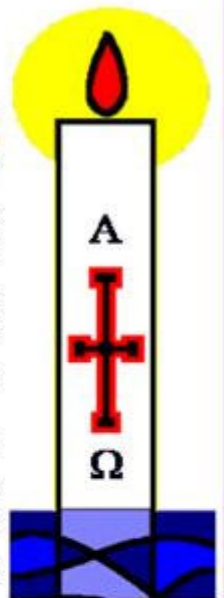
At the end, Jesus comes back to life in the Resurrection, showing that love is stronger than anything — even death. Charles Dickens decides to write the story down so all children can know about the greatest King. The film ends with Jesus' words: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Easter Vigil Mass

On Holy Saturday night we gather to celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead. We light our Paschal or Easter Fire as a reminder that Jesus is **the light in the darkness**. From that fire a new Paschal or Easter Candle is lit, placed in a special candlestick and put where we can all see it, usually near the altar or ambo. The Paschal Candle will be lit at every Mass during the Easter Season. It is also lit during Baptisms and Funerals throughout the year. The Paschal Candle is different from other candles because it has special markings or symbols on it that remind us of how much Jesus loved us. Look at the coloured picture and see if you can make your own Paschal Candle.

First draw a **large red cross** on the candle. Now draw a Letter **A** at the top of the Cross and the **upside down horseshoe** at the bottom of the Cross. In Greek, the letter A is called **Alpha** and the upside down horseshoe is the final letter of the Greek alphabet. It is called **Omega**. This is to remind us that Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything.

The current year is placed in the four corners of the Cross, so now put the figures **2 0 2 5** in the corners. Go in a clockwise direction starting with **2** in the top left hand corner. Finally five pieces of incense are placed in the points and centre of the Cross representing the five wounds that Jesus got when he was crucified.



PRAYER

Father, we thank you that Jesus, our Saviour, is not in a grave. He is alive!
We serve a risen Saviour! Hallelujah! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Easter Sunday



Before daybreak Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She hurried to tell Jesus' friends Peter and John, who raced to the tomb. Peter went in and Jesus was not there. He had risen from the dead!

On Easter Sunday We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

May your
Easter basket be full of
Joy, Happiness & Peace
Today & Always!

Happy
Easter



The Chrism Mass was held at Carlow Cathedral on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:30 PM, as part of the Holy Week celebrations in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. The Mass included the blessing of the Holy Oils and the renewal of priestly promises. Pictured below: Msgr. John Byrne, Rev. Ciprian Matei, Rev. Simon Jin, and Fr. Adriano de Oliveira, along with altar servers Chloe Duff, Keeva Duff, Skylar Mokom, Joseph Browne, Tymoteusz Baranowski,



Visiting our parish all the way from Los Angeles were Richard and Irene Montegrando, accompanied by Fr. Simon, Fr. Nick, Msgr. John, and Fr. Ciprian.



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MONDAY

MINDFULNESS PROGRAMME

10:30AM - 11:30AM
STARTING 28TH APRIL
2025

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. STARTING
29TH APRIL 2025.

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 MAY 2025

MINDFULNESS FOR MEN

2:30PM - 4:00PM
STARTING
29TH APRIL 2025



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 30TH APRIL 2025

'LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER'

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

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WITH LYMPHOEDEMA,
WHICH MAY RESULT
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ART

2:00PM - 4:00PM
STARTING
30TH APRIL 2025

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
STARTING 1ST MAY 2025

PROSTHESIS & BRA FITTING DAY.

STARTING 1ST & 2ND MAY
SPACES AVAILABLE
(BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

GARMENT FITTING

SERRA NOVA
SLEEVE/LEG GARMENTS
FOR LYMPHOEDEMA.
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
STARTS JUNE 2025

CLIMB

PROGRAMME
HELPING CHILDREN
UNDERSTAND CANCER.

THIS PROGRAMME IS FUN AND
CREATIVE, USING DRAMA,
ARTS AND PLAY AND AIMS TO
HELP CHILDREN COPE WITH A
CANCER DIAGNOSIS IN THE
FAMILY.

(STARTS SUMMER 2025)

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Centre
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AM 12:30 PM

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in aid of Pieta

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



VINCENT KEATING
Abbeylax &
Castlecomer



ANN CARROLL
(née Gorman)
Abbeylax

*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..

In Loving Memory of

CHRISTINA (Ena) REYNOLDS
(née conroy)

Formerly of Borris road, Portlaoise.



Ena passed away on 9th April in
Kilcarn Court, Navan, Meath and was
laid to rest on Saturday, 12th April.

May Christina Rest In Peace

In Remembrance

No person is ever truly alone.
Those who live no more, whom we loved,
echo still within our thoughts, our words, our hearts.
And what they did and who they were
becomes part of what we are forever.



**In Loving Memory of
MARY FITZPATRICK**

The Hermitage Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 19th April 2025



**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on
Sunday 20th April at 10am.**

A Much Loved Mammy and Nanny

The day that God called you home

It broke our hearts in two

But Heaven needed an angel

And the one he picked was you

We just wished he could have waited

And let you stay with us

But you have left memories in our hearts

And that's where they'll always be

We just wish we could rewind the clock

Or make it turn real slow

We could have hugged you one more time

Before you had to go

No matter how much time will pass

We'll miss you every day

Keep shining bright in Heaven

So you can light our way

Missed and loved so much from your

*Broken-hearted daughter Julie and
grandson Colin.*

*I know you will always love me to the moon
and back Nan xxx*

Rest in Peace Mary.

In Loving Memory of
MARY FITZPATRICK

The Hermitage Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 19th April 2025



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

*Sadly missed and loved by her son Mark and
daughter-in-law Mary xxx*

Nanny

*For as long as I live, I will
Always be glad for the
Wonderful nanny I was so
Blessed to have.*

Loved and missed by her grandson Craig xx

Rest in Peace Mary.

In Loving Memory of
MARY FITZPATRICK

The Hermitage Portlaoise.
On her 1st Anniversary



*You gave us years of happiness,
then sorrow came with tears,
You left us lovely memories
We will treasure through the years
Sadly missed by Willie, Elaine,
Emma and Amy.*

Rest in Peace Mary.

1st ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
MARY FITZPATRICK

The Hermitage Portlaoise.
Who Died on 19th April 2024



*Always a smile instead of a frown,
Always a hand when one is down.
Always true, thoughtful, and kind—
Wonderful memories, many you left behind.*

*Sadly missed by Thomas
and Teresa*

Rest in Peace Mary.

In Loving Memory of
TOM FITZPATRICK

Pleasant Place, Portlaoise.
33rd Anniversary occurred on 14th April 2025



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
this Sunday 20th April at 11.15am.*

*We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
as we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all his
loving family*

Rest in Peace Tom

In Loving Memory of
Claire Tuohy (née Kelly)

Beladd, Portlaoise
1st Anniversary away from home



*Those we love remain with us,
For love itself lives on.
Cherished memories never fade,
Though one loved may be gone.
Those we love can never be
More than a thought apart,
For as long as there's a memory,
They live on in our heart.*

Sadly missed by loving Husband Jim.

May Claire Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
PADDY KEALEY

Late of Sheffield Cross, Portlaoise
Died 24th March 2025



*Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's
Parish Church Portlaoise, on
Saturday, 26th April at 6.30pm.*

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

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by Mary,
Caroline, Sonny, Martin, Brian, sister Bridie and large
circle of friends.*

May Paddy Rest in Peace



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**

Loving Memories on Your 10th
Anniversary in Heaven, Mum

I thought of you with love
today,
but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday,
and will tomorrow too.

I think of you in silence,
and make no outward show,
for what it meant to lose you,
no one will ever know.

Remembering you is easy,
I do it every day.

It's just the heartache
of losing you
that will never go away.
Always in my thoughts.

A Memorial to My Much-
Missed Mum

I know there'll never be a
moment,
there will never be a day,
that this ache within my heart
will ever go away.

Because I really miss you,
Mum,
that's why I feel so sad,
and I think of all those
memories,

those amazing times we had.
And I'll cherish them forever,
but I can't deny,
even though they make me
smile,
they also make me cry.

So I'll send my prayers to
heaven,
and I hope that you will see
a shooting star that's full of
love—
Mum, it's all from me.

Eternally

I think about you all the time
and see your face so clear.
It's as if no time has passed
since you were standing here.

Your laughter echoes in my
mind,
your smile still lights my way.
I feel you watching over
each night and every day.

Still, I miss the talks we had,
though I still talk to you.
I wish that I could hear your
voice

and hug you closely too.
The years we spent together
were so precious and too few.
My heart now aches with
longing
for more time to spend with
you.

One day I'll get to hold you
close
as we join hands above.
We'll walk together in the light
of heaven's perfect love.

So while you wait in heaven,
and you're watching over me,
know you live within my heart
and will eternally.

I Miss You, Mother

Dear God, please hold my
mother in Your loving
embrace and grant her
eternal peace. May she know
how much I love and miss
her every day.

"It's been a decade, but
feels like yesterday. I still
miss you, I still love you,
and I still remember
every moment with you."

Love, James xxx

*May you rest in eternal peace,
my dearest Elizabeth.*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



In Loving Memory of

ELLEN (NELLIE) BRENNAN

14 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise
23/04/1933-12/01/2025



Nellies daughters and sons
would like to thank
everyone who expressed
their condolences to them
on their sad loss.

Those who sent messages,
Mass cards, flowers and all
who attended the funeral
home and funeral. We
would like to give a big
thank you to the following

who helped us with the funeral.

Michelle and Declan from the Parish Centre
who helped us prepare the Funeral Mass and
Reception.

David Goode (Keegan's Funeral Services) for
your kindness and professionalism.

Breda Ryan and Margaret O'Loughlin for
reciting the Rosary and Prayers at the Funeral
Home, Kitty Lalor for reciting the Rosary at
the wake and Jimmy Gleeson for helping with
the traffic.

Fr Ciprian for celebrating the Funeral Mass
and Sarah Troy for her beautiful singing and
music.

Mam's good neighbour Adrian Dunne and his
father Brendan for preparing her grave.

Those who sent food to the house, Fiona and
Greg from the Midlands Prison, Portlaoise
Soccer Club, also Bosco's Catering who
provided food for the reception.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who
cared for Mam, especially in her later years.
All her Carers over the last six years.
Everyone in the Cedar Clinic, Jim and the
great staff at Hughes Pharmacy, The
Ambulance Service who attended Mam on a
few occasions, The staff at Portlaoise Hospital
especially those who cared for her on her
final admission, we will never forget your care
and kindness.

Also we have to remember Mam's good
friends and neighbours who were always
there for her.

*Please accept this acknowledgement as an
expression of appreciation and thanks and
our sincere apologies, if we inadvertently
forgot to include someone.*

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

May Ellen Rest in Peace

70th Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of
CATHERINE QUIGLEY
 Rockdale, Mountrath Rd. Portlaoise.



To the world ,
 She was one person,
 To us she was the world.
 Sadly missed, loved and dearly
 remembered by her loving husband
 Kevin, daughters Selene and Siobhán,
 son Ronán and Noreen.

Rest in Peace Catherine

30th ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of Our Father & Grandad
MICHAEL KERRY
 Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
 Easter Sunday, 20th April at 10am
 Though your smile is gone forever,
 And your hand we cannot touch,
 Still we have so many memories,
 Of the one we loved so much.

Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part,
 God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts.

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Dad

† In Loving Memory of †
Martin Conroy

Late of Rath Gailine, Dublin Road, Portlaoise
 and also 35 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise

Who died 22nd April, 2022 RIP.
 3rd anniversary.

*You are missed so dearly
 now you're no longer here,
 When we're thinking of you
 sometimes we shed a tear*

*We will always treasure you,
 You were so gentle and kind,
 Your love lives on within our hearts
 with memories of you in our mind*

*You were such a blessing so thoughtful and so true
 We feel eternally grateful to have had a dad like you*

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by
 your daughter, Catherine; son, Martin; son-in-law, Eoin;
 daughter-in-law, Caroline; grandchildren, Evan, Aideen,
 Colin, Conor and Eimear.

Rest in Peace Dad

In Loving Memory of
JOSIE TAYLOR

Late of Hillview Drive and Mountrath Rd
 1st Anniversary occurs on the 14th of April 2025



Josie's Anniversary Mass will be
 celebrated in Sts. Peter and Paul's
 Parish Church Portlaoise, on Sunday,
 20th April at 12.30pm.

*We cannot have the old days
 Back when we were all
 Together, but silent tears and
 Loving thoughts will be with
 Us forever. Will those who think of her today,
 A little prayer to Jesus say.*

Sadly missed by all her loving family.

May Josie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
JOSEPHINE (Josie) TAYLOR
 Late of 64 Hillview Drive and
 Mountrath Rd



1st Anniversary occurs on the 14th
 of April 2025.

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

*Sadly missed by Maura, John and
 family.*

May Josie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MARY (Minnie) DELANEY

Derryroe, Mountrath.

3rd Anniversary occurs 5th May 2025



The Anniversary Mass will be
 celebrated in St. Brigid's Church,
 Shanahoe on
 Sunday, 27th April at 12 noon.

*Of all the special gifts in life,
 However great or small,
 To have you as our mother
 was the greatest gift of all.
 A special time, a special place,
 A special mother we cannot
 replace.*

With an aching heart

We whisper low,

We miss you Mother and love you so.

Forever in our hearts

**Jer, Mary, Rita and all the family and
 extended family**

*We also remember her husband Matt,
 sons Joe and Matt and sister-in-law Sarah.*

Rest in Peace Mary

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

19 Marian Place, Portlaoise.

34th Anniversary occurred on 17th April 2025



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 20th April at 11.15am.

Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
And we will always remember you.

**Sadly missed and always loved, Mary & Tommy,
Ger & Olive, Geraldine & Tommy, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren**

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
MARY (Mollie) KEOGH**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise,
whose 27th Anniversary
occurs at this time.



ALSO HER SON

PAT KEOGH

whose 31st Anniversary
occurs 21st April 2025



We cant have the old days back,
When we were all together.
But we have memories of you both,
Which will last forever.

**Loved and remembered everyday by all the
family.**

May Mary & Pat Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Paddy) CASEY**

Ballymaddock, Stradbally.

8th Anniversary occurs 26th April 2025.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
the Church of the Assumption,
the Heath, at 9:30am, on
Sunday 27th April.

God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
He closed His arms around you,
And whispered "Come to me".

With tearful eyes we watched you, and
saw you pass away, although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.

**Always remembered by his wife Christina,
sons Joe and Colm, daughters Claire and
Annmarie and his loving grandchildren.**

Rest in Peace Patrick

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

Late of 6 Marian Ave., Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurred 17th April 2025.



Mammy,

Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide our heartaches.
when someone speaks your name,
Sad are the hearts that love you
Silent the tears that fall
Living our lives without you
Is the hardest part of all.

Miss you so much, love, Conor, Lisa and Conor.

Rest in Peace Annie

**In Loving Memory of
PHYLLIS SANDGROVE**

(née Brophy)

Derrygarron, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs on 21st April 2025.



When nights are cold and stars are few,
We close our eyes and think of you,
A silent hope, a silent tear,
A silent wish that you were here.

**Sadly missed by your loving brother John,
sister-in-law Rita and family.**

Rest in Peace Phyllis

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MICHAEL (Spike) DONOGHUE**

Late of Beladd, Portlaoise

13th Anniversary away from us (17th April)



Thirteen years have
passed now Dad, since
we had to part,
Thirteen years of
grieving with a broken
heart,
We talk about you
often,
We think about you still,
You shall never be
forgotten.

**Sadly missed by your sons Micheál and
Raymond, daughters Elaine, Sandra and
Joy, sons-in-law Sean, John and Pat,
daughter-in-law Jacinta, grandchildren
Oran, Jack, Pauric, Rita, Ellen, Tom, Fionn,
Sarah, Bett, Molly, Daisy, Luke and Ellie**

May Dad Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of **JOE DUNNE**



"Silverdale", Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.

26th Anniversary occurs 25th April 2025.

Daddy,



*The day you left and gained your
wings our hearts just
broke in two.*

*We wish you could have stayed
with us, but Heaven needed you.
You left us with such memories, and
we love you dearly still.*

*No matter how much time goes by
You know we always will.*

*We know we cannot bring you back,
although we wish it every day.*

*But a piece of us went with you,
the day you went away.*

Missing you lots, from your loving family.

Rest in Peace Joe



MONTH'S MIND



**In Loving Memory of
FRANCES DUFF (née Brophy)**
Ballyknockan, Portlaoise.



*The Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated
at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Church on
Sunday, 27th April 2025 at 10:00am.*

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

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by all her family.

Rest in Peace Frances

Peace be with you

John 20:21



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Portlaoise Parish



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17th April 2025

16

19

22

29

No €18,000 Jackpot Winner

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Fergal Carroll
Claire Laffan
Kathleen Whelan
Amanda McGinley
Gemma Lawlor
Oliver Conroy
M Kinsella

MATCH 3s €1,000

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Lily Whelan
Kitty Laffan
Evelyn O'Rourke
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Annette Lawlor
Celine Cripps
Ann Carroll

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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

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viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretary Michelle Bartley

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church and
the Heath Church are live streamed on our website



LINK UP

Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: Tuesday 5pm or
12 noon Wednesday (Subject to availability of space)

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

THE
SUNDAY
MORNING

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

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

HAPPY EASTER



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate Easter so beautifully this year in our three Churches, Parish Church, the Heath and Ratheniska. To our choirs, readers, Ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers, sacristans and all who worked so hard—your dedication made our liturgies truly special, and the extra efforts in facilitating the RTÉ broadcasts from our Parish Church were deeply appreciated. Our thanks to bishop Denis who celebrated our Easter Vigil and to all at the Heath who helped at the Dawn Mass. And of course our congregations without whom all that work would be in vain!

Wishing all our parishioners and all who join us virtually

A joyful and blessed Easter!

May the light of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes with peace, hope, and new beginnings.

Msgr. John