

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**
3rd March 2019

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday (6th March) is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent—see page 15 for our Lenten programme. Distribution of Ashes at all Masses on Wednesday and also in Laois Shopping Centre from 11am until 1pm. **'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel'**




ASH
WEDNESDAY

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

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

28th February 2019 Portlaoise Parish



No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Scott
Mary Keane
Brigid Moore
'The Cat's Pyjamas'
Pat Gaynor
Marie Daly
Eilish Bowe
Mary Doran
Giovanni Estosito
Marian O'Connor
Marian O'Brien
Breda Dempsey
Maureen Thompson
Anna Maher
Kitty Timmons
Robert Farrell
Brendan Delaney
Rita O'Connor
Chris Purcell

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€53
each

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Lotto Gift
Julie Conroy
Bernie Lalor
Barbara Dowling
Bernie Lalor
Mary Doran
Maura Loughlin
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Greg Keenan
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Chris Lacey
Christy Paisley
Declan Fitzpartick
Celine Cripps
Pam Killeen

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Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8692153



Fr. Paddy Byrne C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Tom O'Connor P.E.
(Parish Chaplain)

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142

Outside of Office Hours

In emergencies only

To contact the Priest on duty
057-8621364



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie 057-8692151
(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church
are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
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Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2019

Today across the earth more than 100 million Christians are suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. Here at home, Christians may not suffer as much as our fellow believers in other nations. We sometimes face opposition because of our beliefs, but are usually not jailed because of them. But we need to remember to intercede for our persecuted brothers and sisters. This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention "... That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected."





LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can bring this envelope to Mass next Sunday or any Sunday during Lent.

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

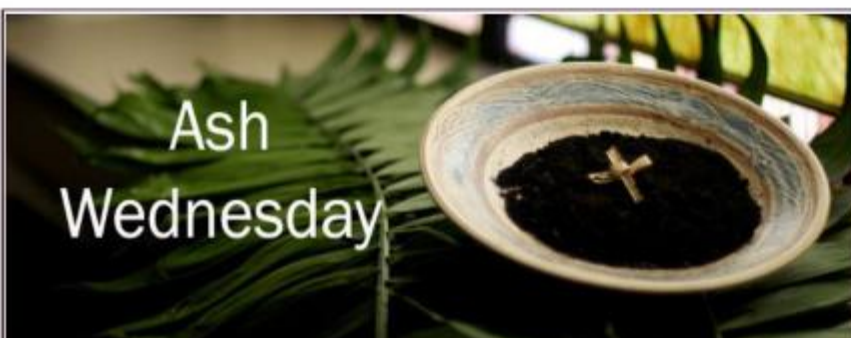
Thank You!



This Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday - also known as Pancake Day - is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is celebrated throughout Ireland by the cooking and eating of pancakes - a last feast before the fasting and self-denial of Lent!



Shrove Tuesday



Lent is a season that reminds us to get our lives back on track, to decide where our priorities lie and to purge our old way of life. This holy season offers us a new chance to say, "yes" to God. Lent is the time for a restoration project that will reveal the beauty of God's grand design for us. Further, Lent is a season of hope, and with ashes on our foreheads and hope in our hearts, we go forth to love and serve.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday & Tuesday
7.30am & 10am

Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)
7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

The Heath: 7pm

Ratheniska: 7pm

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Thursday & Friday
7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

Saturday
10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhríde, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

Polish Mass, 3rd Sunday of the Month
at 5pm.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.

We welcome into our Parish Community

Daniel Dermot Kavanagh,
Forest Park

Charlie Frank Byrne,
Stradbrook

Joshua Séan Peake,
Ashewood Walk

Jamie Michael Kavanagh,
Forest Park

Who were baptised last weekend

Sunday 24th February 2019

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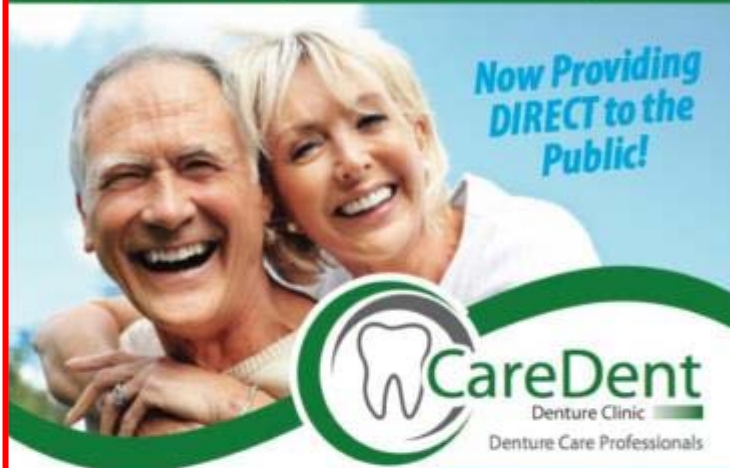
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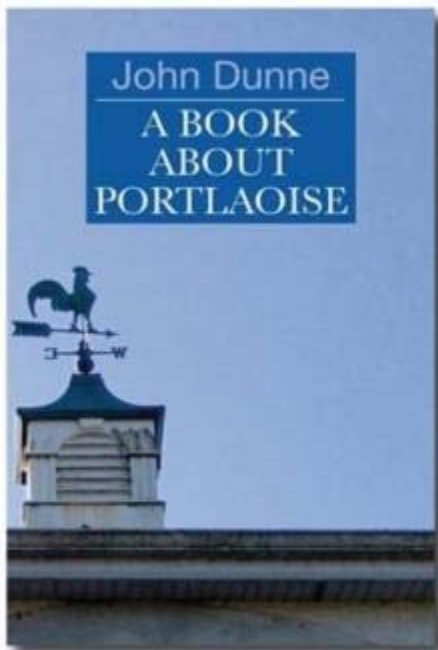
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A Tree and Its Fruit

Do you like fruit? My favourite fruit is an apple. Do you like apples? Apples not only taste good, but they are good for you. Surely you have heard the saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

How about bananas? There are lots of ways to eat bananas. They are great on cereal at breakfast, aren't they? Have you ever eaten banana bread?

Yum, yum! One of my favourite snacks is a banana smoothie. Oh, did I

mention that bananas have lots of vitamins?

What is one of the best ways to get a lot of vitamin C? The orange, of course!

Where do we get all of these delicious fruits? They come from fruit trees, don't they? Apples come from an apple tree. Oranges come from an orange tree. Bananas come from a banana tree.

Jesus had a lot to say about fruit. He told his followers that they were to bear fruit. Now I don't think he was talking about apples, oranges, and bananas. What do you think Jesus meant when he told his followers to bear fruit for him? When Jesus says that good people produce good fruit, he doesn't mean the kind of fruit that we eat. He means that if we are following him, we will want to do the things that make God happy. We will do good things, we will help people, we will share what we have with others, and we will treat other people with respect.

Jesus said, "A tree is identified by its fruit. A good person produces good things from a good heart, but an evil person will produce bad things from an evil heart. What kind of fruit tree do you want to be? A good tree producing good fruit, or an evil tree producing evil fruit?"

Our Prayer

Father, we want to be identified as a good tree, producing good fruit. Help us to do the things we know will be pleasing to you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Lent begins Next Wednesday 6th March

Remember these are the three things we are asked to focus on for Lent.

Praying: Spend a little more time with God.

Sacrificing: Giving up something that you really like.

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





The Season of Lent

Facts about Lent:

- Lent is a time when Christian people get ready for Easter.
- Lent is a sacred time within the Church calendar. It is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.
- Lent lasts for forty days reminding us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert doing penance and fasting. It begins on **Ash Wednesday (6th March 2019)** and finishes before sunset on Holy Thursday. We don't count Sundays in the forty days because Sundays are days of celebration in the Church calendar.
- Purple vestments are worn by the priest during Lent.
- The Gloria and alleluia are not prayed at Mass during Lent.
- Lent comes from the word "lente" which means springtime.
- Many people promise to do something during Lent to help them to be more like Jesus. Sometimes they give up something they like, they fast from sweets, or television. Other people promise to do something like being kinder, going to Mass, saying prayers or to put money in the Trócaire box to remind them to help others who are not as lucky as they are.
- What we do during Lent helps us to get ready for Easter.



LENT



Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is the First Day of Lent. On Ash Wednesday people are asked to fast. On Ash Wednesday the priest blesses the ashes and uses them to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads. The priest or minister says '*turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*', or similar words. Wearing ashes is a sign that a person is going to make an extra special effort during Lent to use his/her gifts for the good of others.

I promise to _____

as I make my journey through Lent to Easter.

My Lenten Prayer



**Lord Jesus,
 be with me as
 I try to keep
 my promise
 and help me to
 be more like
 you everyday.
 Amen.**

TIME TO THINK!



LENT 2019

The Trócaire Lenten Campaign for 2019 focuses on land-rights. The four-sided "Trócaire Box" has stories to tell. One about families forced from their homes, another about the absence of rights for women in terms of inheritance and the third about the grabbing greed of big businesses who take over people's land for their own profit and gain. The leaflet in the Trócaire Pack gives further details but there is a fourth side to the Trócaire Box and it bears that very name "Trócaire"-mercy. That word tells a story too. It's a story called "Response".

To be merciful means to respond in a way that is meaningful, helpful and life-giving. It doesn't always mean we have all the answers or that the situation is now restored to perfect order. It does mean, however, that we want things to be better for people and that their plight is our concern. It asks of us that we feel again the mark of the Ashes and the sign of the Cross and that the "Ash Wednesday" man, woman and child puts a mark on the world. A mark of mercy, of caring and of responding to the needs and plight of others. It reminds us of people who cannot easily wash away the ashes or the weight of their cross.

This is not always easy, and our own concerns are real. Think of them though, just for a moment, imagine nobody responding to our needs. Even if the response is inadequate it is better than no response for it means someone has noticed and tried to come to our assistance. The three sides of the Trócaire Box tell a story. The fourth side? That's down to us.

The season usually starts from Matthew 6:1 on Ash Wednesday, March 6th, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in Heaven." How striking that millions will cover their heads in ashes and begin a 40-day period of rituals and fasting! The confusion continues for many after Ash Wednesday, as the season unfolds almost somberly. The tone of Lenten worship is often quiet, penitent, and dark. All the while, the days get longer, the temperatures get warmer, and the Earth begins to bloom. The emotion of our worship doesn't quite match the excitement of springtime.

Yet the even bigger question about this widespread practice is: what does fasting teach us about God and the Christian life?

Back in the 1500's, Martin Luther was already sceptical about this Lenten practice. He wrote,

"Lent has become mere mockery because our fasting is a perversion and an institution of man. For although Christ did fast forty days, yet there is no word of his that he requires us to do the same and fast as he did...we should see to it that we have his Word to support our actions."

Luther saw how inwardly focused Lent had become. The people in his day turned the season into an opportunity to better themselves and their position before God through their works. Rather than reflect on Christ and the trials he endured for our sake, people were more concerned with their own trials. So Luther called for a change - let Christ's commands guide our actions. And what does Christ command?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22:37-39).

So here is our challenge. How will we let these two commandments guide our journey through Lent? Rather than give up food for the sake of doing it, what could we do that would actually help us deepen our relationship with God? What things could we give up or what practices could we add to our lives for the sake of those less fortunate than us?

That is the point of Lent. These 40 days, we will journey together as a community toward the most important event in the history of the world: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This isn't a gift that is meant to be experienced alone. It is a gift with the power to transform us and our relationships with God and with our neighbours near and far. May the season of lent be a time of growth and change for us all.



LENT 2019



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 15,500 followers or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

Fr. Paddy's book "All will be well" on sale in the Parish Shop or online at www.portlaoiseparish.ie

LENT IN PORTLAOISE PARISH



MASS TIMES IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Monday to Friday; 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm
Saturday; 10am and Vigil for Sunday 6.30pm
Sunday; 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm
Scoil Bhríde (Vigil) Saturday 7.30pm
The Heath; Sunday 9.30am
Ratheniska; Sunday 10am

Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church

Fridays of Lent 8pm - after evening Mass

Rosary every evening 7pm



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP 2019 **23rd-31st March**

Our Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is an important focus on our Lenten Journey. This nine day Novena will bring rich blessing and strength for the many personal intentions that will be remembered throughout the nine days.

Daily Masses;

Weekdays 7am and 10am

(We will also celebrate the usual 7:30pm Lenten Mass)

Sundays 11:15am and 12:30pm

Personal petitions will be available in the Parish Church and Parish Centre



| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 23 rd ; | Fr. John Harris O.P. - Prior of Newbridge College |
| Sunday 24 th ; | Julie Kavanagh - Understanding the Eucharist (11:15am, 12:30pm) |
| Monday 25 th ; | Bishop Denis Nulty - Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin |
| Tuesday 26 th ; | David Walsh - Founder of Netwatch - Entrepreneurship |
| Wednesday 27 th ; | Fr. Patrick Cahill and the Holy Family Mission |
| Thursday 28 th ; | Maria Steen - The Value of Life |
| Friday 29 th ; | Fr. Conor McDonough O.P. - Praying for the Sick |
| Saturday 30 th ; | Olive Foley - Wife of former Munster and Irish Rugby Legend, Anthony |
| Sunday 31 st ; | Fr. Richard Gibbons - P.P. Knock, celebrating Mother's Day (11:15am, 12:30pm) |

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Fr. Jack Rodgers
Ballymorris, Portarlinton
St. Patrick's Missionary Society Kiltegan

Michael Pyne
St. Brigid's Place and formerly
Thurles

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

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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

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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL KEENAN

*4 New Row, Green Rd., Portlaoise, whose birthday occurs
2nd March.*



We cannot send a birthday card,
Your hand we cannot touch,
But God will take our greetings,
To the one we love so much.

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

May Michael Rest in Peace



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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
GERALDINE CORRIGAN



Rockdale, Portlaoise,
We who love you, sadly miss you
As it dawns another year
In our lonely hours of thinking
Thoughts of you are ever near.

Sadly missed by your mother Maura,
daughters Maureen, Siobhan & Fionnuala, your brother
William, and extended family, relatives and friends.

May Geraldine Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

In Loving Memory of
MARGARET LALOR (nee D'arcy)
& **THOMAS LALOR** Late of Birchgrove Portlaoise
To a loving Mum and adored Nanny



1st birthday away from home
occurs 3rd March 2019

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.

To a loving Dad and adored Granddad

6th birthday away from home
occurred 1st March 2019

Time slips by and life goes on
but in our hearts you are always there.



Sadly missed by your loving daughter Laraine, son-in-law
John and granddaughter Darina.

Rest in Peace Mum and Dad

In Loving Memory of **JOHN COUGHLAN**

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurs 7th March 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Saturday 9th March at 10am.

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

Sadly missed by all his loving family and
friends.

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MICHAEL LALOR**

Ballycarnan, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 10th March 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 10th March at 12:30pm.

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

Sadly missed by his wife Peg and family.

May Michael Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

KAREN COONAN (Nee Dixon)

Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise. Died 3rd March 2018



1st Anniversary occurs at this time.
One year has passed since that sad day
No one knows how much we miss you
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered since we lost you
Life has never been the same
In our hearts your memory lingers

There is not a day dear Karen that we do not think of you
Loved and remembered always, Joyce, Des, Katie and Ashling

May Karen Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **WILLIAM (Billy) O' SULLIVAN**

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary occurs 9th March 2019.



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

5th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 10th March at 8:30am.

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

May William Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

KAREN COONAN (Nee Dixon)

Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise. Died 3rd March 2018



1st Anniversary occurs at this time
We never need a special day
to bring you to our mind
For days without a thought of you
are very hard to find

Loved and remembered always, from Auntie Mary,
Eddie & Mark,

May Karen Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
EILEEN & MARY LYNCH
 18 Borris Road, Portlaoise

Patricia and Clare would like to thank all the people who sympathised with them, sent Mass cards, Mass bouquets and letters of sympathy on the recent deaths of their sisters Eileen (6th September) and Mary (4th February).

We would like to thank our cousins, neighbours and friends who have provided so much support to us over recent months which have been very difficult. We will never forget and always appreciate your kindness.

We would like to thank the staff of Portlaoise General Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, Mountmellick, Ballard Lodge and Droimnin Nursing Home.

A sincere thanks to Fr. David Vard and Fr. Eddie Lalor who celebrated the funeral Masses of Eileen and Mary and to Aishling Rohan, Catherine Quigley and Julie Conroy who provided such beautiful music as well as the altar servers and sacristans.

We would also like to acknowledge the professionalism and help of Matthew Keegan, David Goode and John Maloney Undertakers as well as Brendan and Adrian Dunne, gravediggers.

Sincere thank you also to the staff of Bord na Móna who provided the guard of honour for Mary. She would have deeply appreciated this. A big thank you to the committee of Laois Hospice for their support to us. Also to Mary Delaney who delivered a beautiful eulogy at Mary's funeral.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

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

Mary's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Friday 8th March at 7.30pm.

Rest in Peace Eileen and Mary

In Loving Memory of
CHRISTY BANNON

72 Newpark, Portlaoise. Died 4th March 2004



*Never more than a thought away,
 Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
 Loved and remembered every day.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Monday 4th March at 10am.**

Sadly missed by his loving wife Pat & all his family and friends.

May Christy Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
WILLIE GING

Late of 70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
 Who died 29th February 2008



You were always there when
 we needed you,
 No task too great or small,
 With a loving heart and
 willing hands,
 For us you did it all.

Loved and missed today & everyday.

From Liam and Helena and all your loving family.

May Willie Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
ALICE NEVIN

Mountain View Square, Portlaoise



The family of the late Alice Nevin would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who sympathised with us, travelled long distances to be with us, sent Mass and sympathy cards, floral tributes and messages of support on our recent sad loss. Heartfelt thanks to all our extended family and friends for all of their help

and support during this sad time.

Sincere thanks to the staff of Portlaoise hospital and Tallaght hospital where Alice was cared for during her final weeks.

We would also like to thank the Priests of the Parish for celebrating such a beautiful Mass, the Altar servers, choir and all those who participated in the Mass.

Thanks also to Rankin Undertakers for the dignified and professional manner in which they carried out Alice's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for taking such care in preparing her final resting place.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

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

Alice's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Friday 8th March at 7.30pm.

Always remembered, loved and sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Alice

In Loving Memory of **JOHN KELLEHER**

*Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise.
4th Anniversary occurred 23rd February.*



Our thoughts are ever with you,
Though you have passed away,
And those who loved you dearly,
Are thinking of you today.

*Always remembered by his loving
family and friends.*

May John Rest in Peace

Parish bequest €60,000

We are very grateful to John who remembered the Parish in his 'will'. Thank you.

In Loving Memory of **JOSEPH DEEVY**

*Late of Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
21st Anniversary occurs 6th March 2019*



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,
And we have you in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by his loving daughter Marie, son-in-law
Seamus, grandchildren Blaine, Evan, Aoife and Clodagh,
their partners and families.*

May Joseph Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **LAR DOOLEY**

*29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 7th March 2019*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Saturday 9th March at 6:30pm.



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

*Sadly missed and fondly remembered by his
family, neighbours and friends.*

Rest in Peace Lar

In Loving Memory of **NANCY (Johanna) HORAN**

*Late of 23 Grattan St., Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 2nd March 2019*



Mammy.

Things we feel most deeply,
Are the hardest things to say,
Dearest Mom we love you,
In a very special way.

If we could have one lifetime wish,
One dream that could come true,

We'd pray to God with all our hearts, for yesterday and you.

Missing you Always:

Hannah, Andy, Cian, Pat, Fiona, Jason and Rachel.

Also remembering Sheila Horan, late of 9 Grattan St.,
whose anniversary occurs on 9th March.

Anniversary Mass for Nancy and Sheila will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 3rd March at
11:15am.

Rest in Peace Nancy and Sheila

Radical Forgiveness

A programme to develop our capacity to forgive will run
for 5 weeks on Wednesdays from 13th March to 10th
April at 8pm in

The Church of Ireland Parish Hall on Station Road.

There is a book to accompany the programme, which
will be available to buy in advance by request to Rev.
Peter Tarleton 087-7690050, or on the opening evening.

Rose Tobin, a practitioner from Dublin, will join us on
the first occasion to help us get under way.

The underlying theme of Radical Forgiveness is that we
recognise how withholding forgiveness from others
really damages our own physical, mental and spiritual
health.

The 5 evenings will be Wednesdays;
13th, 20th, 27th March; 3rd, 10th April

You will be very welcome to come and participate

*With each act of forgiveness,
whether small or great,
we move toward wholeness...*





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To discuss how we can help you grow your business

RELIGIOUS NOTICES

Adoration: Monday to Friday after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Saturday after 10am Mass concluding with Rosary 6pm. Sunday commencing at 2:30pm, concluding with Rosary 7pm. From 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Sunday will be a special time of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood.

Adoration in the Church of the Assumption the Heath Sundays from 2.50pm to 4pm.

Rosary: Please join the Prayer for Ireland team in praying the Rosary daily at 9.30pm on the Parish radio (106.5fm) or web cam.

Rosary at the Grotto: First Fridays and all Feast days to Our Lady, 8pm.

Legion of Mary: meeting every Wednesday at 8pm in the Prayer room of the Parish Church.

"Meditating... Being Mindful... Seeking God": Treo Nua (Knockmay Centre). Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

Parish Bereavement Support: If you have lost a loved one, there is a confidential one to one support service available (by appointment), call 087-9878300.

Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting: Every Monday 8-9pm in the Prayer room of Portlaoise Parish Church.

Teach Mhuire Praying Community Mass for Healing: Tuesday 5th March, Feast of the Holy Face, in St. Paul's Church, Emo. Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Holy Mass at 8pm. Celebrant: Fr. Eddie Lawlor c.c.

Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 2019: 7 Night Package €705 incl., 3rd-10th October. Spiritual Director; Fr. Sean Hyland cc. Contact; Michael Nerney 086-8157305.

Diocesan Adoration Committee: Invite you to a day of prayer held in Mount Saint Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre Killenard, on Sat. 9th March to begin at 9:45am. This is a follow up of our prayer day held in Portlaoise Parish Centre last year. Refreshments served. If interested, please leave your name into the Parish Centre. Tel: 057-8621142 before Thurs. 7th March. All welcome.

USEFUL SERVICES

Accord: Going through a difficult time in your marriage/relationship? Counselling Services available at Accord, Parish Centre, Portlaoise, call 057-8661581 or e-mail us at; accordportlaoise@hotmail.com

Hay For Sale: Reasonable price, Ballyfin area. Tel. 086-1568292.

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

Bowls: Every Monday at 3pm in St. Mary's Hall, regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part.

Whist: Play/learn Whist at Sue Ryder centre every Thursday 2.30-4pm. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events;

6th March: Join in our Sports Activity day with some new games and some well known ones where everybody can take part, have fun, and enjoy whatever level of activity they wish, and feel comfortable with.

13th March: Time to stretch the vocal chords again and enjoy a fun afternoon with Caroline where we can sing along with many well known favourites in a relaxed atmosphere that is not a talent show or X-Factor.

Portlaoise Library News

Seachtain na Gaeilge 1-17th March 2019

We will be hosting an evening of entertainment of Irish Music, Poetry, Song and Dance on Wednesday 6th March at 4.30pm. All are welcome to join in the fun.

Aontú Political Party Laois: Aontú is a new grassroots, activist-led party established by Peadar Toibín, TD, which also includes pro-life policies. To join this party you are invited to come along to the next Portlaoise Aontú Cumann meeting at the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Monday, 4th March at 8pm. For further info. contact 085-7840960.

Carlow Bingo at the Youth Centre, Green Lane, Carlow this Sunday 3rd March at 3pm:

€10,000 in prize money. All full house on Book €500. Jackpot full house €1,500. Raffle full house €1,000. Flyer full house €1,000. 6 panel book €5. Double book €10. Plus Bumper Lotto Jackpot. Don't miss it!

Midlands Living Links Outreach Listening and Support Service for people bereaved by Suicide. Call; 086-1600641.

Portlaoise Athletic Club
STREETS OF PORTLAOISE
KIA Race Series 2019
5K
St. Patrick's Day
17th March 2019
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Would you be interested in caring for a small dog for one week in return for having your dog cared for in your absence. Contact; **086-1005367**

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be held Tuesday 12th March in the Parish Centre after 10am Mass. New members are always welcome.



Teacht le Céile na Gaelscoile / Gaelscoil Reunion

Dé hAoine, an 15ú Marta 6.00-8.00pm

Comhrá, Ceol, Comhlúadar & Cupán Tae/Caife To Celebrate "21 Bliain fé Bhláth" 1998-2019

All past pupils are welcome to attend/ Céad míle failte roimh larscoláirí
Please send us any old photographs for display or videos (including well wishes from faraway places) to gaelscoilphortlaoise@hotmail.com

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