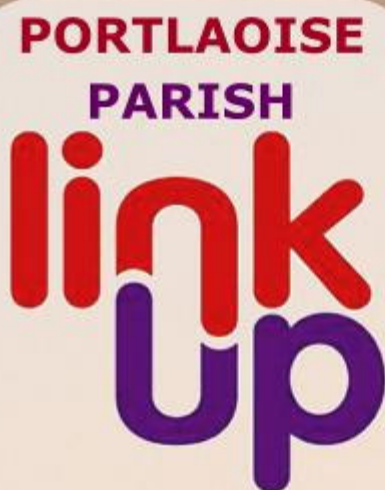




1st June 2025

The Ascension of the Lord



Lord, bless and console those buried here,
and comfort all who mourn them.
Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for them.

Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace.

Amen

Cemetery Mass Today (Sunday)
St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery
at 1pm

Photo: Elaine McGinn

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

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Rising Above Worldly Concerns

In these final chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus is trying to sum up what his life and mission is all about. He speaks at length of the bond between him and his

Father and it is from this bond of love that he is 'sent'.

Jesus tells us that we too are 'sent' to continue his mission. Friendship with Jesus is being with him, and being sent in his name. Our mission is to place his love and message at the centre of the world. In following him in mission and love, we too are 'being sent'.

This Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we know Jesus' name throughout the entire globe two thousand years down the line. We have a much easier job than the early disciples had. Now all we need is a little bit of their sense of mission.

How should it feel to be entrusted with such an important job? Well for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world. We spend most of our lives worrying about work, money, illness, relationships and commitments. It's very hard to rise above worldly concerns. In fact for most of us it just seems impossible.

Today's gospel reminds us that Jesus' love for his disciples does not fade. It endures eternally. He asks the Father to protect and guide. He entrusts us, his friends and companions, to the loving care of his Father. If we are really to believe this, we should leave the house every morning with a lot more on our minds than simply being on our phones. Today is an invitation not to think of ourselves on the outside looking in, but to be as much a part as we can in impacting the world as much as those early disciples did.

'Lifting up his hands he blessed them. As he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven.'
Today's Gospel Luke 24:50

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday (Bank Holiday): 10am

Tuesday - Thursday: 7.30am & 10am

Friday (First Friday): 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Cemetery Mass in Ratheniska at 7pm

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption, The Heath

Sunday: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

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

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday

After 10am Mass & after 6.30pm Mass.

Mass for all Leaving Cert & Junior Cert students will take place in the Parish Church on Tuesday 3rd June at 7.30pm.

Exam Prayer for all Students

Loving God,

Be with all students as they sit their exams.

Calm their hearts and steady their minds.

Help them to recall what they have learned,

to think clearly and to express their knowledge with confidence.

May they know that their worth

is not measured by results,

but by your love for them, which never fails.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Ratheniska Cemetery Mass Friday 6th June at 7pm.



**We welcome into our
Parish Community**

Noelle Lily Reardon-Noblet, Bellingham.

Who was baptised last weekend.

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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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SUNFLOWER DAY

Friday 6th June 2025

We are seeking volunteers to collect on the day.
Would you have **1 hour** to spare on **Friday 6th June** to help with Sunflower Day? If you have please contact Mary Delaney 086-8157280 or Mary Finlay 087-2968433.

This is one of our biggest fundraising events each year.

All monies collected on the day will stay in Laois to fund the much needed **hospice home care and patient comfort services** in Laois.

Please support Laois Hospice on the day and thank you for your continued support.



Thank You!

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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**.

Thank You : The Irish Franciscan Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee thanks all who supported the recent Church Gate collection in Portlaoise, The Heath, Ratheniska, Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Raheen, and Shanahoe. Funds raised will support the 2025 pilgrimage, taking place from 24th-29th September.

Enquiries: lourdes@franciscans.ie

Portlaoise Active Retirement : The weekly social group meets every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre for friendship, fun, and activities—new members always welcome. Please note there will be no bowls on Monday 2nd June. On Wednesday 4th, enjoy sports and games from 2-4pm, and on Thursday 5th, join us for cards and chat in Sue Ryder, Kilminchy at 3pm (tuition provided). For more information, contact **Maria at 087 918 7157**.

Parish Centre Whist Drive Results – May 27th : **Top Score** – Kit Farrell; **1st Lady** – Tom Gowing; **2nd Lady** – Paddy Purcell; **1st Gent** – Frank Keenan; **2nd Gent** – Tom Dunne; **1st Half** – Paric Dowling; **2nd Half** – Peter Stevenson. **Raffle winners:** **1st** Mary Delaney, **2nd** M.J. Dunne, **3rd** May Gowing, **4th** Tom Gowing, **5th** P.J. Cahill, **6th** Bernie Cahill. Thanks 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.

Legion of Mary invites you to join us every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Prayer Hall as we come together in prayer and service to Our Lady.

Bus to Knock: Join us on a prayerful journey to Knock for the Rosary Rally, **June 7** - to reserve a seat, call **087-121 0263**

St. Pio Glove – Public Visit : The St. Pio Glove will be available for veneration at Fitzpatrick's House, Kilberry, Athy on Saturday, 14th June from 11am to 5pm. **All welcome. For more information, contact Ann on 085 169 6189.**

Portlaoise Lourdes Committee—A Message of Thanks: The Portlaoise Lourdes Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous response to all our local fundraisers. All our fundraising for 2025 is now complete, and we want to assure you that you will all be remembered in our Masses and prayers during our 2025 pilgrimage.

GK Parish Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: The Annual Parish Solemn Novena continues each Monday night until **23rd June in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen**. Petitions can be placed in the church petition boxes or emailed to gkparish@gmail.com. The rosary will be recited at 7.10pm, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. Through our shared prayer and the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we ask Jesus to lift our burdens.

Cemetery Mass—Portlaoise: The Cemetery Mass at St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery will take place today (**Sunday 01/06/2025**) at **1:00 PM**. All are welcome to attend and join in prayer for our deceased loved ones.

Cemetery Masses—Abbeyleix: The Cemetery Mass at the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix will take place on **Saturday, June 28th at 5:00 PM**. The Cemetery Mass at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ballyroan will be held on **Sunday, June 29th at 11:00 AM**. All are welcome to attend and pray for our loved ones who have gone before us.

Portlaoise Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima - 12th June to 19th June 2025 : Mass bouquet candle cards are available from **Michael Houlahan at 087-9212028** or from any committee member. If anyone would like candles lit at the Capileno in Fatima, we will gladly do that for you. For further information, please contact **Maura at 087-1210263**. Any special personal requests will be placed with Our Lady in Fatima.



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Portlaoise Pilgrimage to Fatima

A Mass for all pilgrims travelling to Fatima on 12th June will be celebrated in the Parish Church on 27th May at 7:30pm.

Tickets will be distributed in the Parish Centre after the Mass.





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**First Sunday of every month
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ROSARY AT THE GROTTO

The Rosary will be recited at the Grotto on **Friday,**

6th June, the First
Friday of the month.

All are welcome



St Philip Neri (1515–1595)

St Philip Neri, whose feast day we celebrated on May 26th, is the patron saint of laughter and joy. He was an Italian priest who founded the Congregation of the Oratory, a society of clergy dedicated to pastoral care and charitable work. Known for his playful sense of humour, Philip engaged with people in a spirit of joy and laughter.

The Guild of St Philip Neri, Portlaoise, celebrated 30 years in existence last week. Members of the Guild visit prisoners in Portlaoise and Midlands Prisons as be-frienders and listeners. The Guild is a conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

If you are interested in this work, please contact
086 046 2405 for further information.

*Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and
makes us persevere in a good life;
wherefore the servant of God ought
always to be in good spirits.*

St. Philip Neri



Time to Think!

Power of the possible



In a quaint village nestled between rolling hills and valleys of Mount Kilimanjaro, Thomas, a humble farmer, faced a severe drought that threatened his crops and livelihood. With each passing day, the parched fields seemed to mock his efforts. Desperation crept in, and Thomas turned to God for guidance.

One night, as he knelt in prayer, a vision filled his mind: a vivid image of a bountiful harvest and abundant rainfall. Emboldened by this revelation, Thomas decided to plant seeds despite the arid conditions. His friends mocked him, the villagers laughed at him. On the verge of doubt, he wanted to stop but devoted his thought to making an irrigation system and a water reservoir. It's been months since he planted his crops. One day, he stood on this farm, and in a loud voice, he prayed. He reminded God of the dream; he had some months ago. The sun scorched on his skin till tiny sores emerged and sweat rolled on his face like showers. After planting the last seed, he removed his raffia hat and wiped his sweat away with the back of his palm. Miraculously, a cold drop fell on his arm. He looked at it and glanced up at the bright sky.

Suddenly, gentle rain began to fall, and Thomas could hear the villagers jumping for joy. The field transformed—the cracked earth turned to fertile soil. Thomas' joy knew no bounds his land was wet, and the reservoir was filled with water. His plants grew as he watered his crops both day and night. The villagers marvelled as Thomas's crops flourished, defying the odds. News of this miraculous harvest spread, and he became a rich farmer. He used his wealth to renew the faith of his entire community. Planting seeds of hope during adversity can yield miraculous results. The once-barren fields now stood as a testament to the power of belief and the unexpected blessings that can sprout from the seeds of faith.

Recently speaking in Rome, Pope Leo, gave a wonderful catechesis on the Gospel parable of the "Sower and the seed". He described the radical and generous love of God, who boldly scattered seeds everywhere including on arid and fertile soil, profoundly God's love can touch our hearts at every moment Pope Leo continued to reflect "I have in mind that beautiful Van Gogh painting: The Sower at Sunset. That image of the Sower under the scorching sun also speaks to me of the peasant's toil. And I'm struck by the fact that, behind the Sower, Van Gogh depicted the already ripe wheat. It seems to me an image

of hope: one way or another, the seed has borne fruit. We don't quite know how, but it is so. At the centre of the scene, however, is not the Sower, who is to one side. Rather, the entire painting is dominated by the image of the sun, perhaps to remind us that it is God who moves history, even if He sometimes seems absent or distant. It is the sun that warms the earth and ripens the seed".

It's lovely to see the fresh strawberries and new potatoes on sale again. Mother Nature is producing rich fruits especially after a glorious month of May. As we begin the month of June, traditionally associated with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I pray that God's love and health will bless all our lives. This can be a very challenging time especially for our Leaving and Junior Certificate students. I pray again that the spirit of wisdom and knowledge will bless our young students. I pray that young people will be full of hope and embrace the power of the possible. I love the following prayer...

Thank you, O Lord, your love is boundless

Thank you, O Lord, your love is boundless

Thank you, that I am full of you
Thank you, you make me feel so glad and thankful as I do.
Thank you for all the grains of wheat
Thank you for all the bread we eat
Thank you for all the turf we gather
Thank you we will have plenty heat
Thank you for all the ripe bananas
Thank you for orchards in the field.
Thank you for all the new potatoes
Thank you for all the beans and peas
Thank you for all our gifts and talents
Thank you we share with those in need.
Thank you I see your world has meaning
Thank you I know your spirit here
Thank you because you love all people Those both
far and near.



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



A hand is shown holding a large word cloud. The word 'nutrition' is the largest and most prominent, written in a dark red, bold, sans-serif font. Other words are scattered around it in various sizes and colors, including shades of brown, orange, and black. The words include: healthy, diet, lifestyle, calories, fruit, vegetables, health, strong, slimming, raw, grocery, carbohydrates, organic, breakfast, unhealty, weight, fit, sweet, loss, table, facts, statistic, eat, milk, cake, donut, cironut, grape, fatty, sandwich, kitchen, banana, orange, drink, eating, shape, fruits, hungry, meat, scale, dieting, nutritional, freshness, girl, power, chocolate, group, vegetarian, ingredients, apple, temptation, fresh, concepts, new, green, protein, women, vitamin, measure, junk, adult, cholesterol, snack, dinner, diabetes, daily, fast, balance, unhealthy, information, slim, lose, vitamins, sport, fiber, prevention, women, dessert, label, attractive, body, fitness, quantity, bad, tasty, hamburger, and ingredients. The background is white, and the hand is positioned on the left side, with fingers curled around the word cloud.

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



Up, Up and Away

I love balloons. There are so many things you can do with balloons. Some people can make balloons into various shapes. That is fun to watch! There are also a lot of different games you can play with balloons. You can tie them around your ankle and play "Stomp the Balloon" or you can fill them with water and have a water balloon fight.

One of the most enjoyable things one can do with a balloon is to fill it with helium. I am sure you know that when filled with helium, a balloon floats in the air. If you don't want it to get away from you, it is a good idea to hold on tight or tie it around your wrist. But it is also quite enjoyable when it does float away from you. It is fun to stand and watch as the balloon floats higher and higher into the heavens until it totally disappears. The only way to experience that is to be willing to let it go.



When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, he took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to him. He explained why it was important for him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfil what the Scriptures had said about him. He also told them that he was going to return to his Father in heaven, and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

In my imagination I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until he disappeared from view. Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There they stayed continually in the temple, praising God.



We are here today for the very same purpose. We have come into the temple to worship him with great joy!



Dear Father,
we thank you for sending Jesus, your only Son, to die for our sin. We know that he has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven. Bless us today as we worship him with great joy! Amen.





The Ascension of Jesus



While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:51

B T Q O M D Q S U F F E R U F
F N C Q W O P S A L M S T S A
G X N Q O F S M Z Z H N U C O
B B Y C R O T E C M E T N R J
R A P R S R S P S P F E C I A
N I G Y H G U P E G K D L P S
Z F S F I I M R N A N W D T P
B J Z E P V F S T A Y E E U O
X L K R E E G J T Q L H J R H
E T E U D N X S Y L P D U E T
E S X S E K R K I O E A M M P
J S X V S E W F R N D X I C H
A X A B D I L P E U V V N O R
D E C N K U N P L F J S D Q S
H R U I F H O G G V Y K S L C

RISE
REPENT
PROPHETS
TAKEN
SUFFER
PSALMS
OPENED
FORGIVE
HEAVEN
SCRIPTURE
FULFILLED
MOSES
WORSHIP
BLESSING
UNDERSTAND
MINDS

The Ascension of Jesus – What Is It?

The Ascension of Jesus is the moment when Jesus went up to Heaven. This happened 40 days after Easter Sunday, when He rose from the dead. It's an important event because it was the last time Jesus was seen on Earth in person, and the beginning of Him being with us in a spiritual way from Heaven.

The Ascension
Jesus goes back to
heaven.

Why Did Jesus Go to Heaven?

Jesus had finished the special job God gave Him — to die for our sins and come back to life. By going to Heaven, Jesus showed that He had won over sin and death. He went to be with God the Father, where He continues to help us and pray for us.

What Happened When Jesus Went to Heaven?

Jesus was with His friends, the disciples, on a hill called the Mount of Olives. He gave them a blessing and told them to share the good news with everyone. Then, a cloud came, and Jesus was lifted up into the sky. His friends watched as He disappeared into the clouds.

Why Is the Ascension Important for Us?

The Ascension gives us hope! It shows that we can one day be with Jesus in Heaven. Even though we can't see Him, Jesus is still with us — helping us, loving us, and guiding us. Just like the disciples, we are also asked to share His love and His story with others.

Today's feast is the Ascension of Jesus into heaven,
40 days after his death and resurrection.





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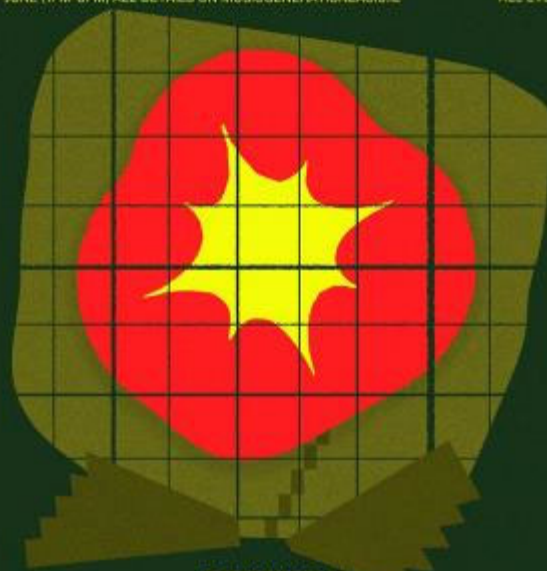
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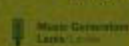


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MICHAEL KELLY

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TAKE HEART
I HAVE OVERCOME
THE WORLD

John 16:33

***'It appears that humanity
has lost its heart'***

From all over Ireland, parishioners are reporting their horror and helplessness on seeing images of death and communal destruction in Gaza. Exhausted mothers can no longer nourish their young, children are dying of malnutrition, while aid lorries full of supplies are being refused

entry into the territory, or are not safely arriving at their destination. "We in Ireland must pray for a change of heart. Throughout the month of June – the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – we call on everyone to pray for an outpouring of the compassion of God on a heartless world. "To see the relentless bombardment of civilian areas, the deliberate withholding of food from the starving, as well as the callous holding of hostages, it appears that humanity has lost its heart. In the face of these horrors, we invite everyone to turn to the heart of Jesus throughout the month of June by praying for the renewal of heart that our world so desperately needs. We call on all Catholics to make the first Friday, 6 June, a day of prayer and fasting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are suffering at this time in the Holy Land. "We echo Pope Leo XIV's recent appeal to allow into Gaza 'the entry of dignified humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, whose heartbreaking price is paid by the children, elderly, and the sick.'"

All parishes are invited to ring church bells next **Wednesday (June 4th) at 1.05pm** on UN Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, in response to a peace initiative of the Fórsa Trade Union inviting workers to take a moment at lunchtime and to observe **Friday (June 6th)** as a day of prayer and fasting in solidarity with all suffering in the Holy Land at this time.

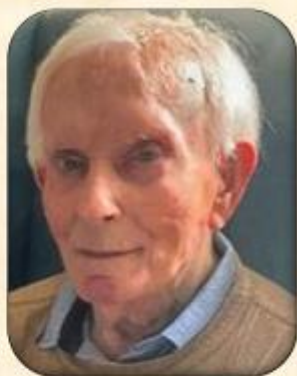


**K&L Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, Saturday 17th May with
Bishop Denis Nulty.**

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



BERNADETTE BERGIN
(née Connell)
Marian Ave.
Portlaoise.



THOMAS SHERIDAN
Dublin Rd, Portlaoise



EILEEN FITZSIMONS
(née Darcy)
Formerly Portlaoise.
(Monadreen, Thurles, Tipperary)



LARRY BRADY
Beechlawn, Portlaoise



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.



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In Loving Memory of
CATHERINE FARRELL
(née Paisley)



Grallow Wood, Abbeyleix.
1st anniversary occurs 3rd June 2025



*Catherine's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter and Paul Church on Sunday
15th June 2025 at 12.30pm.*

*1 earth, 7 seas, 7 continents, 196 countries, 7 billion
people and I was lucky enough to find you.*

*Two souls don't find each other simply by accident. My soul
chose yours; it saw you and it kind of went "oh there you are,
I've been looking for you". Imagine finding both love and
friendship in one person. You were my right and my left, my
reason and my way, my morning and my night. When you
smiled, the stars sparkled, the moon glowed, and the sun
shone. The universe knew how rare you were.*

*You were pure love. Some people are just born, walking the
earth shining their love on everything they touch. All the love
you created is still here. All the memories are still here. You
live on in the hearts of everybody you have touched and
nurtured while you were here. Being loved by you was one of
the most special things about me and the thing I am most
proud of. If love alone could have saved you,
you never would have died.*

*But the end came too fast. You had so much life left to live. So
many sunrises to wake up to, so many memories to make, so
much more love to give. It will forever break our hearts that
you didn't get that time. And we needed more time too, more
time to memorise every inch of your face and more time
listening to the sound of your laugh. We needed a thousand
more tomorrow's and a thousand more I love you's. And we
are not done loving you, we will carry you in our hearts until
there are no more days left to us. We were blessed to have
someone who made saying goodbye so hard.*

*If there is something after this, know that I will meet you there
because no distance can separate what is bound by eternity, no
time can fade what is written in the stars. Some souls are
meant to find each other, over and over again. You will forever
be my always.*

*And even though you didn't make it to the end of our story,
I will always have the corner folded down on your page
because it was my favourite.*

**Loved and missed by Rob, Sam, Rose, Noelle
and all her family.**

Rest in peace Momma Bear



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

BARBARA ANNE DELANEY

Formerly of Middlesbrough, UK Greenmill Lane/ St Brigid's and late of Esker, Ballyfin.



The family of Barbara Anne Delaney would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the sympathy, kindness, and comfort shown by family and friends since Mammy's passing on 23rd January 2025, at the age of 80.

We extend our deepest thanks to the staff of Portlaoise and Tullamore Hospitals for their unwavering care and compassion in looking after Mammy—not only in her final days, but throughout the past year. To the Dunamaise Ward, the CCU, and the Palliative Care Team—you are truly angels. Your kindness and dedication to Mammy and our family will never be forgotten.

We also offer our sincere thanks to Mr. Crotty, Dr. Bergin, and the outstanding team in the Haematology/Oncology Unit, along with the entire staff of Tullamore Hospital, for their tireless support during Mammy's illness. A special thank you to the team at Cedar Clinic, whose care and commitment always went above and beyond.

We are very grateful to Jim and the staff at Hughes Pharmacy, Portlaoise, for their many years of kindness and support.

Our appreciation extends to Monsignor John Byrne for celebrating Mammy's funeral Mass. Sincere thanks to Sarah Troy, Rankin Undertakers, and the gravediggers for their professionalism and compassion in guiding us through Mammy's final journey. We are also thankful to Matthew Keegan for facilitating Mammy's rosary in his funeral home, and to Michelle Bartley in the Parish Centre for her kind and helpful assistance in preparing the Mass.

A very special thank you to Mammy's closest friend, Margaret, for always being there for her.

Mammy's deep devotion to Our Lady and her many pilgrimages to Medjugorje and Lourdes were a great source of joy in her life. We are grateful to all who supported her on those journeys over the years.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a sincere expression of our appreciation. We are grateful to all who assisted in any way, sent messages, left condolences online, attended the rosary or funeral Mass, and shared their memories of Mammy.

Your kindness, laughter, and tears have meant the world to us.

*With heartfelt thanks,
The Delaney Family*

*"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal;
love leaves a memory no one can steal"*

May Mam Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
GERARD DUNNE**

**Braccas, Ballacolla, and formerly
Borris Little, Portlaoise.**

8th Anniversary away from home occurs 8th June.



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in **Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Saturday 7th June at 10am**

We begin to remember, not just
that you died, but that you lived,
and that your life gave us
memories too beautiful to forget.

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

May Gerard Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
BERNADETTE KELLY**

11 Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise

Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Sunday 1st June 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.

Always remembered by Sean, Donal and Joan.

May Bernadette Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ANTHONY WALSH**

**The Heath
60th Birthday remembrance**



Anthony of all the gifts in life however great
or small,

To have you as my son was the greatest gift
of all. My love is forever with you.

Your loving Mother Margaret.

Anthony deep in our hearts you will stay
missing you is a heartache that never goes
away.

**Love and forever in our hearts love your brother
Joseph sisters Mary, Tina, Patricia, Colette
and families**

Rest in Peace Anthony

**In Loving Memory of
our Wonderful Aunt
CATHERINE FARRELL
(née Paisley)**

Grallow Wood, Abbeylax.

1st anniversary occurs 3rd June 2025



Of all the special gifts in life
However great or small,
to have you as our Aunt
was the greatest gift of all.

May the winds of love blow softly
and whisper in your ear
"We love and miss you and wish
that you were here"

Deep in our hearts, your life is kept
to love and cherish not forget.
No more tomorrows we can share
but yesterdays are always there.

A silent thought, a secret tear
keeps your memory ever near
in our hearts forever.

Loved and missed by Carla and Rachel.

Rest in peace Cath

**In Loving Memory of
FRANKIE KEALEY**

Father and Grandfather

Sheffield, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

2nd Anniversary occurs 1st June 2025



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this Sunday
8th June at 11.15am.

We treasure every moment we
spent in life with you.
And loving you a little more for
everything you have done for
us all.

We are thinking of the thought-
ful things that you have said and done for us all.
There comes a time for us all when we must say
goodbye, however our memories of you
DAD/GRANDAD will live on and never die.

**Sadly missed, loved and remembered by your
children: Pauline, Carmel, Fran, Breda
and families.**

Rest in Peace Dad

**In Loving Memory of
GER, JOHN & SEAMUS DUNNE**

*Late of 6 Borris Little, Portlaoise,
whose anniversaries occur
at this time.*



*Wonderful memories of ones so
dear, treasured still with a love
sincere,
In our hearts they are living yet, we
loved them too dearly to
forget.*



Loved and remembered by Geraldine, Tony and family.

Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
COLEY CONNELL**

*Ballycarnan, Portlaoise
21st Anniversary occur at this time.*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 31st May at 6:30pm.*

*You still live on in the hearts and minds of
the loving family you left behind.*

*Always remembered and sadly missed by your
loving husband Liam, son Philip, daughter
Orlaith, son-in-law John and grandchildren
Holly and Sarah.*



May Coley Rest in Peace

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL EARLY**
Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.



*The family of the late Michael Early who died 22/4/25 wish
to thank all who joined us in celebrating Michael's life. We
are deeply grateful to everyone who attended Michael's
requiem Mass and funeral home.*

*A special word of thanks to Monsignor John for celebrating
the funeral Mass and officiating at the graveside, and to
John Hosey for the beautiful music.*

*Sincere thanks to Keegans Funeral directors, An Garda
Siochána Portlaoise, Portlaoise Gaa Club, friends,
neighbours and work colleagues of Michael, especially all of
those who travelled long distances.*

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

*May Michael's gentle soul
Rest In Peace.*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT & 1st ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
MARGARET FITZPATRICK**
Springfield, Ballyfin



**Margaret's Anniversary Mass
will be celebrated on Sunday,
8th June at 10:00 AM in
St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin.**

*The family of the late Margaret
Fitzpatrick would like to express their
heartfelt gratitude to everyone who
supported us and shared in our deep
loss. We are especially grateful to all her
relatives, neighbours, and friends for their kindness and
support throughout Margaret's illness and during her funeral.*

*A sincere thank you to Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald for the beautiful and
meaningful Requiem Mass celebrated in Margaret's honour.*

*We would also like to thank Keegan Undertakers, Matthew
and David, for their professionalism and compassion
throughout the funeral arrangements, and Sarah Troy for her
beautiful and uplifting music.*

*Our appreciation extends to the staff of Portlaoise Regional
Hospital for the care given to Margaret during her illness. We
would like to thank all her coworkers at An Garda Siochána for
their support during the funeral.*

*Please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our deep
appreciation and thanks. We offer our sincere apologies if we
have inadvertently forgotten to mention anyone.*

**A dearly loved wife, mother, colleague, and friend.
Forever loved, deeply missed, and always
remembered by her husband Pat, son Shaun,
daughter Lisa, extended family and friends.**

*May Margaret's gentle soul
Rest In Peace.*

**In Loving Memory of
Our Mother MARY (Mai) DOYLE
And Our Brother JIM DOYLE**

*Late of 37 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
24th and 11th Anniversaries occur at this time.*



*Fill not your hearts with pain
and sorrow,
But remember me in every
tomorrow.
Remember the joy, laughter,
the smiles.*



*Although my leaving causes you pain and grief,
My going has eased my hurt and given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
Not as I am now, but as I used to be.
Missed always, loved from your loving son Joe,
daughters Eileen, Guggie, Mary and your brothers
and sisters xxxx*

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
CRAIG KELLY-GORMAN**

On your 11th birthday away from home



*Wishing you were here today,
for even just a while,
So we could say happy birthday
Craig xx and see your smiling
face.*

*The only gifts today will be, your
sweet memories left behind,
of laughter, joy and happiness,
They echo on in our minds.
We'll gaze upon pictures,
We'll think of you with love,
And hope you are doing fine, in
Heaven up above.*

*May angels hold you closely and sing you a happy song,
And we'll be sending wishes today and all year long son.*

*Happy birthday in Heaven Craig
Love and miss you always*

*Sadly missed and loved always, Mammy,
Mudasar, your brothers Brandon, Noah and
Junaid and sister Aisha and extended family.*

May Craig Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ROSE CONROY**

*(née McCormack)
Carrick Hill, Portlaoise.*

1st Anniversary occurs 8th June 2025

*Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
church on Sunday 8th June at
10am*



*You gave us years of happiness,
then sorrow came with tears,
You left us many lovely memories,
We will treasure through the years.*

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by All
your sons and extended family*

Rest in Peace Rose

**In Loving Memory of
AARON KELLY-GORMAN**

Knockmay and Millbrook, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 7th June 2025



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 7th June at 10am.*

*Wonderful memories woven in gold,
This is a picture I tenderly hold,
Deep in my heart a memory is kept,
To love, to cherish, never to forget.*

*Sadly missed and always loved and remembered by
your heartbroken Mum, Mudasar, brothers Brandon,
Noah and Junaid and sister Aisha xxx*

Rest in Peace Aaron

**In Loving Memory of
TERRY CONNELL &
JOHN (Rinty) CONNELL**

31, Marion Avenue, Portlaoise.

Whose 38th and 32nd Anniversaries occur at this time.

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish
Church, this Saturday 31st May at 6:30pm.*



*Dearer still as the years depart,
They live forever in our hearts.*

*Always remembered and sadly missed
by Liz, Liam, Noreen, John, Mary,
Domo & Freda.*



May Terry & John Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
DANIEL (Dan) CONROY**

Glenfield, Portlaoise.

11th Anniversary occurs 8th June 2025.



*Dan's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Sunday 8th June at 12.30.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by your loving nieces and nephews and
friends.*

Rest in Peace Dan

**In Loving Memory of
THERESA WHELAN**

23 Coote Street, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 2nd June 2025



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 31st May at 6.30pm.*

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

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by her loving husband Paddy and
sister Olive.*

Rest in Peace Theresa

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Billy) & LILY CARROLL**

Late of New Rd. Portlaoise.

Whose 59th & 36th Anniversaries occurred at this time.



*The cheerful happy
ways,*

*The hearts that won so
many friends,*



Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

May William & Lily Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of my Beautiful Son

JAMIE-LEE MOORE

10th Birthday away from home occurs 5th June 2025.



If I could have one wish in life,
that wish would have to be,
That God would take away my pain,
and send you back to me.
Your birthday's here today, my son
And I just wanted you to know,
How much I deeply love you and that
I miss you so.

On days like this we should celebrate,
But for me that now proves hard,
For unlike other mothers, I cannot send a simple birthday
card.

No kisses can I give you or birthday gifts to buy,
Only flowers I now can give you which I place down where
you lie.

Two other things I send you are my thoughts and all my love,
So hold them close and keep them safe in Heaven up above,
And please wait for me, my darling son, until my days are
through, and then I'll come and spend all time in Heaven just
with you.

Happy Heavenly 27th Birthday Jamie
Love and miss you always, Mammy xxxxxxxx

Brother

You were the centre of our world, a brother held so dear,
But now that world is shattered and you're no longer here,
But all you need to know today is how much joy you brought,
You brightened every moment though your life was far
too short,

You were loved completely from the day you were born,
And no one could imagine such a dreadful day would dawn,
But memories are wonderful and though they still bring pain,
They give us hope and keep us strong until we meet again.

Happy Heavenly Birthday brother
Loved and missed always
Tanya, Tírna, Jake & Tayler xxxx

Uncle

Holy Angels up above, give our Uncle Jamie-Lee a great big
hug. From all your nieces;
Kyra, Nellie, Jamie, Lorren, Darla xxxxx

Nephew/Grandson

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.

Happy 27th Birthday Jamie-Lee
Loved and missed always Auntie Sharon, James,
cousins, Nanny Maureen and Uncle Kevin,
Nanny Mag, Caroline & Boys xxxxxxxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of CHRISTINE RONAN

(née Whelan)

Higgins Park Fairgreen Village, Portlaoise.

June 6, 2025



To my wonderful Mother, loving
Wife on your first heavenly birthday

I thought of you 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
only those who love you know.
Remembering you is easy
I do it everyday.

Much loved & sadly missed every day by your
heartbroken family.

May Christine Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of DANIEL (Danny) WHELAN

11th Anniversary occurs on 8th June
2025



Daniel's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated on 8th June 2025 at
12.30pm in Sts Peter and Paul's
Church.

So many things have happened
Since you were called away
So many things to share with you,
Had you been left to stay.
Everyday in some small way
Memories of you come our way
Though absent, you are ever near
Still missed, loved and always dear.

May Danny's Soul Rest in the Arms of Heavenly
Angels

In Loving Memory of LUKE MORRISSEY

Kilminchy, Portlaoise.



One month away from home.
Your love we miss,
Your memory's we treasure.
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.

Much loved and sadly missed
every day by your heartbroken
Family.

Love you forever Luke.
Mam & Dad

Rest in Peace Luke

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
29th May 2025



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Rose
Brigid Hickey
Lynn & Ciara O'Reilly
Mary Barber
Emily McCarthy
Patricia Donohue
Eireann & William
Frank Tuohy
Mary White
Lorraine Doherty
Margaret Devaney
Andrew Doran
Senan Redmond
John Lombard
Michael Tuohy
Noelle Bracken
Anita Tierney
Doireann Brennan
Molly Carroll
Peter McEvoy
Alan Kileen
Brendan Russell

MATCH 3s €1,000



Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

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& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

PROMOTER

Browns Shop
Martleys
John O'Reilly
Mary Collins
Ericka McCarthy
Betty Lynch
Tina Brennan
Paul Dooley
Online Lotto
Online Lotto
Parish Centre
Mary Doran
Lucy Kelly
Lucy Kelly
John Loughlin
Anne Brennan
Anita Tierney
Thelma Brown
Parish Centre
Parish Shop
Pam Killeen
M Farrell

Next Week's Jackpot is €20,000

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 Porche:

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 Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 46:2-3,6-9

Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53

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

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF THE OLD FORT OF MARYBOROUGH

OLD FORT FES

QUARTER IVAL

27TH - 29TH JUNE 2025

PORTLAOISE, CO LAOIS



FRIDAY



TICKETS
ON SALE

Thursday
15th May

SATURDAY



Aslan

AFTERNOON GIG

**TAYLOR
SWITCH**
TRIBUTE SHOW

SUNDAY

SMASH HITS!

transmitter

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