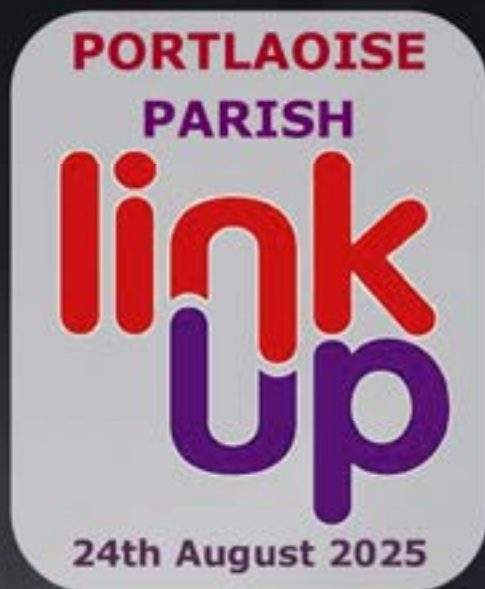




Day of Prayer for Gaza

**Twenty First Sunday
Ordinary Time**

"We must cry out for peace in the world"

POPE LEO XIV

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The Narrow Door

Surely the days of teaching about hell fire and damnation are gone. Surely our ever loving and forgiving God wouldn't exclude anyone from Heaven. Well according to today's gospel reading we can't bet on it! We might imagine Heaven's gates as big and welcoming, but today we hear that it may instead be a narrow door through which it might be difficult for us to gain entry... and worse, there's a time limit on how long it might remain open.

Today's theme is a continuation of last week's. Today we are warned against complacency. Having the right books is no guarantee of passing the exam. Being baptised a Christian is no guarantee of a

place in Heaven. Life is a testing ground in which we should be continually striving, continually bettering ourselves, continually increasing our understanding and forever moving forwards spiritually. We might think that because we attend Mass on Sunday and dip our hands in our pockets for the odd collection that we are doing all that is required. Are we going to be unpleasantly surprised to find ourselves at the back of Heaven's queue when we fondly imagined we might be somewhere near the front?

For all of us who think we've got it right think again! Have we really planned for eternity, or have we only planned as far as our next mortgage repayment? Have we really determined the priorities in our lives, or have we allowed life to shape us into something we never intended? Do we imagine we are good people simply because we have never done anything bad?

God is ever loving and forgiving, but we could exclude ourselves from Heaven simply by not striving to get there. Radical measures are needed today. What measures do we each need to adopt to earn our place at the narrow door?

Of course Jesus' door is a narrow one but not because it is a torture chamber. No, not for that reason! Rather, because he asks us to open our hearts to him, to recognise that we are sinners in need of his salvation, his forgiveness and his love in order to have the humility to accept his mercy and to let ourselves be renewed by him. Being Christian is living and witnessing to faith in prayer, in works of charity, in promoting justice, in doing good. The whole of our life must pass through the narrow door which is Christ.



Pope Francis
1936-2025

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday—Friday: 7.30am & 10am

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.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Patrick Pío Anthony O'Reilly, Birchgrove

Ava Mae Meaney, Cherrygrove

Theodore Passos Flynn, Ashewood Walk

John Paul Lee Nolan, Clonroosk Abbey

Joseph Patrick Nolan, Clonroosk Abbey

Stefan Kovacevic, Inchicore

Who were baptised last weekend.



Saint Monica

Patron of domestic violence

Wednesday 27th August

The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in

her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

On the feast of St Monica (27th August), patron of domestic violence, we pray for the needs of those who have suffered domestic violence ... whether it be men, women or children.

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Note**

**ALL CLASSES IN THE PARISH CENTRE
ARE TAKING A BREAK FOR THE
MONTH OF AUGUST
CLASSES WILL RESUME IN THE CENTRE
IN EARLY SEPTEMBER**

- Osteo class on a Monday morning with John at 9.30am
- Beginners and Intermediate Pilates with Laura on a Monday evening from 6-8pm

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive information regarding the classes resuming please call or email our clinic and we can email you when we roll out our new class email, this helps to secure your place!

We wish everyone a nice, safe summer!



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

RESULTS OF WHIST DRIVE HELD IN PARISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 19TH AUGUST.

Top Score: Betty Murphy, 1st Lady: Mary Gowing, 2nd Lady: Patty Murphy, 1st Gent: Sheila Duff, 2nd Gent: Tom Gowing, 1st Half: Ann Marie Farrell, 2nd Half: Billy O'Keeffe. Raffle: 1st J. McAuliffe, 2nd G. Calvey, 3rd Tom Gowing, 4th M. Dunne, 5th F. Keenan. 13-Tricks Billy O'Keeffe, Tom Gowing. *Thanks to all for your support. Whist continues each Tuesday night at 7.30 in the Parish Centre, new members always welcome, lessons available if required.*

PORTLAOISE GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 9-13 SEPT

Mass Bouquets for special intentions. Mass Cards or Candle requests. Available from Kitty Timmons 087-9506634 or Mary Byrne 085-2829231. Petitions will be brought and left at the Shrine. Contact Kitty or Mary.

M. NERNEY MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

Oct. 9th to Oct. 16th €855 pp sharing, Single Suppl. €170. Contact Ml. Nerney 086-8157305

LOVELY LAOIS HOMECOMING FESTIVAL FREE WORKSHOP in Sean Nos & Brush Dancing. Sat. 6th Sept. 11am at Sean Chistin, Irej, Ballyfin. To book text 087-6482038 or email seanchistin@gmail.com

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

For family, friends or anyone affected by someone struggling with alcoholism. Al-anon meeting every Thursday night at 8pm in Portlaoise. For further information contact 086-8706017.

Graigucullen Bingo – Tuesday 19th August 2025. St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €3040. Double number € 880 Lotto €500.

FATIMA INVALID FUND – annual church gate collection Sat. 30th/ Sun 31st in Abbeyleix, Shanahoe, Raheen, Knock & Ballyroan. Your generosity greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTARY ORGANIST required for St Brigid's Church SHANAHOE from the area – aged 10-75!

LINE DANCING with Maureen Culleton, St. Mary's Hall, Mon Sept 8th, 15th, 29th Oct 6th, 13th 11am-12noon. *FREE ENTRY and all welcome!*

TOASTMASTERS Resumes at Kavanagh's Bar (upstairs) Mon 8th Sept 8pm. Contact Donal 087-9512579.

CHIME (NATIONAL CHARITY FOR DEAF & HEARING LOSS) next Clinic in Portlaoise Parish Centre, Wed. 27th Aug. 10am-12.30pm. More info 057-9351606 /086-1436476.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO Tuesday 26th August 2025, St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €3170, Double number €950 Lotto €500.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Every Sunday at 3 PM 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, and Prayer for Vocations Every Friday at 3PM 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP: Please join us in community prayers every Tuesday at 11:00am via WhatsApp. For further details, please contact Noreen on 085-2689767. All are welcome

RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an Irish-run Catholic talk radio station offering commercial-free prayer, catechesis, music, talks, and interviews. Listen anytime on Saorview Channel 210, our free app, online at radiomaria.ie, or on Facebook Live. Join us daily for spiritual nourishment, prayer, and uplifting programs.

PORTLAOISE PIONEER ASSOCIATION Celebrating its CENTENARY MASS on Fri. 10th Oct 7pm in the Parish Centre. Presentation of Jubilee Pins and Certificates for pioneers who have reached 25, 50 & 60+ yrs of membership. Open to all Pioneers. If any Pioneer would like to receive a pin contact Jennifer on 085-1354959. Closing date for receipt of applications Mon. 1st Sept 2025. *Apologies to Pioneers who applied for Jubilee Pins 2 yrs ago. Due to unforeseen circumstances that presentation could not go ahead on the date.*

SPIORAID NAOIMH PRAYING COMMUNITY: Growth in the Holy Spirit Monthly Retreat St. Peter and Paul's Parish Church Portlaoie. Saturday 30th. Aug 2025 (10.00 am to 1.30 pm) Holy Mass @ 10.00 am - Confessions available. Retreat continues in Ratheniska Room Parish Centre after Mass @10.45 am. (Exposition, Rosary, Holy Spirit Novena, Praise & Worship, Teaching, Prayer Ministry). Contact: Michael Nerney 086 8157305 Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill P.P. www.spioraidnaoimh.com. All Welcome.

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15 | NOV | 2025

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The last shall be first and the first last

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed. 'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'



PRAYER

Father, we thank you for Jesus, the only one to whom we can go for the gift of eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

Being Punished....

In today's second reading, Saint Paul wrote to the Hebrews about being disciplined by God. When we are young God wants our parents to make sure we behave well. When we don't behave He wants them to discipline us so that we will learn to be good.

Our parents don't punish us just because they are angry at us; they do it because they really love us and want us to learn to be better. Saint Paul says that the Lord disciplines the people that He loves.

Being punished is a painful thing, but we will be happy once we have learned our lesson and become a better person. Saint Paul says, "make straight path for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." He means that when you are punished, you should stop doing the wrong thing so that you won't be hurt worse from the punishment, but will get better instead.

So the next time you are disciplined or punished, remember that God is allowing it to help you become a better person. If you can, even thank God for giving you the chance to make up for your sin and learn a good lesson!



A Prayer Before Meals



Creator God,
we thank you for the gift of this food
we are about to share.
May it nourish and strengthen us.
As we give you thanks
we turn to you in prayer for the people of Gaza
in the midst of their terrible suffering.
We pray for the innocent children whose bodies and
hearts bear the horrendous scars of war
and for their parents who seek to protect them
in the face of starvation and physical danger.
May your peace rise up in the land we call holy
so that your people may live
in the dignity and fullness of life
you desire for every human being.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.



Day of Prayer for Gaza
24 August 2025

KANDLE

Day of Prayer for Gaza
24 August 2025

How can we respond?



The Irish
Bishops offer
these
suggestions
for taking part
in this 24 hours
of prayer and
reflection as a
parish or in the
quiet of your
own home:

*Attending Mass and offering it for
peace in Gaza*

*Spending time in Adoration before
the Blessed Sacrament
Praying the Rosary for peace and
justice*

*Lighting a candle at home or in your
parish church*

*Making a small personal sacrifice or
act of penance*

*Reaching out to your political
representatives to advocate for
justice and humanitarian aid*

*Supporting trusted aid
organisations bringing relief to Gaza*



KANDLE

Prayer for Students Returning to School



Loving God, we pray for all
children as they prepare
for a new season in their
lives.

As they start school for
the first time -

give them joy in new experiences

As they move to new classes -

give them confidence in growing friendships

As they move to new schools -

give them strength in their growing independence

As they move on to college or university -

give them wisdom in their maturity

And for all the teachers, assistants, helpers,
carers and volunteers who teach and nurture our
children and young people,

we ask for your blessing, your joy,

your wisdom and your patience

as they re-charge their batteries

over the summer break, ready for the new term!

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Put in an "O" in each
missing space to reveal
what Jesus said.

JESUS SAID

Y_u must w_rk hard

t_ g_ t_ heaven.

It is like trying t_ enter by a

narr_w d__r. S_me pe__ple

will be left _ut.

HE ALSO SAID

_ther pe__ple fr_m all _ver the

w_rld will g_ t_ heaven

t_ be with G_d.



Time to Think...

The Good Samaritan



It was a lawyer who asked Jesus in the Gospel, 'Who is my neighbour?' He was probably expecting a definition that would determine the limits of his obligations. Did 'neighbour' refer to his immediate community, or did it extend beyond that to the whole village? Should people living nearby in the countryside be considered neighbours also? What about those of a different race or religion? And what about troublemakers and criminals: should they too be thought of as neighbours?

Instead of giving a definition, Jesus told a story: about an unfortunate man who had been beaten, robbed and left half dead by the side of the road. Several respectable members of society heard his cry for help but ignored him. But one passerby a Samaritan heard the man's groans, was moved with compassion and came to his rescue. He bandaged his wounds, brought him to an inn, and even offered to pay his expenses. Having heard the story, the lawyer acknowledged that it was the despised Samaritan who truly was a neighbour to the unfortunate man. Jesus then concluded, 'Go, and do the same yourself'.

If Jesus were to tell the story today, perhaps he would tell it differently. He might talk about a family of Ukrainian refugees who have to flee their home in Mariupol. Leaving all their possessions behind, desperately hoping to find security for their children, after months of rejection they eventually arrive in a small village in the west of Ireland. There they are welcomed by the community, given shelter by a local family, and warmly accepted into the local school. Or maybe Jesus would tell another story: about those who set out often defying official regulations to rescue migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean in flimsy boats about to sink. Or perhaps he would talk about those who dedicate themselves to rescuing vulnerable women who are being trafficked and sexually exploited. Jesus would truly be present to support the people of Gaza. There are so many stories Jesus could tell about today's Good Samaritans who come to the aid of our migrant neighbours. His parting words would remain unchanged, however: 'Go, and do the same yourself'.

Some eight hundred years ago, a young Italian called Francis went out one day for a walk. He was widely known and well-liked by the people. When he came to a village called Gubbio, the villagers told him of a wolf living nearby that sometimes killed their lambs and threatened them when they tried to defend them.

'What did you do?' asked Francis. They answered, 'We tried poisoning it; when it came near, we stoned it, threw spears and shot arrows at it. We did everything we could think of, but we failed. It's too clever for us, and tough as well'.

'Where does the wolf live?' asked Francis. 'Over there', they said, and pointed to the woods on the nearby hillside. 'I'll go there', said Francis, 'and talk to my brother the wolf'. The people told him he was mad even to think of such a thing. They said the wolf was angry and aggressive and would surely attack him. He was very strong, they said, and could overpower any man. Francis simply

repeated, 'I'll go', and off he went. The people expected never to see him again.

Francis approached the wood openly, looking out for tracks as he went. After a while he saw the footprints of a wolf on the soft ground. They were large and deep. He kept going, following the prints until he came to a clearing in front of an opening in the rocks on the hillside. There he sat and waited, quietly humming a tune to himself.

After a long time, Francis thought he heard a sound. He looked up and saw that the wolf had emerged from the opening and was looking straight at him. It looked angry and growled threateningly. Francis stayed where he was, then slowly reached into his pocket and took out a piece of food he had brought with him. He held it out towards the wolf.

The wolf backed further away and growled louder, baring its teeth. 'It's frightened', thought Francis, so he broke off a piece of the food and laid it on the ground in front of himself. He then moved back a little and waited.

Slowly and hesitantly, the wolf was drawn by the smell of the food. It edged nearer to Francis, eyeing him carefully all the time. Then, in a sudden dash, it grabbed the food and ran back. Francis stayed where he was and waited. The wolf re-appeared. This time Francis held the remaining food out in front of him and kept it there. The wolf, suspecting a trick or trap, crouched and watched him, ready to run. Then, drawn once again, it came forward again and snatched the food from Francis' hand without harming him.

Francis got up slowly, turned around in front of the wolf, and walked back to the village. The people there were amazed to see him, and even more to notice that he was completely unhurt. 'What happened?' they asked, 'Did you see the wolf?' So, he told them, and then said, 'Brother Wolf was hungry. That was why he stole your lambs'. When you attacked him, he became angry. When you tried to kill him, he defended himself. Give him food and you'll make a friend of him.'. He asked people to collect the scraps of food left over from the village each day and to bring them to the wood. They did so and the wolf no longer attacked them. The villagers and the wolf of Gubbio became friends, and they grew in respect for the young man, Saint Francis of Assisi. 'If your enemies are hungry, feed them'. (Romans 12.20).

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

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



**Caroline Bergin
(née Fleming)**
Lower Boley, Abbeyleix
Formerly of Cappamore, Limerick

*May They Rest In Peace,
Our Sympathies Are
With Their Families*



**In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH
(BETTY) KEEGAN**
8 Beechfield and formerly Market Sq.
Portlaoise.

**8th Anniversary occurs
25th August 2025.**

Though your smile is gone forever,
And your hand we cannot touch,
We shall never lose sweet memories,
Of you, we loved so much.

Gone from our home your smiling face,
Your cheerful pleasant ways,
The heart that won so many friends,
In bygone happy days.

Your voice keeps whispering gently,
Loved ones be brave and true,
At the end of life there is sunshine,
I'll be waiting and watching for you.

**Also remembering
her loving husband,
PETER KEEGAN**
who died 18th February 1992.

**Fondly remembered and always in our
thoughts, from all your loving family.**

May They Rest in Peace



**Acknowledgement & Month's
Mind of
EMLYN O'REILLY
Liogard**

**Month's Mind Mass celebrated on the
24th August 12.30pm in St. Peter &
Paul's Church**

On the 26th July our lives changed forever by the devastating loss of our beloved Emlyn. Emlyn's family would like to thank everyone who sympathised with them on their recent sad loss. Sincere thanks to family, friends and work colleagues who have supported us at this terrible time in our lives. To those who travelled from far and near to celebrate Emlyn's life, who sent Mass cards, flowers, brought food and attended Emlyn's funeral. We will be forever grateful. To our wonderful neighbours in Liogard – thank you.

Thank you to Dr. Lawlor and Staff at the Cedar Clinic for your support to Emlyn during his short illness. Sincere thanks to the doctors, nurses, palliative care, health care assistants and multitask attendants of Tullamore hospital. To the Oncology & Bronas ward who treated Emlyn with such respect and dignity which gave Emlyn great comfort and peace in his final few weeks. We as a family will be forever grateful for the comfort this gave us.

To Fr. David Vard who brought great peace and comfort to Emlyn when he needed it most and to his family – thank you.

To Monsignor Byrne – thank you for your kindness and sensitivity and your beautiful words at Emlyn's Mass.

Paul, thank you for your words of wisdom and for giving Emlyn peace of mind when needed. A special thank you to Aishling Rohan for your beautiful singing and Nuala Kelly for accompanying.

Thank you to Matthew Keegan and David Good for your outstanding support and professionalism – we know how much Emlyn meant to you.

Thank you to Portlaoise Soccer Club and the Heath Golf Club who provided the Guard of Honour. We know how much both clubs meant to Emlyn. To all Emlyn's friends who shared stories and fond memories with us – thank you.

A huge heartfelt thank you to Emlyn's other family – Powerpoint Engineering - who also provided Emlyn with a Guard of Honor to his final resting place. We as a family can't thank you all enough for the love and support you have shown us these last few months, especially to Emlyn, who wasn't just a work colleague but a great friend. We know what Emlyn meant to you and what ye meant to him and as a family are forever grateful for that.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, we are very grateful to all who helped us during this difficult time and continue to do so. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

*A limb has fallen from the family tree,
we keep hearing a voice that says grieve not for me,
remember the best times, the laughter, the song,
the good life I lived while I was strong.*

Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, and
Wisdom to know the difference.*

Months Mind
In Loving Memory of
PATRICK O'CONNOR
 Bianconi Way, Portlaoise
 & formerly The Heath



Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated
 in the Church of the Assumption,
 The Heath this **Sunday 24th August**
at 9.30am.

*Always in our Thoughts,
 Forever in our Hearts.*

*Sadly missed, loved & always remembered by your
 daughters Claire, Laura & Pauline, grandkids and
 extended family.*

May Patrick Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
TOMMY BREEN



Formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
27th Anniversary occurs 7th September 2025
 Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
 Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Wednesday 27th Aug 10am.

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

Also remembering his daughter
BARBARA LAWLOR on her 4th
Anniversary.



No farewell words were spoken, no time to say good-
 bye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God
 knows why. Our hearts still ache in sadness, and secret
 tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will
 ever know.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

*Sadly missed & remembered by Moira,
 Vera, Liam, Tom and families.*

May Tommy & Barbara Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
PADDY BRENNAN



Pallas Big, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs
on 26th August.

Anniversary Mass will be
 celebrated with his dear wife
 Peggy at a later date.

*Sadly missed, loved and
 remembered by his family.*

Rest in Peace Dad



Acknowledgement
In Loving Memory of
THOMAS
SHERIDAN
Ferndale, Dublin Rd. Portlaoise
Died 25th May 2025

Tom's wife Anne and family express their heartfelt thanks to
 our extended family, to Pat and Ann and all our friends and
 neighbours in Ferndale who supported us during our sad loss.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended the Funeral
 Home for the Rosary, Funeral Mass and Burial. Those
 who sent Mass Cards, Letters of Sympathy, Condolences
 online and floral tributes – we thank you – they brought
 great comfort to us.

Thank you to Msgr John Byrne for Tom's beautiful Mass, thank
 you to Fr. Ciprian for concelebrating Tom's Mass and all the
 priests on the Parish Team. Thanks to Deacon Eugene for the
 recital of the Rosary in the Funeral Home.

Thank you to Michelle and staff in the Parish Centre for
 their help and kindness. Thanks to Tom's grandchildren who
 contributed to his Funeral Mass.

To Matthew and David (Keegan's Undertakers) we thank you
 both for your professionalism, sensitivity and guidance.

To Portlaoise General Hospital and St. James' Hospital Dublin,
 we thank you both for your kindness to Tom when he was ill.

The staff at Kiminchy Lodge Nursing Home and Dr. Burke
 who helped to make life easier for Tom during his final days -
 We thank you for this. Also, the H.S.E. Carers and Connected
 Carers who attended to Tom's needs while he was ill at
 home – thank you.

Thank you to Dr. Booth and staff at the Cedar Clinic for their
 help and kindness to Tom over the years. Also, John Paul
 and staff at Mi Health Pharmacy – your kindness to Tom
 will never be forgotten.

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

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

Rest in Peace Tom

*Tom's first birthday away from home
 – his 90th birthday –
 occurs 27th August 2025*

Happy Heavenly birthday Tom.

Acknowledgement & Month's Mind
In Loving Memory of
ESTHER (CISS) DUNNE
Glendowns, Portlaoise



Ciss's Month's Mind will be celebrated on Sunday, 24th August at 11.15 am in the Parish Church.

Ciss's family wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who shared in their deep loss. We are immensely grateful to all our relatives, neighbours and friends for their unwavering support and kindness.

We are truly touched by everyone who sent Mass cards, text messages, online condolences, floral tributes, travelled long distances especially for family that came from England and attended the Funeral Home, Funeral Mass and Burial.

Your support and kind words in remembrance of Ciss brought an immense comfort to us all. A sincere thank you to Monsignor Byrne for the beautiful and meaningful requiem Mass in Ciss's honour. Also, Matthew & David (Keegan's Undertakers) for their kindness and professionalism in handling the funeral. Thank you to Sarah Troy for the lovely music for Ciss's requiem Mass.

We are deeply appreciative to all the Doctors, Nurses and Staff in the Imaal Ward and the Solas Room in Naas General Hospital for their dedicated care, hard work and kindness towards Ciss in the eight weeks she spent there before her passing.

A sincere thank you to Dr. Simon Honan and all the staff of the Maryborough Family Practice and to Hughes Pharmacy for their continuous kindness and professionalism in handling Mam's care and wellbeing.

A special thanks also to the staff of the Spraoi Unit for their guard of honour on the Stradbally Road.

As it would be impossible to express our thanks to everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our heartfelt appreciation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all your intentions.

Rest in Peace Ciss

To my kind, caring, loving mother
MRS. ANNIE GREENE

74 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Whose 9th anniversary occurs on 21st August.

If I could have a lifetime wish, a dream that could come true, I pray to God with all my heart for yesterday and you. A thousand words can't bring you back, I know because I tried, and neither will a million tears, I know because I cried. You left behind my broken heart and happy memories too I only wanted you Ma.

Also remembering my Dad

MR. THOMAS GREENE

16th anniversary occurred on the 12th July.

From your heartbroken daughter AnnMarie, son in law Peter. Grandkids Tanya and Courtney and great grandkids Kelsie and Kayla. Always in our hearts Ma & Da until we meet again.



In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL DALTON

4 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 27th August 2025.



Your presence we miss,
 Your memory we treasure,
 Loving you always,
 Forgetting you never.

Sadly missed by his loving wife Margaret, family and friends.

Rest in Peace Michael

In Loving Memory of
MARY EMMA FERGUS

Whose 6th Anniversary occurs 23rd August 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Sunday 24th August at 12:30pm.

Deep are the memories, precious they stay,

No passing of time can take them away.

Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered by her husband Bryan, daughters Siobhán and Bebhinn, grandson Lorcán and granddaughter Clodagh.

Rest in Peace Mary-Emma



In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN DOYLE

45 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs

17th August 2025.

Kathleen

*August comes with regret,
 It brings the day we will never forget.
 You fell asleep without goodbye,
 But memories of you will never die.*

Sadly missed, loved always by your loving husband Joe and sisters-in-law Ellen, Guggie, Mary & families xxx

Rest in Peace Kathleen



In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA LaCUMBER

1 Parnell Crescent, Portlaoise

8th Anniversary occurred 22nd August 2025.

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

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by her loving family.

Rest in Peace Patricia



In Loving Memory of
PÁDRAIG BRENNAN
Grennan, Attanagh, Co. Laois
1st Anniversary 22nd August 2025



Jacinta, Eamon, Ciara and Oisín wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who shared in our deep loss.

We are immensely grateful to our neighbours, friends and relatives for their unwavering support and kindness throughout Pádraig's short illness and funeral.

A special thank you to Pádraig's friends who travelled from far and near, who shared wonderful stories and brought a smile to our faces at this very sad time.

We are truly touched by everyone who sent Mass Cards, text messages, online condolences, floral tributes, travelled long distances to attend Pádraig's wake and funeral.

You brought immense comfort to us all.

A sincere thank you to Fr. Carey and Fr. O'Gorman for the beautiful and meaningful Requiem Mass in Pádraig's honour. Also, to Shane and Stephen for their kind words during the eulogy.

We thank Duggan Undertakers Ray & Dermot for their kindness and professionalism in handling the funeral.

Thank you to our neighbours and friends who dug Pádraig's grave and directed traffic during the wake and funeral. Your kindness will be remembered.

To the musicians Amy and Aonghus who played so beautifully, we thank you.

We are deeply appreciative to the Staff of the ICU & Nore Wards in Kilkenny General Hospital for their dedicated care and kindness and their ability to bring a smile to Pádraig during his time spent with them. Your dedication is immeasurable.

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

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

Rest in Peace Pádraig

In Loving Memory of
EDWARD (NED) McEVOY

Capoley, Portlaoise.

27th Anniversary occurs 30th August.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Sunday**
24th August at 12:30pm.

Time unfolds another year, memories keep you very
near. No need for words except to say you are loved
and missed each passing day.

Just a prayer from those who loved you

Just a memory fond and true

In our hearts you will live forever.

Because we thought the world of you.



*Loved and remembered everyday by Sarahann, Ailish,
Mary, Joe, Breda and families.*

Also thinking of our Mother Madge at this time.

May Edward Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
ANNIE KIRWAN

Boley, Abbeyleix.

Whose Month's Mind Mass will be
celebrated **Saturday 30th August at 5pm**
in Church of the Most Holy Rosary,
Abbeyleix.

Your presence we miss, your memory
we treasure. Loving you always,
forgetting you never.



Deeply missed by her loving family

Rest in Peace Annie

In Loving Memory of
CAROLINE KHANDKER

22/02/62-25/08/82

43rd Anniversary occurs
25th August 2025

Remembering Caroline
Our Wonderful Sister

So loved and missed by all who knew her.

Rest with Mommy now.

Love Samantha, Shabil, Gonul,

Nash, Cinzia and families x



Rest in Peace Caroline

Cherished Memories of our Son & Brother
GERARD PHELAN

Boley, Abbeyleix.

Whose 30th anniversary occurs on 25th August 2025.



We can no longer see you with our eyes,

Or touch you with our hands,

But we will feel you in our hearts forever.

Love you always until we meet again.

Dad, Mam, Jason, Debbie, Aaron and families.

Xxxxx

In Loving Memory of
JOHN SCULLY

Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 2nd
September 2025.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts.
Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 30th August at 10am.

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

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace John



In Loving Memory of
JOHN MAHER

Grange, Stradbally.

12th Anniversary occurs at this time.

A whisper on an August evening,
You heard a gentle call,
You took the hand of Jesus,
And gently left us all.

Sadly missed by his loving family.

Rest in Peace John



In Loving Memory of
HUGH ROCHFORD

12 Roselawn, Portlaoise

4th Anniversary occurs 15th August
2025.

Your presence I miss,
Your memory I treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.

Your loving son, Niall.

May Hugh Rest in Peace



HENRY RANKIN

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
21st August 2025



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Mary Fitzpatrick
Margaret Kavanagh
Noel Scully

MATCH 3s €1,000

3
Match
3s
Receive
€334
each

PROMOTER

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Mary Doran

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Clergy of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. Simon Jin
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Adriano de Oliveira
Tel: 057 8600121



Fr. Erick Ebot SVD



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
9am - 5pm Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only Tel: 0852134285

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can
viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Ailish Higgins safeguarding@kandle.ie

Exam Results

Many of our young parishioners will have received their exam results. Some of our young parishioners will be happy and excited about their results, some will be feeling a little disappointed perhaps. What we all need to remember is that whilst passing an exam can open doors, not passing an exam doesn't necessarily mean that the door has shut. Life is all about finding the best path through life, and that 'best path' certainly isn't the same for everyone.



Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 66:18-21

Responsorial Psalm 116

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Luke 13:22-30

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

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- * 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

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Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

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Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparish

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



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