

**PORTLAOISE**  
**PARISH**  
**link**  
**Up**

15th December 2019

*Third Sunday  
of Advent*



This Year's Christmas Card and Gift (for your shopping trolley!) from Parish and Diocese

*Beannachtaí na Nollag 2019*

**SHARE WITH THE HUNGRY**

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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

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



Portlaoise

Parish

02

12th December

2019

22

05

07



**No €20,000 Jackpot Winner**

**WINNERS**

Liam Clooney  
Michael Byrne  
Mary Downey  
Colm Delaney  
Frank Cullen  
Betty Lalor  
Liam O'Grady  
Elaine McGinn  
Maria Fallon  
John & Liz  
Breda Ging  
Ann Paisley  
Joe & Esther Green  
Brigid Donovan  
Lisa O'Brien  
Jack & Ben  
Tommy Hannon  
Donal Horgan  
Phyllis O'Rourke

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

19  
Match 3s  
€53  
each

**PROMOTER**

Paul Dooley  
On Line Lotto  
Parish Centre  
Mary Delaney  
Frank Cullen  
Betty Lalor  
Anthony Preston  
Derek McGinn  
M. Fallon  
Maura Loughlin  
Mary Carroll  
Browns Shop  
Parish Centre  
Greg Keenan  
Lisa O'Brien  
Paul Dooley  
Paul Dooley  
Bernie Phelan  
Mary Arthur

**Next Week's Jackpot**

**€20,000**

Play PARISH  
**LOTTO**  
ONLINE

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

**Follow Us** @PortlaoiseParis  
**& Like Us** portlaoiseparishlaois

***Priests of the Parish***



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



**Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.**  
Tel: 057 8509998



**Fr. David Vard C.C.**  
Tel: 057 8661139



**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 office hours**  
**in emergency only**  
Tel: 057 8621364

**Parish Centre**



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

**MANAGER** Declan Kelly

**Parish Secretaries** Michelle Bartley  
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

**Accounts** Michelle Conroy

**Sacristans Parish Church**

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

**All Masses and services from the Parish Church**  
**are live streamed [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

**PARISH SHOP**  
Religious gifts and books.

**Promoters Prizes**

At next Thursday night's Lotto Draw there will be an additional draw for 10 Promoter's Prizes of €100. Based on this week's draw, promoters will have one ticket in the drum for each ticket promoted including their regular players.

**10 X €100**



# REJOICE



## Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western churches. The Latin



Gaudete is translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The lesson we can take from this is that Christians ought to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families, workplaces, and social circles.

## Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

### Monday—Friday

7.30am & 10am

### Saturday

10am

### SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, 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: 5pm

### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.



## An Advent Poem by John Bell

Light looked down and saw  
the darkness

"I will go there" said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there said peace".

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there", said love.

So he, The Lord of Light,

The Prince of Peace,

The King of love,

Came down and crept in beside us.

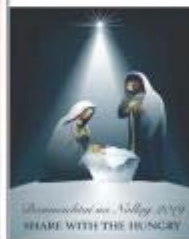


## Penitential Service

Penitential Service will  
be held in the  
Parish Church  
On Friday  
20th December  
at 7.30pm.



## Christmas Card and Gift from Parish and Diocese



You are invited to take home a Christmas Card with greetings from Bishop Denis and from the Parish along with a gift which we hope you will find useful!

The card also contains our Christmas timetable.

## Fáilte

## We welcome into our Parish Community

Leo Jack Coyle, O'Moore Place

Abann Andy Lambe, Market Mews

Kayleigh May Hannon, Metcalfe Terrace

Ariya Andriukaityte Thompson, Mell St.

**who were baptised last weekend**

## Sunday 8th December 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,643.00
Development Fund	€3,637.00
	€6,280.00

Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish.



# WHY CAN'T TAX BE SIMPLE?

When it comes to sorting out your tax and finances we concentrate on keeping it quick and economical. Because it should be.

To arrange your free initial consultation call us on 057 868 2285 or visit our website at [www.taxassist.ie/portlaoise](http://www.taxassist.ie/portlaoise)



clubvitae  
PORTLAOISE



12 Days Of  
Christmas Sale  
13th – 24th December

<b>3 Months</b> student gym & pool €99	<b>12 Months</b> gym & pool €399
<b>3 Months</b> gym & pool €130	<b>12 Months</b> pool only €279
<b>3 Months</b> family (pool only) €199	<b>10</b> adult passes €60
<b>6 Months</b> gym only €139	<b>10</b> child passes €35
<b>6 Months</b> gym & pool €239	
<b>6 Months</b> pool only €139	
<b>6 Months</b> over 55's gym & pool €210	Buy a voucher over €100 & receive a free gift bag (while stocks last)
<b>12 Months</b> Couple pool only €520	



All of the above offers can also be purchased as a gift card. Offers available to purchase from 13<sup>th</sup> December until 1.00pm on Christmas Eve

For more information ☎ +353 57 8695960



Peppers Lane Portlaoise

We generously donate to hospice care locally and have done so continuously since our shop opened!

We are now in need of furniture:

Beds, wardrobes, dressing tables, bedside lockers, tables, chairs etc.

Ladies, gents and children's clothing & all types of bric-a-brac

Your gift helps to make people's lives more comfortable

Our gift helps hospice care

We can collect on request at your convenience

Contact Kevin: 0879586057

## Little Bog Theatre Group

Drama Group based in the Heath Area

We are seeking new members for upcoming productions in April 2020.

If interested please come to the Heath hall (beside the Church) on



**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm**  
followed by our A.G.M. at **9pm sharp.**

For info. contact Michael 086-1923715

## LAOIS JET WASH SERVICES LTD



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Mulhall's, Portlaoise  
**SuperValu**  
Real Food. Real People

## Christmas Opening Hours!

Mon 16th Dec - 7.30am-9pm	Christmas Day - Closed
Tues 17th Dec - 7.30am-9pm	St. Stephen's Day - Closed
Wed 18th Dec - 7.30am-9pm	Fri 27th Dec - 7.30am-7pm
Thurs 19th Dec - 7.30am-10pm	Sat 28th Dec - 7.30am-9pm
Fri 20th Dec - 7.30am-10pm	Sun 29th Dec - 7.30am-7pm
Sat 21st Dec - 7.30am - 10pm	Mon 30th Dec - 7.30am-9pm
Sun 22nd Dec - 7.30am - 10pm	Tues 31st Dec - 7.30am-7pm
Mon 23rd Dec - 7.30am - 10pm	New Year's Day - 8am-5pm
Christmas Eve - 7.30am-6.30pm	Thurs 2nd Jan - 7.30am-9pm

Launching Our NEW Customer  
Car Park With 28 Additional  
Parking Spaces Now Available!

Mulhall's  
**SuperValu**  
CAR PARK







# HUGHES



90 MAIN STREET, PORTLAOISE • (057) 8621332

**CHRISTIAN DIOR**

**Christian Dior J'adore 30ml Edp**

WAS €65.00  
NOW **€57.00**  
SAVE **€8.00**

SOML NOW **€85.00**



**VIKTOR & ROLF**

**Flowerbomb 30ml Edp**

NOW **€65.00**

SOML SET **€90.00**



**PACO RABANNE**

**Lady Million 30ml Edp**

NOW **€50.00**

SOML SET **€72.00**



**CHRISTIAN DIOR**

**Fahrenheit 50ml Edt**

WAS €65.00  
NOW **€55.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**

100ML NOW **€84.00**



**PACO RABANNE**

**Paco Rabanne One Million 50ml Set**

WAS €64.00  
NOW **€58.00**  
SAVE **€6.00**

100ML SET NOW **€79.00**



**JEAN PAUL GAULTIER**

**Jean Paul Gaultier Le Male 75ml Set**

WAS €68.00  
NOW **€60.00**  
SAVE **€8.00**

125ML SET NOW **€85.00**



**EMPORIO ARMANI**

**Armani Code Men 50ml Set**

WAS €63.00  
NOW **€58.00**  
SAVE **€5.00**

LADIES CODE SET SOML **€72.00**



**DOLCE & GABBANA**

**Dolce & Gabbana The One Ladies 30ml Set**

WAS €65.00  
NOW **€55.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**



**LANCÔME**

**Lancôme Idôle 25ml Edp**

WAS €54.00  
NOW **€48.00**  
SAVE **€6.00**

SOML NOW **€80.00**



**YSL**

**Black Opium 30ml Edp**

WAS €62.00  
NOW **€55.00**  
SAVE **€7.00**

SOML SET NOW **€80.00**



**CAROLINA HERRERA**

**Good Girl 50ml Set**

WAS €86.00  
NOW **€80.00**  
SAVE **€6.00**

30ML EDP **€50.00**



**CHLOE**

**Chloe Signature 30ml Edp**

NOW **€60.00**

75ML SET **€95.00**



**MARC JACOBS**

**Daisy Marc Jacobs 50ml Set**

WAS €71.00  
NOW **€61.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**

100ML SET **€90.00**



**CHRISTIAN DIOR**

**Sauvage Men 60ml Edt**

WAS €65.00  
NOW **€55.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**

100ML NOW **€84.00**



**THIERRY MUGLER**

**Angel Set/Alien Set**

**€70.00**

25ML REFILLABLE SET EACH 30ML REFILLABLE SET



**JEAN PAUL GAULTIER**

**Jean Paul Gaultier Classique Woman 50ml Set**

WAS €77.00  
NOW **€67.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**

100ML NOW **€97.00**



**LANCÔME**

**Lancôme La Vie Est Belle 30ml Edp**

WAS €64.00  
NOW **€54.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**

SOML SET **€80.00**



**LANCÔME**

**Poeme 30ml Edp**

WAS €52.00  
NOW **€30.00**  
SAVE **€22.00**

**Miracle 30ml Edp**

WAS €52.00  
NOW **€30.00**  
SAVE **€22.00**



**CLARINS**

**Clarins Super Restorative Set**

WAS €91.00  
NOW **€81.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**



**CLARINS**

**Clarins Lip Set**

WAS €26.00  
NOW **€20.00**  
SAVE **€6.00**



**CHRISTIAN DIOR**

**Christian Dior Joy 30ml Edp**

WAS €65.00  
NOW **€55.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**

SOML NOW **€80.00**



**EMPORIO ARMANI**

**Armani Si 30ml Ladies Set**

WAS €63.00  
NOW **€58.00**  
SAVE **€5.00**



**PACO RABANNE**

**Paco Rabanne Invictus 100ml Set**

WAS €85.00  
NOW **€79.00**  
SAVE **€6.00**

SOML SET **€58.00**



**HUGO BOSS**

**Boss Bottled 50ml Man Set**

WAS €66.00  
NOW **€56.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**



**JIMMY CHOO**

**Jimmy Choo Urban Hero 50ml Edp Set**

WAS €58.00  
NOW **€48.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**



**CLARINS**

**Clarins Men Moisture Set**

WAS €42.00  
NOW **€30.00**  
SAVE **€12.00**



**LANCÔME**

**Lancôme Beauty Box**

WAS €77.00  
NOW **€70.00**  
SAVE **€7.00**



**GUCCI**

**Gucci Bamboo 30ml Edp Set**

WAS €64.00  
NOW **€54.00**  
SAVE **€10.00**



**HUGO BOSS**

**Hugo Boss Man 75ml edt**

WAS €60.00  
NOW **€37.00**  
SAVE **€23.00**

**Hugo Boss Just Different 75ml edt**

WAS €60.00  
NOW **€33.00**  
SAVE **€27.00**




**DOLCE & GABBANA**

**Dolce & Gabbana The One Man 50ml Set**

WAS €65.00  
NOW **€50.00**  
SAVE **€15.00**



**ISSEY MIYAKE**

**L'eau D'issey Man 75ml Set**

WAS €60.00  
NOW **€55.00**  
SAVE **€5.00**

LADIES SOML SET **€60.00**



**LANCÔME**

**Hypnose Women 30ml Edp**

WAS €46.00  
NOW **€26.00**  
SAVE **€20.00**



ALL WHILE STOCKS LAST





# HUGHES



90 MAIN STREET, PORTLAOISE • (057) 8621332

**SAVE €21.00**

## Calvin Klein Euphoria Ladies 50ml Set

WAS €67.00  
NOW €46.00  
SAVE €21.00



**SAVE €25.00**

## Calvin Klein Eternity 100ml Man Set

WAS €73.00  
NOW €48.00  
SAVE €25.00



**SAVE €20.00**

## Calvin Klein Euphoria 50ml Man Set

WAS €56.00  
NOW €36.00  
SAVE €20.00



**SAVE €16.00**

## Boss Bottled Night 50ml Man Set

WAS €66.00  
NOW €50.00  
SAVE €16.00



**BODY SHOP**

## Body Shop Strawberry Set

SHEA ALSO AVAILABLE

WAS €45.00  
NOW €25.00  
SAVE €20.00



**VICHY**

## Vichy Cleansing Gift Set

ONLY  
**€22.00**



**SO-SU**

## So-Su Brush Set 5-Piece

WAS €34.95  
NOW €17.50  
SAVE €17.45



**REVLON**

## Revlon Hair Treatment and Conditioning Set

WAS €25.95  
NOW €17.95  
SAVE €8.00



**CLARINS**

## Clarins Hydra Essential Set

WAS €45.00  
NOW €40.00  
SAVE €5.00



**SO-SU**

## So-Su Contour Pack with 6 Free Refills

SAVE OVER €40.00  
NOW ONLY  
**€30.00**



**CARNIVAL PALETTE**

## bPerfect Original Carnival Palette

WAS €45.00  
NOW €25.00  
SAVE €20.00



NEW PALETTE AVAILABLE €46.95

**TIPPERARY**

## Tipperary Luxury Candle

NOW  
**€6.00**



**REVOLUTION**

## Revolution Shade and Contour Kit

WAS €25.00  
NOW €20.00  
SAVE €5.00



EYE DEFINING SET ALSO AVAILABLE

**TIPPERARY CRYSTAL**

## Luxury Sweet Pea Bath/Body Lotion and Shower Gel Set

WAS €20.00  
NOW €12.95  
SAVE €7.05



**SO-SU**

## So-Su Eyelash Gift Set

WAS €19.95  
NOW €9.95  
SAVE €10.00



**REVOLUTION**

## Revolution Brush and Blend Set

WAS €19.95  
NOW €9.95  
SAVE €10.00



**REMINGTON**

## Man United Hair Clipper Set

WAS €29.95  
NOW €19.95  
SAVE €10.00



BEARD STYLER ALSO €19.95

**LACOSTE**

## Lacoste Touch of Pink 30ml Set

WAS €42.00  
NOW €27.00  
SAVE €15.00



**GHOST**

## Ghost 30ml Set

EACH  
**€27.00**



**ABERCROMBIE & FITCH**

## Abercrombie & Fitch First Instinct Blue 50ml Man Set

WAS €48.00  
NOW €30.00  
SAVE €18.00



**VIKTOR & ROLF**

## Viktor & Rolf Bon Bon 50ml Set

WAS €90.00  
NOW €80.00  
SAVE €10.00



**JIMMY CHOO**

## Jimmy Choo 40ml EDP

WAS €46.00  
NOW €32.00  
SAVE €14.00



**JOOP**

## Joop! Homme 75ml Edt Set

WAS €54.00  
NOW €39.95  
SAVE €14.05



**EMPORIO ARMANI**

## Emporio Elle 100ml EDP

WAS €80.00  
NOW €40.00  
SAVE €40.00



**VICHY**

## Vichy Mens Shower Set

ONLY  
**€18.50**



**ORAL B**

## Oral-B Rechargeable 650 Toothbrush

WAS €60.00  
NOW €30.00  
SAVE €30.00



**VERA WANG**

## Vera Wang Embrace 30ml Ladies Set

WAS €20.00  
NOW €12.95  
SAVE €7.05



**BURBERRY**

## Burberry Touch Man 100ml Edt

WAS €70.00  
NOW €35.00  
SAVE €35.00



**CALVIN KLEIN**

## CK BE 200ml EDT

WAS €75.00  
NOW €35.00  
SAVE €40.00



100ML CK1 NOW €30.00

**BURBERRY**

## Burberry Weekend Ladies 50ml EDP

WAS €55.00  
NOW €25.00  
SAVE €30.00



**ELIZABETH ARDEN**

## Elizabeth Arden Red Door 100ml

WAS €72.00  
NOW €36.00  
SAVE €36.00



50ML NOW €19.95

**CALVIN KLEIN**

## Calvin Klein ckin2u Him/Her

WAS €51.00  
NOW €25.00  
SAVE €26.00 (EACH)



**ALL WHILE STOCKS LAST**



# AUDIOLOGIST HEARING AID Consultant

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By Appointment Only

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



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**JOHN SUGRUE** BSc MSc MISC P  
**NICOLA CALDBECK** BSc MISC P MAACP  
Chartered Physiotherapists. VHI, Aviva, BUPA, LAYA (Quinn) approved.

### Christmas Opening Hours

Mon. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ,	Open 9:30-5pm
Tues. 24 <sup>th</sup> -Thurs. 26 <sup>th</sup> ,	Closed
Fri. 27 <sup>th</sup> ,	Open 10-5pm
Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup> -Sun. 29 <sup>th</sup> ,	Closed
Mon. 30 <sup>th</sup> /Tues. 31 <sup>st</sup> ,	Open 10-5pm
Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup> January;	Closed
Thurs. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open as usual and ready for the year ahead.

Wishing all our customers a  
Happy and Peaceful Christmas  
and New Year

# PORTLAOISE

## OPEN LATE

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# LEINSTER SENIOR COLLEGE NEWBRIDGE



## CHRISTMAS REVISION COURSES



LEAVING CERT. AND JUNIOR CERT.

**30<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**PRIORITY RESERVATIONS**

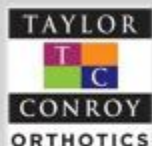
**Contact Karl or Bernard at 045-487811**

**E-mail; info@leinsterseniiorcollege.ie**

**Book on-line at www.leinsterseniiorcollege.ie**

### We may have the SOLUTION to;

Flat Feet | Heel Pain | Heel Spurs | Arch Pain | Plantar Fasciitis |  
Bunions | Metatarsalgia | Leg Fatigue | Diabetic Feet | Arthritic Feet |  
Shin Splints | Knee Pain | Achilles Tendonitis | Hallux Rigidus



#### Who may benefit from wearing Orthotics?

Orthotics are prescribed for a variety of conditions and as a prevention to further problems. They can be worn by **children and adults** and made to suit a range of footwear including daywear, dress wear and sportswear.

#### PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR FEET A LOT;

Prison Officers, Nurses, Shop Workers, Farmers etc. may require additional cushioning and correction.

#### SPORTS PEOPLE;

May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.

#### ELDERLY PEOPLE;

May benefit from Orthotics to support, comfort & Correct the Mechanics of the feet. Conditions such as arthritis and diabetes may require softer coverings.

#### CHILDREN;

Who are in toeling, out toeling, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.

KELLIE TAYLOR BSC (Hons) Ost. M.O.C.I. and DARREN CONROY BSC (Hons) Ost. M.O.C.I.

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**Our Courtesy bus can carry between 4-8 passengers and we will pick you up and drop you home at any time!**

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**If you wish to avail of this service please call;**



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# Bumper Cash Draw

## TOTAL PRIZE FUND €31,600

IN CASH PRIZES GIVEN AWAY ON THE NIGHT OF THE AGM

Monday, 16th December 2019 at 8pm, Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	€10,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	€10,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	€1,000
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
8 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
9 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
10 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
11 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€1,000
12 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€500
13 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€500
14 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€500
15 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€500
16 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€300
17 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	€300

## Members' Authorisation

**Yes, please include me in the Monthly Cash Draw**

I hereby authorise deduction of €4.33 a month (€52 per annum) from my shares, and continuing until you receive written confirmation from me to cease my account.

- ☐ I have read and agree to be bound by the Cash Draw Rules (available on [www.peoplefirstcu.ie/images/library/documents/09052019-140928.pdf](http://www.peoplefirstcu.ie/images/library/documents/09052019-140928.pdf)) (Please tick)
- ☐ I am aware that I must have a minimum of €15.00 in uncommitted shares in my account to be entered into the draw each month (Please tick)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checked by Credit Union Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach this page and hand it into one of our offices



Clonminam Business Park, Portlaoise,  
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CLOSING 5PM ON FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019

RE-OPENING ON MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

[WWW.MOCHUAPRINT.IE](http://WWW.MOCHUAPRINT.IE)





# Santa's Grotto

Santa Claus is coming  
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Garden Centre

Lots of fun  
for all!

Only €10  
per child

Dates are:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 4-7pm  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2-7pm  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2-7pm  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 4-7pm  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 4-7pm  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2-7pm  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2-7pm  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2-7pm

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Elf Village

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Ballacolla, Co Laois

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COMMENCES

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

AT CENTREPOINT

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Saturday:

10am to 5pm

Sunday: 2pm to 5pm

*Your continued support  
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33 Agh Na Hara,  
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19 Triogue Manor,  
Portlaoise



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16 Rathevan View,  
Borris Rd, Portlaoise



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Semi-Detached House €229,000

39 Dunmasc,  
Dublin Rd, Portlaoise



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6 Castle Way,  
Kilminchy, Portlaoise



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Portlaoise



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JANUARY  
2020**

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Wednesday mornings, 9.00am to 12.00pm
- **Audio Typing** QQI Level 5  
Friday mornings, 9.00am to 12.00pm



Closing date for applications is Friday, 13th December 2019

To book your place or to find out more please contact [mmorrin@loetb.ie](mailto:mmorrin@loetb.ie)  
Tel: 057 862 3161 [www:portarlingtonfetc.ie](http://www.portarlingtonfetc.ie)



# PORTARLINGTON

Further Education & Training Centre

**LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT**

**PAYROLL TECHNIQUES** QQI Level 6

**COMMENCING:** Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

**COMPLETION:** Wednesday, 29th April, 2020

**EXAMINATION:** Saturday, 9th May, 2020



For more information: [www.portarlingtonfetc.ie](http://www.portarlingtonfetc.ie)

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\*3.9% fixed low APR Finance Example: Transit Custom 2805WB Base 105PS. Discounted Gross Retail Price (inc. VAT) €24,690. Ford 2020 201 Sales Event Discount of €2,000. Customer Deposit / Trade-in €4,998.00. Finance Amount €19,725. 36 monthly payments of €354.76. Total Cost of Credit €20,072. Fixed APR 3.9%\*\*. (Annual Percentage Rate) as at 01/10/2019. Excludes delivery & related charges. Models shown for illustrative purposes only. \*\*Financing criteria and terms and conditions apply. (4th July). APR is inclusive of a documentation fee and purchase fee of €623.49 each. To qualify for this finance offer a minimum deposit of 20% is required. Rate quoted is correct as at 01/10/19 and is subject to change. Offer available on all new commercial vehicles including the Kuga Utility registered between January 1st 2020 and January 31st 2020 at participating dealers. This is a Business Hire Purchase agreement provided by Bank of Ireland Leasing Limited t/a Ford Credit. Ownership remains with Ford Credit until the final payment is made. Warning: You may have to pay charges if you repay early, in full or in part, a fixed-rate credit facility. This offer applies to Transit 2 Tonne T10/105PS Trend models with A+ Conditioning only registered between January 1st 2020 and January 31st 2020 at your local participating Ford Dealer. Models are shown for illustrative purposes only. See Ford.ie for full terms and conditions. For models not listed above we have some alternative finance offers for you to avail of. Please contact your local Ford Dealer for further information. Ford Ranger: WLTP CO2 Range 216 g/100km - 281 g/100km. Terms & Conditions apply.



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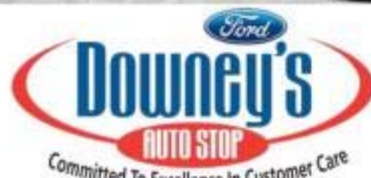
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Finance Example: Ford Focus SE 1.5 T100 120PS. Retail Price €27,316. Customer Deposit / Trade-in €18,995.20. 36 monthly payments of €280.65. Total Cost of Credit €31,755.68 V11 (Optional Final Payment) €9,625. Fixed Annual Percentage Rate (APR) 1.9% as at 01/10/19. Min deposit 10%. Excludes delivery & related charges. Models shown for illustrative purposes only.





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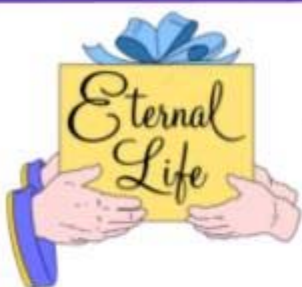
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*Wedding Showcase*  
*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January*  
*12-4pm*







## The Gift That Jesus Brings

In the Gospel today we learn that John, even though he was in prison, was hearing about all the wonderful things Jesus was doing. He sent a message to Jesus by some of his friends. "Ask Jesus if he is the Messiah we have been expecting, or should we continue to watch for someone else?"

When they asked Jesus that question, he answered, "Go back to John and tell him about the things you hear and see: The blind can see. The crippled can walk. People with harmful skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life. And the Good News is told to the poor."

If you were blind, what better gift could you receive than to be able to see? If you were crippled, what better gift could you receive than to be able to walk? If you were dead, what better gift could you receive than the gift of life? Jesus is God's gift to us. Jesus came to earth to give us life -- eternal life! What a gift!

**Dear God, thank You for Jesus! We know that every good gift we receive comes from you and the greatest gift is eternal life brought down to us through your Son. Father, we thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



## *Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday*

The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "**Rejoice**". You can see this word in Sunday's missalette or on our screen in the Parish Church at the beginning of Mass.



Rose vestments can be worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.







## THE GIFTS THAT JESUS BRINGS

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

When John heard in \_\_\_\_\_ what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

\_\_\_\_\_ replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive \_\_\_\_\_, the lame \_\_\_\_\_, those who have leprosy are \_\_\_\_\_, the deaf \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ are raised, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is preached to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."



cured	good	Jesus	poor	sight
dead	hear	news	prison	walk



### ALTAR SERVERS

To show our appreciation to all our Altar Servers for their hard work, we are holding a Christmas Movie and party in the Parish Centre after school on Friday 20th December. Children can be collected from the Parish Centre at 5.30pm.







# TIME TO THINK!

## LET THE LIGHT SHINE

"Once upon a time there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge. He was a kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealings with other people, but he didn't believe all that stuff about Incarnation which churches proclaim at Christmas. And he was too honest to pretend that he did. "I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, who was a faithful churchgoer. "But I simply cannot understand this claim that God becomes man. It doesn't make any sense to me."

On Christmas Eve his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. "I'd feel like a hypocrite," he explained. "I'd rather stay at home. But I'll wait up for you." Shortly after his family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier. "If we must have Christmas," he thought, "it's nice to have a white one." He went back to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper. A few minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living room window. When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the storm. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his window. "I can't let these poor creatures lie there and freeze," he thought. "But how can I help them?" Then he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter.

He put on his coat and galoshes and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the door wide and turned on a light. But the birds didn't come in. "Food will lure them in," he thought. So he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn. To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction - except into the warm lighted barn.

"They find me a strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, "and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me."

If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety. . . ."

Just at that moment the church bells began to ring. He stood silent for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow. "Now I do understand," he whispered. "Now I see why You had to do it."



We live in an Ireland which is becoming increasingly ambiguous in its understanding of God. Alongside men and women of deep faith and commitment there are those who wish to build their future and future of our society by removing God from the public square. There are those who are too busy to pay much more than lip service and outward cultural adherence to God. There are those who struggle with the very idea of God, because of the harshness of the world we live in and the mystery of evil. There are those who are angry with God and with the Church or indeed are angry with God because of the Church. How many times do I hear the phrase: "I am just hanging in there by the tips of my fingers". Yet I so often find myself saying "Lord to whom shall we go, you have the message of eternal life". This is indeed a real moment in all our lives when we can find renewal and hope. God is with us, every one of us, full of empathy and kind compassion.

Let God's light shine brightly this Christmas.

**Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 16,600 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles)**

**Fr. Paddy's book *"All will be well"* on sale in the Parish Shop or online at [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)**



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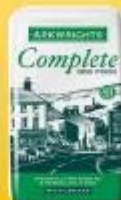


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Thu/Fri  
Sat

9.30 - 4.00

9.30 - 4.00

9.30 - 5.00







*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year*

*Working to resolve the issues that matter to you*

**Charlie Flanagan TD**



Lismard Court, Portlaoise (Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5.00pm)  
& O'Moore Street, Mountmellick (Tues 9.30 - 12 noon)  
Phone: 057 86 20232.

E-mail: [charlie.flanagan@oir.ie](mailto:charlie.flanagan@oir.ie)  
Web: [www.charlesflanahan.finegael.ie](http://www.charlesflanahan.finegael.ie)



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## Learn a Hobby or Language in 2020

Course	Day	Time	Duration	Starting	Cost
Irish	Monday	19.30-21.00	6 Weeks	Jan 20th	€60
Art	Monday	19.00-21.00	6 Weeks	Jan 20th	€75
Aromatherapy	Monday	19.00-21.00	6 Weeks	Jan 20th	€75
Spanish	Monday	19.00-21.00	6 Weeks	Jan 20th	€75
Dress Making	Tuesday	19.00-21.00	6 Weeks	Jan 21st	€100

## Get Organised in 2020

Excel	Tuesday	18.30-20.30	6 Weeks	Jan 21st	€75
Getting the most from your smartphone	Wednesday	18.30-20.30	6 Weeks	Jan 22nd	€75

## Look after You in 2020

Mindfulness	Monday	19.00-20.30	6 Weeks	Jan 20th	€60
Hair Care & Styling	Monday	19.00-21.00	6 Weeks	Jan 20th	€75

## Get Healthy in 2020

Quick Healthy Meals, Learn With Your Child	Wednesday	18.30-20.30	5 Weeks	Jan 22nd	€75
--------------------------------------------	-----------	-------------	---------	----------	-----

Closing date for applications:  
 14 January 2020





# *Christmas Week Timetable: Portlaoise Parish*

## **PORTLAOISE PARISH Christmas Arrangements 2019**

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENITENTIAL SERVICE)**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church 7.30pm

### **CONFESSIONS**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 12noon  
and after 6.30pm Evening Mass

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 1pm

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 1pm

### **SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER (FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)**

Our usual Sunday Mass Times

### **CAROL SERVICE**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Parish Church 7.30pm

### **CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES**

Portlaoise Parish Church Children's Mass  
(mainly aimed at those who have not yet received 1<sup>st</sup> Communion) 4.00pm  
& Children's Mass 6.30pm  
Scoil Bhride Knockmay Vigil 7pm  
Parish Church Our Midnight Mass 9pm

### **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES**

Parish Church 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm  
The Heath 9.30am  
Ratheniska 10am

### **ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS TIMES**

Parish Church 10am and 1.30pm Polish Mass

### **FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER & SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Parish Church 10am

### **SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH)**

Our usual Sunday Mass Times

### **MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> December to SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> January (including NEW YEAR'S DAY)**

Parish Church 10am

### **SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY (SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)**

Our usual Sunday Mass Times

### **MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)**

8.30am, 10am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

All our up-to-date Mass Times can be accessed on our website. [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)







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*You may also join the parish lotto online at  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)*



OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR  
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



**Mary Finnan**  
Borris Road



**Paul Kehoe**  
Newpark



**Sean Phelan**  
Straboe



**Richard Booth**  
Killeen, Mountmellick

**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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)



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NIAL; 086-2770095



### *In Loving Memory of* **Our Brother** **JOE KERRY**

*Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs*  
*16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

### *Also remembering Our Nephew* **JOHN-PAUL MITCHELL** *Whose Anniversary occurs at this time.*



We wish we could see you one more time,  
come walking through the door, but we know  
that is impossible, we will hear your voices no more.  
We know you can feel our tears, and you don't want us to cry,  
yet our hearts are broken because we don't understand why  
you had to die.  
We pray that God will give us strength and somehow get us  
through, as we struggle with the heartache, that came when  
we lost you.

*Always loved and remembered by all their loving  
family and friends.*

*May They Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of ANGELA (Sarah) DOYLE

Kyle, Ballyknocken, Portlaoise.

7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



*We little knew that morning that  
God was going to call your name,  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same,  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
You did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.*

*You left us precious memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always by our side,  
Our family chain is broken,  
And nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.*

Love from Mam, Dad, Lisa, Bernard, Ciara and Donal.

*May Angela Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of MARY REDDIN

Old Knockmay Rd. Portlaoise.

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15am.

Your needs in life were simple,  
Your love for your family true, as long as  
we were happy, you were happy too.

*Sadly missed by all her loving family.*

*May Mary Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of JAMES O'REILLY

Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019.



A sudden call from God on high,  
We had no chance to say goodbye,  
Without farewell you fell asleep,  
But memories of you, we will always keep.

*From his loving sons Martin and Jas, daughter  
Eileen, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*May James Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of JOHN ROCHE

Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6:30pm.



*I hide my tears when I say your name,  
But the pain in my heart is still the same,  
Though I smile and seem carefree,  
There is no one who misses you more than  
me.*

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

Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife  
Mary, sons, daughters, grandchildren, sons-in-laws,  
daughters-in-law, great-grandchildren and extended family.

*May John Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of PHYLLIS LALOR

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019



*Mam;*

*A daily thought, a silent tear,  
A constant wish that you were here.  
Love and miss you everyday Mam,  
Gerard x*

*Mam;*

*A smile for all, a heart of gold,  
The very best this world could hold,  
Never selfish, always kind,  
These are the memories you left behind.  
Call Mammy's name out softly Lord,  
And when she looks your way,*

*Tell her that we love her and miss her everyday.*

*Love and miss you beyond words, Marie & Christy xx*

*Nan;*

*No special time is needed for us to think of you,  
For you were someone special and we thought the world of  
you.*

*Missing you everyday Nan, love from your two special boys,  
Kyle and Finn xx*

*Mam/Nanny;*

*A loving Mother and Nan so true,  
No one on earth we'll find like you,  
For us you always did your best,  
God grant your soul eternal rest.*

*Sadly missed, loved everyday, Daitit, Mags, Shauna, Oisín  
and Cillian xxxxx*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 8:30am.

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*





## In Loving Memory of My Mother CATHERINE KEOGH

Borris Rd. Portlaoise.

41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019



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

*Also remembering;*

My father Garrett, sisters and brothers at  
this time, John, Peter, Sean, Brigid, Mary,  
Kathleen, Laura and Anne.

*Always loved and remembered by  
Margaret, Oliver and grandchildren.*

*May Catherine Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of NOEL CONROY

14 Beladd, Portlaoise.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019



3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10am.

*Silent thoughts of times together,  
Hold memories that will last forever.*

*Sadly missed by all his loving family, extended family and friends.*

*May Noel Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of JOSEPH DUFF

37 Beladd, Portlaoise. 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.



1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11:15am.

*Everyday in some small way,  
Memories of you come our way,  
Though absent you are always near,  
Still missed, loved and always dear.*

*Loved and always remembered by Margaret, Eddie and family.*

*May Joe Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of BRIDGET RYAN

Kilmurry, Stradbally.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the  
Church of the Assumption, the Heath, this  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am.

*To your resting place we visit,  
Place flowers there with care,  
But no one knows our heartache,  
When we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed by her loving family, extended family & friends.*

*Rest in Peace Bridget*



## In Loving Memory of KEVIN KEOGH

6 Park View, Portlaoise.

Died 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



Each time we look at your  
picture,

You seem to smile and say,  
Don't be sad but courage take,  
And love each other for my sake.

*Always loved, never forgotten by  
your loving mum and family xxx*

*May Kevin Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of MICHAEL LEECH

Ridge Rd. Portlaoise and formerly Kellystown, Wolfhill.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019



*If we had all the world to give,  
We'd give it yes, and more.  
To hear his voice, to see his smile  
And greet him at the door.  
But all we can do dear Dad,  
Is go and tend your grave.*

*And leave behind tokens of love, to the best Dad that God made.*

With much love, Anne, Elizabeth, Colette, Geraldine,  
Michelle and families.

Michael's Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11:15am.  
And in St. Mary's Church, Wolfhill, on  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

*May Michael Rest in Peace*



## Birthday Remembrance In Loving Memory of CHRISTINE COUGHLAN

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

Christine's birthday occurs on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.



Another birthday, another year, with  
precious memories of one so dear,  
Thoughts today of our lives together, hold a  
love that will live forever.

*Sadly missed, always loved and never  
forgotten by your loving family and friends.*

*May Christine Rest in Peace*





## End of Year Rosary at The Grotto New Years Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 8pm



### BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Have a Blessed Candle lit and displayed at the grotto for the sick, deceased, your intentions or in thanks giving. Your Candle will be lit from 5pm on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> until after midnight. (Rosary at 8pm).

Your donation for the Candle will go to Sr. Muriel in Medugorje and the invalids, pilgrims and poor in our own society. Candle bookings can be made through the shop in the Parish Centre or by contacting any of the following;

Anthony Egan 086-1993803  
Paddy Connolly 087-2117174  
John Egan 087-1254841

A Mass will also be offered for your intentions in Portlaoise and Medugorje.

All are welcome.



# Portlaoise Singers

PRESENT



## Beautiful Dreamer



The Story of Stephen Foster

Venue:  
Date:  
Time:

The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
8pm



Soloists; Anthony McGorian (Tenor)  
and local artists  
Piano: Brian MacNamara  
Conductor: Brendan MacNamara B.Mus.



Beautiful Music and Christmas Carols  
to celebrate the season.

*An evening to remember*

**Tickets €15**

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*Tickets also available at the door on the night*





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### 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.

**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.

**"Meditating... Being Mindful... Seeking God":** In the Parish Church (old sacristy), Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

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

**The Rosary** is recited in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe every Monday evening at 8pm. All are welcome.

**St. Joseph's Young Priest Society:** Please join us for a Holy Hour at 3pm every Friday, as we pray for vocations to the Priesthood and religious life. All are welcome.

**Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage** 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 €645. Direct flight to Mostar reduces journey by 3 hours. Booking after 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2020 €695. Accompanied by Fr. Sean Hyland as Spiritual Director. Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305 for bookings.

**Portlaoise Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2020:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020. 6 nights Saint Sauveur Hotel, fare fully incl. €719 p.p. sharing (special fare subsidised by committee, single supp. €155 extra). Payments can be made in instalments, once **deposit €200** has been paid, non-refundable and non-transferable, to be paid to JWT, 143 Lr. Baggot St., Dublin 12. For info. contact;

**JWT** 01-2410802  
**Sean O' Leary** 086-3633785  
**Frances Doheny** 085-8142666

### 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

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)**

**Bowls:** Every Monday at 3pm in St. Mary's Hall - regular & new members are always welcome to come along and take part and become a member of the ARA Bowls team.

**Whist:** Play or learn Whist at Sue Ryder Centre every Thursday from 2.30pm to 4pm. All are welcome. Absolute beginners and improvers are catered for. Learn an enjoyable pastime and meet new friends.

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>:** An end of year celebration Hooley ensuring plenty of music and entertainment to send us all away with joyous memories of a busy year and hopefully enough energy to look forward to 2020.

**Annual St. Stephen's Day Walk in Clonaslee in aid of Laois Hospice:**

Long walk approx. 10 miles. Short walk approx. 3 miles. For more info. and sponsorship cards, please contact Sheila Bourke on 087-6339540.

**Portlaoise Athletic Club Cuisle Centre Fun Run:** St. Stephen's Day, meet at St. Fintan's car park, Dublin road side, ready to run/walk at 10:30am. Option of one or two laps of the Stradbally road block. No reg. fee, voluntary contribution, bucket collection on the day with all money going to the Cuisle Centre.

**Couch to 5K** returns 8<sup>th</sup> January at the track at Portlaoise College at 6pm for 10 weeks. Registration at 5:15pm on 8<sup>th</sup>, €30 for 10 weeks.

### Results of the Fatima Invalid Fund Draw:

**1<sup>st</sup>-Fatima Ticket:** Ann Byrne, Carlow  
**2<sup>nd</sup>-Fatima Ticket:** Joan Colton, Stradbally  
**3<sup>rd</sup>-Half Fatima Ticket sponsored:** Kathleen Brosnan, Kerry  
**4<sup>th</sup>-€200:** Dennis O' Callaghan, Clare  
**5<sup>th</sup>-€150:** Mone Marum, Portlaoise  
**6<sup>th</sup>-€100 Fuel Voucher:** Una Bohan, Tipperary  
**7<sup>th</sup>-€100 Fuel Voucher:** Tess Stodel, Portlaoise  
**8<sup>th</sup>-€100 Voucher:** Eddie Kinsella, Portlaoise  
**9<sup>th</sup>-€100 Voucher:** Paul O' Toole, Abbeyleix  
**10<sup>th</sup>-€100 Voucher:** Catherine Williams, Stradbally  
**11<sup>th</sup>-€100:** Joe Lynch, Stradbally  
**12<sup>th</sup>-€100 Voucher:** Joanne Whelan, Stradbally

Maura O' Brien and Committee would like to sincerely thank all sponsors; Pilgrimages Abroad, Fatima Fund, Ballybrittas Motors, Downeys Auto, Dunkeen Oil, Hughes Pharmacy, Mulhall's Supervalu, Telford's Portlaoise, John O' Brien Bus Plus and Brownes Animal Feeds

Our thanks also to all those who sold tickets, to the Parish Centre and to all those who supported us in any way. Congratulations to all winners.

### P.O.P.A.

Portlaoise

Senior Citizens Committee

### 57<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

In the Midlands Park Hotel,  
Portlaoise  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Dinner will be served at 2pm  
Portlaoise Parish only  
Age 65 years+  
Subscription €10 per person

Tickets available from;  
Midlands Park Hotel  
Martley's Newsagents

The Parish Centre (up to Christmas Eve)  
And any committee member  
Closing date for sale of tickets;  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

### MOUNTMELICK

MONSTER  
BINGO

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
In the Arts Centre at 8:30pm  
€5,000 in prizes.  
Books €10 single, €15 double.



THE

## PARISH SHOP

THE PARISH CENTRE

### CALL IN AND BROWSE OUR LARGE SELECTION OF:

- Cribs/Nativity Sets • Gifts • Christmas Ornaments
- Cards for all occasions • Diaries & Calendars
- Bibles & Books



### CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
10am-2pm

### CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS



€3  
Donation



**Laois Alzheimer's Society Resource Centre** at 47 Main St. Portlaoise is open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. We want to thank Lorraine Weldon, Area Manager of Connected Health+ and her group of carers, who donated the proceeds of their coffee day and raffle to Laois Alzheimer's Branch and we would also like to thank all those who bought tickets and supported them and us. We are very thankful for their donation. They raised €219.57 on day and €163 online for Laois Alzheimers.

Laois Alzheimer's are offering one weeks **Respite Care** to people who have a dementia diagnosis, in Waterman's Lodge Care Centre, Ballina/Killaloe. Their specialist overnight respite centre offers stimulation and activity to the person with dementia in a safe, friendly environment and respite from caring for the caregiver. You do not have to be availing of homecare services to apply, places are limited.

**To access respite care or for further info. please contact Ann Munnelly on 057-8663398/086-8372168 or e-mail amunnelly@alzheimers.ie**



## FREE XMAS SHUTTLE DOWNTOWN

Monday to Saturday  
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Mountrath Road - Mountmellick Road

Abbeyleix Road - Borris Road - Ridge Road



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**David 087-2675106**

## **Portlaoise Parish** **Carol Service**

**Sunday**  
22nd December  
**at 7:30pm**  
in the Parish Church

Come along to an evening  
that promises to bring  
Christmas Cheer



## **THE ROUND HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

*presents;*

**Our Christmas night  
of Music & Song**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec., 8pm.  
Also available for bookings, tel. ;  
**Claire 086-1718718**



*(Supporting the Suicide Bereaved)*

Tea/Coffee Morning in Portlaoise Parish  
Centre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.,  
10am-12 noon. All welcome.





A very big thank you to all the local community and organisations that assisted in any way in the fundraising for the medically adapted house in Graigue, Mountmellick, over the past few years.

We are very pleased to announce that Ben and his family moved into his new home on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019, just in time for Christmas. Sincere thanks to all those who made this happen.



L-R: Joe McEvoy (Trustee), Nicolette, Ben, Billy, Terence and P.J. Dempsey (Trustee)



Ben with his adoring fans, a.k.a. The Committee  
L-R: Nina Horan, Deirdre Quinn, Janet Stewart, Cathy Bishop, Rose McEvoy and Niamh McEvoy.

## *Prepare a way for the Lord!*



Getting ready - Holy Family Junior Carol Service in the Parish Church (Wed. 18th at 12noon).

Parish Carol Service (Sun. 22nd at 7.30pm) and our outdoor crib created by Laois Travellers Action Group Men's Shed.

**'Jesus is the reason  
for the season'**





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