

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

17th November 2019

**33rd
Sunday
in
Ordinary
Time**



World
Day
of the Poor

**“The hope of the poor
will not perish for ever”
(Ps 9:19)**

“We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a World where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty”

Pope Francis (see page 2)



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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

Portlaoise Parish 14th November 2019

01

02



28

08

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Joan Martley
Maura O'Brien
Fintan Kavanagh
Breda Barry
Marie Byrne
Sarah Hennessy
Dara Brody
Maura O'Brien
John Mullhall
Caroline Byrne
Ann Marie Clooney
James McCormack
Ray Massey
Ray Massey
Michelle Massey

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each



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Maura O'Brien
Lotto Gift
M. Saunders
Rocky Kehoe
Mary Hennessy
Denise Swayne
Peter Ryan
Paul Dooley
Martley's Shop
Paul Dooley
Parish Centre
Eddie's
Pam Killeen
Pam Killeen

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Next Week's Jackpot €20,000

Priests of the Parish



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



Fr. Ciprian Matei
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
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



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

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PARISH SHOP

Religious gifts and books.



World Day of the Poor

Today is World Day of the Poor. Pope Francis in his apostolic letter *Misericordia et Misera*, marking the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, establishing this day, said that it would serve as 'the worthiest way to prepare for the celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, who identified with the little ones and the poor who will judge us on our works of mercy'.

"To know Christ we must know the poor"
- Pope Francis



Weeding Life's Garden

St. Francis of Assisi was asked one day as he was weeding in the garden, "What would you do if you knew the world was about to end?" St. Francis



replied, "Continue weeding my garden of course." The implication was that Francis didn't have to rush around like a headless chicken putting his house in order. Francis was already living his life in a state of readiness, and he had no need to worry himself about the end of the world.

Today we are told what it might be like at the end of time. There might be wars, earthquakes famines plagues and Christian persecution. In fact it doesn't sound too dissimilar to the state of affairs on our daily news programmes. Should we be concerned?

Jesus points to the end of history and declares that the future holds a time of reckoning. Like the disciples in today's reading, we are tempted to ask when that time might be, only to be told that it's something that shouldn't concern us. We mustn't listen to those who claim, "The end is nigh..." instead we must always focus on what there is left to do. The basic premise is that we should keep on doing right, regardless of the circumstances.

Like the people in today's gospel who were so pleased with their temple, we are often pleased with what we build up here on earth. Jesus takes the opportunity to point out that everything man made will come to an end. We would be much better off focusing not on a material agenda but in developing a faith that will endure great adversity.

If we are ready for God's final judgment then we shouldn't be afraid of anything that is ahead of us. Global disaster, wars and earthquakes should hold no terror if we trust completely in God. Our lives are like a garden filled with good things we must nurture, and bad things we must weed out. When the end of time comes, we must face our mortality as Francis suggests, weeding life's garden and living in readiness.

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday—Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

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

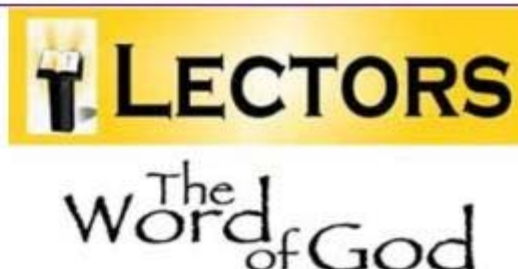
Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

Polish Mass: 5pm

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.



We welcome Bishop Denis and also Liam Dunne, Vincent Crowley and Eugene Keyes who are preparing for Diaconate. As part of that journey they will be conferred with the order of Lector at our 12.30pm Mass.

We wish them well as they continue their preparation for Ordination to Diaconate.



**We welcome into our
Parish Community**

Odhran Kelly, Dublin Road

Dara Aidan Norton, Summerhill

who were baptised last weekend

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

Dead List

This week Masses for the Dead List will be celebrated on Monday at 7.30pm; Tuesday at 7.30am; Thursday at 7.30pm & Friday at 7.30am.

Envelopes are in the Development Boxes or are available in the Church porches.



Sunday 10th November 2019
Offertory Collection €2,985.00
Development Fund €3,536.00
€6,521.00

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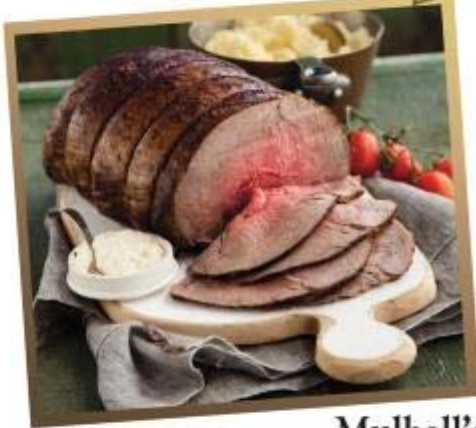


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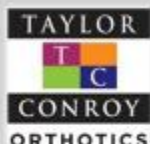
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Example: Model: Suzuki Ignis 1.2i Manual; Retail Price: €15,100; Customer Deposit: €1,510; Finance Amount: €13,590; 36 monthly payments of €375.31; 1st payment due on 1st November 2019; 36 months; 100,000 km; 0% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) 0.00%; 15% excludes delivery and related charges; 11% (The Guaranteed Minimum Future Value (GMFV)) is payable if you return or retain the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Further charges may be applied by your Suzuki Dealer subject to kilometre limits/condition of the vehicle. *Lending criteria and conditions apply (over 18s only). APR is inclusive of documentation fee of €60.49. To qualify for this finance offer, a minimum deposit of 20% is required. Rate quoted is correct as at 1st November 2019 and is subject to change. Offer available on all models ordered from 1st November 2019 until 31st March 2020 at participating Dealers. This is a Consumer Hire Purchase agreement provided by Bank of Ireland's Bank of Ireland Finance. Ownership remains with Bank of Ireland until the Optional Final Payment is made.



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DUBLIN ROAD, PORTLAOISE - Tel: 057 8664895

Open Mon-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 9am-2pm - EXIT 16 ON M7

Excludes delivery and related charges. Models are shown for illustrative purposes only. Please check kia.com and with your dealer for full specifications of your selected model. *Lending criteria and terms and conditions apply. Finance is provided by way of a hire purchase agreement. Finance examples are based on a fixed rate APR of 0% and are inclusive of a one-off purchase instalment of €10. To qualify for this finance offer, a minimum deposit of 40% of the retail price applies and a maximum term of 48 months applies. Rate quoted is correct as at October 1st 2019 and is subject to change. This offer is available on all new selected 2019 Ceed, Stonic and Sportage models ordered by Jan 31st 2020 at participating dealers only. The credit provider is Bank of Ireland Finance which is a registered trading name of Bank of Ireland. Model trim levels chosen for finance examples may differ from models featured on this page. SuperValu offer is based on a non-refundable deposit of €500 on models for registration in 2020.



HE HOLDS THE FUTURE

Do you like Chinese food? I love it! When we go out to eat, one of my favourite places is a Chinese restaurant. After you finish eating, they always bring some fortune cookies. When you break them open they have a little strip of paper with your fortune on it. Here are some examples of what they might say:



Good things are coming your way.

Success will be yours at school and at play.

You will have a pleasant surprise soon.

You will make very good choices today.

The time is right to make new friends.

Something you lost will turn up soon.

You will do something soon that will make your family proud.

You will live a long, happy life.

When you read your fortune from a fortune cookie, do you believe it? We might get a good laugh out of some of them, but it is foolish to think that a piece of paper in a fortune cookie could tell what is going to happen in your future.

In the gospel today, Jesus had some things to say about people who claimed that they could predict the future. Jesus and his disciples were in the temple and the disciples were talking about how beautiful it was with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. Jesus said to them, **"The time is coming when all these things will be completely destroyed. Not one stone will be left on top of another; every one of them will be thrown down!"**

The disciples were frightened by what Jesus said. **"When will these things happen?"** they asked. **"What signs can we look for that will let us know that these things are about to take place?"**

"Don't let anyone mislead you," Jesus answered. **"Many will come in my name, claiming to be the Messiah, and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them."** You see, Jesus knew that these people could not see into the future. Only God can do that!

There are some people today who think that they can see into the future. They may say some frightening things, but we need to remember what Jesus taught his disciples. **"Don't worry!"** he said. **"Not a hair on your head will be harmed. You will be saved by being faithful to me."**



Heavenly Father, we don't know what the future holds, but we know that you hold the future. We know that we will be safe when we put our faith and trust in you. Amen.

He Holds the Future

He said: "Take care not to be deceived, because many will come in my name, and saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near at hand.' Refuse to join them. Luke 21:8

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

EARTHQUAKES
WARS
TEMPLE
NEAR
PRISON
STONES
FRIGHTENED
KINGDOM
TIME
WATCH
LIFE
WORRY
HEAVEN
SIGNS
FAMINE

Choose the word that matches the definition.

1. A building used for religious ceremonies or worship
A. gift B. prison C. life D. temple
2. Something that is given without compensation
A. worry B. stone C. temple D. gift
3. A piece of rock used in construction of the temple
A. wisdom B. stone C. life D. prison
4. A country; a large group of people living in one area with their own government.
A. nation B. prison C. gift D. fear
5. A building where people are kept as a punishment
A. nation B. life C. prison D. fear
6. A feeling of worry caused by something dangerous
A. worry B. fear C. nation D. prison
7. To think about problems or unpleasant things that might happen
A. wisdom B. prison C. worry D. gift





TIME TO THINK!

THE PROBLEM OF DIRECT PROVISION

Fintan O'Toole (Irish Times) recently wrote "In 1992, the concept of limbo - a place for the souls of infants who died before they could be baptised and who therefore merited neither Heaven nor hell, was dropped from the Catholic catechism.

Eight years later the concept was given new life in Ireland. It was renamed "direct provision". Direct provision is a system for housing and maintaining asylum seekers while their applications for refugee status are processed. Here in Laois there are two centres in Portlaoise and Abbeyleix. I was greatly inspired recently by the massive turnout here in Abbeyleix where the entire community gathered to celebrate inclusion, welcome and hospitality with the residents of our local direct provision centre. The complete opposite to protests that have become common regarding establishing housing for asylum seekers. It is important to be well informed to an issue that will be a big issue in the forthcoming general election. Refugees and economic migrants, are the victims of a growing xenophobia in Ireland, as is the case throughout the west. This week Noel Grealish, questioned monies being returned home by economic migrants, all of whom are registered tax payers in an attempt to escalate a growing anti-migrant minority in this country.

There are currently 38 Direct Provision centres in 18 counties, most of them owned and run as private, for-profit businesses. Many residents including children share cramped bedrooms. A family from Guatemala of two adults and three children share a basic room, that is to live and sleep in. Residents are given an allowance of €19.10 each week per adult and €9.60 per child to deal with all their other needs. (The rates were frozen until very recently, they are now €38.80 per adult). This system is now the subject of local protests, not by people who are confined within it, but by locals objecting to the creation of direct provision centres in their towns or villages. We can spend a long time debating the motives behind those protests, whether they are driven by far-right xenophobia or, as many of the groups involved claim, by disgust at the direct provision system itself. But even if the motives for the protests are decidedly mixed, this may finally be the moment to accept that the system is cruel and indefensible.

The original sin of direct provision is dishonesty - dishonesty about why it exists and how it was supposed to work. It exists, officially, to fulfil Ireland's legal obligations (freely entered into by the State in 1956) to protect people fleeing from persecution and the threat of violence. But in reality it exists to deter people from seeking asylum in Ireland. Before 1999, people coming here to ask for asylum could, if they were destitute, ask for help under the ordinary social welfare system. The State decided that this possibility was acting as a magnet drawing people here to claim benefits. The real purpose of the direct provision therefore was, and is, to be sufficiently miserable to dissuade people from wanting to come to Ireland. But the other great deceit was that even if people were pretty miserable, they would not be in limbo very long. Direct provision was admittedly a form of human warehousing, but it would be made bearable by its short duration. The Department of Justice's working group (chaired by Judge Bryan McMahon) noted in 2015: "When direct provision was introduced in 2000 it was envisaged



that protection applicants would live in direct provision accommodation centres on a short-term basis of not more than six months while their applications were being processed." Six months in limbo is fine - if you're warm and safe and fed, you can put up with it. But this was always a lie. Ireland never had a system for processing applications for asylum fairly within six months. At the time of the McMahon report, 55% of people in the asylum system and 41% of those in direct provision centres had been waiting for five years or more. This, in and of itself, makes the system both deceitful and inhumane. It is based on an assumption that everyone has always known to be false: this experience will be unpleasant but it will be over soon.

Bad as this is for adults, who waste away and lose their skills and self-reliance, it is unconscionable for children. Nobody responsible for creating the system ever claimed that a direct provision centre is an acceptable place for a child to grow up in - for the obvious reason that it is not. It is a grotesque irony that, in the same era that Ireland was confronting its appalling history of the institutional abuse of children, it was establishing a new system of abusive institutionalisation for children. Their needs for a normal family life, for safety and for a sense of belonging are routinely denied. But just as the system condemns children and adults to mere existence, the system itself merely exists. It was never thought through or justified or seriously argued for. Nobody in authority has ever said that this is a proper or decent way to treat human beings. They don't have to because the whole thing is based on a fiction: these are not places where people live, merely places where they are being kept for a few months while waiting for the State's decision. This is Ireland's waiting room - but a room that currently contains 4,490 adults and 1,883 children.

But all of this stays out of sight and out of mind until someone decides to protest against asylum seekers being housed in their town. We then see what is happening outside the places they might be kept (the banners, the placards, the angry locals). We do not see inside the places they are actually being kept. We do not protest against the corrosive dishonesty underlying this public policy or against the unjustified consignment of real lives to limbo. It is long since time we did.

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

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



65 Kitchen Choir

presents

Sleighbells in the Snow

In the Dunamaise Theatre, 8pm

Thursday 28th November

Friday 29th November

Saturday 30th November

Tickets

€16



For bookings contact the theatre on 057 86 63355 | www.dunamaise.ie

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

give a little
HELP A LOT

Annual Church Collection

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November 2019

1. Each year our Conference makes 750 visits to families and people in need in this community.
2. Even in an improving economy, the number of people in Portlaoise requiring our support is remaining very high. The type of support we provide is wide ranging, but most often we help families with basics such as food, heating and education costs.

We rely almost entirely on the support of the generous parishioners in this Parish and much of our work would be simply impossible without your continued support, for which we thank you sincerely.

THE
PARISH SHOP
THE PARISH CENTRE

CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS



DONATION €3

Your intentions will be remembered
at Christmas Masses celebrated
in Portlaoise Parish.



Carol Service
St. Peter & Paul's
Sunday 22nd Dec
7.30pm

Calling all Singers

You are invited to be part of this joyful celebration of Christmas with traditional Carols. Singers from all choirs (and none) are very welcome to be part of the choir for the night. It will be led by the 12.30pm contemporary choir (director Nuala Kelly).

Rehearsals will begin in the Parish Church on Wednesday 27th Nov. (after the evening Mass) and continue on Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 18th December.

Bruno

*Thursday 28th
of Nov. 2019*

*...a collection of Stories,
Yarns and Poems...*

Pat Critchley

Book Launch

Killeshin Hotel @ 7:30pm

All Welcome



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**Sunday
Nov. 17th**



RACE NIGHT

**CELEBRATING PORTLAOISE SENIOR FOOTBALLERS'
3 IN A ROW COUNTY TITLES**



**COME ALONG FOR A GREAT FUN NIGHT
LILLY'S BAR, MAIN STREET , PORTLAOISE 7PM**





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PERFECT GIFT
THIS CHRISTMAS?*

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VOUCHERS
NOW AVAILABLE*

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for only €50

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denominations also available.*

FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

*You may also join the parish lotto online at
www.portlaoiseparish.ie*

Christmas Market

Sunday 24 th Nov. 11-6 pm

11 am: Christmas Markets open

2 pm: Santa arrives for plenty of selfies

4.30 pm: Santa switches
on the Christmas Lights

6 pm: Markets conclude

Over 40
stalls!

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from Local Singers
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THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;**



LOUGHLIN DELANEY
Newpark



KRYSTYNA WILK
Summerhill Lane



NICOLA DOLLARD née Kelly
Rathevan View and
formerly Hawthorn Drive



BERNIE DALY née Noonan
Powerscourt,
Abbeyleix Road



MICHAEL HARNEY
Cullenagh and Dublin

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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



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NIALL;
086-2770095



In Loving Memory of ANNE SWEENEY

Late of 26 Coote St. Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 16th November 2019.



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

*Sadly missed by her daughter Teresa
and son-in-law Paddy.*

Lord have mercy on her soul.

May Anne Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of ANN PAISLEY

41 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
26th Anniversary occurred 13th November 2019.



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

*Sadly missed and remembered always
by all her loving family.*

May Ann Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of MARGARET RYAN

15th Anniversary occurs 18th November 2019.



*Will those who think of
Margaret today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.
Always loved and remembered by
all her loving family.
Rest in Peace Margaret*

In Loving Memory of ANN O' LOUGHLIN

Clonad

4th Anniversary occurred 15th November 2019

Also her Son

JOHN O' LOUGHLIN (Jnr.)

1st Anniversary occurs 21st November 2019



Anniversary Mass
will be celebrated
in
Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this
Saturday 16th Nov.
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.

Loved and remembered by all their loving family and friends.

May Ann & John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JOHN (JACK) & MAURA TARLETON

Rossleighan, Portlaoise.

28th & 26th Anniversary Mass
will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
Sunday 17th Nov. at 11.15am.



*Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.
Loved and missed always by your loving family.*

May John and Maura Rest in Peace

REMEMBRANCE OF A PRECIOUS SON ON HIS BIRTHDAY

My son DANNY (Dannyboy) WHELAN
Whose 24th birthday occurs 16th November 2019.



How much I miss you being here
I really cannot say,
The ache is deep inside my heart
and it never goes away,
You should have had so many
years to watch your life unfold,
And in the midst of this, it's you
that gets to watch us grow old,
I hope you're watching from up
above and watching over us everyday,

Let there be no doubt at all,

I really did love and cherish you Danny, all the way.

Happy 24th Birthday my Dannyboy

Love on your birthday in Heaven, with the Angels.

*Love and miss you always son, your loving parents,
brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews, grandmothers
and all your loving family xxxxxxxx*

May Danny Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of JOHN (Seannie) FLYNN

Lakeglenn, Portlaoise. 5th Anniversary occurs at this time.

5th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 17th November at 12.30pm.



*Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered everyday,
No longer in our lives to share, but in our
hearts you are always there.*

Sadly missed and remembered by Ann, Jimmy, Mark,
Lorraine and all his loving family.

May John Rest in Peace

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES



Due to the large volume of remembrances
in past years we request that you please
bring in your remembrances during the
month of November to allow sufficient
time to complete them.

We thank you for your co-operation.

In Loving Memory of
ANNIE (Nan) McDONALD

Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.
12th Anniversary occurs 16th November 2019.



Nan; A whisper on a November morn,
You heard a gentle call,
You took the hand of Jesus and gently left us all,
Your memories are so precious,
Your presence missed so much,
You will always be remembered and missed by
all of us.

Fondly remembered by all your nieces and nephews.
May Nan Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
GEORGE BUGGY

9 Green Rd., Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 19th November 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 16th November at 6:30pm.
You were always there when we needed you,
No task too great or small,
With a loving heart and willing hands,
For us you did it all.

Sadly missed by all his loving family.
May George Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
ANGELA HYLAND

Mountmellick - Portlaoise
5th Anniversary occurs 21st November 2019



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

Never forgotten, loved by her sister, nieces & nephews.
Also remember

Granny Hyland whose anniversary occurred 26th September.
Mary Santry whose anniversary occurs 29th November.
Nancy Campbell whose anniversary occurs 30th December.

May Angela Rest in Peace

In November
We Remember

In Loving Memory of
BRIDGET SEXTON

"Padua", Clonminam Road, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 24th November 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 23rd November at 6:30pm.

Our loved ones leave behind a light
that will never dim or fade,
It's kept bright by the love we feel
and the memories we made.

Sadly missed by and always remembered by Pat, Mary, Frank,
daughter-in-law Hilda, grandsons, great-granddaughters,
her sister Mary and extended family and friends.

May Bridget Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
CATHERINE TYNAN



We miss you more than
words could ever say.



"Behold! I am standing at the door, knocking"
Revelations 3:20



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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 Wed. night 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.

An Spioraid Naomh Praying Community Praise and Worship Meeting: Saturday 30th November in Portlaoise Parish Centre after 10am Mass. Holy Rosary, Praise and Worship with Music Ministry and a talk on Healing. All are welcome. Contact Michael Nerney 086-8157305 for details. Spiritual Director Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill.

Evening of preaching, teaching and healing with Br. Johnson Sequeira on Friday 22nd November from 6pm to 9pm at Dalton's, Colt (R32W14F). All welcome. Enquiries to 087-6318203.

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

Concern Christmas Fast Collection will take place, Friday and Saturday 22nd/23rd November. Please support as generously as possible.

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.

Nov. 20th: An opportunity to avail of some pleasant exercise with dancing maestro Maureen, always an enjoyable afternoon. Dr. Laura Kelly Senior Lecturer in History of Health and Medicine will attend as guest speaker for an informative discussion.

Special Note: With great sadness and fond memories we mourn John Hartford, a founder member of our great club in Portlaoise, who sadly passed away. May he Rest in Peace.

Free Smart Phone Course in Portlaoise Library every Wednesday afternoon, 2-4pm. If you would like to learn a bit more about your phone or are struggling with your tablet/iPad, this class is perfect for you and it's free. Please contact 046-9557766 to book a place on this very popular and fun course in Portlaoise. Booking is essential. The same course is running in Stradbally Library every Tuesday afternoon, 1.30-3.30pm and booking for this course is directly with Stradbally library on 057-8641673.

Youth Theatre in Portlaoise have a few places still available for young people aged 12-14 to join:

If you are interested in drama or performance, come along to the next session of Youth Theatre in the Laois Music Centre, (Old Scoil Mhuire), Church St., Portlaoise, Friday 15th November from 4pm-5.30pm.

For more info, tel. 057 8664033/13 or e-mail; artsoff@laoiscoco.ie Facebook; laois youth theatre or visit www.laois.ie

Age Action

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Scoil Bhride N.S., Knockmay, Portlaoise

Junior Infant Enrolment 2020-21 School Year

Scoil Bhride N.S. is now accepting applications for Junior Infants for the school year 2020-21. Application forms are available from the school.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms with a copy of child's birth certificate is **Friday 6th December 2019.**

For further info. contact the school secretary on 057-8620287.

ST. FINTAIN'S GAA CLUB MOUNTRATH MONSTER BINGO

This Sunday 17th November
In Mountrath Community School at 3pm.
Laois Guide Dogs and Laois Down Syndrome will benefit from this event. Please support.



Pictured Above; Thomas Lynch presenting Gerry Tiernan, manager of the Athlone branch of Pieta House, with a cheque for €551.20, the proceeds of the coffee morning which Thomas held recently in the Parish Centre.

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All domestic, solid fuel,
oil servicing, water
softener installation.
Contact Alan;
085-1141395

TOTAL REFURB

- Tiling - Plastering
- Block laying - Carpentry
- Metal Gates etc.

Contact Kevin;
083-3692759



RAMPS & RAILS

Are you worried about
winter conditions, slippery
steps? Try and avoid slips,
trips or falls. Concrete ramps
with steel handrails installed to
provide safe access for
everyone. For more info. call
David 087-2675106

HANDYMAN AVAILABLE

Tiling incl. Bathrooms,
Kitchens, Walls and Floors.
Timber floors, gardening incl.
hedge cutting & landscaping.
All jobs considered for a
reasonable price. Phone Jim;
087-6885017

Hugh Thompson MIDLAND HEATING SERVICES

For all your Heating & Plumbing needs
Service and Repair of Oil Boilers,
Oil Cookers & Gas Boilers
Plus Power Flushing of Heating Systems
Removing all the old sludge and water that has built up in
your radiators and boilers over the years with clean water
and Inhibitors to reduce fuel bills and save money.
Ballyfin, Portlaoise. Call:
086-3758503

FOR SALE

Decking €50, Swing €20,
Trampoline €50.
All 3 for €100.
Collection only. Contact;
086-8172486

MIDLAND APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Quick, Cost Effective
Domestic Appliance
Repairs. Contact;
087-9080211

WINDOWS & DOOR REPAIRS

- Hinges/Handles
 - Letterboxes
 - Slide Patio Doors Rollers
 - Window & Door draught
proofing
- 083-3153211**

CHRISTMAS CAKES MADE TO ORDER

Iced Christmas fruit cake,
Chocolate Biscuit cake,
Lemon Drizzle and Carrot cake,
Puddings, Baileys and Malteser
Cheesecakes, Pavlova,
homemade Mince Pies.
Contact; **083-3620950**

CHRISTMAS CARDS



In aid of the
Cuisle Support
Centre are now
available at
Cuisle Centre,
Block Rd. Portlaoise and the
Cuisle Fayre shop, Church
Avenue. Your support for this
worthy cause would be very
much appreciated.



CHILDMINDER REQUIRED

Mountrath area

To mind 7 year old and 9 month old
baby, 4 days per week, preferably
in child's home, hours and days may
vary. Must be reliable, trustworthy
and enjoy working with kids.
Own car essential and garda vetted
will be required. Contact;
087-2200620

EMO ART & CRAFT FAIR

will be held on Sunday
17th November from
11.30am to 5pm in the
Emo Community Centre.
Full of beautiful gifts.

NIGHT VIGIL TO KNOCK Saturday 7th December

Bus leaving Stradbally
6:30pm, Portlaoise 7pm,
Mountmellick 7:10pm.
Seats must be booked with
€10 deposit to;
Maura O' Brien 086-3344722
Annie O' Neill 057-8625323



(Supporting the Suicide Bereaved)

Tea/Coffee Morning in Portlaoise Parish
Centre on Wednesday 20th Nov.,
10am-12 noon. All welcome.

ART THERAPY SERVICES

Art Therapy provides a safe,
confidential, non judgemental space
to explore thoughts and feelings.
It can be helpful for people of all
ages and abilities going through
anxiety, depression, school issues,
relationship issues, bereavement etc.
Tel.: Aisling Brennan 087-7139015
E-mail; trueselftrueart@gmail.com
 [trueselftrueart](https://www.facebook.com/trueselftrueart)

St. Mary's CBS 'From Each his Best' Scholarship Award

St Mary's CBS Portlaoise, seeks to combine academic excellence, all-round character development and personal attention to each student with a close working relationship between teachers and parents. This scholarship aims to facilitate the holistic development of our students by rewarding students who drive to achieve academic excellence in conjunction with their sporting careers. Scholarships are now being offered for students commencing First year in September 2020. The scholarships may cover the cost of an iPad, books, uniform and lunch deal at the school. These scholarships will continue for the duration of the student's first academic year in the CBS. While the scholarships will be awarded under specific category headings, academic excellence will be a consideration in all scholarship awards. A scholarship may be awarded under any category heading, but there is no commitment to award scholarships under each heading. The categories are;

- Students of high academic ability
- Students with exceptional sports skills

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a completed application form, an assessment of ability at sports and an appropriate academic test. The parents of those receiving scholarships are expected to make a commitment to participate fully in the school community. For full details and application forms see school app and website, www.portlaoiseCBS.com. The closing date for 2020/2021 applications is February 2020.

PORTLAOISE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2020; Wednesday 22nd July to Tuesday 28th July 2020

6 nights Saint Sauveur Hotel, fare fully inclusive. €719 per person sharing (special fare subsidised by the committee, single supplement €155 extra). Payments can be made in instalments, once the deposit has been paid.

€200 deposit, non-refundable and non-transferable, to be paid to JWT, 143 Lr. Baggot Street, Dublin 12.

For info. contact; JWT 01-2410802 | Sean O' Leary 086-3633785 | Frances Doherty 085-8142666



**COFFEE
MORNING**

Tuesday 3rd December
In the Parish Centre
after 10am Mass.

In aid of the Fatima Invalid Fund

If you would like to donate confectionaries, we would be very grateful. Raffle on the day and some very good prizes to be won! Tickets may be purchased from any committee member or contact;

Maura O' Brien 087-1210263



ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

Reflect on the great 'O Antiphons' used in Evening Prayer and Mass during the second part of Advent.

Watch an online talk each day from December 16

Register Now!

enquiries@prioryinstitute.com
prioryinstitute.com
00353 1 404 8124



ANNUAL RETREAT AT MOUNT ST. ANNE'S

Sun. 24th November
10am-4pm.

€45 including lunch and coffee break.

Bus €10 extra, leaving Lyster Sq. 9:15am.

Kathleen

086-0549917

SANTA'S HELPERS



Santa has a special group of helpers in Laois this year. Their aim is to ensure every child will get a present from Santa.

Santa's helpers will work very discretely to make little people happy for Christmas.

We are operating through a **Facebook page - 'Santa's Helpers'** and are fundraising through a Go Fund Me page. Other donations of cash and cheques can be given to Darren Conroy, Kilminchy Ave., Kilminchy, Portlaoise. Should you require further information please feel free to contact Darren on 086-8675060.



FOR SALE

Finline Corner Suite with double bed.

In immaculate condition (as new).

Cost €2,800, will sell half price. Contact;

087-9140066

Scoil an Fhraoich Mhóir
together we learn

The Heath, Portlaoise, Co.Laois
057-8646658



Junior Infant Enrolment 2020-2021 school year

The school is accepting applications for junior infant enrolment for the school year 2020-2021 during the month of November 2019.

Application forms are available from the school website www.heathns.ie or the school office.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 29th November 2019.



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