

**PORTLAOISE**  
**PARISH**  
**link**  
**up**

**1st December 2019**

# First Sunday of Advent



## Pope John Paul II Award

Congratulations to the students from St. Mary's CBS and Scoil Chríost Rí who received their Gold or Papal Cross Pope John Paul II Award, during ceremonies in Carlow and Newbridge last week. We thank them for all their work in our parish.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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

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

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## Portlaoise Parish 28th November 2019

07

09



12

15

### No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

#### WINNERS

Paul Lawlor  
Anna Wisniewska  
Jackie McEvoy  
Tony O'Neill  
High Brenna  
Ita Brophy  
Betty Bland  
Mick McLoughlin  
Tom Cribbs  
Brigid Peake  
Angel Pigeot  
Emer McCarthy  
Neil Rock  
Nelly Richards  
Grace Brennan  
Roel Dela Cruz  
Polly & Michael Lalor  
Sarah Quigley  
Karen Towey  
John Fitzpatrick  
Martin Cashin  
Margaret & Steven McGrath  
John Brophy  
Kyle & Sarah McDowell  
Martin Dunne  
Kathleen Delaney

#### MATCH 3s €1,000

26  
Match 3s  
€39  
each



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

#### Next Week's Jackpot

€20,000

#### PROMOTER

Online Lotto  
Online Lotto  
Mary Dunne  
Geraldine O'Neill  
Bernie Lalor  
Anne Ging  
Parish Centre  
Anthony Preston  
Elizabeth Hillard  
Olive Culleton  
Maria Fallon  
Betty McCarthy  
Rocky Keogh  
Parish Centre  
Peter Ryan  
Roel  
Greg Keenan  
Paul Dooley  
Keegan's  
M Hanlon  
Anne Carroll  
Margaret McGrath  
M Hanlon  
Sarah McDowell  
Mary Arthur  
Bernie Phelan

### 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](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)

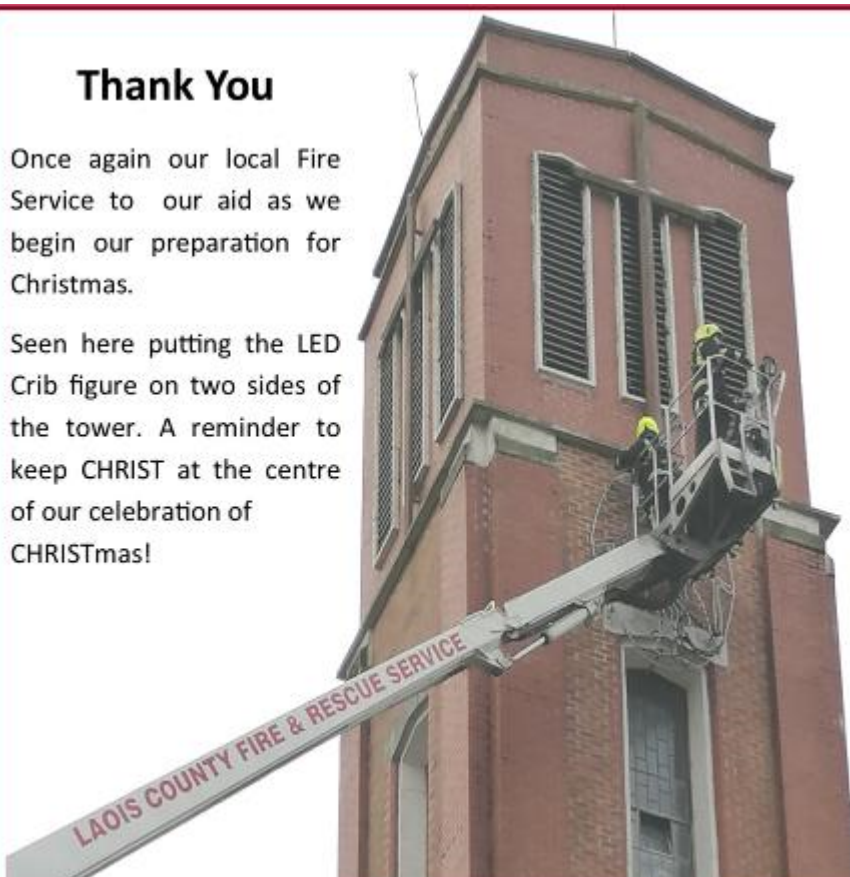
**PARISH SHOP**

Religious gifts and books.

## Thank You

Once again our local Fire Service to our aid as we begin our preparation for Christmas.

Seen here putting the LED Crib figure on two sides of the tower. A reminder to keep CHRIST at the centre of our celebration of CHRISTmas!



LAOIS COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



# Prepare the Way



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we light the first of our Advent candles. The traditional use of Advent candles originated in eastern Germany prior to the Reformation. There are three purple candles and one pink candle. Purple for the royalty of the coming **King** ... the pink candle is the third candle to be lit on what is called **Gaudete Sunday** and represents 'joy'. The gradual lighting of the four candles symbolises the coming **Light** into the world. The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represent everlasting life.

*See inside page 19, all the details on Advent in our parish.*

### 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.

### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am & 6.30pm Masses.

### Ministers of the Word

We would like to invite all our current readers to a short meeting which will be held in the Parish Centre on Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm.

### Advent Reflection

Friday after 10am Mass in the  
Parish Centre with Fr. Eddie Lalor

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

"Welcome Jesus"  
*An Advent Liturgy*

### Papal Prayer Intention for December

It is estimated that some 200 million children all over the world live or work on the streets. In a world of violence, hunger and abuse these children have to use any means they can to survive. At worst this might include prostitution, carrying drugs or pick pocketing. This month Pope Francis invites us share the Papal Prayer Intention, "...**That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.**"



**We welcome into our  
Parish Community**

Blake Anthony Twamley  
Parkside

Daniel Carey, Heather Lane

Christian James Lawless, Rossvale

Ruby Sue Flanagan, Green Road

**who were baptised last weekend**

### Sunday 24th November 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,968.00
Development Fund	€3,352.00
	€6,320.00

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.

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12 Days Of  
Christmas Sale  
13th – 24th December

**3 Months** student gym & pool €99

**3 Months** gym & pool €130

**3 Months** family (pool only) €199

**6 Months** gym only €139

**6 Months** gym & pool €239

**6 Months** pool only €139

**6 Months** over 55's gym & pool €210

**12 Months** Couple pool only €520

**12 Months** gym & pool €399

**12 Months** pool only €279

**10** adult passes €60

**10** child passes €35

Buy a voucher over €100 & receive a free gift bag (while stocks last)



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



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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

After a decade of shows Scoil Chriost Rí present to you .....

*The Little Mermaid*

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

In the Dunamais Theatre at 7:30pm

Adults €12, Children and Students €10

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*(Entrance beside Macra Na Feirme Hall on Timahoe Road)*

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



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## LAOIS PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

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

**The Coach House, 4 Kellyville Park Portlaoise, .**  
**Phone: 087-9945057**  
**E-mail: [info@laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie](mailto:info@laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie)**



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A mindful workout focused on improving spinal and pelvic alignment, muscle tone and flexibility.

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Limited group numbers so please contact John or Nicola for more information on pricing and availability.



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# HUGHES



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### Clarins Men Moisture Set

WAS €42.00  
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SAVE €22.00



## LANCÔME

### Lancome Poeme 30ml Edp

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## LANCÔME

### Hypnose Men 50ml

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## CLARINS

### Clarins Hydra Essential Set

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## CALVIN KLEIN

### Calvin Klein Eternity 100ml Men Set

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## HUGO BOSS

### Hugo Boss Orange 40ml Men Set

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NOW €39.00  
SAVE €7.00



## DOLCE & GABBANA

### Dolce & Gabbana The One 50ml Men Set

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NOW €50.00  
SAVE €15.00



## JEAN PAUL GAULTIER

### Jean Paul Gaultier 75ml Men Set

WAS €68.00  
NOW €60.00  
SAVE €8.00



## HUGO BOSS

### Boss Bottled Night 50ml Men Set

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NOW €50.00  
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## LACOSTE

### Lacoste Touch of Pink 30ml Set

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## CALVIN KLEIN

### Calvin Klein Euphoria 50ml Ladies Set

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## GHOST

### Ghost 30ml Set

EACH  
DEEP NIGHT €27.00 ORIGINAL



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### Joop! Go 50ml Edt Spray

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Burberry Weekend 50ml Ladies Edt

WAS €55.00  
NOW €25.00  
SAVE €30.00



## HALF PRICE

### Emporio Armani Diamonds/Elle 100ml Ladies

WAS €80.00  
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SAVE €40.00 EACH



## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Elizabeth Arden Splendor 75ml Edp

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SAVE €27.05



## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Celine Dion Pure Brilliance 50ml

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Simpsons Shower Gel Collection

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Dove Man Gift Set

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Katy Perry Royal Revolution 30ml

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Peppa Pig Bath Time Set

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NOW €3.95  
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## HALF PRICE

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Nivea Ladies Pamper Box

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## BETTER THAN HALF PRICE

### Pure Bath Lavender & Waterlily

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## VICHY

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## ORAL B

### Oral-B Rechargeable 650 Toothbrush

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## TIPPERARY CRYSTAL

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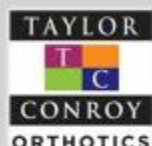
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#### SPORTS PEOPLE;

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

#### CHILDREN;

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

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Kid Free Christmas Shopping Time??

- Lego Building
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suitable for ages 4 years  
and up

€15 per child

When: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Where: Portlaoise Parish Centre

Time: Choose either 11am to 1pm

2pm to 4pm



Booking essential.

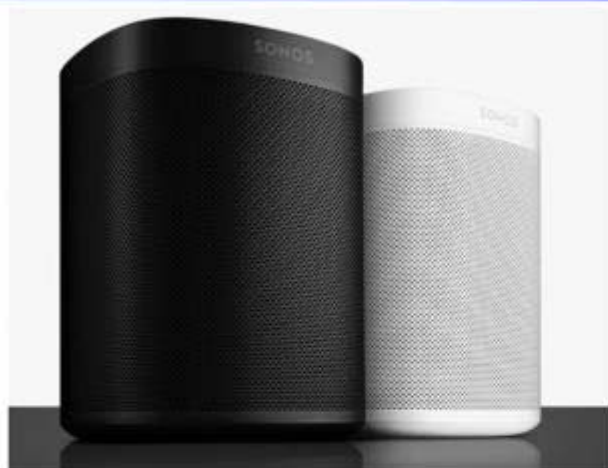
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**P.O.P.A.**

*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



**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**



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Ingrid Slimming World Groups Portlaoise





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Ferndale,  
Portlaoise



4 Beds  
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1 Agh Na Hara  
Stradbally Rd, Portlaoise



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Detached House €260,000

33 Agh Na Hara,  
Stradbally Rd, Portlaoise



5 Bed / 3 Bath  
Detached House €250,000

19 Triogue Manor,  
Portlaoise



3 Beds / 3 Baths  
Semi-Detached House €165,000

13 Rosdarragh Hill  
Rathevan, Portlaoise



4 Bed / 3 Baths  
Semi-Detached House €210,000

12 Carmody Way,  
Fairgreen, Portlaoise



3 Bed / 3 Baths  
Semi-Detached House €165,000

6 Castle Way,  
Kilminchy, Portlaoise



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with Garage €169,000

28 Carrick Hill, Dublin Rd,  
Portlaoise



5 Beds / 3 Baths  
Detached House €480,000



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*Subject to Availability*

**LAOIS HOSPICE &  
PORTLAOISE LIONS CLUB  
CHRISTMAS TREE SALE  
COMMENCES**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
AT CENTREPOINT  
Mountrath Road, Portlaoise**



**Monday to Friday:**  
10:30am to 5pm

**Saturday:**  
10am to 5pm

**Sunday:** 2pm to 5pm

*Your continued support  
is much appreciated*



**Stradbally's 2<sup>nd</sup> Indoor  
Christmas  
Craft Fair**


**Napper Tandy's**  
STRADBALLY

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> & Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December  
11am - 6pm, 30 Stalls**



*Santa arriving  
at 3pm*

*Mulled wine*  *Mince pies*

*Hot chocolate* 

**A Great Family Day Out!**





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\*13.9% fixed low APR Finance Example: Transit Custom 2925 MB Base 109PS Discounted Gross Retail Price (inc. VAT) €24,690. Ford 2019 201 Sales Event Discount of €2,000. Customer Deposit / Trade-in €4,999.00. Finance Amount €19,725. 60 monthly payments of €354.29. Total Cost of Credit €20,777. Fixed APR 3.9%\*\*. (Annual Percentage Rate) as at 01/10/2019. Excludes delivery & related charges. Models shown for illustrative purposes only. \*\*Lending criteria and terms and conditions apply (48h only). APR is inclusive of a documentation fee and purchase fee of €63.40 each. To qualify for this finance offer a minimum deposit of 20% is required. Rate quoted is correct as at 09/10/19 and is subject to change. Offer available on all new commercial vehicles excluding the Huga 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 170/189PS 1700 models with Air 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: W11PCC2 Range 2.0i 150km - 201 g/100km. Terms & Conditions apply.



## A vehicle for every lifestyle



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- 3.9% low APR\* • 7 year road assistance
- 7 year warranty



FORD FIESTA  
from €19,900

FORD S-MAX  
from €39,900

FORD FOCUS  
from €24,450

FORD ECOSPORT  
from €24,500

FORD GALAXY  
TITANIUM  
from €42,250

FORD MONDEO  
TITANIUM  
from €35,700



**DUBLIN ROAD, PORTLAOISE - Tel: 057 8622048**

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

Finance Example: Ford Focus Sd 1.6i 1300G 120PS. Retail Price €27,300. Customer Deposit / Trade-in €8,340.40. Finance Amount €18,959.50. 36 monthly payments of €620.00. Total Cost of Credit €20,325.60. (Optional Final Payment) €19,625. Fixed Annual Percentage Rate (APR) 10% as at 01/10/19. Min deposit 10%. Excludes delivery & related charges. Models shown for illustrative purposes only.





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- Christmas Tree plus stand only €45.00!
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- 40kg premium coal for open fire/stove only €16.95.
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- Free Delivery In Portlaoise
- Gift Vouchers Available



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- **NEED TRACTOR DIESEL?**

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 Have a healthier lifestyle?  
 Be more effective at work?  
 To develop a new skill?  
 Want more peace of mind?  
 More security?  
 Less Stress?  
 Less financial pressure?  
 Just a better quality of life?  
 Find your Mojo?

If any of the above resonates with you, have you ever thought about seeking the support of a Qualified Life Coach?

MAKE THE NEW YEAR YOUR BEST EVER

For a Free Introduction Session, call or text 087-9151134

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Iron Filters, Ultra Violet Filters (For Bacteria Control)  
 Complete Home and Industrial Water Treatment Systems

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Local authority Grants available to bring individual private well supplies up to E.U. Standards providing dwelling is at least 7 years old.  
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Sit back and relax and  
 enjoy your meal...  
 Let us take care of the  
 driving!

*Relax & Enjoy*

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

The bus operates free of charge within a 12km radius.

If you wish to avail of this service please call;



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**BLACK FRIDAY SALE**

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TO **50%**  
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in all departments

**PRE-SALE  
EVENT**

This Thursday 6 - 9pm  
3 hours only!

ADDITIONAL

**10%**  
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**OPENING HOURS:**  
THURSDAY 9am - 9pm  
FRIDAY 9am - 9pm

SATURDAY 9am - 6pm  
SUNDAY 12.30pm - 6pm  
MONDAY 9am - 6pm



# CateKIDS

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

HANDING ON  
THE FAITH



## Christ is Coming

Prepare to meet the LORD

### Be Prepared for Christ's Coming

Today is a very special day. Today is the first Sunday of Advent and we have started the countdown to Christmas. There are many things that people do to get ready for Christmas, aren't there? Let's see, what are some of the things that we do to prepare for Christmas? We have to put up our Christmas tree, lights, and decorations. We have to get our Christmas cards addressed and mailed. We have a lot of shopping to do to buy gifts for our family and friends. There is a lot of cooking that must be done -- Christmas cakes and puddings and, of course, we must buy all of the food for Christmas dinner. Can you think of any things that I have forgotten?



While we are getting ready for Christmas, there is something else that we must be prepared for as well. Jesus promised that he would come again and the Bible tells us that we must be watching and be prepared for his return. We all know when Christmas is coming, but when will Jesus come again? The Bible says that no one knows the hour of his return. Not even the angels who announced his birth know when he will come again.

If we don't know when he is coming, how can we be prepared? If we want to be prepared for Jesus' coming, we must always be busy doing the things that he told us to do. We must be loving God and loving one another. What are some things we can do?

It is fun and exciting to prepare for Christmas, but we must also be prepared for that day when Jesus comes again.



Dear Father, we love this season of the year. We love the preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Help us also remember that he is coming again and that you have told us to be prepared. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## CONFIRMATION ADVENT MASS

Confirmation Advent Mass will take place next Saturday 7th December at 6.30pm and Sunday 8th December at 11.15am.

We look forward to seeing all our candidates at these Mases.



# Advent



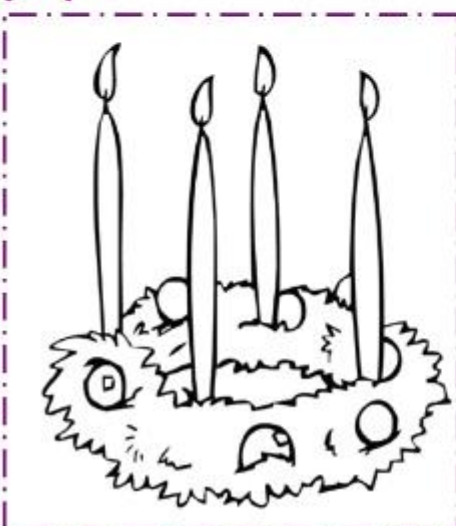
The Advent Wreath is a symbol of life and light. The wreath is a circle with neither a beginning nor end, just like God's love for us. The four candles on the wreath represent the four Sundays in Advent. We light one candle on the Advent wreath every week as we prepare for Christmas. By the fourth Sunday, all four candles are aglow. Three of the candles are purple. **Purple** is the colour of "looking forward". One candle is pink and is lit on the third Sunday in Advent. **Pink** is a happy colour and it reminds us that Christmas is getting nearer. A white candle, known as the Christ Candle, can be placed in the centre of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve.



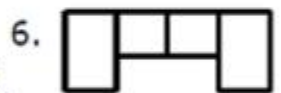
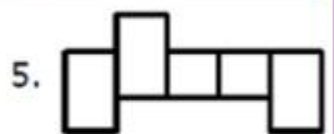
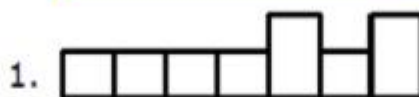
### Hope

Today is the First Sunday of Advent also known as **THE SUNDAY OF HOPE**

We light one **purple candle** today. Colour one candle **purple** on the wreath below.



Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters



careful  
clouds

lift  
glory

pray  
watch

heads  
signs





# TIME TO THINK!

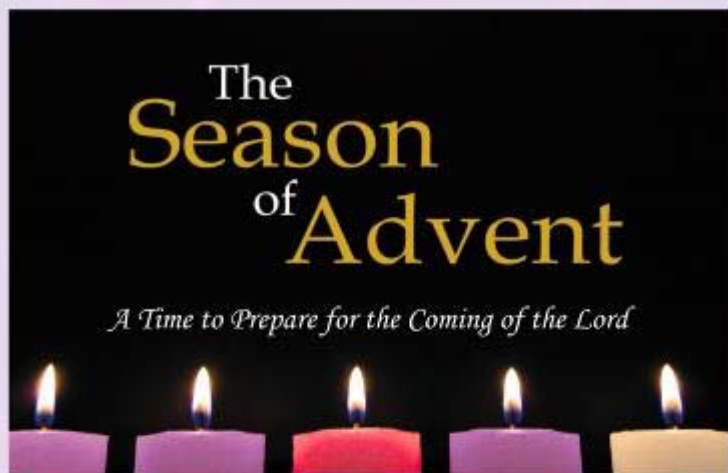
## ADVENT - A TIME TO OPEN DOORS

This week we begin the liturgical season of advent. A hope filled few weeks, when we prepare to welcome, yet again, the light and peace that is felt at the Lord's birth. Jesus is the reason for the season. One of the images that Pope Francis often uses is that of the door. He is calling on us to keep the doors of the Church open. He means that literally closed doors invite no one in. He is using the image of the door also as a symbol; the Church doors must be open in welcome. The Church must be welcoming especially to those who are living in anxiety and hopelessness, to those who are seeking the answers to what life is about. If we dig down a little deeper the Pope is also asking us questions about why so many young people do not find the Church a welcoming Church, while we possess one of the great secrets about the meaning of life which young people are seeking; the message of Jesus Christ and how he reveals that our God is a God of love.

And he takes the image of the Church door one step further. The Church doors must be open so that we go out through them into the world around us to live and witness to the love of God, especially to those who are on the margins of Church life and those who are trapped in the margins of society. There is no point in having our church doors open if we remain happily inside as a closed comfort zone for ourselves and the like minded. There is no point in creating a Church which is locked within itself and within its own history. The Advent message is that the Christian life is always a future-looking one. The Advent wreath is an image of the Church. Week by week we light another candle as our lives move forward step by step in expectation. Our mission as Christians in the world is, as we look forward to Christ's coming, to anticipate that fullness of Christ's teaching through the way we live as individuals and as society, and to ensure that our world does not deviate from God's design for his creation.

How does the message of Advent help us focus better on the fundamental thrust we should be giving to our lives? How does Advent help us to witness in our society to what Christ's coming means? Advent, is a period of waiting, of longing, of anticipation and preparation and of rejoicing that "the Lord is coming", that "the Lord is near"; it encourages us to look to the future as a future of hope and there is no doubt that we need hope today, as individuals, as families, as communities and indeed as a nation. We should learn to think like the Old Testament prophets as they looked forward to the coming of the Saviour. They were sensitive to the experience of injustice and sin under which they lived and looked forward in hope to the coming of "the anointed one", as one whose coming will bring the newness of peace and justice and righteousness. It was such a hope that enabled the Prophet Isaiah to dream the dream, with those beautiful words: "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks".

Advent reminds us that it is possible to change our world, starting out from where we are concretely within all the ambiguities and compromises of life, and move towards



the realisation of the ideal of truth, justice and love. The Christian of every generation is called particularly to be awake and attentive to where society is slipping into wrong ways and to cry out like the prophet to return to the ways of God. In our days, sadly, nations still raise weaponry against others. How often do we read about knives being raised in violence and guns in vengeance and lives – young lives – being ruined? I am horrified to see in our world of progress and enlightenment that men and women and children are driven in their hundreds of thousands from their homes through wars as in Syria. Like you, I am greatly worried by the rising tide of xenophobia and racism in our country. Christians in our society must find the ways to speak up and stand up as witnesses to the God of peace and loving care. A God whose very birth took place on the periphery as there was no room for him in the Inn.

Advent then is a moment in which we should interrupt our daily life and think about what is essential. All too often, we live preoccupied by the hecticness of our daily lives, asleep to the wider consequences of our way of life. Following Jesus Christ is a calling to a robust engagement with the challenges of our society. The Christian life is never self-focussed but focussed on self-giving as Jesus gave his life to save us. Christians must learn the ability not just to adapt to the realities of the day but to challenge the realities and the thought-patterns of the day. The Christian must be one who stands out and has the courage to rise above conformity, even when that is not easy. Advent is not strictly a time of penance and fasting as is Lent. It is marked more rather by a growing sense of joyfulness for the fact that Jesus is coming and that his coming is near.

We pray that when he comes he will find us not closed in the comfortable and the familiar, but out there doing God's work and confidently bringing his message of love and hope into the world around us.

As we celebrate this season of Advent, may we grow in hopefulness and gratitude. May the light of Christ, brighter than this winter darkness, inspire us to act with kindness and compassion.

**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)**



# ADVENT

IN OUR PARISH

**Monday to Friday @7.00pm**

**Rosary with Advent Prayer**

**Sundays of Advent @6.30pm**

**Evening Prayer and Benediction**

**Monday 9th December @11.00am**

**Advent Prayer Service in the Parish Centre**

**Friday 20th December @7.30pm**

**Advent Penitential Service**

**Sunday 22nd December @7.30pm**

**Parish Carol Service**

All are available through our  
Parish Church webcam  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)  
or on our Parish Radio 106.5FM





Clonminam Ind. Est.,  
Portlaoise.  
**057-8672980**

# BROWNES

## ANIMAL FEEDS

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DOG FOOD  
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SPECIAL PRICE  
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UP UNTIL  
CHRISTMAS



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Feeders now in stock

3 BAGS OF  
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Lighter gauge **€40.00**

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Now stocking **Stove Ovoids** - Ideal for Stoves, smokeless and  
burns to ash

See our range of free standing Stoves

**ECO GLOW 40KG** - Super smokeless product - 3 for **€53.00**

**FIREBRITE 40KG** - 3 FOR **€51.00**

**BRIQUETTES** - 5 FOR **€21.00**

Also Gas only **€24.50**

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OFFER**



Keep up to date with our Special Offers and Free Draws  
on Facebook and Midlands 103



Don't forget to order your **CHRISTMAS TREE** available in Brownes from 1<sup>st</sup> December  
€5 donation to homeless charity for every tree sold

Brownes Animal Feeds...Animal Feeds and much more...always great value and service!





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Portlaoise.

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# BROWNES

ANIMAL FEEDS

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Monday-Friday

8:45am-5:30pm

Saturday 9am to 5pm



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Rugs from

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Also Stocking; \* Kennels

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RANGE NOW  
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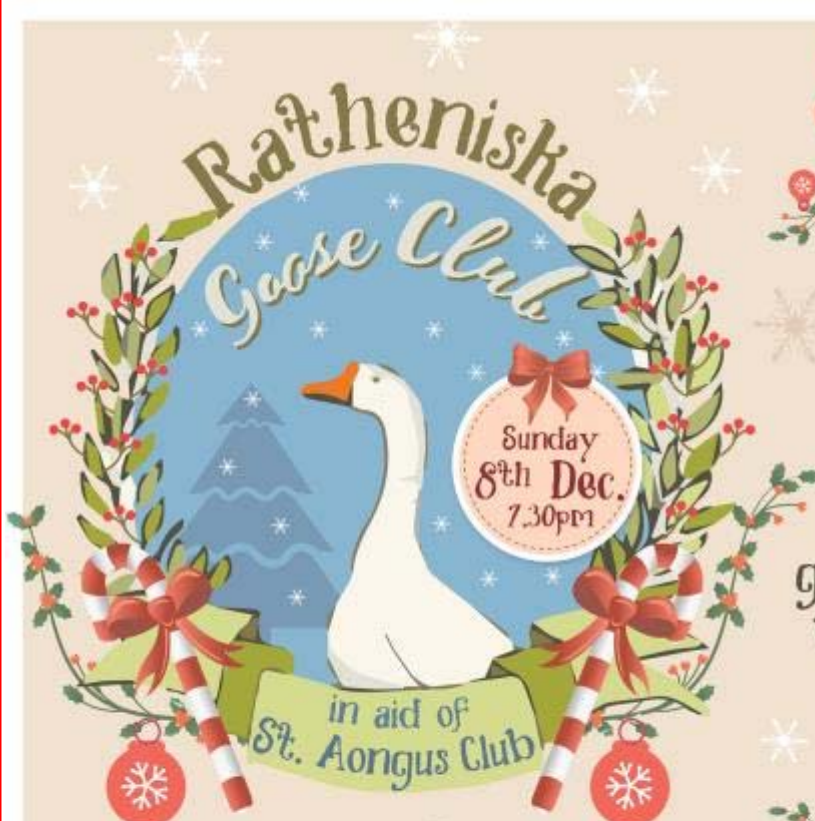
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stock, adult and junior, Don't miss out  
on the special offers!

**10% OFF ALL  
WORKBOOTS  
FOR DECEMBER**

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Always great  
value and  
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20 Raffles...  
First raffle **FREE!!**  
**ALL WELCOME**

Fun family night  
in Ratheniska Hall  
with our  
Christmas Goose Club

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec**

Lots of Christmas raffles &  
great prizes - you could even  
**WIN** your Christmas Dinner!

**Join us  
from 7.30pm**





**LOOKING FOR THE  
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THIS CHRISTMAS?**

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH  
LOTTO GIFT  
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**FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE**

***You may also join the parish lotto online at  
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Celebrate Christmas at Dunamais Arts Centre! Book your Pre-Show meal at Caffè-Latte!  
Christmas party packages available | Christmas events for all ages!



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# DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE

Celebrating 20 Years | 1999-2019



**RED HURLEY**

**O HOLY NIGHT**  
with Newbridge Gospel Choir  
Fri 13 Dec | 8pm | €27.50



**SANTA'S FAIRYTALE CHRISTMAS**  
Sat 14 Dec | 11am & 1pm | €12



**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Captured Live in Moscow!  
Performed by The Bolshoi Ballet  
Sat 14 Dec | 7pm | €15/12/50/4



**THE CHRISTMAS SHOW**  
A Tribute to ABBA  
Thurs 19 Dec | 8pm | €23/20



**The Richard Mansworth CHRISTMAS SHOW**  
Fri 20 Dec | 8pm | €18/15



**THE GREATEST SHOWMAN**  
Sing-a-long Screening  
Sat 21 Dec | 7pm | €10/€8



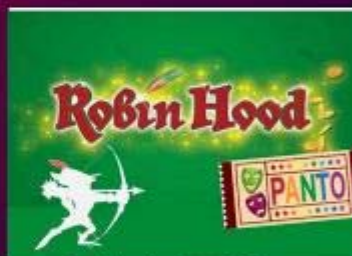
**Bosco & Sleeping Beauty**  
Sat 4 Jan | 12pm & 2pm  
Ideal Christmas Gift!  
**BOOK EARLY!**



**FARMER MICHAEL & KATHLEEN**  
The Internet Sensations!  
Sat 4 Jan | 8pm | €22.50



**CHRISTY DIGNAM & JOE JEWELL**  
An Intimate Evening  
Wed 8 Jan | 8pm | €25



**Robin Hood**  
Portlaoise Panto Group  
18-25 Jan (Various times)



**THE VANISHING GUN**  
A New Play  
by Ger Carey  
30 Jan | 8pm | €15



**DIRTY DUSTING**  
Returns due to Demand  
Fri 28 Feb, 8pm



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Nights Out | Party Packages | Vouchers | Gifts

Dine out before the show with a special  
Christmas Party Dinner in **CAFFE LATTE!**  
Group rate tickets & party packages available.

The Perfect Christmas Gift... the Gift of the Arts!  
**Vouchers to any value available**

**Enquire at Box Office: 057 8663355. BOOK EARLY!**



**SCROOGE**  
Wed 18 Dec | 11am & 8pm  
€7/6/5

**ELF**  
Sat 21 Dec | 12pm | €4

**THE GREATEST SHOWMAN**  
Sing-a-long  
Sat 21 Dec | 7pm | €10/8



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



**Joseph (Joe)  
Whelan**

Kimmage, Dublin and formerly  
Portlaoise



**Geraldine O'Shea  
née Marum**

Glenbarrow, Portlaoise

**Pat Dwyer**  
Grenville, Portlaoise

**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)

**† KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS †**

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Contact Matthew

**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

**HENRY RANKIN**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Contact;

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PAUL; 087-2562137

NIALL;

086-2770095



**In Loving Memory of  
LILY REID**

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15am.**

*May the winds of Heaven blow softly and  
whisper in your ear,  
How much we love and miss you and wish  
that you were here.*

*Always loved and remembered by  
her loving husband and family, extended family and friends.*

*May Lily Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of My Father  
PATRICK (Paddy) O'BRIEN**

4 The Bungalow, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise.

11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019



*I remember my father for all  
that he gave, his wisdom, his  
humour, these memories I save,  
I remember my father, a man of  
his word, soft spoken at times,  
but always heard,  
I remember my father, capable  
and strong, with caring and  
kindness carried along,*

*I remember my father in the funniest ways,  
A tickle of the senses recaptures those days,  
I remember my father, respected, revered,  
With honest convictions not easily steered,  
I remember my father, a handsome gent,  
With love in his eyes and merriment.*

*Always remembered by your daughter Anne,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*May Paddy Rest in Peace*



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**In Loving Memory of**  
**WILLIAM (Willard) DOWNEY**  
 8 Triogue Place, Portlaoise.

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

*Will those who think of  
 Willard today,  
 A little prayer to Jesus say.  
 Thinking of you always,  
 your good friend Andy.*



*Rest in Peace Bill*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**ELEANOR WALSH**

Capoley Lane, Portlaoise.  
 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.



Anniversary Mass will be  
 celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
 Parish Church this  
 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 10am.

*Dearly missed by all her loving family  
 and friends.*

*May Eleanor Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**FRANK DUNNE**

Brockera, Ballyfin, formerly St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019



4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter  
 & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on Saturday  
 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

*You life was love and labour,  
 Your love for your family true,  
 You did your best for all of us,  
 We will always love and remember you.*

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Kathleen and  
 family.*

*May Frank Rest in Peace*

**Birthday Remembrance**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**BERNADETTE KELLY**

Parkside Apartments and formerly Capoley.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday away from home; 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019



*God saw you getting tired and a cure  
 was not to be,  
 So He put His arms around you, and  
 whispered; "Come to me".  
 With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw  
 you pass away, and although we loved you  
 dearly, we could not make you stay.  
 A golden heart stopped beating, hard working  
 hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
 He only takes the best.*

*Sadly missed by her loving daughters Joan and Thelma,  
 son-in-law, grandchildren and all her loving family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Bernadette*

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
**DENIS LALOR**

*The Downs and formerly Ballyclider*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
 Always remembered by all his family, neighbours  
 and friends. R.I.P.

**In Loving Memory of**  
**A Special Mum and Gran**  
**ALICE HILLIARD**

63 Marian Avenue Portlaoise, 6<sup>th</sup> Year away from home.



*Our love is forever and although  
 we are apart,  
 Our love only grows stronger, deep  
 within our hearts.  
 Sadly missed by your daughter Liz  
 and partner Diarmuid,  
 grandchildren, Jennifer, Nicole,  
 Bernard, Rebecca and partners,  
 and great-grandchildren.*

*May Alice Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**ALICE HILLIARD**

63 Marian Avenue Portlaoise,  
 6<sup>th</sup> Year away from home



*Loving Memories of one so dear,  
 Treasured still with a love sincere,  
 In our hearts you are living yet,  
 We loved you too dearly to forget.*

*Sadly missed by your husband James,  
 brother Andrew O'Reilly and  
 your niece Katie.*

*May Alice Rest in Peace*



## In Loving Memory of KEVIN YOUNG

34 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise and formerly  
Derreen, Cloneygowan, Co. Offaly.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered every day,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts you are  
always there.

Sadly missed and remembered  
everyday, Dawn, Derek, Gemma  
and kids.

*May Kevin Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of GLECERIA MORTALLA (Lola) FLORES

Dumaguete City, Philippines.  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December 2019



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

One year has passed since that  
sad day,  
When the Mam we loved was  
called away,  
God took her home, it was His will,  
But in all our hearts, she liveth still.

*Sadly missed, but always in our hearts.*

Aida, Titing, Natoy, Arnold, Fidela, Catalina, Candida  
and Gregorio, daughters and sons in-law, grandchildren,  
great-grandchildren and extended family.

*Rest in Peace Lola*

## In Loving Memory of Our Sister MAUREEN O' CONNOR

7 Newpark, Portlaoise, whose 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
occurs 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm.

*After Glow*

I'd like the memory of me to be a  
happy one,

I'd like to leave an after glow of smiles  
when life is done,

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and  
sunny days,

I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the  
sun,

Of happy memories that I leave, when life is done.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all her loving family,  
cousins and many friends and her bichon Milly xx*

*Rest in Peace Maureen*

## In Loving Memory of JOHN ARRIGAN

Newpark, Portlaoise  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019



6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15am

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

*May John Rest in Peace*

PREPARE  
A WAY FOR THE LORD

LUKE 3:4



## CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

The final date to submit notices will be  
**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Due to the large volume of remembrances  
in past years we request that you please  
bring in your remembrances as soon as  
possible to allow sufficient time to  
complete them and guarantee inclusion.

*We thank you for your co-operation.*



# 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







“Like” us on Facebook  
@portlaoiselinkup



Contact Us

To discuss how we can help you grow your business

### RELIGIOUS NOTICES

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

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

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

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

**Legion of Mary:** meeting every Wednesday 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.

**Divine Mercy Mass:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, rosary at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7:30pm and blessing with St. Faustina's relic. All are welcome. Celebrant: Fr. Paddy Banville. Music: Margaret Brennan.

**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.

**Bus to Clonfert** for a day of Prayer and Healing at Emmanuel House of Providence, Clonfert, led by Eddie Stones and team, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 10:30am. Please bring a packed lunch. Bus from Carlow, Ballylinan, Portlaoise and Mountrath. Contact; 059-9151245 / 087-2245193.

**Teach Mhuire Praying Community Mass for Healing:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. in St. Paul's Church, Emo, Portlaoise. Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Holy Mass at 8pm. Celebrant: Fr. Eddie Lawlor c.c. Portlaoise.

### 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. 4<sup>th</sup>:** This week it's the old grey matter test, where we all have to exercise the brain cells and partake in Bernie's quiz. Always a very interesting wide variety of questions to tax us all. Dr. Laura Kelly, Senior Lecturer in Health and Medicine will also join us and give a talk on those interesting issues.

### PORTLAOISE ACTIVE GROUP COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
In the Parish Centre  
from 10:30am

Carols and Christmas Songs under  
the Christmas Tree with members  
of ARA and Caroline Smith



Homemade  
Cakes  
on Sale



Bumper Raffle - €1 per line

Sit back, relax, sing along with the choir and sample some delicious home baking. We look forward to meeting you all there.

**Pioneer Mass:** The annual Mass for members who have passed away during the year will be celebrated in the Parish Centre at 8pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Anyone who has lost a loved relative or friend during the year, you are invited to attend.

**Sing for Joy Choir** will present it's annual concert "Christmas Joy" in St. Fintan's Church (the small church in the grounds of St. Fintan's Hospital), Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise on Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 11am. The members, their families and carers earnestly look forward to singing all the familiar joyful songs in preparation for the big occasion. We welcome your support and encouragement. All are welcome to join in. Admission free. For details contact Maureen 087-6482038.

**The Heath Golf Club** - accepting new members now. Under 30s €300, over 30s €425 to end 2020. Juniors €50. Driving Range, professional on-site. Payment plans available. Junior programmes for boys and girls. Get into Golf for women. Contact us on 057-8646533, email, info@theheathgc.ie

**The Heath Golf Club**

**HSE Retired Staff Christmas Dinner:** Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm in the Killeshin Hotel. Ample car parking. A good opportunity to meet up with former colleagues. Good meal and spot prizes assured. All retired staff welcome. If interested please call; 086-8812228 / 087-2068974 / 087-6219253 before Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### 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

MOUNTMELICK

MONSTER  
BINGO

This Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

In the Arts Centre at 8:30pm

€5,000 in prizes.

Books €10 single, €15 double.



# Santa's Grotto

Santa Claus is coming

to Manor Stone

Garden Centre

Only €10  
per child

Lots of fun  
for all!

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

To book call Freda on  
**057 87 34174**  
**Mon-Fri 9-5pm**

**Ballacolla, Co Laois**

Take your Photo in  
Santa's Sleigh

Play games  
in the  
Elf Village



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# Portlaoise Singers

PRESENT



## Beautiful Dreamer

The Story of Stephen Foster

Venue: The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

Date: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Time: 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.

Sounds  
of the  
Season

*An evening to remember*

**Tickets €15**

available from

The Dunamais Box Office

Tel: 057 866 3355

*Tickets also available at the door on the night*



## **ACTIVE PLUMBER**

Central heating, showers,  
taps, blockages.  
New installation or repairs.  
Contact Fergus;  
**087-6542742**  
**087-0959245**

## **LAOIS TV SERVICES**

Repairs to TV and home  
entertainment equipment.  
Also we supply and fit and  
repair Saorview, Aerial and  
Satellite systems. Contact;  
**057-8732998**  
**087-2619426 / 083-3742600**

## **PLUMBER AVAILABLE**

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**

## **LOST PROPERTY**

Silver Locket of great  
sentimental value, contains  
pictures of late parents.  
Lost in the vicinity of Old Shaws  
buildings, Egan's Lr. Main  
Street and New Road area.  
Contact; **086-1087334**

## **MIDLAND APPLIANCE REPAIRS**

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

## **WINDOWS & DOOR REPAIRS**

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proofing
- 083-3153211**

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**Interior and Exterior**  
Powerwashing and Spray  
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new houses etc. 12 years  
experience. Contact;  
**089-4459958**

## **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.



## **FITZFIRE LTD**

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## **OFFICE ASSISTANT REQUIRED**

Part-time basis - 10 hours weekly  
For PR duties, social media and  
general office duties. Own  
transport essential. E-mail C.V. to  
**info@fitzfire.ie**

## **STRAD TRAD**

Open Trad/Ballad Music session  
continues on Friday night  
6<sup>th</sup> December at 9pm at  
Dunnes Lounge, Stradbally and  
will continue on the first Friday  
of every month.  
Musicians & singers welcome.  
Admission free

## **Employment Opportunity for Stepping Stones Early Years Service, Castletown, Portlaoise.**

*Candidates must;*

1. Have minimum level 5  
qualification in early childhood  
education.
2. Have a good understanding of  
Aistear curriculum & Siolta  
standards.
3. Work well as part of a team.

Position 15 hours per week.  
Previous experience in early  
years setting essential.

*Send CV to;*

**stellaharding1@hotmail.com**  
or phone **Stella 086-3240673**

## **ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY**

Monthly meeting will be  
held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
in the Parish Centre after  
10am Mass. New members  
are always welcome.



**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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

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

**YOUR NEXT BLOOD DONATION CLINIC:**

The Killeshin Hotel,  
Portlaoise  
Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> &  
Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> December  
4.30-8.00pm



**giveblood.ie**

you get more than you give

**LoCall 1850 731 137**

*1 in 4 need blood but only 1 in 33 give blood*

**NIGHT VIGIL TO KNOCK**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

**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 inclusive. **€719** p.p. sharing  
(special fare subsidised by committee,  
single supplement €155 extra).

Payments can be made in  
instalments, once deposit has been  
paid. **€200 deposit**, 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**

**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



**€3  
Donation**



**CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES**

**Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm**

**Saturdays: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December  
10am-2pm**







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