

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
up
5th January 2020

Second Sunday of Christmas

David Emmanuel placed in our Crib for the 9pm Mass was so comfortable he remained there for the whole Mass. (Rumour has it he went into a deep sleep during the homily!!)

Thank you to David's parents, Sofiiia and Stanislav

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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Portlaoise Parish

Results for

2nd January 2020



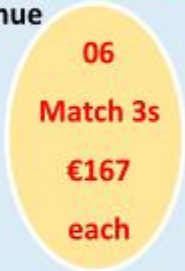
No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

MATCH 3s €1,000

PROMOTER

Conor & David Donohue
Willy Reidy
McNally Grant
Liam Dollard
Mary Finn
M. Murphy



Betty Lynch
Bernie Lalor
M. Fallon
Carmel Whelan
Christy Paisley
Martley's



Next Week's Jackpot
€20,000

Priests of the Parish



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



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



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



Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Tom O'Connor P.E.
(Parish Chaplain)

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364



Parish Centre

Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
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

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

Religious gifts and books.

Pope Francis's Prayer

Intention for January 2020

You don't need to be much of an expert to know that the basis of most world religions are values such as love and kindness and peace by which to live our lives. So if living by a universally agreed set of values is central to all beliefs, how do we find it so difficult to get along? One of the answers seems to be a difficulty in accepting each other's traditions, culture and rituals. We are so comfortable with our own way of doing things and our own traditions that it can be quite an uncomfortable experience to sit in someone else's church with a different group of people doing things in a different way. This month we are asked to step outside our comfort zones and look at what other people believe with fresh eyes. Together we stand a better chance of creating a better world. Pope Francis asks us to ".... **Pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.**"





"In the Beginning
was the Word..."



mean it should be private? In keeping our faith private we are missing a very important opportunity. How often has our own faith taken a little leap forward because of something we have heard or something we have read? Similarly there maybe something you have heard or learnt that would help someone else. You might not consider yourself a theologian, but there might be something seemingly small that you could contribute that would make a big difference to someone else.

Without the internet, books, Catholic papers, TV documentaries, homilies and the testimonies of friends and family, how would we develop our faith? Without the work of missionaries, teachers and parents, how would our faith have been handed from generation to generation? Without the gospel writers, how would Jesus' work and God's word be remembered? Without John the Baptist and the first disciples, how else would Jesus' identity have been known?

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Staying quiet and making religion a private matter is simply not an option. There are still those that would benefit from Christ's teaching either directly or indirectly. If Christianity is something very important to us, why be reticent about sharing it? If bearing witness to Christ can change lives, shouldn't we make our voices ever more persistently heard by friends, neighbours, family, politicians, community leaders TV producers and anyone else with the willingness and the know-how to bring about change?

Like John, we are called in our baptismal promises to be witnesses to the work of Christ. We are called to be witnesses in every circumstance of our lives.

Called to Witness

People often declare that their faith is a private and a very personal thing. Of course our faith is very personal, but does that

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday (The Epiphany of the Lord)

8.30am, 10am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm
The Heath: 9.30am
Ratheniska: 10am

Tuesday –Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhríde, 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.

Visit our website:

www.portlaoiseparish.ie



We welcome into our
Parish Community

Cormac Bernard O'Looney
Ballyteagan

Harry Paul Donelon, Cherrygarth

Nina Áine Clough, Grattan Street

Mia Vanisha Glynn, Colliers Lane

Dominic Rían Baranowski, Rossvale

who were baptised last weekend



Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

Next Sunday 12th January

Blessing of Babies 2pm

Parish Church

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday 22nd December 2019

Offertory Collection	€3,710.00
Development Fund	€2,770.00
	€6,480.00

Sunday 29th December 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,523.00
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	€5,723.00

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COMPLETION: Wednesday, 29th April, 2020

EXAMINATION: Saturday, 9th May, 2020



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Portlaoise Athletic Club are running a
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for the new year.

It will end with the "Streets Of Portlaoise"
5k Road Race On 17th March 2020
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Open to beginners and runners of all levels
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Is Christmas Really Over?

This is the second Sunday after Christmas. It has been hardly more than a week since we were celebrating, opening gifts, and eating a huge Christmas dinner. What is left of the Christmas celebration? A trash bag full of used wrapping paper and empty boxes. The

Christmas tree and all the decorations will have to be taken down and stored in the attic for another year. Christmas is over and our lives have returned to normal. It is back to work for the adults and back to school for the children. Yes, Christmas is over -- at least for another year.

Wait! Is it really over? Is that all there is to Christmas? Is it just a time for parties, giving gifts to friends and family, and a brief period of "Peace on earth, good will toward men?" Surely there is more to it than that.

Our Gospel today reveal the true meaning of Christmas. The Bible says that, "The Word became flesh and came to live among us." The "Word" that the Bible is talking about is Jesus. He came, full of unfailing love, and we have seen his glory. We have seen the glory of God's only begotten Son.

What did you get for Christmas? No doubt you received some toys and clothes, but the most important gift any of us received was Jesus who came to earth as a gift from God. To those who receive him and believe in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.

Jesus came to the world, but many did not recognize him. For those who do not know the Saviour, Christmas is over. But for those of us who received the gift of the Father, Christmas goes on all year long.



Dear Jesus, we seek you today because we want to worship you, you are our King. We are thankful for all our priests and teachers who want to help us and we are thankful for the Bible which we have been given to lead us to you. Amen.

Altar Servers Christmas Party 2019

Our thanks to Noma, Aoibheann and Chiara, our wonderful TY girls who organised a great party for Altar Servers before Christmas. Our thanks also to our great servers for all their help. We had great fun!



Aoibheann Chiara
Noma





TIME TO THINK!

HAPPY 2020

It's hard to believe we are almost ready to begin another new year, the rituals of celebrating a new year is an ancient one. It's been for centuries that the New Year's Day is observed on January 1st. However, we don't exactly know when this date was chosen as the first day of the New Year. While we are looking forward to celebrating the Happy New Year 2020, discussing the history of the event seemed important.

Though we don't know about the exact origin, we know that it started more than a thousand years ago when the ancient Babylonians used to celebrate such events. Later, during the Roman Empire, it was common to celebrate the New Year event, however, the date of the celebrations changed when the Julian calendar was implemented by Julius Cesar. Many centuries ago when the Gregorian calendar was invented, the date finally became 1st January which is still followed in 2020. Also, the shape of celebrations and New Year traditions differ in the modern age, however, at some places of the world, the older traditions are still respected and followed.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



New Year Resolutions are one of the interesting things about the arrival of the New Year. This is because people who are having difficulty while achieving their dreams set different goals on the arrival of the event and start following them from the 1st January. This gives them a psychological advantage and people with commitments have achieved greater things by following their New Year goals. Hopefully you are looking forward to the new year, it is always an opportunity to begin again, looking forward to bringing improvements in your life is also desired by us all. I like the following New Year Resolutions which you can set for the New Year 2020 and make your life better.

- Work on learning new skills every month.
- Control and work on your emotional being.
- Be kind and have a positive attitude.
- Start meditating - be open to the spiritual.
- Pick new hobbies.
- Play more sports.
- Cut down on calories.
- Schedule everything.
- Be grateful for what you have.
- Get rid of procrastination.
- Don't miss out on doing plans.
- Work on your confidence.
- Work on your Charisma and IQ.

We know too, more than anything else, that our health is our wealth. I pray that this new year will be a healthy and happy one for us all. It's a fresh time and an opportunity for us all to begin again.

BEGIN

Begin again to the summoning birds, to the sight of the light at the window.
Begin to the roar of morning traffic, all along Pembroke Road.

Every beginning is a promise, born in light and dying in dark, determination and exaltation of springtime flowering the way to work.

Begin to the pageant of queuing girls, the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal, bridges linking the past and future, old friends passing though with us still.

Begin to the loneliness that cannot end, since it perhaps is what makes us begin.

Begin to wonder at unknown faces, at crying birds in the sudden rain, at branches stark in the willing sunlight, at seagulls foraging for bread, at couples sharing a sunny secret, alone together while making good.

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending, that always seems about to give in, something that will not acknowledge conclusion, insists that we forever begin.



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 16,800 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

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Christmas in our Parish





OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Esther Dunne

(née Brennan)

Portarlinton and formerly
Dr. Murphy's Place



John Fitzpatrick

Aston Manor and Meelick



Eileen Joan Hynes

(née Quinn)

O' Moore Place and
Ballyfermot

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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✠ *In Loving Memory of*
RICHARD BOOTH ✠

Killeen, Mountmellick.

Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in the Heath hall (beside the Church),
on Sunday 12th January at 9:30am.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
his wife Norma, son Shane, daughters
Ciara and Fiona, granddaughter Chloe
and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Richard



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**In Loving Memory of
LILY BYRNE**

Late of Capoley, Portlaoise. (Died 7th January 1981)



Each time we look at your picture
You seem to smile and say;
"Don't be sad, but courage take and love
each other for my sake"
Sadly missed by your son Martin,
daughter-in-law Jacqueline & grandchildren
Lorraine, Michelle & Sarah and
her great grandson Danny
May Lily Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ANTHONY (Tony) DUNNE**

Glendowns, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 6th January 2020.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Sunday 5th January at 12:30pm.



Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered everyday,
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts, you're always there.
Sadly missed and always remembered
by his loving wife Mary, daughters
Tracy and Regina, sons, Tony, Greg and
Damien, grandchildren Danielle,
Cheyenne, Saffron, sister Josephine and extended family.

Rest in Peace Tony

**In Loving Memory of
JAMES DEMPSEY**

8 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. Died 1st January 1997.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 4th January at 6.30pm.
A loving husband and father so true,
No one on this earth we'll find like you,
For us you always did your best,
God grant your soul eternal rest.

Also remembering our mother Sadie at this time.
From all your loving family.

May James Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Paudge) LARKIN**

176 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 5th January 2020



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

7th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 5th January at 12:30pm.

Sadly missed by your daughter Michelle,
and son P.J.

May Patrick Rest in Peace

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of a Precious
Son and Brother
DEAN BERGIN**



To lose a fine and precious son
and brother, whether man or boy,
Deprives the heart of all its
warmth and life of so much joy,
But each year on this special day,
we celebrate your birth,
And treasure every moment,
That you were here on earth,
We took those days for granted
and never dreamt or thought,

That all our lives would change so much and yours would
be so short,
But now we must remember that although the tears may
fall, the son and brother we'll miss forever brought
sunshine to us all.

Missing you on your birthday Dean
Happy 36th Birthday

Love Mossie, Martina, Lisa, Sandra, nieces and nephews.

May Dean Rest In Peace



**In Loving Memory of
FERGUS PATRICK DUNNE**

4th Anniversary occurs 4th January 2020



Our memories build a special
bridge when loved ones have to
part, to help us feel we are with
them still and soothe a grieving
heart.

Our memories span the years we
shared, preserving ties that bind,
They build a special bridge of
love and bring us peace of mind.

Rest in peace Fergus. Dear Jesus, thy Heavenly home above with
Sacred Heart of Jesus in his own eternal love.

Sadly missed by your loving partner Esther, brothers
and sisters, relatives and friends.

May Fergus Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

MARTIN BRENNAN

54 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

6th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2020



Remember Martin with a smile today,
For he would not want our tears,
Reflect instead on memories of all his
happy years.

Sadly missed by your loving mother Nellie, brothers and sisters.

May Martin Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

PATRICK (Pat) BOWLER

6 The Cottage, New Road, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 9th January 2020.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Saturday 11th January at 10am.

We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories and your
picture in a frame.

Your resting place we visit and put flowers there with
care, but no one knows the heartache as we turn and
leave you there.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by his loving
wife Maureen, sons Patrick, Paul and Niall,
daughters-in-law Jennifer and Donna, Paul's partner
Jackie, grandchildren and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Patrick

In Loving Memory of

JANE SHIELS

Formerly Dr. Murphy's Place, Portlaoise.

20th Anniversary occurs 5th January 2020



If we had all the world to give, we'd give it to
you and more, to hear your voice and see your
smile and greet you at the door.

But all we can do dear Mam, is go and tend
your grave, and leave behind tokens of love, to
the best Mam that God made.

Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Jane

In Loving Memory of

PATRICK (Pa) BOWLER

6 The Cottage, New Road, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 9th January 2020.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 11th January at 10am.

We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories and your
picture in a frame.

Your resting place we visit and put flowers there with
care, but no one knows the heartache as we turn and
leave you there.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his sisters
Mary, Angela, Ann, Kathleen and Tricia, brothers
Henry, Martin, John and Tom, extended family,
relatives and friends.*

Rest in Peace Patrick

In Loving Memory of

PADDY "Patrick" McEVOY

Capoley, Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary.



11th Anniversary Mass will
be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 11th January
at 6:30pm.

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends

May Paddy Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

KATHLEEN DOWLING

Ballymaddock, Stradbally.

1st Anniversary occurs 10th January 2020.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in the Heath hall (beside the Church),
on Sunday 12th January at 9:30am.

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

Rest in Peace Kathleen

They followed that 'Star in the East'



God bless the work

Work began last Monday on the Church of the Assumption, the Heath. Please God it will progress smoothly and successfully towards an anticipated re-opening at Easter which this year (Easter Sunday) is 12th April.

Some pictures of progress to date.



The first job of work was the removal of the pews. The plan was to place them outside the Church and anyone who wished to take one was welcome and those that were left would be removed at the weekend by the joinery firm (Irish Contract Seating) who are making the new pews. By Monday evening there wasn't a pew left. We hope they will be useful to those who got them and we know when it comes to supporting the Church renovation project they will not be found wanting!!



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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 2.50-4pm.

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.

Teach Mhuire Praying Community Mass for Healing: Tuesday 7th Jan. in St. Paul's Church, Emo, Portlaoise. Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Holy Mass at 8pm. Celebrant: Fr. Eddie Lawlor c.c. Portlaoise.

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

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

Bowls:

Every Monday in St. Mary's Hall at 3pm - regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part and become a member of the ARA Bowls team. Club resumes Monday 13th January 2020.

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 past-time and meet new friends.

Jan. 8th: We have just ventured into a new decade in 2020, and are delighted to welcome all our members back to the Wednesday meetings again. What better way to start than with our musical maestro Caroline to get the show underway. A very enjoyable afternoon is always assured, and we hope to see everybody there.



HOUSEKEEPING

Lady available for; housekeeping, cleaning windows, hoovering, mopping, shopping etc.

Contact;

087-1716005

Planning Transition from Post-Primary School to College for Students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities;

Talk for parents before CEO deadline in Laois Education Centre, Mon. 13th January, 6-7pm. Booking essential. Tel. 057 8672402

E-mail; yvonne@laoisedcentre.ie Friends of Portlaoise Hospital Annual Christmas Draw results;

€500 Marie Dollard
€300 Caroline Daly
€300 Emma Brennan
€200 Olivia Foy
€200 Catherine Cahill
Congratulations to the winners. We thank everyone who supported the draw.

HSE

Suicide Prevention Training

Free 2-day workshop taking place on 21st and 22nd January in the Parish Centre. Contact Josephine Rigney (HSE) to register your place. Tel. 086-8157850 or e-mail josephine.rigney@hse.ie



yourmentalhealth.ie

Dog Grooming



Handsome Hounds
Petworld (unit 28), Laois Shopping Centre
Tel: 085 8016734 (Lorna)



Nationwide Walks

Saturday January 18th @ 11am

Laois Walks 2020:

Laois LSP: Emo Court & Parklands - 5km

Community Led Walks:

Rosenallis/Ridge of Capard, Portarlington, Kiltavan, Kiltotton, The Swan, Rathdowney, Stradbally/Ballykiltavan, Mountmellick, Shanahoe, Cullchill & Mountrath

May the year 2020 bring a fresh start, new aspirations, and inspiring successes. Walk with grace and achieve greater heights!



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JOB VACANCY

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Tel.;

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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

NOTICE

Portlaoise Parish Lourdes
Committee would like to advise
that our savings club for our
2020 Pilgrimage will begin on
9/1/2020 in the Parish Centre
from 6:30-7:30pm only each
week. This savings scheme will
run for 21 weeks. Any money
saved is not refundable or
transferable. This scheme is to
try and help people to save their
fare or part off weekly.
The deposit of €200 must be paid
towards your fare before you
begin the savings scheme. Please
see poster in the Church for
further info. regarding deposit.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT THERAPIST

providing confidential space to
process emotions, thoughts
and behaviours.

Contact: Aisling Brennan,
Art Therapist, **087-7139015**
or **trueselftrueart@gmail.com**



Returns
8th January
at the track
at Portlaoise
College at
6pm for
10 weeks.
Registration at 5:15pm on 8th,
€30 for 10 weeks.



TAKE A
**LEAP OF
FAITH**
& BEGIN THIS
WONDROUS
NEW YEAR.
BY **BELIEVING.**

SARAH BAN BREATHNACH





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