

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

8th December 2019

Second Sunday of Advent



**Congratulations to Scoil Chríost Rí
on a wonderful celebration of their
Golden Jubilee on Friday 29th
November; celebrating a proud
tradition of service to education of
girls in Portlaoise for half a century.
Well done.**

More photos page 26 & 27.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

Portlaoise Parish 5th December 2019

01

09



18

31

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Noreen Carroll
Joyce Dunne
Lorena
Mary Boyce
Curtis McDonald
Teresa Hibbits
Roel Dela Cruz
Alan Curran

MATCH 3s €1,000

08
Match 3s
€125
each

PROMOTER

Lily Whelan
Bernie Lalor
Mary Conroy
Mary Boyce
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Roel
Veronica Curran

Next Week's Jackpot

€20,000



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Christmas Gift Idea!

Yearly and Half Yearly Lotto Gift Tokens
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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

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP

Religious gifts and books.



I wish to encourage the tradition of preparing the Nativity Scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.

Pope Francis



Come Lord Jesus

Choose A New Direction

We embark on a diet and the days of lettuce and low calorie drinks loom gloomily. We embark on a fitness regime and our subconscious whispers, "Fifteen more minutes under a warm duvet versus a jog round a freezing park I know what I'd choose!" In today's gospel, John the Baptist preaches "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The idea of 'repentance' fills us with about as much excitement as a cold shower on a winter's morning, but it doesn't have to be like that. Diets, fitness regimes and repentance all have one thing in common we emerge as new people as a result of choosing a new direction. Repentance doesn't mean throwing ourselves round in fits of Catholic guilt, it simply means having a change of heart, and becoming new and better individuals as a result. There are areas in all our lives that can be improved or turned around. The idea of repentance is actually quite exciting.

John's Advent call for a change of heart is for each and every one of us. We might think we are good enough as we are, but that's probably how the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's reading also felt. True enough they turned up for John's baptism, but had they really turned up in a spirit of repentance? John is clearly suspicious of their motivation, and challenges them to prove their commitment. Declaring our intention to change is all well and good, but our commitment must also 'bear fruit' ... show results.

At this time of year, every year, we are asked to change our lives. For the less optimistic amongst us, the idea reminds us of new year resolutions; easily made, easily broken and all a little bit pointless. John's message is a tough one. Changing our lives is far from easy. One of the problems of course is that when we try to change we usually rely solely on our own will power, which is notorious for letting us down. John the Baptist reminds us that when we are baptised in the name of Jesus we will receive the Holy Spirit, a divine power that will help us towards God when our will power fails. All we have to do is ask and keep on asking.

Change is not beyond any of us however much you think it probably is. John might have given the Pharisees and Sadducees a hard time but in truth the message is clear. "There is none so lost, they cannot be found, none so helpless that their life cannot be changed."



Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

Tuesday—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.



Because the 8th December is the Second Sunday of Advent the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday (9th) this year.

While being a Feast Day it is not a Holyday of obligation this year. In association with this Feast day of Our Lady we will have an additional Mass at 7.30pm on Monday.



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Ava Rose Kenny, The Hermitage

Leon William Clover, Woodgrove

Amelia Pamela Cullagh, Rockview Green

Andrew Seamus Weldon, Ballydavis

William Alexander Orpen, Aghnaharna Dr.

who were baptised last weekend

Sunday 1st December 2019

Offertory Collection	€2,819.00
Development Fund	€3,463.00
	€6,282.00

Our thanks and appreciation to all who
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Tuesday 10th December

Wednesday 11th December

Thursday 12th December

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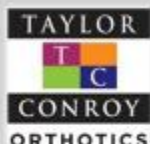
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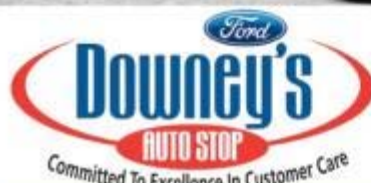
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→ **Audio Typing** QQI Level 5
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Closing date for applications is Friday, 13th December 2019

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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



Second Sunday of Advent

Two purple candles are now lit for the First and Second Sundays in Advent.

The *Candle of Peace* is lit this Sunday on the second Sunday of Advent.



PRAYER FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Loving God, On this Advent day we turn to you in prayer. As we wait the coming of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us. Bring your healing upon us. And help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of peace. May your peace guard our heart, our mind and our home. We ask this through our Lord. Amen.

'Come Lord Jesus'



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

In Advent the priest wears purple, the colour of royalty.

This reminds us that we are waiting to welcome Christ, the King.

A King who is a brother to us.



Ready for the Christ of Christmas

Many years ago, a man named John the Baptist preached about what it means to be ready for Jesus.

John the Baptist was a different kind of man. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a belt around his waist. His diet was rather unusual as well. He ate a diet of locusts and wild honey. Do you know what a locust is? Many of us today might call it a grasshopper. I'm not sure I would want to eat grasshoppers and honey. How about you?

John the Baptist travelled throughout the wilderness of Judea. His message to the people was to get ready for Jesus. John would shout loudly, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Are you ready for Jesus? Many people were ready for Jesus. So they came to John the Baptist. They confessed their sins to God and were baptised by John in the Jordan River.

After John baptised the people, he told them, "I baptise you with water for repentance. But there is one coming who is more powerful than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

During this special season of the year as we get ready for Christmas, you and I need to make sure we're ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make us clean so we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that now.



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS

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

Complete the Wordsearch!

- JOHN
- BAPTISM
- SMOOTH
- STRAIGHT
- PHILIP
- ROUGH
- FORGIVENESS
- CALLING
- CROOKED
- JUDEA
- JORDAN
- CAESAR
- PILATE
- REPENTANCE
- SINS
- DESERT
- PREPARE
- GALILEE
- HEROD
- VOICE



Second RUAH Talks

7pm Tuesday 10th December: The Heath, Ratheniska and Other Schools in The Heath National School

7pm Wednesday 11th December: Holy Family Snr School in Holy Family Jnr School

7.30pm Thursday 12th December: Scoil Bhride and the Gaelscoil in Holy Family Jnr School

Please join us for what promises to be an evening of faith and fun as we continue to prepare for Confirmation.

Each evening will last an hour.



TIME TO THINK!

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY THIS CHRISTMAS

Generosity is a wonderful gift. To have a big heart is a blessing, that is to be open and compassionate in love to the needs of others. Generosity is contagious and beneficial. Fact...The more we give the more we receive. Generosity is measured in our ability to engage and be present to the needs of others. It is also very important to be generous to ourselves. The more I care for myself the greater I can care for others. Christmas is a celebration of generosity. God's love is so overwhelming that he embraced our human vulnerability and became one of us. A birth that evoked generosity from shepherds to wise men. May we all be blessed with generous hearts this Christmas.

How much does a Prayer weigh?



Annabelle, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly

explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualising the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?"

Louise replied, "Yes sir"

"O.K." he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it."

The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece

of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said:

"Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands."

The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence.

Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-euro note to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

It was some time later that the grocer discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

A Christmas Prayer

Little baby Jesus was born upon this day
Lying in a manger, laid upon soft hay.

His mother Mary cared for him,
His dad Joseph felt proud,
To be given such a precious boy,
They felt safe within God's plans.
Shepherds came to greet him,
Wise men carried gifts,
And gave them to the baby,
They knew he would be king.

So we too on Christmas day
Come to worship him.
And celebrate, with love and hope,
To play and laugh and sing.
We love the lights upon the tree,
The presents and the food.
We share this special time together
And say our God is good.
So good he sent us Jesus
To walk and shine the way,
For us all to follow him,
Into a Heavenly day.



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

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ALL WELCOME

Fun family night
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with our
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Sunday 8th Dec

Lots of Christmas raffles &
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WIN your Christmas Dinner!

**Join us
from 7.30pm**

End of Year Rosary at The Grotto

New Years Eve, December 31st at 8pm



BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

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

Your donation for the Candle will go to Sr. Muriel in Medugorje and the invalids, pilgrims and poor in our own society.

Candle bookings can be made through the shop in the Parish Centre or by contacting any of the following;

Anthony Egan	086-1993803
Paddy Connolly	087-2117174
Gerry Murphy	057-8660053
Rachel Murphy	087-6272896
John Egan	087-1254841



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

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
or on our Parish Radio 106.5FM



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Maura Fingleton
Grange



Margaret Cash
Abbeyleix



Cecylia Packa
The Downs



Zbigniew Adamczyk
Eske Hills



Margaret Drennan
Ratheniska

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.



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In Loving Memory of
DENIS CAHILL

Kylevalley, Stradbally, Laois.



3rd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Holy Cross Church, Ratheniska, on
Sunday 15th December at 10am.

*"I did not see you close your eyes, or hear
your last faint sigh, I only heard that you
were gone, too late to say goodbye."*

Miss you every second of every day.

Love always Mam, Dad, Lily and Gran xoxox

May Denis Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
ANGELA CLEARY née Colbert

37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

2nd Birthday away from home occurs 11th December 2019.

To a loving Wife, cherished Mother and adored Nanny



*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 by your loving husband Tom, daughters
Stephanie, Tracey and Paula, grandchildren Craig, Ben, Ryan,
Roisin and Willow. Always in our hearts.*

Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of
THOMAS TERRITT

34 Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.



32nd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 8th December at 12.30pm.

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

Sadly missed by all his loving family & friends.

May Thomas Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH & BRIDGET
CLEAR

Whose Anniversaries occur at this time.



*Will those who think of them today,
A little prayer to Jesus say,
Always remembered by your
loving family.*

May Joseph and Bridget Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
DENIS (Dinny)
FITZPATRICK

46 Liogard, Portlaoise.

11th Anniversary occurs 13th December 2019



*We miss you from your
fireside chair,
Your loving smile and
gentle air,
Your vacant place, no one
can fill,
We miss you Daddy and
always will.
He was a husband so very
rare, content in his home
and always there,*

*On Earth he toiled, in Heaven he rests,
God bless you Din, you were one of the best.*

*Lovingly remembered by your wife Doreen,
children Ann, Tina, John and Dor, sons-in-law,
daughter-in-law and grandchildren.*

May the Lord lay his gentle hand upon him

In Loving Memory of
PASCHAL FARRELL

56 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

Paschal's 43rd Anniversary occurred recently.



**Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this Sunday
8th December at 12:30pm.**

*We thought of you today,
But that is nothing new,
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.*

*We think of you in silence, we often speak your name,
All we have are memories and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake, from which we'll never part,
God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed and remembered by his loving parents, brothers,
sister, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and grand niece.*

May Paschal Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of DENIS BOWE

7 Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 16th December 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 14th December at 6.30pm.

*We speak your name with love and pride
We smile with tears we cannot hide
We thank you for the years we shared
The love you gave, the way you cared.*

*Sadly missed by your wife Margaret,
daughter Yvonne, sons Denis and
David and extended family.*

May Denis Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of ROBERT O' CONNOR

Liogard and Forest Park, Portlaoise.
13th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Time may hide a sadness, like a
smile can hide a tear,
But memories will last forever,
Of one we loved so dear,
Not just a memory or part
of the past,

But ours to remember as long as life last.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish on Sunday 8th December at 12:30pm.

*Sadly missed by Mammy, Daddy, Mark, Adrian,
Liz & family, Lorraine, Bernard & family.*

May Robert Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH (BETTY) HACKETT

Drogheda Court, Monasterevin.
1st Anniversary occurs 7th December 2019



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

Though your smile is gone forever and your
hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories of the Mam
we loved so much.

*Sadly missed by Mary, Susan and Pat, grandchildren,
great grandchildren, relatives and friends.*

May Elizabeth Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of WILLIAM (BILLY) FARRELL

Hillview Drive and formerly of St. John's Sq.
6th Anniversary occurs 8th December 2019

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this Sunday 8th December at 12:30pm.



*If we could have one wish, one wish
that could come true,
It would be to wake up in the
morning, and have our life back,
the one we shared with you.
To go back to the days, where our
worries are very few,
But most importantly the days when
we could put our arms around you.
We will always be a family of five
and we think of you, with everything
we do,*

*We just wish you were here, because life will never be
the same without you.*

*Love you forever and miss you everyday, your wife
Ann and children Christine, Jessica and William.*

May William Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of KATHLEEN TIERNEY

Kilminchy, Portlaoise.
20th Anniversary occurs 16th December 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 15th December at 10am.

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

Loved & remembered by all her loving family.

May Kathleen Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of THOMAS & ANNE KEHOE

Old Knockmay Road, Portlaoise.



Thomas'
30th Anniversary
occurs 8th December

Anne's
15th Anniversary
occurred 5th December



Sadly missed and always remembered by all their loving family.

May They Rest In Peace

In Loving Memory of MARY KATE SHEEHAN

Late of 68 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurred 6th December 2019



A picture of you I carry in my heart,
I close my eyes to see it, when the world
gets dark,
A memory of you I carry in my soul,
I wrap it close around me, when the nights
get cold,
If you ask how I am, I'd say just fine,
But the truth is, if you could read my mind,
Not a day goes by, that I don't think of you.

*Sadly missed by your daughter Bridgid, your grandchildren
Aaron, James, Ava and Amanda and her partner Colin.*

Rest in Peace Mary Kate

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

The final date to submit notices will be
FRIDAY 13TH 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.

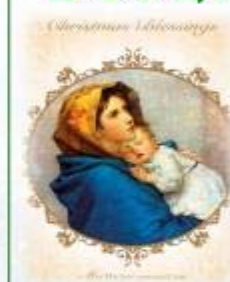
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- Bibles & Books



CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS



€3
Donation



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm

Saturdays: 14th & 21st December

10am-2pm





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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 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.

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

Portlaoise Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2020: Wednesday 22nd July to Tuesday 28th July 2020. 6 nights Saint Sauveur Hotel, fare fully incl.

€719 p.p. sharing (special fare subsidised by committee, single supp. €155 extra). Payments can be made in instalments, once **deposit €200** has been paid, non-refundable and non-transferable, to be paid to JWT, 143 Lr. Baggot St., Dublin 12. For info. contact;

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

USEFUL SERVICES

Accord: Going through a difficult time in your marriage/relationship? Counselling Services available at Accord, Parish Centre, Portlaoise, call 057-8661581 or e-mail us at; accordportlaoise@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Heath Knitting Group: On Sun. 15th December we will be holding a raffle after 9:30am Mass in the hall in the Church grounds, raffle items include a knitted nativity and other festive items. Raffle in aid of the restoration of the Church.

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. 11th: No meeting this week as ARA members are celebrating an early Christmas Dinner with overnight stay to enjoy the music, singing, dancing and the fun of the festive season.

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

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

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

Portlaoise Athletic Club Annual Church gate collection will be held on 14th/15th December.

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

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

RAFFLE IN AID OF THE CUISLE CENTRE

will take place on Thursday 19th December at 1pm. Tickets are on sale in the Cuisle Fayre shop.

- 1st Prize: Super Christmas Hamper incl. €50 voucher from Mulhall's SuperValu for the meat counter.
 - 2nd Prize: €50 Hughes Pharmacy voucher
 - 3rd Prize: €50 Chocolate Brown voucher
 - 4th Prize: Chocolate Hamper
 - 5th Prize: Mixed Hamper
 - 6th Prize: €30 McElwee Pharmacy voucher
 - 7th Prize: €20 Laura-Jane voucher
 - 8th Prize: Killarney Crystal Vase (Shaws)
 - 9th Prize: €30 Connolly Meats voucher
 - 10th Prize: €30 Corrib Oil voucher
- (Prize winners will be notified by phone and prizes must be collected before lunchtime Sat. 21st Dec.)

All money raised will go directly to the Cuisle Centre to fund and support cancer treatment for patients all over Laois. Thank you to all our sponsors for their donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Management and volunteers of the Cuisle Fayre charity shop would like to thank all our patrons and customers for their support since we started trading in February 2016 and we wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas.

P.O.P.A.

Portlaoise

Senior Citizens Committee

57TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

In the Midlands Park Hotel,

Portlaoise

Sunday 5th 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 3rd January 2020

Portlaoise Singers

PRESENT



Beautiful Dreamer

The Story of Stephen Foster

Venue: The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise
Date: Sunday 15th 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.

An evening to remember

Tickets €15

available from

The Dunamais Box Office

Tel: 057 866 3355

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FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

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ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIEST'S SOCIETY

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



The Fatima Candle will be lit at
10am Mass in the Parish Church on
Friday 13th December in honour of
Our Lady of Fatima and for the
intentions of all parishioners.



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Pictured above; Mountrath G.A.A presenting €1,100 to Guide Dogs and €1,100 to Downs Syndrome Ireland from their Monster Bingo event. Sincere thanks to all those who supported our Bingo fundraiser.

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





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