



EASTER 2020

Easter Dawn at the Heath

But this year without the huge congregation
gathered for the Dawn Mass.

From our homes this year we declare
'Alleluia, He is Risen, Alleluia'

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Follow Us  @PortlaoiseParis
& Like Us  fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois
fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

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



Alteua

ON LINE DONATIONS

Like so many in our community and country the Parish has been severely affected financially by the Coronavirus. Many have been asking how they can make a payment, hand in their envelopes, or contribute to the Easter Collection for the support of the Priests. We have set up an **'on-line donation'** facility on our parish website—www.portlaoiseparish.ie and follow the directions to donate. It is a fully secure payment system.

We are grateful for the support we receive.

Thank You.

And in spite of the difficult circumstances of Easter 2020 we wish you a Very Happy and Blessed Easter. May you experience the Joy and Graces of this time.

Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



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**

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

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. Julie

(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
057 8621142

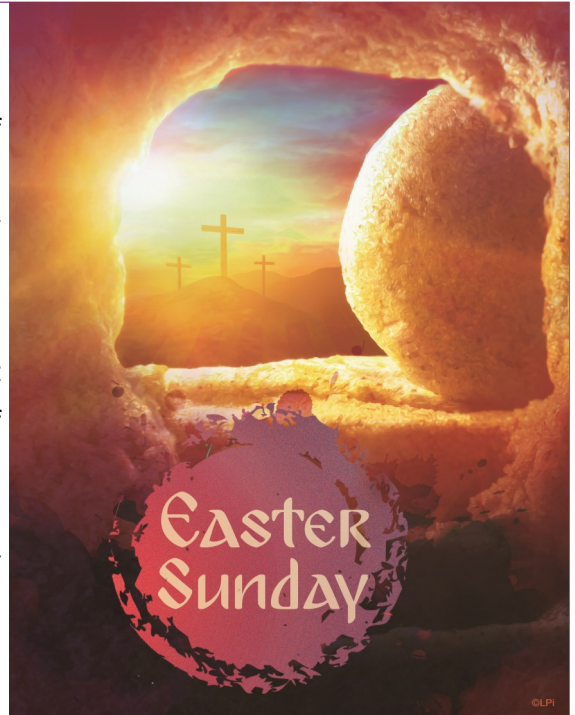


Faith, Trust and Intuition

The story of the empty tomb should be the best part of the Bible, but instead there feels as though there's a great big chunk missing the bit where Jesus actually rises up from the dead. For many of us this presents no problem. Jesus said he would rise on the third day and that is exactly what happened. Everything happened just as Jesus said it would. But for some of us, the lack of detail leaves too many unanswered questions, and where there are unanswered questions there's room for doubt. One thing is for sure, we cannot start playing 'detective' with a mystery trail that has had two thousand years to go cold, so what are we supposed to do?

First of all we have to develop a toolbox of faith, trust, and intuition. Christians are accused of propping up impossible and improvable theories with blind faith. If this were true the accusers would have a point, but true faith runs deeper than this. We all use faith in every walk of life and we all need trust. People of faith are people who can push boundaries and take brave steps into the unknown. People of trust recognise possibilities in others and in themselves. People of intuition recognise integrity and truth. Anais Nin said, "We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are." "What you believe sets a course for your future and directs your daily activities. Consequently, when you believe only what you can see, a whole world of possibility is lost.

Easter isn't just an event that happened two thousand years ago. Easter is on any day we discover our trust in God. Easter is on any day we find that we are able to live boldly and well in the belief that death is not just a meaningless end to life.



*May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year
Bring peace and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear
And may Christ, Our Risen Saviour, be always by your side
To bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.*

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

Breda Delaney
Borris Road



Carmel Ritchie
Riverview

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to their families

Joe Doyle R.I.P.



**YOU'RE FOREVER IN
MY HEART**

FOR ALL YOU WERE TO ME IN LIFE
AND ALL THE JOY YOU BROUGHT
YOUR MEMORY IS WITH ME
IN EVERY SINGLE THOUGHT

THE PAIN I FELT AT LOSING YOU
WILL NEVER GO AWAY
BUT KNOWING THAT
YOU'RE IN MY HEART
HELPS ME THROUGH EACH DAY

WHEN YOU WERE HERE I ALWAYS FELT
THAT NOTHING COULD GO WRONG
BUT YOU'RE STILL MY INSPIRATION
AND YOUR MEMORY KEEPS ME STRONG

AND THOUGH MY HEART IS HEAVY
ITS ALSO FULL OF LOVE
AND THAT'S ENOUGH TO COMFORT ME
WHILE YOU'RE IN HEAVEN ABOVE

Always remembered,
Always missed
Always Loved
By Clare X

Also remembered by The Delaney and
Doyle families and Friends

1st ANNIVERSARY
12-04-2020

**Let us pray for the many people
who are dying
alone, without being able to say goodbye
to their loved ones.
Let us pray also for the families who
cannot accompany their loved ones
on that journey.**

Pope Francis - March 2020



In Loving Memory Of
Mary O'Neill

Knocknagrove, Portlaoise

A Dear Wife and Mother

Anniversary occurs on 19th April

*Lonely is our home without you,
Life is not the same,
The world would be like Heaven,
If we could have you back again.*

Loved and sadly missed by Tadhg, Emily, Fergal
and Damien and extended families xxx.

May Mary Rest in Peace



I've Just Seen Jesus

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and another disciple, whose name was John. She told them, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!"



Peter and John started out for the tomb. They were both running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed -- for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary stayed behind and stood outside the tomb weeping. As she knelt down and looked inside, she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken her master and she didn't know where they had taken him. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought he was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard his voice, she recognised Him. After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Some people, like Mary, Peter, and John can't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in a grave or on a cross. He isn't there! He is risen and is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. If you want to see Jesus, look in His Word, He will reveal Himself to you, just as He did to Mary!



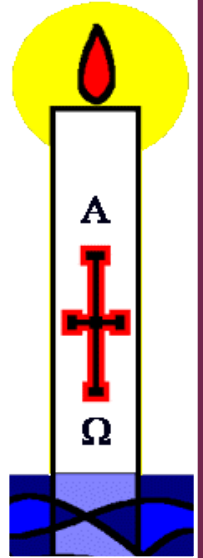
Father, we thank you that Jesus, our Saviour, is not in a grave. He is alive! We serve a risen Saviour! Hallelujah! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Easter Vigil Mass

Usually on Holy Saturday night we gather to celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead but this year the priests of the Parish will gather in an empty Church to celebrate without a congregation. We can join in via the Parish website or Parish Radio. We light the Easter Fire as a reminder that Jesus is **the light in the darkness**. The Paschal Candle which will be lit at every Mass during the Easter Season represents Jesus Christ Risen from the dead and the Light of the World. It is also lit during Baptisms and Funerals throughout the year. The Paschal Candle is different from other candles because it has special markings or symbols on it that remind us of how much Jesus loved us. Look at the coloured picture and see if you can make your own Paschal Candle.

First draw a **large red cross** on the candle. Now draw a Letter **A** at the top of the Cross and the **upside down horseshoe** at the bottom of the Cross. In Greek, the letter A is called **Alpha** and the upside down horseshoe is the final letter of the Greek alphabet. It is called **Omega**. This is to remind us that Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything.

The current year is placed in the four corners of the Cross, so now put the figures **2 0 2 0** in the corners. Go in a clockwise direction starting with **2** in the top left hand corner. Finally five pieces of incense are placed in the points and centre of the Cross representing the five wounds that Jesus got when he was crucified.



Easter Sunday

Before daybreak Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb and found the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She hurried to tell Jesus' friends Peter and John, who raced to the tomb. Peter went in and Jesus was not there. He had risen from the dead!

On Easter Sunday



We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.





TIME TO THINK!

AN EASTER THAT'S VERY DIFFERENT

On Ash Wednesday we were reminded of our frailty, when we received ash on our foreheads. And we were advised by Jesus in the Gospel not to parade our faith in public but rather "when you pray go to your private room." How prophetic these words were then and how much they have become a reality in our lives five weeks later. As the predicted curve begins to rise we no longer need ash on our foreheads to remind us of our frailty. As self-isolation becomes the norm for many of us, our television rooms have now become the place where we can participate in Mass, say our prayers and receive spiritual communion.

Lent 2020 has seen much fear and distress. Serious illness and death from the virus. Uncertainty among so many with regard to their financial future. Families with young children confined to small spaces. The elderly in our nursing homes, their lives clouded by fear and anxiety. 'Cabin fever' among the active and the list goes on and on. And as the period of detention is extended, the dark clouds of the past few weeks fail to lift.



In the Old Testament the constant advice given by God to his people is; 'call on me in the day of distress and I will free you and you will honour me' (Psalm 50). Well this is certainly a time of distress and we need to feel free to call on the Lord. I think most of us are a bit reluctant to call on the Lord at times like this. Why? Because we say to ourselves 'the Lord only hears from me when I am in trouble'. The invitation of the Lord has no if's, but's or and's. He simply says to us, without reservation; 'call on me in the day of distress'.

This invitation comes from the God who loved us so much that He didn't just allow His Son to come to us, He sent Him. This Holy Week we remember the depth of God's love for us and we gain new confidence in our freedom to call on him in these our days and weeks of distress. On Good Friday we will listen to Christ's appeal to His Father in the day of his distress; 'My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?' Let us join Christ in His distress and call on God for deliverance; remembering that Christ's prayer was answered with joy of the resurrection. And after this time of distress and suffering, joy will also return to us.

Great and genuine thanks has been expressed to so many at this time; doctors, nurses, carers, ambulance drivers, An Garda Síochána, neighbours, the HSE and so on. A sincere prayer for all priests who are always ready to continue their care for the sick and elderly, bury our dead with dignity and with prayer, offer faith and consolation to those who call on them, celebrate Mass daily for the needs of our parishioners.

If you have a Jerusalem Bible, read Psalm 50 in full; if you haven't one Mr Google can come to your rescue. This psalm has a lot to say to us just now. "Call on me in the day of your distress, I will rescue you and you will honour me." Add to this, the prayer of St John Henry Newman; 'Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom, lead thou me on... I do not ask to see the distant scene.. one step enough for me.'

May the hope and joy of Easter become a reality in our lives and world.

We will in time be well again. we will be ever closer, kinder, more compassionate and full of gratitude. As humanity recovers may the abundance of Gods grace anoint us with faith, hope and peace of mind...

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or check out Paddy Byrne on Facebook.



Wishing you
a blessed & joyful

Easter!

Laois Alzheimer's Society

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Laois Alzheimer's Society Resource Centre at 47 Main Street Portlaoise is closed but if you need to meet Ann please ring in advance on 086 8372168 as she is working from home.

We have cancelled all Social Clubs and Support Group for moment and we will take advice as to when we can resume these and reopen the office.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline 1800 341 341 For any information on dementia contact Ann Munnelly on 057 866 3398/086 8372168 Home-care Coordinator 47 Main Street, Portlaoise, Co Laois R32 VRX8 Email amunnelly@alzheimer.ie

From all our residents in Ballard Lodge Nursing Home we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter and let you know that we are including you all in our prayers daily at 12 midday.

Coronavirus COVID-19

A PARISH INITIATIVE

DURING THIS CRISIS

**For the Elderly and
Vulnerable in our Parish**

If you need any assistance during this time, to pick up prescriptions or to do some shopping, or would like to talk to someone we have a team of volunteers ready to help. Please call

085 2125978.

Trócaire Boxes

This time of year, we would usually get back a lot of boxes but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. If you can, please donate online or over the phone. Please do hold onto your boxes until further notice and we will be in contact about how to return them when it will be safe for people to do so.

Donations can be made online at

<https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>

