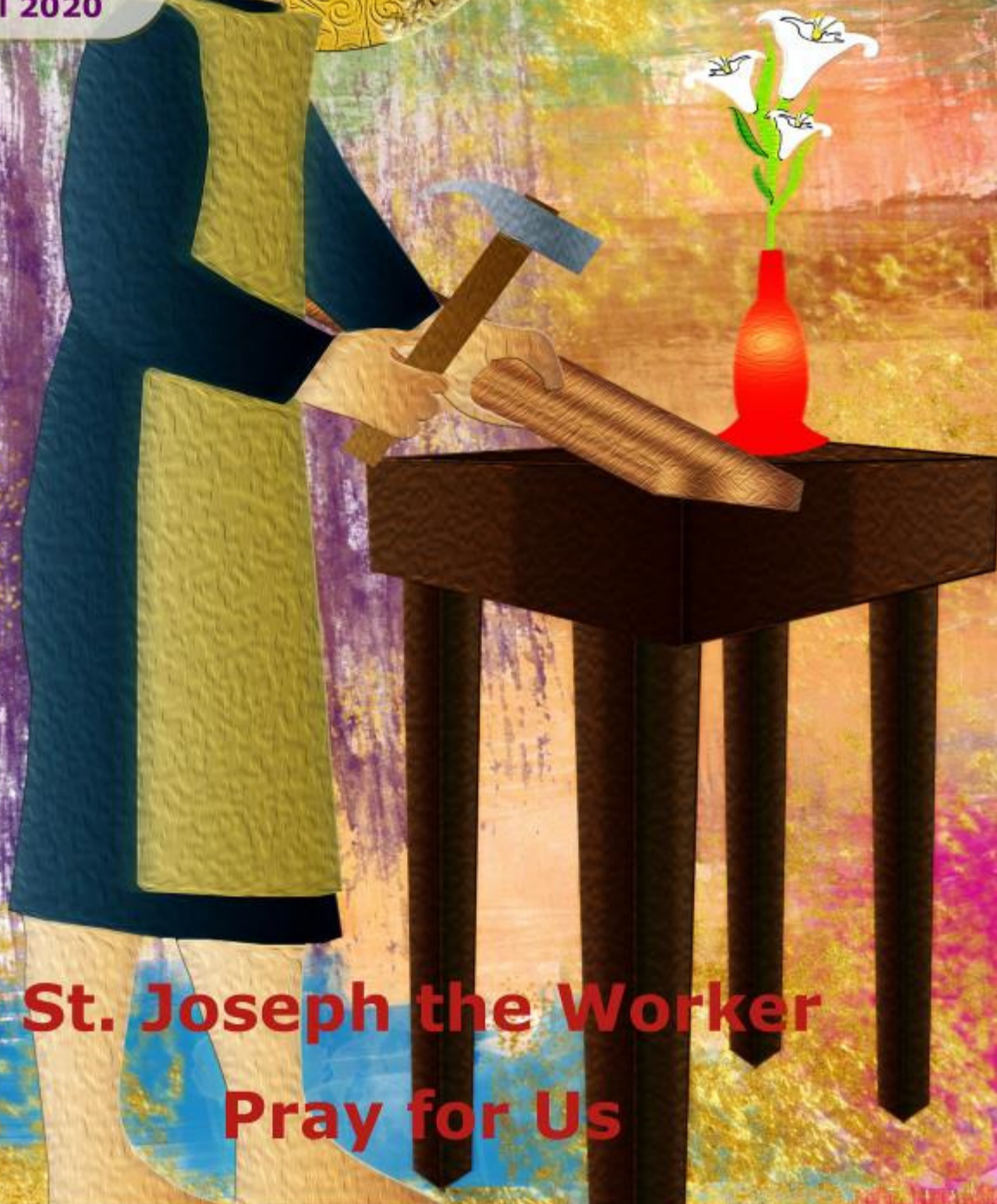


PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

26th April 2020

Third Sunday of Easter




St. Joseph the Worker
Pray for Us

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

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



Joseph the Worker

For The Work of Human Hands

1st May 2020

At a time when we give huge votes of thanks to our NHS workers, it is tempting for the rest of us to think that perhaps our own jobs aren't worth as much. The truth is, that everyone's job is reliant on someone else's. We are all part of a big human jigsaw and we are all valuable. Whether we are currently working or currently in lockdown, this is a time for us all to consider how to make our skills more valuable to others.

ON LINE DONATIONS

Thank you

There has been a very generous response to our on-line donation facility. We are very grateful for your support at this time.

If you wish to contribute in this way you may do so by visiting our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie and follow the directions to donate. It is a fully secure payment system. We fully appreciate how difficult a time financially this is for so many whose jobs and businesses are effectively locked down.

We are grateful for the support we receive.

Thank You.

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 be 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



We'll Never Walk Alone

As we look for meaning in life, for fulfilment and happiness, our frantic quest often becomes a vicious circle. The more we search, the more life eludes us. We reach the age of thirty, then forty, fifty, sixty and so on, with the increasing frustration that we have achieved little of what we set out to achieve in our optimistic youth. Then a nagging doubt sets in. Perhaps we will never amount to anything! Is this

all that life holds for us?

The 'Road to Emmaus' can be perceived as a metaphor for our own life span. On Palm Sunday we heard how in a state of huge expectation, Jesus' supporters met Jesus on his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. There were those who had expected Jesus to start something of a revolution, and they desperately wanted to be a part of it. There were those who had expected Jesus to transform and improve their lives only to have their hopes dashed. In today's gospel, two such disciples are making their way back home and discussing the events of the last days. They are feeling defeated, gloomy and considerably let down. But as their journey progresses, they meet a stranger who teaches them how to look on things differently and where to look for the answers they lack. The stranger of course is Jesus. For the two disciples what begins with the shattering of an immature faith ends up with them giving witness to a mature and sustaining faith.

Could the story be about us? Every broken dream, disappointment and doubt is out there on the Road to Emmaus. Each of us is challenged to decide which part of the journey we have reached. Are we disillusioned and beating our heads against the proverbial brick wall? Or have we recognised that perhaps if life's rewards are eluding us, we need to be doing things differently. Could it be that we are looking for answers in all the wrong places? Most importantly, have we reached an awareness that we are never alone? Jesus promises that he is still with us just as he was with those unsuspecting early disciples. He is with us in scripture, and in his teaching. He is with us in the Eucharist, and he is with us in our prayers.



On the Road to Emmaus

In the Gospel today tells an amazing story about a day when Jesus walked and talked with some of his followers, but they didn't even recognise him. Here is what happened.

After Jesus was crucified and risen from the grave, two of his followers were walking on the road that led to a town called Emmaus. They were sad and were talking about what had happened to Jesus. Suddenly,

Jesus joined the disciples and walked along with them, but they did not know who he was because God kept them from recognising him.

"You seem to be having a very serious discussion. What are you talking about?" Jesus asked them.

One of the men answered, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem that doesn't know what has happened the past few days," Then they told them about how Jesus had been crucified, and buried, and that some women had gone to his tomb, but the tomb was empty. "We have heard that he is alive," they said, "but we have not seen him."

"Do you find it so difficult to believe what was written by the prophets in the Scripture?" Jesus asked. "It was predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his time of glory." Then Jesus quoted passages from the writings of the prophets, explaining what the Scriptures said about himself.

By this time, they had come to Emmaus and the disciples invited Jesus to stay with them since it was getting too late in the day to travel. So Jesus stayed with them and when they sat down to eat, Jesus took the bread and blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they saw that it was Jesus. Then just as quickly as he had appeared to them, Jesus disappeared. They were so happy and excited to have seen Jesus that they ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others that they had seen Jesus.



Dear Lord, open our eyes, we want to see Jesus!

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



On the Road to Emmaus

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

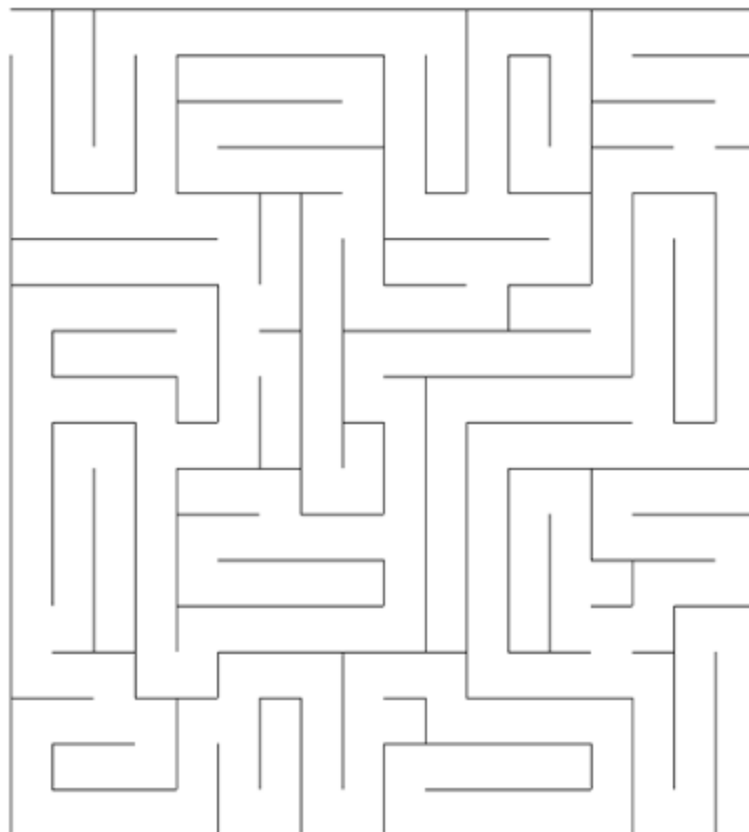
Now that same day two of them were going to a village called _____, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and _____ discussed these things with each other, _____ himself came up and _____ along with them; but they were kept from recognising him.



As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly _____; the _____ is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the _____ with them, he took _____, gave _____, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their _____ were _____ and they recognised him,

Bread	Emmaus	eyes	opened	thanks
Day	evening	Jesus	table	walked



That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. Suddenly, Jesus himself came along and joined them and began walking beside them.



First Holy Communion Notice

Dear parents /guardians

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY

Sr. Romana (Rita) Hennessy
Sisters of the Sacred Heart of
Jesus and Mary, Middlesex
and formerly of Shaen.



Eamonn Kealey
Capoley

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families



In Loving Memory of TONY KAVANAGH

Colt, Ballyroan, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 5th May 2020

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on May 3rd at 10am
in St. Peter and Paul's Church.



*Your resting place we visit,
We place some flowers with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.*

*Sadly missed and never forgotten by his
wife, family and friends.*

May Tony Rest in Peace



Acknowledgement In Loving Memory of EAMONN KEALEY Capoley

Gert O'Rourke, née Kealey paid the following tribute to
her uncle.



*Eamonn was a lovely, kind man with a
great sense of fun. He was an ardent and
respected supporter of Portlaoise GAA
club and spent great times with "the
town". A gentleman in every sense of the
word, he was both gentle and chivalrous
with a high standard of propriety.*

*A neighbour of a lifetime, a Portlaoise man, a quiet
gentleman who always found time for a chat. Not just a
friend he was also a brother, brother in law, an uncle
and a Godfather. For the lifts home from school at
lunch time, for all the stories he relayed from the "little
birdie", for teaching us never to never wreck our watch
while using a hammer but most importantly for telling
us we were special, thank you.*

*He will be sadly missed. May his gentle soul rest
in peace. We will never forget you Eamonn.*

Kealey Family.

May Eamonn Rest in Peace

*Praying for those who mourn
during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19*

Lord of all gentleness,
You are close to the broken-hearted.
We entrust into your care
those who mourn the loss of a loved one this day.
Surround them with your love
and comfort them in their sorrow.
Grant that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss.
May they know the consolation and support
of the Christian community.
Give them confidence in your goodness
and strength to meet the days ahead.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure...
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure.**



In Loving Memory of LENA CONNOLLY

Stradbally Road, Portlaoise
1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's
Church on 26th April 2020 at 10am.



*Lonely is the home without you
Life to us is not the same
All the world would be like Heaven
If we could have you back again Lena.*

**THOSE WHO THINK OF HER TODAY
A LITTLE PRAYER TO JESUS SAY.**

**SADLY MISSED AND ALWAYS REMEMBERED BY HER
HUSBAND PADDY, SONS MARTIN AND EUGENE AND
DAUGHTERS DOLORES, VERONICA, JODY AND PATRICIA
AND HER LOVING GRANDCHILDREN**

May Lena Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH MARY McEVOY

64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
5th Anniversary away from home



5th Anniversary in Heaven Mother

God bless you, Mother, in your grave,
God keep you in His care, and may He listen
to my heart and hear my fervent prayer.

I pray that you are safe with Him for all eternity and
He will bless you for your love for all your family.
May you have peace and rest at last from every care
and woe; and may you sleep in comfort from
the winds and rain and snow.

God bless you for your smiling lips and all you tried to do,
to bring us happiness on earth and make our dreams
come true, and up in heaven Mother dear,
please say a prayer for me and for all your family.

Mother at peace in heaven
You're peacefully now sleeping Mother in a world
of purest light, where angels sing their sweet refrain
and where every thing shines bright.

Beside the tranquil waters you walk along each day,
where the blossoms are so beautiful
with the colours they display.

She's in the sun, the wind, the rain
She's in the air you breathe with every breath you take,
she sings a song of hope and cheer.
There's no more pain, no more fear. You'll see her in the
clouds above, hear her whisper words of love. You'll be
together before long, until then listen to her song.

Mum, today on your 5th Anniversary I honour you
for all that you have given and all that you have done,
for all that you are. Gone but not forgotten.

Loved and missed today and everyday.
Today I honour you. You're not forgotten, dear Mother.
Nor ever shall you be. As long as life and memory last,
I will remember thee. No one knows the silent
heartaches, only those who have lost can tell of the grief
that's borne in silence for the one we loved so well.

*Have a happy 5th Anniversary in heaven Mother
Missing you Mum,
Love James xxx*



Rest in Peace Elizabeth

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARGARET "RITA" SCULLY

174 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 29th April 2020.



No special day is needed for us to think
of you. For you were very special
We thought the world of you.
It's been a year since you slipped away.
That day seems just like yesterday today,
we tell you softly you are still
so wonderful to think of and
so hard to be without.

Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure
Loving you always, forgetting you never
In Heaven you rest, no worries, no pain
In God's own time, we will meet again.

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

*Sadly missed by you loving family John, Patrick, Teresa, Peter,
Jacinta, Roch, Margaret, Kathleen, Sons and daughters-in-law
and all grandchildren.*

2nd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter and Paul's Church on 29th April
at 10am Mass.

May Margaret Rest in Peace

**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



TIME TO THINK!

A TIME FOR HEALING

How can we use this time wisely?

Perhaps the best use of time right now is, as Jesus said, to love one another. In times like these, words like his come alive to us. Love requires more of us than we are able to give. Love often takes more from us than we expect. Love also heals something in us we often didn't know was broken. For these reasons, we should practice love right now so that when there comes a time when it requires of us more than we want to give, we are ready to give more than is required and, at the same time, are ready to be healed in a place we didn't know we needed. The best thing we can do right now is practice giving and receiving love.

How do we have hope in times of uncertainty?

In times of uncertainty we need a hope that is unshakeable. All the things we have been putting our hope in, be it a growing economy, longer life expectancy, or increasing personal freedom and self-understanding, are suddenly revealed as a glass castle. What we need is an unshakable hope.

Surprisingly for some, this hope is offered to us in the person of Jesus. Even if one does not believe in Jesus, the message that God loves the world enough to send his only Son to conquer death and offer us eternal bodily existence in a world of love called Heaven, suggests that, despite the worst of circumstances, our future is incredibly bright. If we believe this message to be true, we have a hope greater than death. Jesus' own hopeless life (he came to earth to die) offers us a death conquering hope. That is exactly what we need right now.

A time to serve

In this time of crisis, each of God's people might ask themselves, "How is God calling me to serve?" There will be many tangible needs in our communities. Prior to this outbreak, loneliness and isolation were serious problems in our nation. Social distancing, so very important now, will exacerbate these feelings. As Christians, we need to reach out in tangible ways to let our neighbours know that they are not alone.

As you are able, consider how God might be calling you to listen to others or speak a comforting word, to help provide food or necessities to those who are lacking, or to share other blessings with those who are struggling. A phone call can be very encouraging to those who are isolated. Consider writing letters and placing them in your neighbour's mailboxes with your contact information. Encourage them to reach out if they need to anything; dropping off extra supplies to an elderly person who was not able to prepare can be done safely. Perhaps, you can join Next Door, a social media platform for local neighbourhoods, so that you can connect digitally to those around you. Even in times of social distancing, we can safely reach out in mercy and love. God is calling his people to be a blessing and, most importantly, to provide hope to those who are fearful.

There will be many inconveniences, challenges, and frustrations in times like these. God grant us a spirit to see these as avenues of service to others. God is at work in each of us. *[He] is our refuge and strength...therefore we will not fear.*



Pope Francis prayer "This time"

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross
you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return
after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to confirm ourselves to the Father's
will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy
of the Resurrection.

Amen.

A Prayer for Healthcare Workers

during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19

Loving God,
we place into your care
all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
Give them courage of heart
and strength of mind and body.
Keep them safe from harm.
May they know our deep gratitude
for all they are doing
to heal and help those affected by
the coronavirus.

God of all consolation
may they know your protection and peace.
Bless them in these challenging days
and bless their families. Amen.

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.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT DURING COVID 19

THE PORTLAOISE PARISH BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT TEAM WOULD LIKE TO OFFER OUR
CONDOLENCES TO ALL FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST
A LOVED ONE ESPECIALLY DURING COVID 19
RESTRICTIONS. WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THIS
IS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FOR THE BEREAVED
AND HAVE INCLUDED SOME INFORMATION
FOR YOU TO ACCESS SHOULD YOU
REQUIRE SUPPORT.

IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION
SUPPORT DURING CARONAVIRUS
www.bereaved.ie

HSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
DURING CARONAVIRIS www.hse.ie

PORTLAOISE PARISH BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT 087 9878300

PRAYER AT TIME OF BEREAVEMENT

Lord, you are close
to the broken hearted
Be with me now in
my grief and loneliness.
Give me courage to face loss
and not grieve in silence
Be with me as I struggle with the many
different and painful feelings.
Ease the hurt in my heart
Encircle me in your love.
Help me to believe that one day I will
no longer have this deep sorrow.
May I find comfort in sharing my grief
with those who understand
the strong bonds of love
Stay with me, Lord support me
Help me to know your power is at work
within me as I deal with my grief.