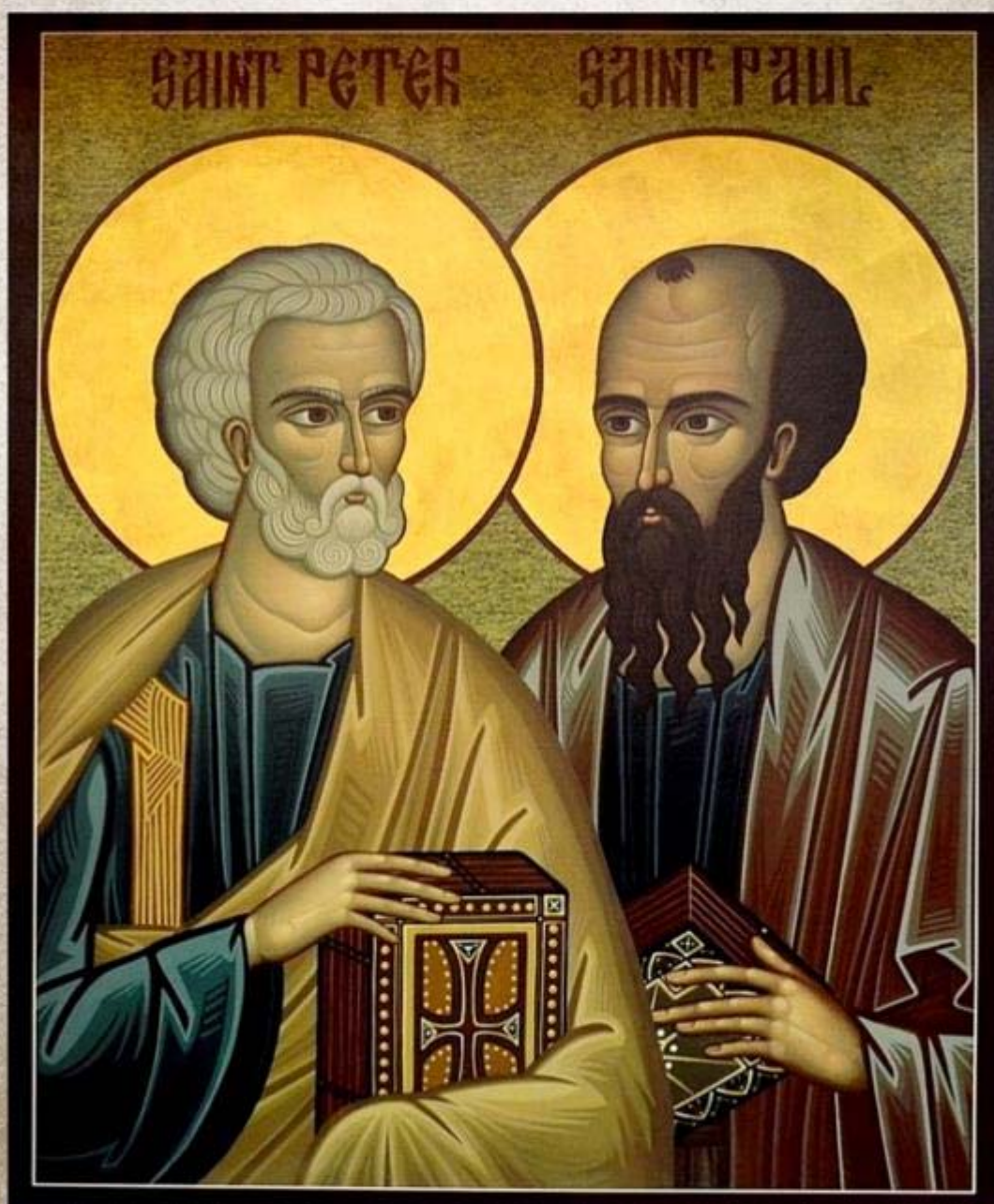


PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

28th June 2020

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Peter and St. Paul
Patrons of our Parish
Pray for Us



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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& Like Us  fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois
fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday—Friday: 7.30am, 10am & 11am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigils): 4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10am., 11.15am &

12.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

And
we're
back.....

Parish Office

Opening Hours

9am - 5pm

Tel: 057 8621142

Email

info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Parish Shop

Now Open

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Telephone: 057 8621142

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. Jooly

(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



A return to the public celebration of Mass Monday 29th June



By happy coincidence on the Feast of our patrons Peter and Paul we return to Public Worship.

Please note the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays is dispensed with during this time and until further notice.

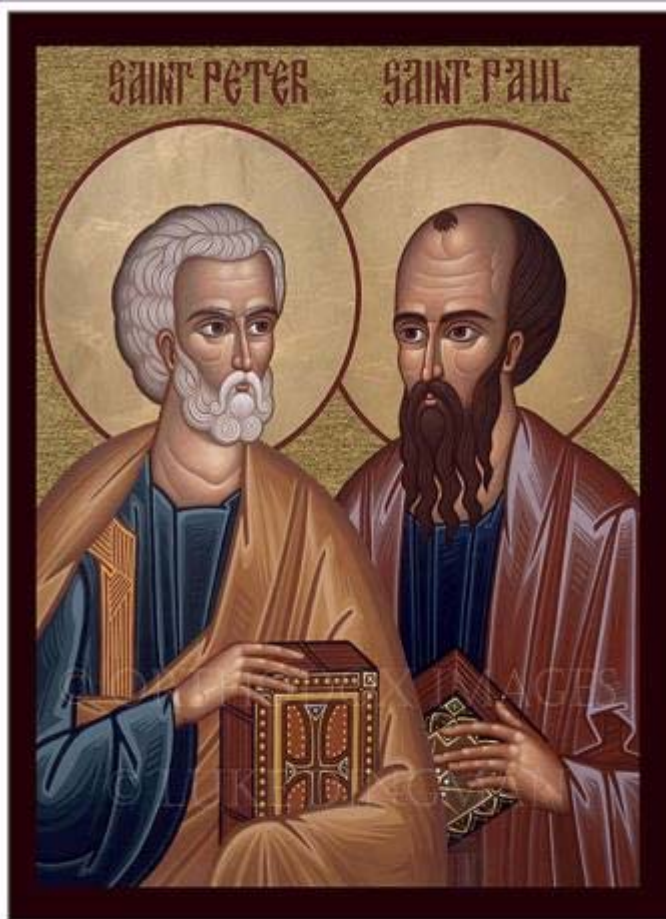
It will not be a return to things as they were. We will have reduced capacity and an obligation to observe social distancing and ensure public safety. We will have stewarding at our daily 10am and 11am Masses to assist worshippers and help with compliance and cleaning. Sanitiser units are at every door — we ask you to use the facility on entering and exiting the Church.

Our reduced capacity for the Parish Church is 210. We ask those who enter by the Stradbally door (30) to occupy the seats in that transept and similarly for The Dublin Road Side. Those who enter by the mortuary door (75) occupy the left hand aisle (as we face the Altar) and those who enter by the main door (75) to occupy the Right hand aisle. Volunteer stewards will assist with the counting and will give direction to seating and with regard to reception of Communion. We ask for your patience please. It is possible that we will reach capacity we ask for your understanding if you are asked to wait for another Mass.

There will be overflow seating facility and outdoor speakers at the mortuary door and at the front of the Church. Weather permitting Communion will be distributed to an overflow congregation.

Capacity for the Heath Church is 50 and for Ratheniska Church is 30.

We look forward to returning to worshipping together again — we know we will have your understanding and patience for the necessary regulations and any inconvenience caused. Thank You.



Wanted:- Fearless Christians


Over the years the Catholic Church has laid itself bare to criticism. Sometimes this criticism is underserved, but sadly at other times it is. At certain times in history the Church has been guilty of making mistakes, and doubtless it will continue to make mistakes in the future because we are all human. There are those who complain that the Church is out of step with an increasingly secular world. There are even those who point to diminishing Mass attendances and predict that the Church is living on borrowed time. The bottom line however is drawn in today's gospel. Jesus turns to Peter and says, " You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." Whether Jesus' idea of 'Church' is our idea of 'Church' is debateable, but one thing is for sure, Jesus intended to leave behind a group of followers initially led by Peter, united in their belief of Jesus and God until the end of time. Because Peter recognised that God was acting through Jesus, he was entrusted with the job of leading the rest of us. The Church today is a testimony to Peter's faith, it exists because Peter and others like him trusted and believed in God. It exists because Peter and people like Peter acted out their faith despite hostilities and persecution. Fortunately today's Christians don't get chucked to the lions any more, but we face different sorts of problems instead. Today we face lethargy, conflicting secular values, and the complexities of scientific debate. The Church cannot be silenced. Christians are still needed to challenge injustice and greed. Fearless Christians like Peter and Paul are still needed to carry the baton.

Baptisms

If you wish to book a baptism, you can now do so with the Parish Office, 057 8621142 Baptisms, for the foreseeable future, will take place Monday – Saturday at 1.30pm in the Parish Church only and each ceremony will be limited to 4 families, with ten people per family.



DELIGHTED TO BE OPEN AGAIN

FROM MONDAY 29TH JUNE 

The Linkup Office will reopen at 11am on Monday, 29th June and we will resume our printed magazine from next weekend 4th/5th July.

In line with HSE guidelines, we have made some changes to how the office will operate;

1. Only 2 people in the office at any time, we appreciate your patience and co-operation.
2. Where possible we ask that you please submit your adverts and notices by e-mail to linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie.
3. If you do not have access to e-mail and are submitting your advert to the office, we ask that you please have your notices/adverts and memorials/acknowledgements written out before arriving to the office.
4. If you are placing an Anniversary notice, please book your Mass at reception before arriving to the office.
5. We will be unable to design/edit adverts or memorials while advertisers are present as we have previously done, advertising will be proofed by e-mail if required.
6. We ask that you please use the hand sanitiser outside the office before entry and observe social distancing.

We thank all our advertisers for their continued support to the linkup and we look forward to welcoming you back and working with you again.

**The deadline to place adverts is 12 noon Wednesday.
E-mail; linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie**

**Office Hours;
Monday to Thursday 11am - 5pm**



I hope you are all well and staying safe! We are delighted to inform patients the clinic is now open. While there may be an easing of restrictions based on the current pandemic, we are maintaining strict procedures at Taylor & Conroy Clinic.

We are continuing our Covid 19 clinic policy of pre-screening each patient and at present for the benefit of patients we are not treating patients that fall under the high risk groups.

Patients with appointments are required to wear a face mask and to remain in their vehicles until called by their practitioner.

Many thanks for your patience and understanding at this time.

For more information contact Kellie or Darren 086-867 5060



KELLIE TAYLOR BSC (Hons) Ost. M.O.C.I. and DARREN CONROY BSC (Hons) Ost. M.O.C.I.

086-8675060

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Laois Shopping Centre, Portlaoise.

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Holy Family Junior School

A MOMENT IN TIME

HISTORY PROJECT

The boys and girls of Holy Family Junior School want to hear from the community of Portlaoise.

Tell us what you have been doing during the Covid-19 restrictions.

It can be a video or photograph of a story, poetry, songs, drawings or paintings. Maybe you worked on a project, read new books, knitted or baked. Did you provide an essential service? Tell us about your activities.

We will store all contributions and hope to display them again in fifteen years.

Please send your contributions to History@holyfamilyjs.ie



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advance and arrive
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prior to your
appointment time.

WELCOME BACK

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Cloud9

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Sun: 2-6pm



Welcome

Have you ever seen a welcome mat? Where have you seen something like this? Usually we'd see a mat like this outside the door to our home, wouldn't we? A mat such as this usually has two purposes. Do you know what those two purposes are?

Well, for one thing, it is a friendly reminder for people to wipe their shoes off so that they won't track dirt or mud into your home. And second, it is placed outside your door as a sign to let people know that they are welcome in your home.

Welcome — what does the word "welcome" mean? It means to receive someone in a warm and friendly way. Are people always welcome in our homes? Do we welcome people into our home if their skin is a different colour from ours? Do we welcome people into our homes if they don't have as much money as we do?

How about in our church? Do you think that we make everyone feel welcome in our church? Do we speak to those people who are visiting our church that we do not know? If someone comes to our church and they are not dressed the way we are dressed, do we make sure that they are made to feel welcome?

Jesus said, "He who receives you receives me." If we turn that around, we will understand that if we do not welcome others into our homes and into our churches, it is the same as if we are refusing to welcome Jesus. We wouldn't do that, would we?

Well, let's put the welcome mat out — and let's be sure that we mean it!



Dear Jesus

Dear Father, help us to remember that when we refuse to welcome others to our homes and to our church, it is the same as refusing to welcome you. In Jesus' name we pray. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Keeping Safe during Summer Holidays

This week marks the beginning of summer holidays for all our primary school children and teachers. Even though we have been on lockdown, it might have felt like you were on your holidays! Summer holidays from school are perhaps the best time of the year. No early mornings, long evenings and plenty of time to do fun things. It's very important to get out and play. Don't fall into the trap of being 'stuck in' all day on your computer games.

It's also important to remember to be safe.

Remember the safe cross code.

Never swim without following all proper instructions.

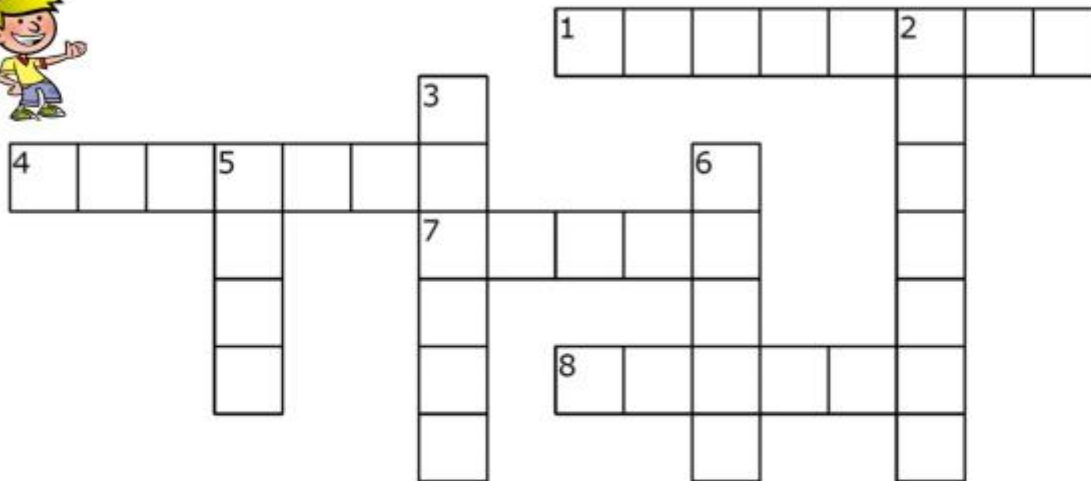
And always let your parents know where you are, following their instructions.

We wish all you a wonderful summer holiday.



"Welcome!"

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me" **Matthew 10:40 (NIV)**



ACROSS

1. A follower of Jesus.
4. To gladly receive someone into your own house.
7. An odourless, colourless, tasteless liquid; H₂O.
8. Small; not large

DOWN

2. A person who speaks for God.
3. Recognition of someone's good behaviour.
5. The opposite of hot; having a very low temperature.
6. A fact that has been proven.

PROPHET

**TRUTH
WELCOME**

**DISCIPLE
REWARD**

**COLD
WATER**

LITTLE

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



- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| RIGHTEOUS | TRUTH |
| WATER | ONES |
| RECEIVES | COLD |
| REWARD | CUP |
| LOSE | ANYONE |
| PROPHET | WHO |
| DISCIPLE | GIVES |
| TELL | LITTLE |



TIME TO THINK!

RETURNING TO MASS

The global pandemic, has had a shattering effect on humanity. This deadly virus, has made no exceptions, its ugly presence has wounded Princes, Prime Ministers, celebrities, parents, grandparents, siblings, husbands, wives, colleagues and especially the most vulnerable in our society, the elderly and those whose health was already compromised. Living in a time of pandemic, has been difficult, lockdown and necessary restrictions meant that the ordinary things we once took for granted now are precious moments filled with gratitude as we return to a "New Normal". As Church and members of Christ's Body, we have felt the pain of a physical disconnection from our place of Worship but we too have discovered resilience, consolation and hope in the presence of Jesus, whose intimate affection for us thankfully does not require any social distance. Christ's presence, has been felt by the heroic staff in our health service, Gardai, retail workers, postal service to name but a few of the many agencies who personified Christ, whose empathy in the Gospel tells "of Course I want to heal you".

Since the start of Lockdown, I have celebrated 25 funerals. I pray for all families whose bereavement was so difficult because of the restrictions in place as a result of Covid-19. May they rest in peace.

It has been so difficult not to be able to celebrate Mass publically. Whilst engagement with the online was a vehicle to communicate, nothing can compare to the personal encounter, that we now can return to after almost four months. The research team at the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education, at Dublin City University has been engaged in a research project regarding adult faith, which includes how adults coped whilst in lockdown. It showed a significant increase in engagement with the online world, seeking a forum to be nourished by faith. However it also highlighted that the vast majority intend once public Mass returns to disengage from the webcam and return to the personal encounter of community in their local church.

Community is key to our local gathering. In our pathway ahead as Church we seriously need to reflect how present and relevant we are in the lives of our people. If not we will quickly return to the familiar routine where in many parishes there was a clear disconnect between Church and the local community.

As we return to celebrating public Mass, we need to do this sensibly and safely. I cannot police our local church, nor do I want to and I trust in all our faith communities, we will hold fast to our individual and collective responsibility, to ensure health and safety, is thoroughly upheld. In a time of pandemic, the experience of worship will be different. Pope Francis, has named that those who are vulnerable and need to protect their health should not in any way feel obliged to attend.



Social Distancing is fundamental to keeping us all safe. Our pews will be clearly marked to allow for this. Hand sanitising will be provided at all entrances. Pews will be sanitised after Masses. Any day you gather for Mass is sufficient for your traditional Sunday obligation. This is really important to allow as many as possible to return to Mass. Many liturgies continue to be available on the parish webcams.

I am also conscious of the kindness expressed to us priests during this time of lockdown. Surely this is a huge wake up call that the majority of clergy in every diocese had to cocoon. Elderly men, deemed vulnerable by public health officials, now expected to roll up their sleeves and get back to maintaining essential services.

It is this maintenance model of church that unfortunately makes lockdown the dress rehearsal for a sizable proportion of parishes in all our Diocese. Whilst Church leaders, have given great detail regarding health and safety measures for reopening Churches, little if any honest discernment has been shared on this obvious reality. How can we breathe life and energy into parishes no longer served by clergy? How can we support Christian leadership in a real way so that lockdown is not a permanent reality?

Crisis and pandemic, despite heavy burden, can also offer opportunity and hope. In our pathway to recovery, we must be honest and real, especially as clergy in our responsible role, to facilitate real action, that will halt the mechanical maintenance of services and perhaps begin renewal and new life to our faith communities.

I take comfort in the simple and profound promise "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with you".



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€20,000

Covid-19 Community Connect Fund.

The Fund is aimed at the immediate needs of **charities and non-profit organisations** impacted by Covid-19 and focused on the following:

- Initiatives that directly support those most at risk as a result of Coronavirus.
- Initiatives that are responding to immediate needs including food, shelter, education, and mental health.

If you wish to apply for support please visit www.peoplefirstcu.ie/communityfunding for an application form and full details



How to use Face Coverings



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR HANDS BEFORE **AND** AFTER WEARING A FACE COVERING

Correct Covering

Medical masks should be reserved for health workers or patients in treatment.

If you have been advised to wear a medical mask, always have the coloured side showing and the metal band at the top of your nose.



Check Your Fit

Check that the face covering is made from a fabric that you are comfortable wearing.



Check that it is easy to fit and completely covers your nose and mouth, all the way down under your chin.



Tighten the loops or ties so it's snug around your face, without gaps. If there are strings, tie them high on top of the head to get a good fit. Do not touch or fidget with the face covering when it is on.



DO NOT:

Wear the face covering below your nose.



DO NOT:

Leave your chin exposed.



DO NOT:

Wear it loosely with gaps on the sides.



DO NOT:

Wear it so it covers just the tip of your nose.



DO NOT:

Push it under your chin to rest on your neck.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

ALWAYS wash your hands before and after handling your face covering.

ALWAYS change your face covering if it is dirty, wet or damaged.

Carry unused face coverings in a sealable clean waterproof bag, for example, a ziplock.

Carry a second similar type bag, to put used face coverings in.

CHILDREN UNDER 13 should not wear face coverings.

ALWAYS wash cloth face coverings on the highest temperature for cloth.

Safe Removal



Use the ties or ear loops to take the face covering off.

Do not touch the front when you take it off.



Disposing Of Single-Use Mask



Always dispose of single-use masks properly in a bin.

Don't forget to clean your hands and keep social distance.



Stay safe. Protect each other.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

O' Farrell Opticians

Bull Lane, Portlaoise, 057-8688292



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Due to COVID-19 we are implementing new procedures to keep everyone safe.

A summary as follows:

- Appointments to be made for all eye exams, collections and repairs.
- The format of the eye exam is changing but we will inform you of that when booking your appointment.
- We are insisting that masks are worn by all patients and staff.
- Sanitising of equipment, surfaces and frames will be done after each patient.
- **New opening hours Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Closed for lunch from 1-2. Closed Saturdays for now.**

Below are some photos so you can see some of the changes to the shop.



The front desk has two screens to protect us all.

Before the eye exam, we will have to dilate the pupils to assess the health of your eyes. This is the instrument we use for the assessment. It has a breath shield fitted to prevent any infection and is the safest way to do that part of the exam.



The final picture is an ultrasonic bath which we will use to disinfect any frames that are tried on, again to prevent any infection.



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OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Thomas Grattan
The Heath and formerly
Portarlington



Tom Major
Rathevan



Lorraine Ryan
née Cassidy
Ardan Glass



Betty Peters
née Kennedy
Sue Ryder and Moneygall

Fr. Edward Whelan
Ballon and Baltinglass

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

**In Loving Memory of
Christopher Fitzpatrick**

35 Borris Road, Portlaoise. Anniversary occurs 29th June.



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

*Loved and sadly missed by all his
loving family.
Rest in Peace Christopher*

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**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 CORONAVIRUS**
www.bereaved.ie

**HSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT DURING
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Job Title: Environmental Worker

Job Type: Community Employment

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This is a developmental opportunity, no experience necessary.

Accredited training will be provided to support your career.

Duties will include;

Grounds work to include; Grass/Pitch cutting, Cleaning and Painting.

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10 TIPS TO REDUCE COVID-19 ANXIETY



Focus on things you can control, such as your thoughts & behaviors.



Control how often you check the latest news.



Keep the big picture in mind, Humankind will survive this.



Model peaceful behavior for those around you.



Remember that the size of news coverage may not equal the size of a threat.



Evaluate your own health behaviors & be a model for others, including children.



Let wisdom & logic guide you.



Feeling too isolated? Maintain digital connections with people



Turn to reputable sources for your news, not social feeds.



Don't let fear influence your decisions, such as hoarding supplies.

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Advice

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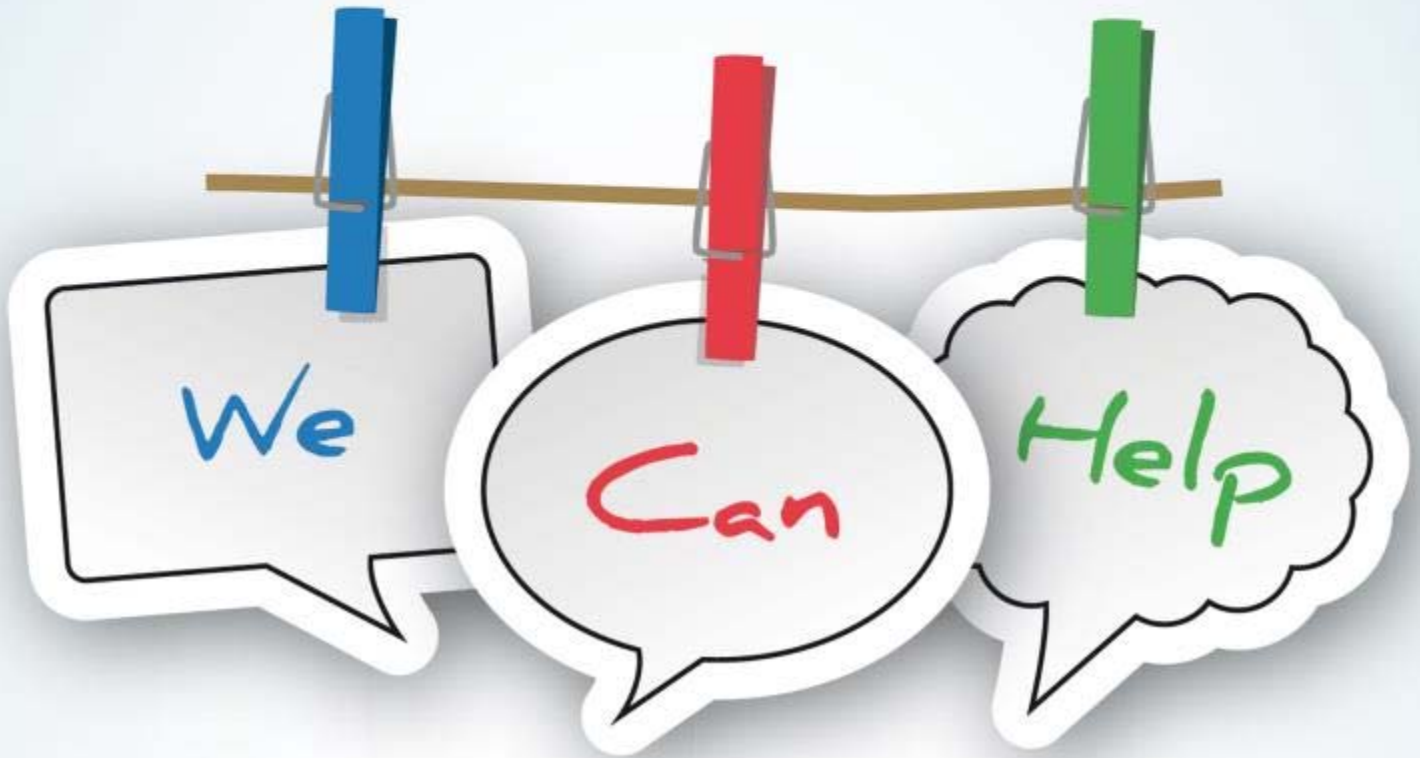
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- ♥ We can all help each other, work together, support each other.
- ♥ This year is all about looking after those in our community, our family and friends, our frontline workers, the support workers behind the scenes.
- ♥ We are all in this together, be nice to yourselves and each other.

From a business point of view, we at Mochua Print & Design are here to help your enterprise whether it's design, printing, mailing – we have the solutions.

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