

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
up

5th July 2020

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all who are joining us this morning via the Webcam, Parish radio, or Shalom World TV. May the Holy presence of Christ abide in your hearts and may you know his love and joy during this time.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Return to Public Worship

This year we celebrated the feast day of our Patrons - Peter and Paul with extra joy and enthusiasm as it marked our return to public worship. We thank all who are assisting us; our stewards and cleaners along with the various ministries. A special thanks to our parishioners for your patience and understanding. We look forward to this weekend with that same joy and enthusiasm but also with a certain amount of trepidation - again we ask for your patience and understanding as we implement the necessary restrictions and regulations to ensure that our return to public worship is safe for everyone.

Please note there is no obligation to attend Mass during this time of pandemic. If you are nervous and yet would like to attend we suggest the daily 11am Mass as having the smallest congregation. May God bless us all and keep us safe. See also page 4.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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



St. Benedict

Co-Patron of Europe

11th July

Benedict was born of a distinguished family in central Italy, studied at Rome and early in life was drawn to the monastic life. At first he became a hermit,

but then he had an idea of gathering various families of monks into one "Grand Monastery" to give them the benefit of unity, fraternity, permanent worship in one house. Finally he began to build what was to become one of the most famous monasteries in the world - Monte Cassino.

The Rule that gradually developed prescribed a life of liturgical prayer, study, manual labour and living together in community under a common father. Today the Benedictine family is represented by two branches: the Benedictine Federation and the Cistercians.

This month we pray alongside Pope Francis for 'family'. We pray for our own families, for those who have no family, for shattered refugee families and, at this time, for families devastated by the effects of the contagion. But more broadly we are asked to reflect on the importance of family and our place in it. We are asked not to marginalise elderly family members, but to look to their experience. We are asked not just to push our children to pass exams, but to nurture and guide them so that they grow into fine adults. We are asked to respect our spouse, never taking them for granted. This month we are invited to pray "...that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance."



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 very 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



Out of the Mouths of Babes

How often do we laughingly say, “...Out of the mouths of babes!” We usually say it when one of the junior members of our family has stated a glaring or embarrassing truth. To children the truth is black and white, but the older we



get the more we tend to complicate issues that really ought to be very simple. Perhaps we want to dress up the truth with our own interpretations. Perhaps we want to disguise truths that make us feel uncomfortable. Whatever the reasons, as we get older the truth is harder for us to recognise.

Today Jesus criticizes the religious leaders who over complicate the law. Jesus was concerned for those people at the bottom of the social heap who could not live up to the six hundred and thirteen commandments of the Jewish law. Jesus’ intention was not to do away with the law, but he could not support the lawyers who spent their time manufacturing new and insufferable burdens for broken people. To the broken people Jesus says, **“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”**

The demands of the twenty first century puts many challenges our way, and we spend a lot of our time juggling priorities and trying to live our lives by more than one agenda. Our lives are complicated and overly burdened. We look for the solutions to our problems in lifestyle magazines and in bottles of pills no longer able to recognise simple truths. Why don’t we look more to God for solutions? God wants us all to have peace and fulfilment; all we have to do is to yield to God’s agenda. The smallest child knows the difference between what is important and what is not. Why can’t we?

When Jesus says, **“My burden is light,”** he does not mean that Christianity is an easy way out ... he simply means that his demands aren’t weighed down with rules and regulations that we aren’t capable of meeting. **“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”**

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



We welcome into our Parish Community

**Tomás John Kelly,
The Heath**

**Ruby Rose Conroy
Mountain View**

**Grace Marie Smith
Station Court**

**Tymon Wielechowski,
Lakeside Gardens**

**Amelia Rose Delaney Doyle
Hawthorn Way, Esker Hill**

who was baptised recently.

Baptisms

If you wish to book a baptism, you can now do so with the Parish



Office, 057 862 1142. To cope with the backlog, Baptisms, for now, will be celebrated any day Monday to Saturday at 1.30pm in the Parish Church and each ceremony will be limited to 4 families, with ten people per family.

Visit our website: www.portlaoiseparish.ie

“Let us begin anew from the numerous examples of generous, freely-given love, which in these months have shown us how much closeness, care, and sacrifice are needed to nourish fraternity and civil coexistence. In this way, we will emerge from this crisis stronger.”

Pope Francis



Our Mass Schedule during this time

Parish Church

Weekend: Saturday 10am, 4.30pm, 6pm and 7.30pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm

Weekdays: 7.30am, 10am and 11am.

Funeral Masses will be celebrated at 12noon.

Please note there is no obligation on anyone to attend Mass during this pandemic.

In the event of our Parish Church reaching capacity we ask for your understanding and patience. We are arranging for an overflow congregation to attend Mass outdoor at the mortuary door and also at the front of the Church where there are outdoor speakers. A minister of Holy Communion will attend to the overflow congregation.

Our thanks especially to our stewards and cleaners who are doing a marvellous job in keeping our Masses well organised and doing their best to ensure our safety.

As individuals we must take responsibility for our own safety and for the safety of others.

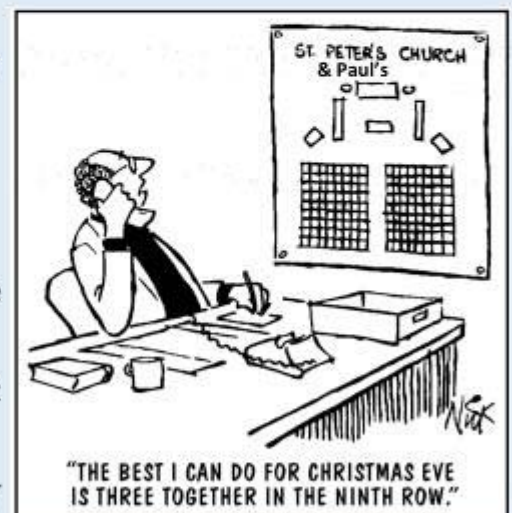
Should I wear a mask when attending Church?

The latest advice on the Government website (www.gov.ie) - Wearing a cloth face covering is recommended in situations where it is difficult to practise social distancing, for example, in shops or on busy public transport. Wearing of cloth face coverings may help prevent people who do not know they have the virus from spreading it to others.

If you wear one, you should still do the important things necessary to prevent the spread of the virus.

These include:

- washing your hands properly and often
- covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze
- not touching your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- social distancing (keeping at least 2 metres away from other people)



DELIGHTED TO BE OPEN AGAIN

We have resumed our printed magazine and it is great to be interacting with all our local advertisers once again.

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



1. Where possible we ask that you please submit your adverts and notices by e-mail to linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie.
2. 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.
3. [Only 2 people in the office at any time](#) - we appreciate your patience and co-operation. If there are already two people in the office when you arrive, please take a seat outside the door.
4. If you are placing an Anniversary notice, please book your Mass at reception before arriving to the office.
5. We ask that you please use the hand sanitiser outside the office before entry and then take a seat in the office and observe social distancing.
6. 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.

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.

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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.

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When Your Load Is Heavy

How strong are you? Do you think you are pretty strong? How many of you think you could pick a brick? How about a dumbbell? Well, you must be pretty strong then. How many of you think you could pick up a car? Oh, you don't think you could pick up a car? Well, I think you could if you had some help. Something that would help you, would be an automobile jack. If you put this jack underneath the car and pump the handle, you can easily lift a car that weighs over 3,000 pounds! Yes, with the help of a jack, you can lift a car, but you couldn't do it alone, could you?



Some of you have some pretty heavy burdens to carry in life. Perhaps you have a physical disability that makes your life difficult. Or, perhaps your father has lost his job and your family is having financial difficulties. Maybe someone in your family has cancer or some other serious illness and you are worried about them. You may be having a hard time making passing exams in school. I don't know what the burdens are that you have in your life, but I do know that there are some that you just can't handle by yourself. Well, guess what? You don't have to!

Jesus said, "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.**" There is no reason for you to struggle with burdens that are too heavy for you. God's Word is full of promises to help us in times of trouble. Here are just a few: "**Don't be afraid, I am with you.**" (Gen.26:24) "**I'll give you strength.**" (Psalm 28:7) "**I'm with you in times of trouble.**" (Psalm 34:6) These words of encouragement are just what we need to face the hard times that may come our way.

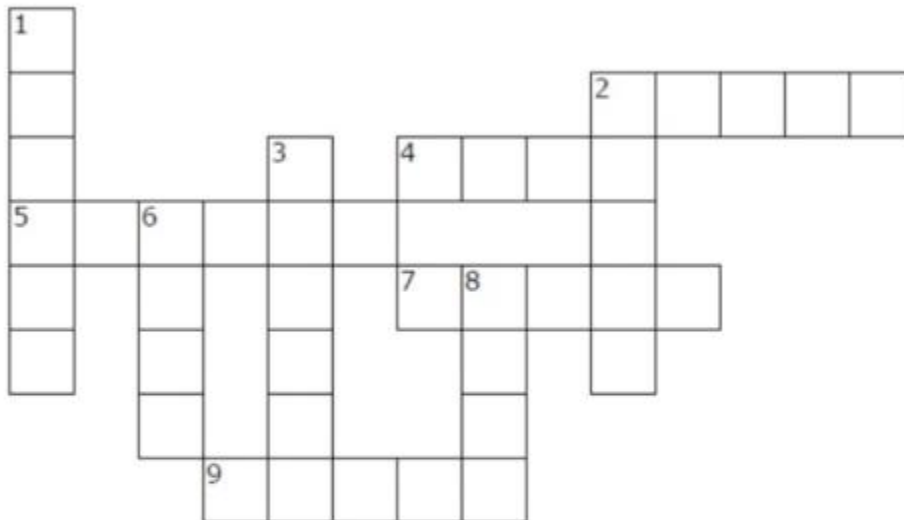
Does that mean that if we will ask him, God will take all of our troubles away? No, but he will help us. In fact, some of our struggles may help us to grow and become stronger. They may also help us to learn to trust in Jesus. But when the load is too heavy, he will help us to carry it -- and there is no burden that is too heavy for Jesus.

Dear Father,
we are thankful that when we struggle under the load of life's
burdens, you are there to help us carry the load.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



"Rest for the Weary"

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:30 (NIV)**



ACROSS

- 2.** Not heavy.
- 4.** The opposite of go.
- 5.** A heavy load that you carry
- 7.** The place within a person where their feelings or emotions are.
- 9.** Very tired, especially after working hard for a long time.

DOWN

- 1.** Not proud or not believing that you are important.
- 2.** To get knowledge or skill about a subject.
- 3.** Calm, kind or soft; not violent.
- 6.** Stop and relax to regain your strength.
- 8.** Not difficult.

WEARY

HUMBLE

EASY

BURDEN

REST

COME

HEART

LIGHT

GENTLE

LEARN

Portlaoise Parish — First Communion Update

As our Churches are opened up again to public worship, many families who were to have First Holy Communion in May are wondering when these special occasions will take place. The Government has assured us that schools will be returning in September. However, it will be a very busy month as teachers, staff and pupils adjust to the 'new normal' in the school environment. This will take time.



To comply with regulations and restrictions due to the Coronavirus we will celebrate the First Communions in class by class groups, that means 15 Communion ceremonies for over 300 children. We hope to begin in mid September. The specific day/dates have yet to be determined. This may seem a long time away, but I ask for your understanding and patience as we deal with this unprecedented situation.

We hope that you have a great summer and look forward to celebrating the First Holy Communion Ceremonies in September. Please keep an eye on this page of the Link Up during the Summer for help in preparing for this great occasion and updates on our arrangements.



TIME TO THINK!

ENDING DIRECT PROVISION

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Ireland have launched a new study, Protection with Dignity: Roadmap to System Change, which identifies necessary steps for system change to put an end to Direct Provision.

Five years after publication of the first fundamental review of the McMahon Report on direct provision there is unquestionable momentum for system change, especially in how protection applicants are accommodated. The Working Group on the Protection Process was focused on reform. Implementation of the Working Group's 173 recommendations has been piecemeal and incomplete. The inconsistency in living conditions and standards between centres remains and was exacerbated during 2019 by recourse to unsuitable and costly emergency accommodation.

Undoubtedly the McMahon Report has informed policy since publication and there have been some notable improvements to the system in that period. In particular, the resolution of an estimated 2,000 long stay five year plus cases, commencement of the Single Procedure, the development of National Accommodation Standards and the extension of the remit of the Ombudsman's Office to Direct Provision. Yet many key recommendations have only been partially implemented: communal catering is still only available to half of residents and additional living space has not been widely provided for families and individuals.

While the Government accepted the report, it never appointed an implementation body or adopted a clear implementation plan. Overall, the implementation process was uneven, delayed and at times only reluctantly undertaken. For example, the right to work was only realised after the Supreme Court intervention in 2018. Moreover, the recommended increases to the weekly allowances were only conceded in 2019. The result of this neglect is a system now deemed by many not 'fit for purpose' to meet post McMahon Report challenges such as a national housing crisis and the Covid-19 outbreak.

The newly adopted programme for government, Our Shared Future, commits to "ending the Direct Provision system and will replace it with a new international protection accommodation policy centred on a not for profit approach."

The new Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration, Roderic O'Gorman, recently cautioned Green Party members that it is not going to be easy as "there are 7,700 people who need to be provided with alternative accommodation". Three mechanisms for system change: expedited long stayer scheme to achieve a twelve month case processing target; new model of accommodation provision based on a 'distribution key'; and a holistic range of person centre supports from the moment of arrival.

As Direct Provision was designed for short stays of no more than six months and the stated Government goal is to deliver final decisions in twelve months, we deem long stayers as persons more than two years in the process. This group should now be fast-tracked through the system. Such a new expedited long stayer scheme, using Working Group mechanisms, could eliminate backlogs. The aim would be to resolve the status of an estimated 2,750 two year+ cases over a six month period.

The current model of accommodation provision is not sustainable. A new model derived from EU Resettlement Programmes should be developed. This would be local authority led, based around a 'distribution key' to ensure equal geographical distribution and underpinned by designated hub



locations with sufficient population, economic strength and support services. Smaller towns could act as spokes receiving less protection applicants but linked to services centrally in hubs. The new structure would be underpinned by an independent living model enabling protection applicants to have greater autonomy and effective control over their lives.

This approach would allow local authorities to manage community expectations and lead to equitable sharing of accommodation responsibility. The new housing responsibility for protection applicants would have to be balanced with existing responsibilities for vulnerable households and social housing needs locally. Clear communication will be very important to avoid frustration and tension between groups with competing housing needs.

Accommodation centres built on state land could act as a safety valve at times of large and unanticipated demand. Essentially, capacity added to state centres could act as a backstop long term for unanticipated large inflows or in the shorter term to facilitate the transition process from existing centres to the new local authority distribution model.

International resettlement experience demonstrates the benefits for protection applicants being welcomed in a communal setting for short initial periods. Newly arrived applicants should receive targeted reception and orientation supports through a one-stop-shop information and referral service and medical screening and vulnerability assessment to identify specialised needs. To improve long term integration outcomes, the right to work should be provided as early as possible, in line with international best practice. Barriers, such as those relating to driving licenses and opening bank accounts should be removed. Education is vital for the wellbeing of protection applicants.

At the centre of the protection system are people. Individuals, children and families who have been forcibly displaced from their homes and crossed borders in search of protection. Each has a name, a face and a story. Each is deserving of having their protection claim processed fairly and speedily and to be received and accommodated with dignity while awaiting a final decision. System changes require time and space to affect. Five years after the Working Group reported we have learned a roadmap is not enough – there needs to be an implementation plan and an adequately resourced implementing body to ensure system change committed to over the lifetime of this Government happens.

*Weekend dates
available for
2020 & 2021*

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Correct Covering

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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



COVID-19 COMMUNITY CONNECT FUND

People First Credit Union is more than just a place for savings and loans - it is a place for community, a place of support. Now more than ever we want to support you, our members which is why we have set up a

€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



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



*Kathleen (Eenie)
Redmond*
née Clifford
Parkview



Fintan Moore
Ballyknocken
Died in London recently

Margaret Kavanagh
Old Knockmay Road

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



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Deadline for receipt of Anniversaries/Acknowledgments
for our next publication (11th/12th July);

12 noon Wednesday 8th July

Where possible please e-mail your notice and photo to
linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

If you do not have access to e-mail and would like to
submit your notice in the office, we ask that you
please have your notice written out before arriving to
the office and also please book your Mass at reception
before submitting your notice.

We thank you for your patience and co-operation.

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Job Title: Environmental Worker

Job Type: Community Employment

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The service provides support for people with disabilities in the community, assisting with daily living activities including personal care, meal prep etc. The vacancy is located in Portlaoise.

For further details tel. Roisin on

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GET YOURSELF NOTICED



- ♥ 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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