

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
link
Up

7th June 2020

The Most Holy Trinity



Photo of the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, taken on Thursday as the work nears completion. Mass will be celebrated there today (Sunday) by Bishop Denis at 12 noon. The Church will be open after Mass today from about 1pm to 5pm. Then Monday - Friday 10am - 2pm. More details on page 6.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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

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

Cemetery Masses in St. Peter & Paul's
Portlaoise and Ratheniska are postponed
until restrictions are lifted.



Parish Shop

Now Open
Monday - Friday
9am - 1pm



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
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



Within or Without



What makes a good parent? Lots of parents endeavouring to home educate during these days of pandemic might be struggling at the moment with feelings of doing their best only to meet with huge resistance and even resentment. Could this be more to do with our own motivation rather than our children's unwillingness to sit and study? Might it be true that we want something back from our children?

Could it be true that we've got one eye on the space on the mantelpiece where we want our child's graduation photo to sit? Today we are taught that the love of a good parent is unconditional. Giving unconditional love isn't easy. Unconditional love means caring about our children's happiness in every circumstance. Unconditional love means expecting nothing back. A good parent gives us unconditional love and a sense of true worth and importance. A good parent gives us the confidence to tackle life and all its challenges head on.

God is our heavenly Father, and as such we are promised his unconditional love. "God did not send the son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved." Despite our faults, despite our endless mistakes, despite the mess we make of things, and despite our reluctance to change, God works always to transform us through his son's example and the subsequent guidance of his Holy Spirit.

Lest we become complacent, it is still possible to be condemned despite God's unconditional love. Everyone knows of children who have come off the rails despite all the efforts of loving and exemplary parents. Similarly those who do not turn to God are condemned already we are told, not by God, but by the poor choices they themselves have made.

As ever, the choices are there for the making. God does not ever remove his love; we simply choose to live within it, or without it.



COMMON PRAYER

for the 5th anniversary of

Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to
all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to
preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope
and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic,

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are
needed in search of the common good,

Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent,

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more
fraternal and sustainable world.

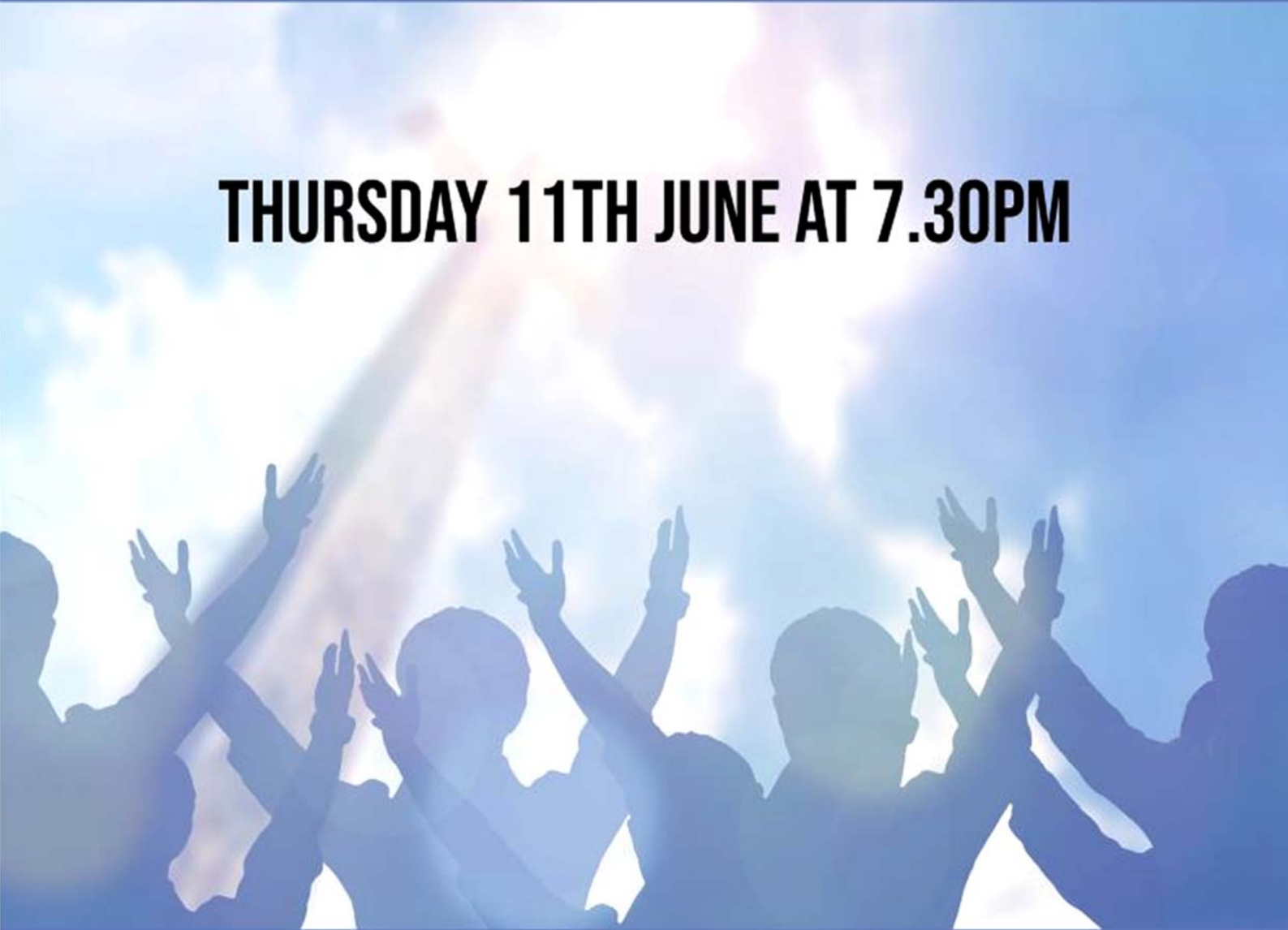
Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Holy Hour of Praise and Song

THURSDAY 11TH JUNE AT 7.30PM



**SHALOM WORLD TV
PORTLAOISEPARISH.IE
PARISH RADIO 106.5FM**

Church of the Assumption, The Heath



The above are photos of the Heath Church as we left it after Christmas. It was closed to facilitate a major work of renewal and upgrading to be reopened in time for Easter. As is said 'man proposes God disposes'. All was going well and then Lockdown!

As we move towards and easing of restrictions and renewed hope that 'this too will pass' we have some good news. The work is almost completed and we can move towards a reopening of our beloved and replenished Church of the Assumption. Bishop Denis will celebrate a Mass of rededication there this Sunday 7th June at 12 noon. Unfortunately it will have to be behind closed doors but will be live streamed via Facebook Live and will be accessible via our Parish Facebook and Website - www.portlaoiseparish.ie.

Church open following Rededication: The Church will be opened each day for a restricted time:

Sunday after Mass (c. 1pm) to 5pm. Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

Times for further days will be announced later. It is understandable that a large number of people will want to visit the Church on its reopening. Stewards will be in attendance to ensure that limited and appropriate numbers of people are in the Church at any one time and that the regulations re. sanitary and hygiene and social distancing are observed. In the first few days following reopening entry will be by the front door and exit by the Sacristy door. If there is a large number of people we ask that people will make their visit reasonably short- a quick visit to see the Church, say a quick prayer, maybe light a candle, exit and make room for other people. I'm sure it will settle down after a few days when you will be very welcome to spend as much time as you like in the Church.

Photos of the opening Mass and renewed Church of the Assumption in next week's Link Up.



TIME TO THINK!

Black Lives Matter....All lives Matter

We are seeing now in the cities throughout America, the kind of violence that comes after justice is denied, and after oppression has lived in a land and amongst a people for far too long.

What you see on American streets now is a cry from the oppressed. It's a cry from those who have been left out and looked over far too long. They are exercising their 1st Amendment rights. We don't condone rioting. We don't condone burning. We don't condone looting. And we don't condone irresponsible lawlessness. But neither can we condone racism and injustice, which has been in this American community for over 400 years, starting even before it became a nation in 1776.

America's national sin is injustice. America's national sin is systemic racism. America's national sin is the denial to give opportunity to those who have been oppressed, left out, locked out, and given almost nothing to survive on for over 400 years in their nation.

What we're seeing in America, is a new brand of activism. Young blacks, young whites, young browns, college students who are out of school now because of COVID-19. They are now fed up and tired, and they're standing tall. They're standing toe-to-toe with authorities asking for denied justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King said that protest is simply the voice of the unheard. People like George Floyd, who suffered by a brutal murder, have been unheard too long. Millions across the Globe are standing now to demand justice. What you're seeing now is simply America being called upon to pay the taxes for the racism and injustice that's gone on far too long. If society want to stop paying the taxes for the wrong, then it also has to sit down and hammer out a new agenda where everybody's included.

Racism is a virus that is not contained just in the U.S. but in every community across our planet. Here in Ireland in recent days I have listened to many testimonies regarding how people are judged and prejudiced because of the colour of their skin and

unique ethnicity. The scandal of Direct Provision System in this Republic will be lamented by future generations.

It's tolerated by the establishment because of the toxic silence of xenophobia on the ground.

Coronavirus has given us all an incredible opportunity to experience something of the vulnerability that so many of our brothers and sisters of humanity have lived with always.

With newly opened eyes, we should be meeting each other with compassion and empathy and accountability. And yet, hate and polarization dig in, and we squander the life-giving wisdom we could gain!

We are threatened by infection on the rise from not only one pandemic but two. There is COVID-19 and there is the deadly virus of white supremacy. Each have their super spreaders.

Science has guided us in flattening the curve of one. Let us pray that Holy Spirit, She who dwells in all people and creates unity across diversity, will offer the vaccine and cure for the other.

Matthew 25:35-40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'





The Greatest Gift of All

Look at this beautifully wrapped package. As you can probably guess by the way it is wrapped, there is a gift inside. Do any of you like to receive gifts? Of course you do! I can't imagine anyone saying that they don't enjoy receiving a gift. If I were to give this package to you and ask you to give me five Euros, would it be a



gift? No, if you have to pay for it or do something to receive it, it isn't a gift. When someone gives you a gift, it doesn't cost you anything. It doesn't come with any conditions. All you have to do is accept it. That's what makes it a gift.

What was the best gift you have ever received? Was it your first bicycle? Maybe it was an Xbox or a Sony Playstation. For some of you it may have been a battery-operated remote control car or, for others, it might have been a favourite stuffed toy. Today I want to tell you about a gift that is, without question, the greatest gift ever given.

What is that gift? It is the gift of eternal life. It is the gift of God and it was given to anyone who wants to receive it. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Whoever - - that's you and me. The greatest gift of all is for you and me.

When someone gives you a gift, it is never polite to ask, "How much did it cost?" But in this case, the Gospel tells us how much God's gift cost -- and the cost was great. It cost God his only Son. Can you imagine how much God loved us to send his one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life? Can you imagine how much Jesus loved us to be willing to die on that cross so that we could have eternal life in heaven?

Eternal life - what a gift! And all we have to do to receive it is believe and accept Jesus as our Saviour.

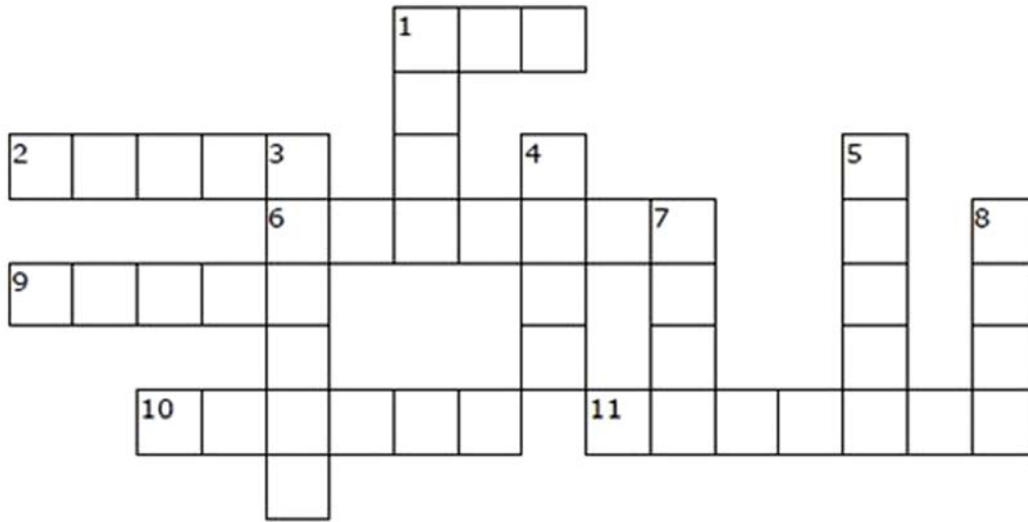


Thank you, Father, for the greatest gift of all. Thank you for Jesus, who loved us so much that he paid the price for our sin to give us the gift of eternal life. Amen.



The Greatest Gift of All

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



ACROSS

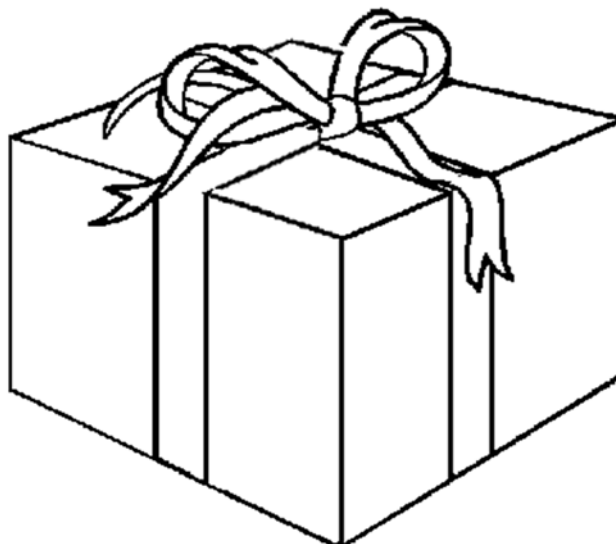
1. A male child
2. The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
6. Lasting forever, without end
9. Received the ten commandments from God
10. To die or be destroyed
11. To accept something as true, genuine, or real

DOWN

1. To rescue from danger or harm
3. Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
4. Alone in its kind, nothing like it
5. A serpent or reptile)
7. To care very deeply for someone
8. The period of time from birth to death

BELIEVE	SON	ONLY	WORLD	ETERNAL	DESERT
PERISH	SAVE	LOVE	SNAKE	MOSES	LIFE

Colour in
the
Greatest
Gift of
all!



Eternal
Life



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

**Margaret Hannon
Colliers Wood**

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to her family

In Loving Memory...

Of a life so
beautifully lived,
And a heart so
deeply loved.



**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
DURNING 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 DURNING CARONAVIRUS**
www.bereaved.ie

**HSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
DURNING CARONAVIRIS www.hse.ie**

**PORTLAOISE PARISH BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT 087 9878300**

**In Loving Memory of
AARON KELLY GORMAN**



1st Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in St. Peter & Paul's
Church on Sunday 7th June at 10am.

*We thought of you today
But that is nothing new.
We thought of you yesterday
And the days before too.
We think of you in silence*

We often speak your name.

*All we have are memories and your pictures in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake from which we will never part
God has you in his arms, we have you in our hearts.*

Loved and sadly missed

Daddy, Brandon, Chloe, Grandparents and extended family

Rest in Peace Aaron

**Birthday Remembrance
CRAIG KELLY GORMAN**

Which occurs 2nd June 2020



*Today is your Birthday in Heaven above
Our blessing we send
on the wings of a Dove
Not just today, but for everyday.*

*We think of you always with all our love
Daddy, Brandon, Chloe, Grandparents
and extended family.*

May Craig Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
BILLY (WILLIAM) HENNESSY**

Shaen, Portlaoise

3rd Anniversary occurs on 9th June 2020

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
on Sunday 7th June at 10am
in St. Peter and Paul's Church.*

*Deep are the memories
Precious they stay
No passing of time
Can take them away.*



*Loved and remembered by your wife Mary, sons, daughters,
brother, sister and extended family.*

May Billy Rest in Peace

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





**Pope Francis
Prayer
Intention for
June**

The Way of the Heart

Our prayer, with the Pope in both his monthly and his new daily Intentions, is always oriented towards changing our own hearts, preparing ourselves for mission in whatever life-situation we're in. For almost every person on the planet, that situation changed drastically since before Lent this year. We are only just beginning to learn and to reflect on how much of that change is permanent, on how much life has changed forever. Many indeed are suffering, whether through illness or by watching loved ones sicken. Part of us longs for a return to normal, leading us to examine what we meant by that normal, and to face our fears that it might never return. Therefore, it is important not to let fear control us; the love of the Heart of Christ will be our great strength. This month we are invited to join Pope Francis' prayer intention



**“...that all those
who suffer may
find their way in
life, allowing
themselves to be
touched by the
Heart of Jesus.”**

THRIFT SHOP



**Shop re-opens Monday June 8th at 10am
Many Opening week specials
All Rails @ €2.00
Looking forward to seeing all our valued
customers again
Kevin Keogh 087 9586057**

**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

*The best thing about
Memories
...is making them*



Bondra, Colt and Raheen Project.

Dear Neighbours,

I am currently in the early stages of putting together a book on the “Memories” of people in the areas of Bondra, Colt and Raheen.

This book will be filled with stories, photos, poems of your childhood living in the area, stories of the great matches and players with Colt GAA, it will be a way to share with others the memories of olden times and the people of the area.

I am inviting you to e-mail me your stories, poems and photos of your families and friends for inclusion in this project; childhood photos of making the hay, trips to the bog, matches and trips to Happyland in Abbyleix.

Closing date; 31st July 2020.

Please e-mail Judy Grace (daughter of Jimmy and Bridie Grace); **judiegrace122@gmail.com**

VIRTUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE 7TH JUNE

**BISHOP DENIS WARMLY INVITES YOU TO JOIN
IN TO OUR VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK
SHRINE ON SUNDAY 7TH JUNE AT 2.30PM.**

**PLEASE VISIT KNOCKSHRINE.IE WHERE YOU
CAN JOIN THE CEREMONIES AND ALSO LIGHT
A VIRTUAL CANDLE.**

