

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**

**link
Up**

29th November 2020

First Sunday of Advent




Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the Light of God made man.

Pope Francis

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Cosmic Dixie

A man goes on a journey leaving his slaves in charge, each with a job to do. A doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master's return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus' first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement

Day. But did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master's return? Could it be that the slaves were guilty of only doing their jobs once they thought the master was returning. There's a greater point here of course. Waiting for the second coming shouldn't be a big cosmic game of 'Dixie'. The point is not to wait for the master's return before hurling ourselves into a great whirlwind of things we should have been doing all along. We're not waiting for Jesus' return in the same way we would wait for a bus, we have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

"Keep alert," we are told "keep awake." We are asked to keep alert and awake not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of 'keeping our eye on the ball.' We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place on the planet and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to 'take our eye off the ball' and get caught up in other concerns.

At the moment the news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. We cannot afford to play 'Cosmic Dixie' Instead we are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God's Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day onwards.

Bitesize

We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

*Joseph Campbell
US folklorist & expert on mythology (1904 - 1987)*

Advent:
Waiting in
Hope



Advent Preparation Evenings

Continues on:

Wednesday 2nd December

Wednesday 9th December

Wednesday 16th December

at 7.30pm

*** Behind closed doors until restrictions are lifted.**

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We are very grateful to our group of volunteers who helped with stewarding and sanitising. As we reopen our Churches for public worship we look to that group again.

As Christmas approaches we will need as many volunteers as we can muster. These services will be more important than ever so we can gather in safety. We ask you to consider this service to Worship in our Parish. Thank You.

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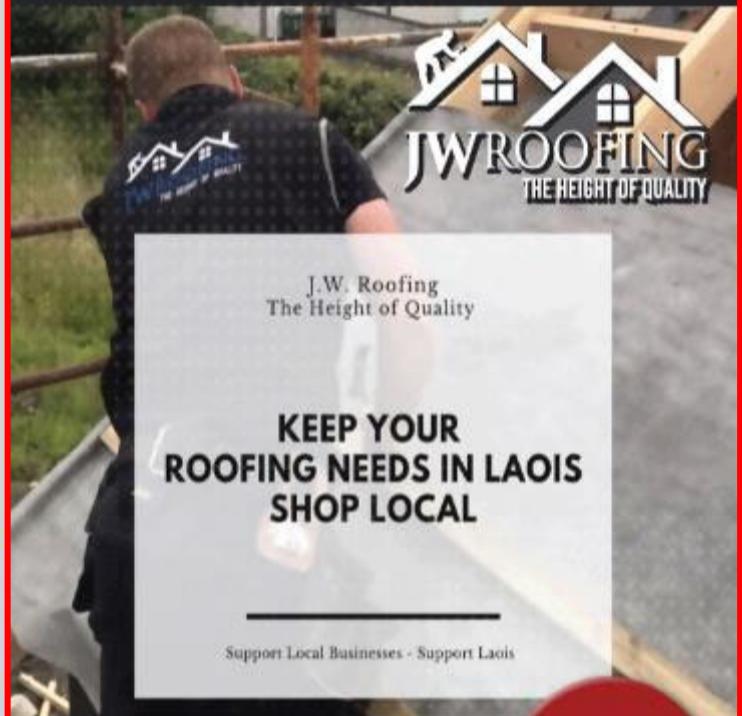
Who are in toeing, out toeing, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.

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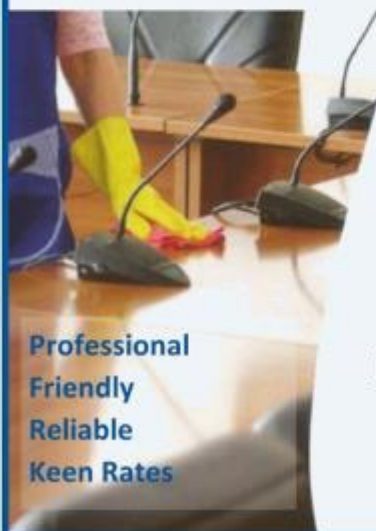
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TIME TO THINK!

ADVENT - A TIME TO HOPE

Current restrictions are about to lift. Whilst we continue to live in this time of pandemic, I'm really looking forward to the resumption of public Masses. Whilst we adhere fully to guidelines, it will be lovely to celebrate Mass in public again. While the run up to Christmas will be very different, it's well worth reflecting as Christians, we are invited to pause before we jump straight into Christmas.

This week we begin the liturgical season of advent. A hope filled few weeks, when we prepare to welcome, yet again, the light and peace that is felt at the Lord's birth. Jesus is the reason for the season. One of the images that Pope Francis often uses is that of the door. He is calling on us to keep the doors of the Church open. He means that literally: closed doors invite no one in. He is using the image of the door also as a symbol: the Church doors must be open in welcome. The Church must be welcoming especially to those who living in anxiety and hopelessness, to those who are seeking the answers to what life is about. If we dig down a little deeper the Pope is also asking us questions about why so many young people do not find the Church a welcoming Church, while we possess one of the great secrets about the meaning of life which young people are seeking: the message of Jesus Christ and how he reveals that our God is a God of love.

And he takes the image of the Church door one step further. The Church doors must be open so that we go out through them into the world around us to live and witness to the love of God, especially to those who are on the margins of Church life and those who are trapped in the margins of society. There is no point in having our church doors open if we remain happily inside as a closed comfort zone for ourselves and the like minded. There is no point in creating a Church which is locked within itself and within its own history. The Advent message is that the Christian life is always a future-looking one. The Advent wreath is an image of the Church. Week by week we light another candle as our lives move forward step by step in expectation. Our mission as Christians in the world is, as we look forward to Christ's coming, to anticipate that fullness of Christ's teaching through the way we live as individuals and as society, and to ensure that our world does not deviate from God's design for his creation.

How does the message of Advent help us focus better on the fundamental thrust we should be giving to our lives? How does Advent help us to witness in our society to what Christ's coming means? Advent, is a period of waiting, of longing, of anticipation and preparation and of rejoicing that "the Lord is coming", that "the Lord is near"; it encourages us to look to the future as a future of hope and there is no doubt that we need hope today, as individuals, as families, as communities and indeed as a nation. We should learn to think like the Old Testament prophets as they looked forward to the coming of the Saviour. They were sensitive to the experience of injustice and sin under which they lived and looked forward in hope to the coming of "the anointed one", as one whose coming will bring the newness of peace and justice and righteousness.

It was such a hope that enabled the Prophet Isaiah to dream the dream, with those beautiful words: "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they



train for war again. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks".

Advent reminds us that it is possible to change our world, starting out from where we are concretely within all the ambiguities and compromises of life, and move towards the realisation of the ideal of truth, justice and love. The Christian of every generation is called particularly to be awake and attentive to where society is slipping into wrong ways and to cry out like the prophet to return to the ways of God. In our days, sadly, nations still raise weaponry against others. How often do we read about knives being raised in violence and guns in vengeance and lives - young lives, being ruined? I am horrified to see in our world of progress and enlightenment that men and women and children are driven in their hundreds of thousands from the homes through wars as in Syria. Like you, I am greatly worried by the rising tide of xenophobia and racism in our country. Christians in our society must find the ways to speak up and stand up as witnesses to the God of peace and loving care. A God whose very birth took place on the periphery as there was no room for him in the Inn.

Advent then is a moment in which we should interrupt our daily life and think about what is essential. All too often, we live preoccupied by the hecticness of our daily lives, asleep to the wider consequences of our way of life. Following Jesus Christ is a calling to a robust engagement with the challenges of our society. The Christian life is never self-focussed but focussed on self-giving as Jesus gave his life to save us. Christians must learn the ability not just to adapt to the realities of the day but to challenge the realities and the thought-patterns of the day. The Christian must be one who stands out and has the courage to rise above conformity, even when that is not easy.

Advent is not strictly a time of penance and fasting as is Lent. It is marked more rather by a growing sense of joyfulness for the fact that Jesus is coming and that his coming is near. We pray that when he comes he will find us not closed in the comfortable and the familiar, but out there doing God's work and confidently bringing his message of love and hope into the world around us. As we celebrate this season of Advent, may we grow in hopefulness and gratitude. May the light of Christ, brighter than this winter darkness, inspire us to act with kindness and compassion.

Advent Waiting in Hope

The Sacrament of Confession

During the season of Advent
confession will be available
Monday to Friday in the Prayer
Room in the Church between
4pm and 5pm
And every Saturday starting at
5.30pm*

*When our Vigil Masses return then confession
will be after 4.30pm and 6pm.

 Portlaoise
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Advent Waiting in Hope

Wed. 25th November 7.30 pm

Wed. 2nd December 7.30 pm

Wed. 9th December 7.30 pm

Wed. 16th December 7.30 pm

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Join us as we
prepare together
to welcome the
birth of Jesus at
Christmas and
fully embrace
the Advent
message of

***'Prepare the way
for the Lord***

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Jesus is coming again!

Christmas is coming soon. It is easy to tell. We see the signs all around us. What are the signs? We see Christmas decorations in the stores and on houses, we hear Christmas songs on the radio, we see ads on television and in the newspapers. What if we didn't have all of these things to remind us that Christmas is coming? How would we know? I guess we would just have to look at the calendar.

Two thousand years ago, there was no television or radio. There were no newspaper ads announcing

that a child would be born and that he would be the Saviour of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it, but it was an event which God had promised and which had been foretold by prophets many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, they just didn't know exactly when he was coming.

This Sunday marks the beginning of a very special season called Advent. Do you know what Advent means? The dictionary says that advent is "the coming of something very important." What is it? Is it Christmas? Yes, we are looking forward to that, but we are also looking forward to the coming of another very important event. The return of Jesus!

Jesus promised to come again. You won't hear much about it on the television or radio and you won't read much about it in the newspapers, but he promised he would return and we believe it! We look forward to it just as people two thousand years ago looked forward the coming Messiah. We don't know exactly when he will come, it isn't marked on the calendar, but we are watching and waiting.

As we look prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, let's also be sure we are prepared for the day that he will come again.



Dear Father, we thank you for this special time of year and what it means to us. We thank you for keeping your promise to send a Saviour — and we thank you for the promise that he will come again.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



Advent



The Advent Wreath is a symbol of life and light. The wreath is a circle with neither a beginning nor end, just like God's love for us. The four candles on the wreath represent the four Sundays in Advent. We light one candle on the Advent wreath every week as we prepare for Christmas. By the fourth Sunday, all four candles are aglow. Three of the candles are purple. **Purple** is the colour of "looking forward". One candle is pink and is lit on the third Sunday in Advent. **Pink** is a happy colour and it reminds us that Christmas is getting nearer. A white candle, known as the Christ Candle, can be placed in the centre of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve.



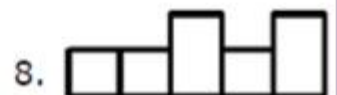
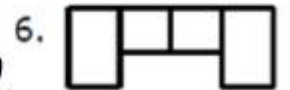
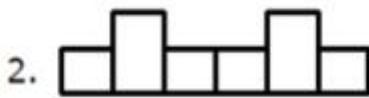
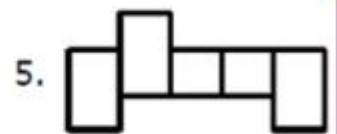
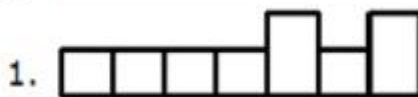
Hope

Today is the First Sunday of Advent also known as **THE SUNDAY OF HOPE**

We light one **purple candle** today. Colour one candle **purple** on the wreath below.



Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters



careful
clouds

lift
glory

pray
watch

heads
signs

Waiting in Hope

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week One: 29 November 2020

The Meaning of Advent

We have all done a lot of waiting in these past months – waiting for different levels of restrictions to pass by, waiting for daily figures from the government, waiting to be able to visit loved ones again, waiting for news of a vaccine or a cure.

The season of **Advent** is also a time of waiting. But, in contrast to much of the waiting we have had to do this year, our advent waiting is characterised by hope and expectation and joy. And this is because we are waiting in confidence for One who has already come to us, who is daily coming to us and who will come to us again – Jesus Christ.

The word 'Advent' stems from the Latin 'Adventus,' meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. In the Church calendar, the First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year. Over the Four Sundays of the Advent season we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas when we remember and commemorate the birth of Christ. But Advent is also about preparing ourselves for His second coming. We are reminded of this second coming in many phrases that we hear or say at Mass, for example 'as we look forward to his second coming', 'when he comes again in glory', 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour'. This second coming is a central theme from the beginning of Advent right up to the 17th December. At that point, our attention and preparation shifts more to the commemoration of His first coming on the feast of the Nativity.

Waiting in hope this Advent, we know that Jesus is our light, our salvation, the One for whom we long. How will you ready yourself to welcome Christ into the centre of your life, with all its bits and pieces, once more? As a new Church year begins, will you give yourself the gift of a new relationship with Christ? For through Him hope overcomes despair, peace overcomes division, joy overcomes desolation, love overcomes hatred. ***Maranatha! come, Lord Jesus!***

Linking with your Parish Take time alone or as a family to visit your local church to see the Advent wreath and for a moment of quiet prayer.

A Suggestion for the Home

Why not create a prayer space in your home for Advent? You might like to make your own Advent wreath or have a special Advent candle to use in the prayer space, including perhaps purple coloured cloth/ribbons and evergreens. **Go to kandle.ie for a video on creating a prayer space.**

An Advent Tradition for Church and Home:



THE ADVENT WREATH

The advent wreath has a rich meaning. The **circle** of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. The **evergreen** reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection. The **four candles** represent the four Sundays of Advent. **Purple** is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the **rose** pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.

A Blessing Prayer

Loving God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light this wreath.
May it be a sign of hope for us
as we prepare for your coming
and may it turn our hearts to you
in the days ahead.
Give us your peace and love
as we wait in joyful hope.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

See kandle.ie for a short video
on making a wreath
for your home

Weekly Advent Gospel Link

Beginning this Sunday, for the next year on a Sunday we will hear mainly from the Gospel of Mark.

Today, as we step into the season of Advent, the gospel urges us to 'stay awake'. (Chapter 13, Verses 33-37) This passage is a strong reminder to us, as we wait for the coming of the Lord, to live in and pay attention to the present moment. In faith, we trust that Jesus is coming to us all the time. While we wait for his Second Coming we need also to be ready to welcome Him into our lives today. *Are we ready to do this? Are we prepared to let Jesus into the 'stuff' of our lives, into all those corners where he can bring His hope, light, peace and love? What would that mean? What might that look like?*



See kandle.ie for weekly Scripture reflections on the Advent Sunday readings by Fr Liam Lawton



Please remember the vital work of St Vincent de Paul this Advent



For an online Advent Calendar with great resources for parish, school and home behind a virtual door each day go to:

www.CatholicBishops.ie



An Advent hymn to think about...

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



In many parishes the first sound of Advent is the singing of this traditional hymn. The text for the verses comes from what are known as the 'O antiphons' that are sung on the last days of Advent. We'll hear more about those in our final Advent Bulletin.

Sometime around the year 1100 an unknown author took these antiphons and turned them into a metrical Latin poem. Eventually, an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English. It was published in an 1853 hymnal by Thomas Helmore, using a 15th century French melody. From these origins we now have one of the most popular and well known Advent hymns.

The verses convey a plaintive mood of longing and yearning for God with each verse giving a name for Jesus that is full of hope. Notice how the petition of the verse is met by the joyful promise of the refrain – 'O Come, O come, Emmanuel...Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel'. In this Advent season we can call on God to come to us, knowing in faith, hope and joy that God answers us. You can listen to a recording of this hymn, sung by the choir of Clare College, Cambridge, on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPV8PEBTAQO>

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 1

You might like to light your Advent wreath or Advent Candle to begin your prayer

Loving God,

on this Advent night we turn to you in prayer.

As we wait for the coming of your Son, we ask you to bless our family.

Free us from any worry or distress that we may have and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us your gift of hope.

May your hope fill our hearts, our minds and our home.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



WAITING IN HOPE – A LITURGY OF HOPE An Invitation from Bishop Denis

Bishop Denis is inviting people across the diocese to join with him for this service of prayer at **7:30 pm, Sunday, November 29**, to begin the Advent journey together. In his invitation he says, *'together let us wait in hope, let us turn down the dial and be gentle with one another and ourselves as we prepare in the strangest of times to welcome Jesus, Emmanuel, among us.'*

Please have an individual candle ready for use.

Access this livestream on: **iCatholic Facebook page** <https://facebook.com/iCatholic>, the **KANDLE Facebook page** as well as on the **YouTube channel** <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>

SUMMARY OF PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2019

Due to the pandemic we publish our accounts for 2019 a little later than usual. The Parish and Parish Centre Accounts have been submitted to and examined by the Diocesan Accountant and audited by the Diocesan external Accountants. They form part of the Diocesan consolidated accounts which are submitted to the Charity Regulator in October each year. Our accounts for 2020 are likely to be very different due to the current lockdowns and restrictions. We are very grateful to those who have supported us during this time.

| RECURRING INCOME | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | € | € |
| Development Fund | 168,906.00 | 168,895.00 |
| Basket Collection | 134,756.00 | 133,583.00 |
| Parish Church | | |
| Scoil Bhríde | 3,317.00 | 2,880.00 |
| Heath | 9,591.00 | 8,330.00 |
| Ratheniska Church | 5,240.00 | 3,995.00 |
| Shrines | 92,218.00 | 88,091.00 |
| Donations/Bequests | 2,335.00 | 40,000.00 |
| Parish Lotto Income | 65,782.00 | 118,874.00 |
| Charity Christmas Cards | 18,460.00 | 15,678.00 |
| Sundry Income | 2,718.00 | 239.00 |
| Rental Income | 63,642.00 | 55,580.00 |
| | €566,965.00 | €636,145.00 |
| | | |
| RECURRING EXPENDITURE | | |
| Wages and salaries | 69,434.00 | 57,493.00 |
| K&I Retired Priest Fund | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Insurance | 19,288.00 | 19,655.00 |
| Light and heat | 52,576.00 | 62,328.00 |
| Telephone, Broadband & Internet Related Expenses | 10,077.00 | 10,033.00 |
| Computer Hardware/Software & Servicing Costs | 1,322.00 | 3,556.00 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 32,628.00 | 31,360.00 |
| Parish Houses-Repairs, Renewals & Renovations | 205,662.00 | 49,300.00 |
| Postage, Stationery and Office exes | 4,704.00 | 6,415.00 |
| Collection Envelopes | 679.00 | 1,169.00 |
| Missalettes | 723.00 | 674.00 |
| Rates- Water, LPT, Waste Collection | 4,695.00 | 4,519.00 |
| Altar Shrine Requisites | 40,630.00 | 29,240.00 |
| Pastoral Programme Expenses | 3,432.00 | 4,689.00 |
| Youth and Community Expenses | 895.00 | 4,124.00 |
| Diocesan Levy | 47,820.00 | 47,820.00 |
| Legal & Professional Fees | 6,022.00 | 765.00 |
| Accountancy Fees | 295.00 | 295.00 |
| Bank charges | 3,116.00 | 3,105.00 |
| Sundry Expenses | 1,512.00 | 2,228.00 |
| | €508,510.00 | €341,768.00 |
| | | |
| Ordinary Income v Expenditure (Surplus) | €58,455.00 | €294,377.00 |

The complete accounts for the Parish & Parish Centre may be inspected at the Parish Centre by arrangement.

Coronavirus effect on our collections

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a huge effect on how we gather and indeed on our Parish finance and collections. We are very grateful to those who have supported us during this time. Our weekly collections, which as you can see in 2019 averaged over €6,000 each week, have been severely affected. Our income since March is at about 60% of what it has been in recent years. We are grateful to those who have continued to support the parish during this difficult time.

New ways to support the Parish

Even when we reopen for public worship we will continue to have restricted congregations and we will not be passing collection baskets or the 'blue bag' for some time to come, maybe we will never return to the traditional collection. We know that we have many very supportive parishioners who continue to donate to the Parish. In response to present circumstances we have introduced a number of new ways in which you can support the Parish along, of course, with the traditional methods - envelope boxes etc. also by using the envelopes and collection boxes in our Churches or by cheque made out to Portlaoise Parish and posted or delivered to the Parish Centre.

Other ways to contribute;

Payment by Credit / Debit card via our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie - we have introduced a 'Donation' facility on our Parish Website which is a secure way you can make a contribution, it is also possible via this method to sign up to a regular donation on a weekly/monthly or other basis.

Standing Order forms are available at the back of the Churches and at the Parish Centre. (If you make payments in this way, please give a copy of S/O to Parish office).

Electronic transfer to our collection Bank Accounts:

Parish Account **IBAN: IE 53 AIB K 9 3 3 2 7 9 1 6 6 5 8 0 4 5 BIC: AIBKIE2D**

Priests Collection: **IBAN: IE 12 AIB K 9 3 3 2 7 9 1 6 6 5 8 2 0 1 " "**

Cashless payment facility at the back of the Parish Church for use with Credit/Debit Card

THE PARISH LOTTO:

As you can see from the accounts there is quite a reduction in the profit from the Lotto in 2019 v 2018. It is accounted for by the 'luck of the draw'! We lost 6 Jackpots in a row in 2019 - a remarkable run of luck and not one we hope will be repeated for some time. Thank you to all who support our Parish lotto and in particular our promoters. ! It is possible to play the Parish Lotto on-line from our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie. Many have taken the opportunity, maybe you would like to participate?. It is a fun way to support Parish Development and at the same time give yourself a chance to share in the €1,000 weekly match 3 prize fund or to scoop the attractive Jackpots on offer each week of between €10,000 and €20,000. Half yearly and yearly membership gift tokens are also available from the Parish Centre. (*Other gift denominations available upon request*). Many have used these for Birthdays, and other occasions. They also make an ideal Christmas gift for yourself or to give to family and friends. You might consider it! Again many thanks to all who support our lotto and in particular to our promoters.

John Byrne, P.P.



COMMUNITY NOTES

Sean Doyle Light Engineering, Ballacolla, 087-2068972;

Clothes line poles, wall mounted clothes lines, retractable clothes lines, winders, pulleys for old lines, bicycle stands, saw horses etc.

f seandoylelightengineering



Nearly new condition, comes with guitar stand, carry bag for guitar, two guitar lesson books, acoustic guitar CD, tuner and two plectrums.

Contact;

087-2359049



'We've moved a few things around. Travel books are in the Fantasy section, Politics is in Sci-Fi, and Epidemiology is in Self-Help. Good Luck!'



Congratulations to Anne Marie Egan and Michael Dwyer, who were married on Saturday 14th November, in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church. Celebrant; Fr. Ian Doyle.

We wish them every blessing for a very happy future together.



MINDFULLY ME



Mindfulness workshop for teenagers with Louise Shanagher

If you are aged between 14-18 years why not join us via Zoom on Tuesday 8th December at 6pm

To register your interest please email mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie by Thursday 3rd December



Christmas Cuisle Cards

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€7.50 per pack or
3 packs for €20.



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We wish to let our customers know that
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year. Thank you for your custom over
the years.

Happy Christmas

from

Tony and Mary Purcell



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Fuel, Electricity and Education all year round.
Donations can be given through our **GO FUND ME
PAGE** or by contacting any of our volunteers.
All funds donated will be used to help people in our
local areas. 100% of donations goes back into our
community. We thank you for all your support over the
years, but we really do need your support now.



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OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Margaret Brennan

née O' Meara
Pallas Big, Portlaoise



Angela Hughes

Newpark, Portlaoise



Florence Burke

Bridge Cottage,
Abbeyleix

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil: for you are with me: your rod
and your staff - they comfort me.*

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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NIALL;
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Abbeyleix



In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH GING

8 New Road Portlaoise. Died 3rd December 2008
12th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Thursday 3rd December at 10am.**

*It's lonely here without you,
We miss you more each day,
For life is not the same to us,
Since you were called away.*

*To your resting place we visit,
Place flowers there with care,
But no one knows our heartache,
When we turn and leave you there.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by your daughter Bernie, son-in-law Ivan, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

May Elizabeth Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
MARGARET DRENNAN

Ratheniska House, Stradbally, Portlaoise.
Died 4th December 2019.



1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Holy Cross, Ratheniska, on Sunday 6th December at 10am. (If Covid restrictions are not lifted, Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Church).

Sadly missed and always remembered by her loving family and friends.

May Margaret Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
PAT DWYER

Died 28th November 2019



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Sunday 6th December at 12:30pm. (subject to government guidelines)

"Beautiful memories silently kept, of one that we loved and will never forget"

Forever in our hearts, Pat

Love from Joan, Martina, Paul and Isabel

Rest in Peace Pat

In Loving Memory of
A Special Mum and Gran
ALICE HILLIARD

63 Marian Avenue Portlaoise.
7th Year away from home.
And her husband

JIMMY HILLIARD

On his 1st Birthday away from home.



Our love is forever and although we are apart, Our love only grows stronger, deep within our hearts.

Sadly missed by your daughter Liz and partner Diarmuid, grandchildren, Jennifer, Nicole, Bernard, Rebecca and partners, great-grandchildren and Alice's brother Andrew.

May They Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance

In Loving Memory of
BERNADETTE KELLY

Parkside Apartments and formerly Capoley.
3rd birthday away from home; 28th November 2020



God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be,

So He put His arms around you, and whispered; "Come to me".

With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away, and although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

Sadly missed by her loving daughters Joan and Thelma, son-in-law, grandchildren and all her loving family and friends.

Rest in Peace Bernadette

Fondest Remembrance

In Loving Memory of
MARY FINNAN

Late of 6 Borris Road, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 6th December 2020



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 5th December at 10am.

Her memory is our keepsake, With which we'll never part, God has her in His keeping, We have her in our hearts.

Sadly missed by all her friends and colleagues.

Rest in Peace Mary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
GEORGE BREEN
St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.



The family of the late George Breen, would like to express their thanks to all who sympathised, sent messages of support and Mass cards, on the loss of George; a brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle.

Also thank you to the staff of St. James hospital, Dublin and Matthew Keegan and David Goode, undertakers, for looking after George. Also to Ollie Hyland for his prayers and blessing. Thank you to his neighbours and friends for their help and support.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

George's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in St's. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Friday 4th December at 10am.

Loved and missed by all his family.

Rest in Peace George

In Loving Memory of

KATHLEEN & JOHN BRENNAN

Rathleague, Portlaoise.

John's 3rd Anniversary occurs Saturday 28th November.



Think of them as living
in the hearts of those
they touched,
For nothing loved is
ever lost, and they were
loved so very much.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by their loving children,
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Mam and Dad

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
NOREEN COSS

26 Grattan Street, Portlaoise.



The family of the late Noreen Coss, who died 17th June 2020, wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy, condolences and support from friends, relatives and neighbours during their sad loss of Noreen.

To the ambulance staff and doctors, nurses and staff of Portlaoise hospital, Naas hospital, St. James' Hospital, Dublin, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin and Mountmellick Hospital. A sincere thank you for the care given to Noreen while in their care.

Also a word of thanks to the doctors and nurses in the Cedar Clinic, for looking after Noreen, and a special thanks to the palliative care team, who cared for Noreen and the Irish Cancer Society nurses for their care and thanks also to the community nurses and staff.

Our thanks to Msgr. John Byrne and all the Priests of Portlaoise Parish, who visited Noreen and comforted her, and for the lovely funeral Mass celebrated and streamed in the Parish Church, Portlaoise.

A sincere thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for arranging the funeral and floral arranging and to the grave diggers for preparing Noreen's final resting place with such care.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way at this sad time. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your kindness and intentions.

Rest in Peace Noreen

In Loving Memory of

MARGARET LYNCH (nee Doheny)
23 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary.



*It broke our hearts to lose you, but you
did not go alone,
Part of us went with you,
The day God called you home,
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is our guide, and though we
cannot see you, you're always by our side.*

*Sadly missed by her husband Mick, sons, daughters and
grandchildren.*

Also remember other deceased relatives & friends at this time.

May Margaret Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

MARGARET LYNCH (nee Doheny)
23 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise. 11th Anniversary.



*Though your smile is gone forever,
And your hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories,
Of the one we loved so much.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part,
God has you in His keeping,
And we have you in our hearts.*

*Sadly missed by her loving sisters, brothers, daughter Mary and
the boys.*

Also remember other deceased relatives & friends at this time.

May Margaret Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of NOREEN CONROY

11 Roselawn, Portlaoise.

9th Anniversary occurs 30th November 2020



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 29th November at 10am.

Also remembering at this time;

My father Stephen Conroy, Marian Avenue
His sister Sheila Graham from Arles, who
died recently.

From John, Kathy, Jennifer and Jack Conroy.

James O' Donovan, Oola, Limerick, 27th November
His wife Kathleen and Kathleen's sister Brid Herbert and her
brother Bob Nash.

From Kathy, John, James, Margaret and Willie.

Also remembering all the staff at HEART Ambulance.
Keep them all safe and protect them and our patients and
ambulances each day on their journeys to and from hospitals.
God keep us all safe from Covid.

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of WILLIAM (Willard) DOWNEY

8 Triogue Place, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs
4th December 2020

*Will those who think of Willard
today, a little prayer to Jesus say.*



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Friday 4th December at 10am.

Thinking of you always, your good friend Andy.

Rest in Peace Bill

Christmas Remembrances

We are currently accepting Christmas
Remembrances for our Christmas Day
issue. The deadline to submit notices is
12 noon Wednesday 16th December.

In line with HSE guidelines and to adhere to
social distancing, we are unable to design or edit
notices while advertisers are present.

Only two people will be permitted in the office at
any time so we do request that you please have
your completed notice written out prior to arrival.

If you have previously placed a notice with
us and would like to repeat the same notice,
you can call the office on **057-8692154** and
we can assist you with this over the phone.

For all new anniversaries or remembrances
we request that where possible, these are
submitted via e-mail with a photo to
linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

*Thank you for your patience and co-operation
and we do hope that you will all continue to
remain safe in these challenging times.*



*You are the
Light
of the World*



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PLEASE NOTE

Anniversary Masses
included on memorial
notices must be
booked in at reception and written on your
notice prior to submitting it to the office.

We thank you for your co-operation.



Ozanam House, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois

St Vincent de Paul Portlaoise would like to thank our parishioners for your extreme generosity during 2020. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and vital in helping us succeed. We as an organisation depend upon your donations.

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to raise funds in our usual way. Our St. Vincent de Paul Shop, would normally raise much needed funds for our society but it has been closed for months due to level 5 restrictions, all other annual fundraisers have been prohibited which include; church gate collections, bag packs and flag days. With these restrictions in place we have suffered huge financial loss.

While we have made some great strides, we still have a lot to accomplish, we have found it incredibly difficult to ask people and businesses for donations this year but we now need your support.

Your donations are put to very good use in the local community and because of you, we are able to provide food, heat and electricity to people who live on small, fixed incomes. 100% of your donation goes towards local people and families. We also assist families with education costs where possible. Sandwiches are provided daily to some of our community schools.

Some people in our community need support both with financial and volunteer services, with your help we will be able to respond immediately, while also supporting people's efforts to lift themselves out of poverty. We believe that all lives are equal and that no one should live in poverty, this is why we are on the ground with our volunteers empowering people to tackle their own hardship and fight poverty, with over 117 years of experience, and Conferences all over our County, we are positioned to reach out to the needy in our community.

Over the Christmas period we normally support more than 250 families locally. At the moment we are trying our best to do all we can to raise much needed funds in other ways, we ourselves are operating a click and collect facility to try and raise as much funds as possible while our shop cannot open. You can log onto our Facebook page @SVPVincentsPortlaoise where you can view and reserve items for sale.

Here are some ways you can donate to St. Vincent de Paul:

You can donate online using our IBAN number: IE73AIBK93327917987070

You can tap a donation on the credit card machine in our shop.

You can use the St. Vincent de Paul donation box in St. Peter & Paul's Church.

You can donate by mail to St. Vincent de Paul, Ozanam House, No. 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise.

We would like to say a very sincere "THANK YOU" from our Portlaoise Conference for your continued support and dedication, without your assistance our work would be impossible. Your donation will be vital in helping us succeed, and will make an incredible difference to the people's lives you are changing for the better.

Our helpline number is 087 765 5793, for anyone that feels they may need assistance. You can speak to us in total confidence.

Please note: Our helpline and Conference services are operated by Volunteers. You can avail of this service by calling the helpline number, it is not possible to access our services through the St. Vincent de Paul shop.

Portlaoise Parish



Results for

26th November 2020

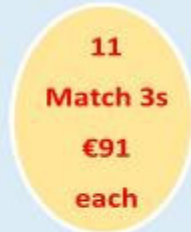


No €13,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Tom Walsh
Mary Downey
Aine Rosney
J Conroy
Linda McCormack
Bartle Dunne
Lisa O'Brien
Breda Ryan
Henry Hewitt
Anita Laverty
Mary McNamara

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Paul Dooley
Parish Centre
Victor Haines
Betty Brophy
John Hogan
Bernie Lalor
Lisa O'Brien
Betty Lynch
Nora Walsh
Anita Laverty
Peter Ryan



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Christmas Yearly and Half Yearly Lotto Gift vouchers now available at the Parish Centre.

An ideal Christmas present for yourself or to give to family and friends.

Next Week's Jackpot €14,000

Support for the Parish

Thank you to all who support our Parish, particularly at this difficult time. Many have been very generous. Nevertheless since March (lockdown) our income has been severely curtailed - income is at about 60% in comparison to previous years.

Some ways to contribute to our Parish

- Envelopes available at Church porches
- Online at www.portlaoiseparish.ie via the **Donate** button
- Standing Order**—forms available at the Parish Centre.
- Cashless point** at the back of the Parish Church.
- Make a transfer to our Account

Portlaoise Parish Account:

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

Also Parish Lotto can be played Online—see results sheet above!

An ideal Christmas Gift a yearly or half yearly Lotto subscription!

THANK YOU

'Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour,' Jesus said to his disciples.

Today's Gospel; Mark 13

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. Theodore Tomasik SVD
Tel: 057 8622301

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

All Masses and services from the Parish Church are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times 057 8600119)



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
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