

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

13th December 2020

Third Sunday of Advent



Carol Service

We have been so well served since 'lockdown' by our music ministry. They have enriched our Masses and have been greatly admired and enjoyed by those who join us whether in person or virtually. We are very grateful to them.


And there is more.... Seen here recording a beautiful Carol Service that will brighten our Christmas when it goes live on our website Christmas week.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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REJOICE



EUGENE KEYES PERMANENT DEACONATE

Eugene Keyes will be ordained to the permanent diaconate in our Parish Church this afternoon at 3pm. We wish him and his family well as he takes on this new ministry in the Church and parish.

Communion Calls

We are very conscious during this time of pandemic that many of our sick and housebound continue to 'cocoon' and are being rightly careful to avoid contracting Coronavirus.

If you would like, and only if you would like, one of the Priests will call with the Blessed Sacrament before Christmas. Please do not feel under any pressure to have a priest call. We are delighted so many keep in touch by parish radio, webcam, Facebook live.

If you would like to be attended please call the Parish Office 056 872 1142 to make arrangements for a visit.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Cillian Michael Delaney, Ashewood Walk.
who was baptised last weekend

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

Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church unless otherwise stated)

Monday—Friday
7.30am, 10am & 11am

Saturday 10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigils 4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm
8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am,
Ratheniska 10am.

Christmas Timetable see page 14

Gaudete

Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western churches. The Latin Gaudete is translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The lesson we can take from this is that Christians ought to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families, workplaces, and social circles.



Home Cribs

We would love to see a picture of your home crib. Please send in a picture of your crib to

info@portlaoiseparish.ie

and we can display it in our church and on our social media pages over the Christmas season.

This Week 6th December

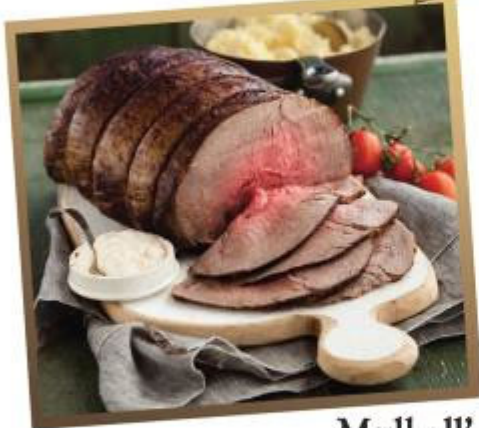
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<p>SPORTS PEOPLE; May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.</p>	<p>CHILDREN; Who are in toeing, out toeing, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.</p>

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

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After a most difficult year I wish all my friends & supporters

A Happy & Peaceful Christmas with family & loved ones, safe in the knowledge of better days ahead in 2021

Charlie Flanagan TD

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E-mail: charlie.flanagan@oir.ie
Web: www.charlesflanagan.finegael.ie



Please feel free to contact me about any issue you may have.

End of Year Rosary at The Grotto

New Years Eve, December 31st at 8pm



Our End of Year Rosary will take place at 8pm on New Year's Eve. Prayers will now be held in Sts. Peter & Paul's Church to allow for social distancing. The Rosary will also be broadcast live via the Parish Radio. Have a Blessed Candle lit and displayed at the Grotto for the sick and deceased; for the protection of our healthcare workers, friends and family; for your intentions; or in thanksgiving.

Candles for all your intentions will be lighting at the Grotto from 5pm that evening until midnight.

Candle bookings can be made through the shop in the Parish Centre or by contacting any of the following;

Anthony Egan 086-1993803
Paddy Connolly 087-2117174
John Egan 087-1254841
Michael Houlihan 087-9212028
Jimmy Shiels 087-6872633



Your donation will go to Mary's Hands Charity in Medugorje - now run by the youngest Visionary, Jakov, following Sr. Muriel's Passing - and the invalids, pilgrims and poor in our own society. A mass will also be offered for your intentions, in Portlaoise and Medugorje.



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Christmas Week Timetable: Portlaoise Parish

Christmas Arrangements 2020

Our Christmas Masses

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER

(Christmas Eve)

10am, 12.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm and 9pm.

Ratheniska 5pm

The Heath 6pm

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER

(Christmas Day)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm.

The Heath 9.30am

Ratheniska 10am



SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER

10am,

12noon (Polish Christmas Mass)

4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm.

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

The Heath 9.30am

Ratheniska 10am.

MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER TO SATURDAY 2ND JANUARY

(including NEW YEAR'S DAY)

Parish Church 10am

All our up-to-date Mass Times can be accessed on our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie

SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY (SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)

(Vigils) 4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

The Heath 9.30am

Ratheniska 10am

MONDAY 4TH JANUARY & TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY

Parish Church 10am

WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)

7.30am, 10am, 11am & 7.30pm

THURSDAY 7TH & FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY

7.30am, 10am & 11am

SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY

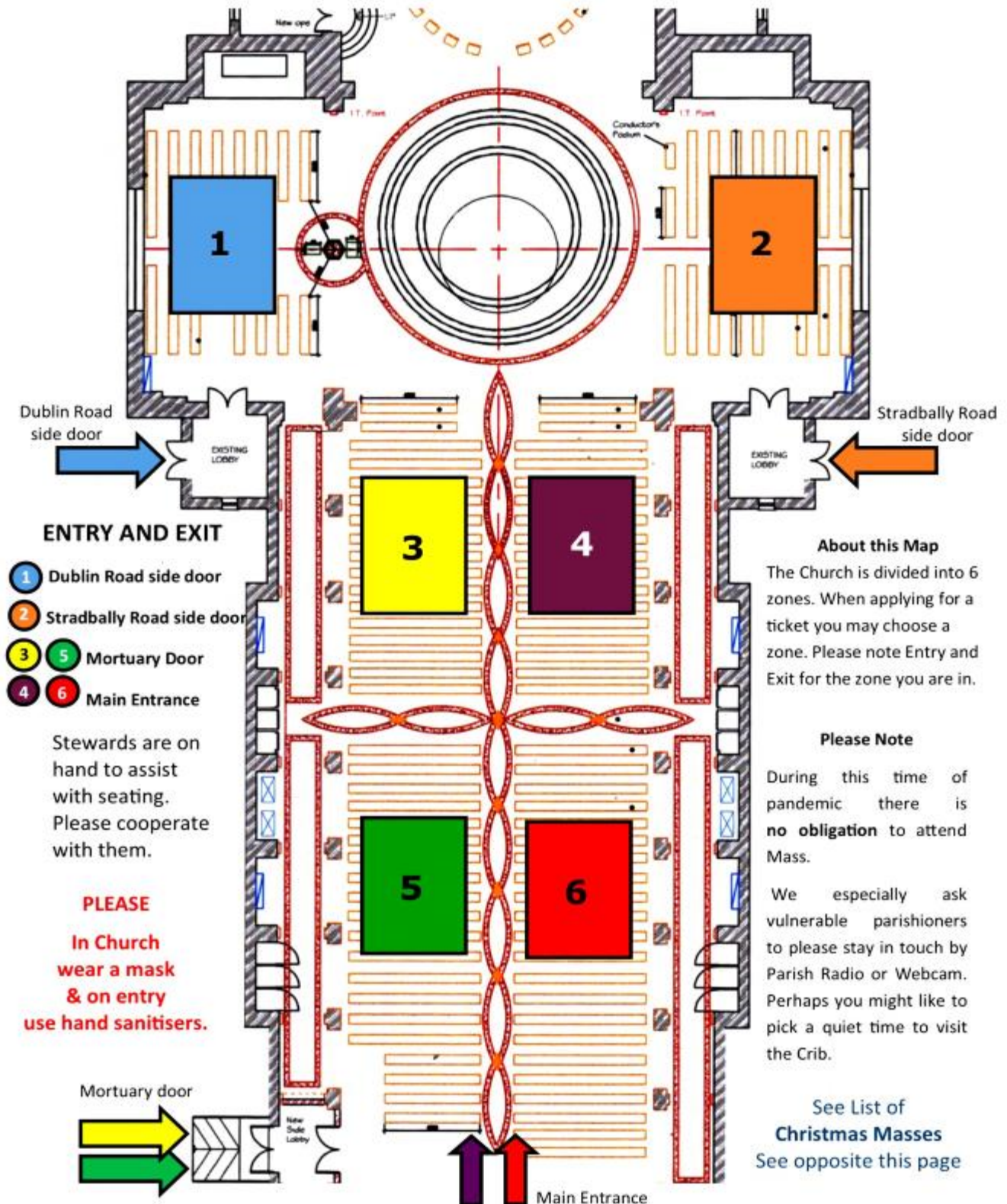
10am.



All our Christmas Masses will be streamed live from our Website, Facebook Page
and Parish Radio (106.5FM)

RETURNING SAFELY TO PUBLIC WORSHIP - OUR TICKETING SYSTEM

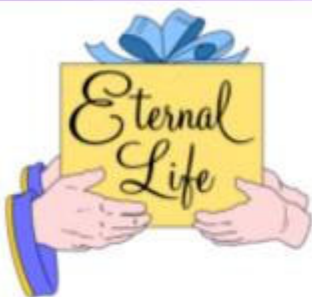
Our ticketing system is up and running and has worked well for this weekend. For next weekend, **19/20th December** and for our **Christmas Masses** tickets will be available from **Monday 14th, 11am**, via our website, www.portlaoiseparish.ie. If you do not have access to the internet you may phone these numbers, **085 236 1039/ 085 441 8430** or **085 212 5978** from 11am to 4pm Monday to Thursday or call to the Parish Centre — the ticket helpline phones will not be attended outside of those times. You may book online at any time any day up to Christmas. Ticketing will also apply to the Heath and Ratheniska Churches.



The biggest Masses in the year in our Parish Church have been the 'childrens Masses' on Christmas Eve - sadly they will not be celebrated this year. See our Christmas timetable on page 14 - all Masses celebrated over that weekend will be Christmas Masses. We do hope to celebrate a children's Christmas Mass that will be live streamed to the Schools before the holidays.



The Gift That Jesus Brings



In the Gospel today we learn that John, even though he was in prison, was hearing about all the wonderful things Jesus was doing. He sent a message to Jesus by some of his friends. "Ask Jesus if he is the Messiah we have been expecting, or should we continue to watch for someone else?"

When they asked Jesus that question, he answered, "Go back to John and tell him about the things you hear and see: The blind can see. The crippled can walk. People with harmful skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life. And the Good News is told to the poor."

If you were blind, what better gift could you receive than to be able to see? If you were crippled, what better gift could you receive than to be able to walk? If you were dead, what better gift could you receive than the gift of life? Jesus is God's gift to us. Jesus came to earth to give us life -- eternal life! What a gift!

Dear God, thank You for Jesus! We know that every good gift we receive comes from you and the greatest gift is eternal life brought down to us through your Son. Father, we thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday

The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "**Rejoice**". You can see this word in Sunday's missalette or on our screen in the Parish Church at the beginning of Mass.



Rose vestments can be worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.



THE GIFTS THAT JESUS BRINGS



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

When John heard in _____ what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

_____ replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive _____, the lame _____, those who have leprosy are _____, the deaf _____, the _____ are raised, and the _____ is preached to the _____."

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."



- | | | | | |
|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| cured | good | Jesus | poor | sight |
| dead | hear | news | prison | walk |





TIME TO THINK!

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas 2020 comes after a most challenging year, a year we will never forget. We see light at the end of the tunnel, but let's stay safe and be responsible as we await the vaccines to end this terrible pandemic. Trust the Lord is with us and his light is brighter than any winter darkness. May we all be anointed with peace of mind and health of body during the Christmas season and throughout the New Year?

Generosity is a wonderful gift. To have a big heart is a blessing, that is to be open and compassionate in love to the needs of others. Generosity is contagious and beneficial. Fact...The more we give the more we receive. Generosity is measured in our ability to engage and be present to the needs of others. It is also very important to be generous to ourselves. The more I care for myself the greater I can care for others. Christmas is a celebration of generosity. God's love is so overwhelming that he embraced our human vulnerability and became one of us. A birth that evoked generosity from shepherds to wise men. May we all be blessed with generous hearts this Christmas.

How much does a prayer weigh?

Annabelle, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualising the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can."

John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store. Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family.

The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?"

Louise replied, "Yes sir"

"O.K." he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise, hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scales carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down.

The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it."

The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scales did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust.



Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said:

"Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands."

The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a €50 note to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

It was some time later that the grocer discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

A Christmas Prayer

Little baby Jesus was born upon this day,
Lying in a manger, laid upon soft hay,
His mother Mary cared for him,
His dad Joseph felt proud,
To be given such a precious boy,
They felt safe within Gods plans.
Shepherds came to greet him,
Wise men carried gifts,
And gave them to the baby,
They knew he would be king.
So we too on Christmas day,
Come to worship him,
And celebrate, with love and hope,
To play and laugh and sing.
We love the lights upon the tree,
The presents and the food,
We share this special time together,
And say our God is good.
So good he sent us Jesus,
To walk and shine the way,
For us all to follow him,
Into a Heavenly day.

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- ◆ Whiskey Advertising pictures in antique frame
- ◆ Titanic Memorabilia Picture Frames
- ◆ Michael Collins, various pictures in antique frames
- ◆ Laois/Leix 1915 All-Ireland picture in frames
- ◆ Other pictures; Odlums, Kelly's Hay Shed Abbeyleix, Maryborough Train Station, Stradbally town.



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A person is kneeling in prayer in a church, illuminated by dramatic lighting. The scene is set in a dimly lit space with a large, bright light source creating a strong glow and long shadows. The person is in silhouette, facing away from the camera, with their hands clasped in prayer. The background shows architectural details of the church, including a doorway and a large window or archway. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

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.

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

Available online via our

Parish Webcam

portlaoiseparish.ie/webcam

Parish Radio

106.5FM

Facebook Live

facebook.com/PortlaoiseParishLaois

Shalom World TV

shalomworldtv.org/watchlive

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

Waiting in Hope

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week Three: 13 December 2020



Rejoice Sunday & Baminelli

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday. The rose coloured candle we light this day represents this joy, which is echoed in the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'

St John Paul II, when Pope, began a tradition in Rome that has been continued by Pope Benedict and Pope Francis on this Sunday, now also known affectionally as *Baminelli Sunday*. Baminelli is the Italian for Baby Jesus. On this day children and their families from across Rome come to St Peter's Square, bringing with them the figure of the infant Jesus from their crib. After the Angelus, the children raise up the figures and the Pope blesses them.

In Advent 2019 Pope Francis once more encouraged families to have a nativity scene or crib in the home. He said that it '... helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things.'

Suggestion for the home

Assemble a crib for your home with hay and the animal figurines. As we get closer to Christmas, add the shepherds, Joseph and Mary, leaving the three Magi at a distance from the crib until January 6th. On Christmas Eve place the figure of Jesus into the crib and say a prayer together. Look out for the diocesan prayer card for Christmas 2020 with this and other prayers for the 12 days of Christmas which will be available on www.kandle.ie

Linking with your Parish: YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU THIS CHRISTMAS!

As parishes get ready to celebrate Christmas, this year more than ever help will be needed. Essential services such as stewarding, cleaning of the church, liturgical ministries and more all need parish volunteer, if we are to safely and joyfully celebrate our Christmas liturgies. What help does your parish need? What can you do to help make Christmas special and safe this year in your parish?

An Advent Tradition The Nativity Scene

In about 1223 AD St Francis wanted to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way, helping people to recall the humble surroundings in which Jesus was born (his nativity). In the town of Greccio, near Assisi, with the help of a local landowner he set up a live crib with stable, hay and animals. The local people came at night with torches and candles to celebrate Mass and, on seeing the scene, to be reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger. St. Francis' initiative at Greccio popularized the making of a Christmas crib in our homes, churches, hospitals, schools and other places.



A Blessing Prayer by the Family Crib

God of all people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have shown us your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son
to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice,
mercy, and love.
Lord, bless our family and all who will look
upon this crib in the coming days;
may it remind us of the humble birth of
Jesus, and lift our thoughts to Him,
who is God-with-us, our Emmanuel and
the Saviour of all. Amen.



Weekly Advent Gospel Link

The figure of John the Baptist once more takes centre stage in our Gospel reading, though this time the account comes from John 1:6-8,19-28, rather than Mark's gospel. While he may be centre stage, John is once more pointing firmly to Christ as our saviour. In this passage he highlights an important Advent theme: *Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour.*

During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst and to follow the example of John the Baptist by pointing others to the good news of Jesus. *How am I in my words and actions spreading the Advent message of hope in Jesus? What acts of kindness, patience and generosity can I share with others as I prepare for Christmas?*

Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

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

An Advent hymn to think about... O Come, Divine Messiah



The composer of this Advent carol was Simon-Joseph Pellegrin (1663 – 1745). He was a French poet and playwright. The translation of this song from its original French, *Venez, divin Messie*, into English was done by Sister Mary of St. Philip. She was one of the first English members of the Sisters of Notre Dame when they established a training college in Liverpool, England around 1850.

While there is a strong sense of petition in this hymn, it's musical setting conveys an overriding confidence in God. Drawing on texts from Matthew, Luke, Isaiah and Psalm 62,



the hymn proclaims that our Saviour will come - in peace and in meekness, in human weakness, dispelling the darkness and sadness of this world as hope sings its triumph.

You can listen to this hymn on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzNiBdW4Le4>

Remembering those in need

In the Advent season we are especially called to support those in need as much as we can. There are many charities that need our assistance at this time, including **St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, Focus Ireland, the Peter McVerry Trust, Pieta House, the Simon Community**, to name a few. Please give what you can at this time.

A SPECIAL INVITATION: This year the Cathedral parish invites parishioners from across the whole diocese to join in a livestreamed service of carols, readings and prayers led by Bishop Denis from Carlow Cathedral. While many of us will miss our traditional carol services, this promises to be a very special moment of shared hope, joy and song as we approach Christmas. *Livestream available on www.iCatholic.ie.*

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 3

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

Loving God,

On this Advent night we turn to you in prayer. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us.

Open our hearts to the good news that you bring to us and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of joy in the Lord.

May we see that our deepest joy comes from knowing you.

May this joy fill our hearts, our minds and our home.

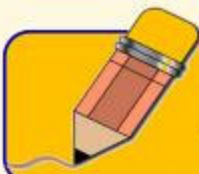
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Cathedral Parish Carol Service

*Tune in live via iCatholic.ie
Led by Bishop Denis Nulty*





COMMUNITY NOTES

PORTLAOISE NOTES

Adoration every Tuesday, 12 noon to 7pm in the Parish Church, for the Pope, Bishops, Priests, Seminarians and Religious. If you would like to commit to spending one hour before the blessed Sacrament every Tuesday praying for this intention, please tel. 087-7611557.

Vocations: Please join with St. Joseph's Young Priests Society for a Holy hour, every Friday at 3pm, as we pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. All are welcome.

Adoration; every Sunday in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, from 2:45pm to 4pm.

Rosary is prayed at the Grotto on the first Friday of every month, 8pm and on all Feast days to Our Lady.



The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church **This Sunday 13th December** in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners.

ABBEYLEIX/RAHEEN NOTES

Adoration;

Ballinakil every Friday, 3pm-6pm.

Shanahoe every Thursday 10-11am and Sunday 2.55-4pm. Divine Mercy recited on the hour and Holy Rosary on the 1/2 hour.

Knock Church every Saturday from 7pm to 8pm.

Ballyroan every Friday, 10am-4pm.

Divine Mercy and Holy Rosary is recited daily in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, on the Parish webcam at 3pm.

Raheen Parish Lotto Gift Cards available for Christmas. Contact Louise 086-2234644.

Christmas Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquets supporting the work of Fr. Brian Kavanagh's charity ALMAS are available. Contact Louise; 086-2234644.

Christmas Raffle

office letterbox or at Mass times before December 15th. €2 per line or 6 lines for €10. Great Christmas Hampers to be won! Thank you for your support.



Raheen Annual Christmas Draw will take place Saturday 19th December. Due to Covid-19 we are unable to sell tickets as in former years. The tickets will be dropped into your letterboxes. We would appreciate if you would return them along with the money to the Raheen parish

Christmas Draw Prizes

1st Prize:

Christmas Hamper worth €200.

2nd Prize:

Christmas Hamper worth €150.

3rd Prize:

Christmas Hamper worth €100.

And numerous other hampers & prizes.

Cuisle Fayre

Christmas Raffle 2020

In aid of the Cuisle Centre,
Block Rd, Portlaoise

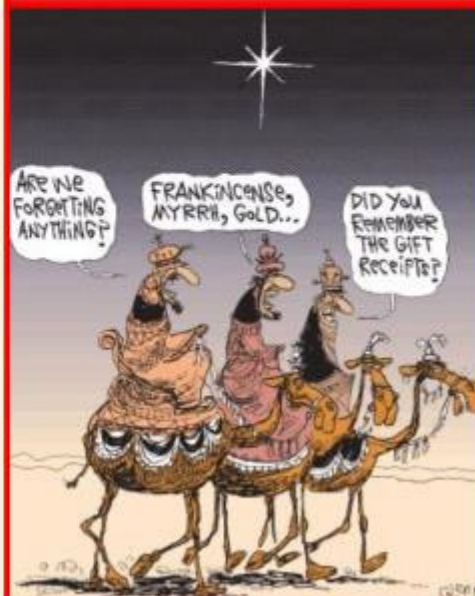
- 1st Prize; €100 Cash Prize sponsored by Joe Wright
- 2nd Prize; Hamper
- 3rd Prize; €50 Voucher Hughes Pharmacy
- 4th Prize; €50 Voucher Cathy Browne Hairdresser
- 5th Prize; €50 Voucher Hughes Pharmacy
- 6th Prize; €30 Voucher Mulhalls Supervalu
- 7th Prize; €25 Voucher Chocolate Brown
- 8th Prize; Breslin's Pharmacy Gift Pack

Tickets cost €2 per line

We thank you for your custom in the Cuisle Fayre and would appreciate your support in our Christmas Raffle.

Sheila Harnon Whelan,
Manager, Cuisle Fayre.

Draw will take place at 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd December in the Cuisle Fayre, Charity Shop



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home (if living in or close to
Portlaoise). 4 days weekly,
possibly 5 days, 8:15am - 4/5pm.

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E-mail; nayney07@yahoo.co.uk

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Christmas Opening Hours

Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm
Saturdays 12th, 19th from 9:30am to 1pm



OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Anne Mulcahy

née McEvoy
Cherrygarth, Portlaoise,
Ballacolla and Nenagh

Grace Tyrrell

Boughlone, Portlaoise

Eileen Percy

Birchgrove, Portlaoise

Jacinta (Cinta) Moore

née Booth
Ballyduff, Stradbally.
Died in Queensland, Australia.

A memorial Mass with interment of ashes will
take place in the Church of the Assumption,
the Heath, at a later date.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.*

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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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
RICHARD BOOTH
Killeen, Mountmellick.

1st Anniversary occurred 11th December 2020



The family of the late Richard Booth would like to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and support from friends, relatives and neighbours, following our sad loss. Heartfelt thanks to those who called to the house, attended the wake, funeral Mass and burial.

Thanks to all who travelled long distances, brought food, sent floral tributes, messages and Mass cards.

A special word of thanks to those who supported us and helped care for Richard over the last few years, the Centre for Independent Living, Laois Alzheimer's Society and the staff of St. Brigid's Hospital, Shaen. We are also very grateful for the expert care Richard received from the doctors, nurses and staff of the Cedar Clinic, Dr. Bradley St. James Hospital, Dr. Sharma and his team in the Midlands Hospital Portlaoise and Dr. Donnelly in Tullamore.

A very special thanks to Jim, Mary and Peter McElwee and staff for their excellent care, assistance and advice over many years.

Sincere thanks to the ambulance personnel for your care and tireless efforts, also to the staff in A&E in Portlaoise Hospital for their professionalism and kindness.

Thanks especially to all the neighbours, friends and relatives who helped in the house and those outdoors who organised lighting and directing traffic in the cold December weather.

Our thanks to John Moloney Undertakers for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out the funeral arrangements.

Thank you to the Heath GAA Club for providing a guard of honour to accompany Richard to the Church. Thanks also to The Heath Golf Club for providing refreshments following the funeral Mass.

Thank you to Msgr. John Byrne for his kind support and beautiful ceremony.

Special thanks to the wonderful choir led by Ann Conroy-Bergin, including so many former members of Richard's beloved folk choir.

Richard's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated this Sunday, 13th December, in the Church of the Assumption, The Heath at 9.30am.

Rest in Peace Richard

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.

In Loving Memory of **DENIS (Dinny) FITZPATRICK**

46 Liogard, Portlaoise.

12th Anniversary occurs 13th December 2020



We miss you from your
fireside chair,

Your loving smile and
gentle air,

Your vacant place, no one
can fill,

We miss you Daddy and
always will.

He was a husband so very
rare, content in his home
and always there,

On Earth he toiled, in Heaven he rests,
God bless you Din, you were one of the best.

*Lovingly remembered by your wife Doreen,
children Ann, Tina, John and Dor, sons-in-law,
daughter-in-law and grandchildren.*

May the Lord lay his gentle hand upon him

In Loving Memory of **MARY PATRICIA LALOR** *née Breen*

Late of Boley, Abbeyleix



*1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, this Sunday
13th December at 9:30am.*

We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again,

So rest in peace dear loved one,
And thanks for all you've done,
We pray that God has given you,
The crown you've truly won.

Forever in our hearts, love Donal and family xx

Rest in Peace Paddy

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

For a very special Mother
MARIA McDONALD

10 Beladd, Stradbally Rd., Portlaoise.

13th December - 1st Birthday & Christmas Away from Home.



A Daily Thought , A Silent Tear
A Constant Wish That You Were
Here....

Sadly missed by your husband Oliver,
sons Lee and Cody, daughters Sharon ,
Margaret, Sierra and Jan xxx
grandchildren, sons-in-law, sister
Angela and a dear Friend Kathleen x

May Maria Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JOHN ROCHE

Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 18th December 2020.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Saturday 19th December at 4:30pm.



I hide my tears when I say your name,
But the pain in my heart is still the same,
Though I smile and seem carefree,
There is no one who misses you more than
me.

Your presence I miss, your memory I treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife
Mary, sons, daughters, grandchildren, sons-in-laws,
daughters-in-law, great-grandchildren and extended family.

May John Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JAMES O' REILLY

Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.

41st Anniversary occurred 10th December 2020



A sudden call from God on high,
We had no chance to say goodbye,
Without farewell you fell asleep,
But memories of you, we will always keep.

*From his loving sons Martin and Jas, daughter
Eileen, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

May James Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

FRANK SYDES

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 17th December 2020.

Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church on
Thursday 17th December at 10am.



Gone but never forgotten,
Always in our hearts.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by all his loving
family, neighbours and friends.*

Rest in Peace Frank

In Loving Memory of

**Our Brother
JOE KERRY**

Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs
16th December 2020



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Wednesday 16th December at 10am.

*Also remembering Our Nephew
JOHN-PAUL MITCHELL
Whose Anniversary occurs at this time.*

We wish we could see you one more time,
come walking through the door, but we
know that is impossible, we will hear your
voices no more.

We know you can feel our tears, and you don't want us to cry,
yet our hearts are broken because we don't understand why
you had to die.

We pray that God will give us strength and somehow get us
through, as we struggle with the heartache, that came when
we lost you.

*Always loved and remembered by all their loving
family and friends.*

May They Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

ROBERT O' CONNOR

Liogard and Forest Park, Portlaoise.

14th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Time may hide a sadness, like a
smile can hide a tear,
But memories will last forever,
Of one we loved so dear,
Not just a memory or part of
the past,
But ours to remember as long
as life last.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &
Paul's Parish on Sunday 13th December at 10am.

*Sadly missed by Mammy, Daddy, Mark, Adrian,
Liz & family, Lorraine, Bernard & family.*

May Robert Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN CONROY**

*Rathmoyle Road, Abbeylisk.
8th Anniversary occurred 11th December 2020*



Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
The special years will not return,
When we were all together.
*Sadly missed and never forgotten by his
nine children and spouses, grandchildren,
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL & BRIDGET RYAN**

Kilmurry, Stradbally, whose 7th and 2nd Anniversaries occur at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, this Sunday 13th December at 9:30am.



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 by their loving family, extended family and friends.

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JOE DELANEY**

*Clonban, Mountrath
21st Anniversary occurred 25th October 2020*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, this Sunday 13th December at 9:30am.

Deep are the memories,
Precious they stay,
No passing of time, can take them away.

Loved and remembered by all his loving family and friends.

May Joe Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JAMES SCULLY**

*Kyle, Portlaoise.
30th Anniversary occurs 14th December 2020*



Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts.

With love from all his loving family.

Rest in Peace James

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
MONICA MULDOWNY**

1st Anniversary occurs 15th December 2020



On Monica's first anniversary, her family would like to thank all those who sympathised with them; especially those who sent Mass cards and messages of sympathy; thanks to the Priests of the Parish, the Parish team and the Church choir; thanks to Rankin funeral undertakers; to An Garda Síochána; to the staff at the County hospital; and to all who attended her funeral services. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Monica;

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
To shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Loved and remembered by Bernadette, Columba, Aidan,
Gerard and their families and all the extended family.*

Rest in Peace Monica

Christmas Remembrances

We have extended our deadline to submit Christmas Remembrances for our Christmas Day issue.

**The FINAL deadline is now
Friday 18th 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

Live Animal Charity Crib Portlaoise

All Proceeds go to:

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Laois
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SCOIL CHRÍOST RÍ

*This year, every
Child needs some
Extra magic*

All support appreciated

'Coiste Cinealtas' committee in Scoil Chríost Rí are appealing to the local community to donate any unused new toys they have at home. This year has been both financially and mentally challenging for many. We have all been affected in many ways.

This is why donating to those who are struggling in our community will put a smile on many families' faces Christmas morning. Any donations, big or small, can be dropped into Scoil Chríost Rí main office as soon as possible.

*Shop Local
Shop Safe*



Support Local Businesses



**Keep Christmas Local
Keep it Laois**

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
10th December 2020

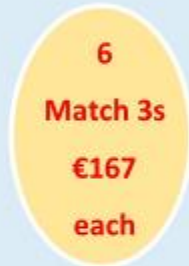


No €15,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Stephen McDonald
Conor O'Brien Snr
Tom Lawler
The Conroy's Girls
Joan Phelan
Veronica Graham

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Frank Cullen
Lisa O'Brien
Paula
Lucy Conroy
Mary Arthur
Bernie Phelan



At next Thursday evening's Lotto Draw there will be an additional draw for 10 Promoter's Prizes of €100. Based on this week's draw, promoters will have one ticket in the drum for each ticket promoted including their regular players.

Christmas and New Year Lotto Arrangements

Last Lotto Draw of 2020– Thursday 17th December
First Lotto Draw of 2021– Thursday 7th January



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Next Week's Jackpot €16,000



At next Thursday evening's Lotto Draw there will be an additional draw for 10 Promoter's Prizes of €100. Based on this week's draw, promoters will have one ticket in the drum for each ticket promoted including their regular players.



Priests of the Parish



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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: @portlaoiseparish

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
Subject to availability of space
E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
057 8621142 - Claire Scully

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