

PORTLAOISE  
PARISH

link  
up

20th December 2020

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent

*A Time to  
Rejoice*



*Carols from Portlaoise*

TUESDAY 22ND OF DECEMBER

At 8.00pm

ONLY ON

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# JESUS EMMANUEL god with us

## 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 **057 862 1142** to make arrangements for a visit.



## We welcome into our Parish Community

**Kayleigh Bella Dela Cruz, The Hermitage  
who was baptised last weekend**

## Christmas Collection for the support of the Priests.

The Christmas Collection for the Clergy will be held at all Masses on Christmas Day.

Envelopes are in the Development Boxes or you can pick up an Envelope in Church porches.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## 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](http://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—Wednesday  
7.30am, 10am & 11am**

**Christmas Timetable see page 20**

## A Job for Life



How many of us leap out of bed in the morning fired with the enthusiasm of knowing we have a very special job to do? How many of us wake up hitting the 'snooze button' not relishing our day's work one little bit? Sadly most of fall into the second category, but the truth is that there is no need to live routinely hum drum and unfulfilled lives. We are told that God has a very particular job for each of us to do; all we have to do is answer the call.

Today we hear how the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her very special calling ... to be the Mother of Jesus. From that moment on, Mary's life would never be the same again. From that moment on the normal life she had planned with Joseph was to be turned upside down. She was about to embark on a life of great excitement, great uncertainty, challenges, joys and sorrows, but above all, great fulfilment. Answering God's call could never be boring.

We might not get angels knocking on the door, but God calls us each as surely as he called Mary. We mightn't think we have what it takes to step up to the mark, but the only qualifications God asks are a willingness to make ourselves available, commitment and trust. Mary demonstrates these qualifications when she answers very readily, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

## This Week 12th December

**Contributions/donations €5,721.00**

**Our thanks and appreciation to all who  
subscribe to the Parish.**



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CHRISTMAS  
— It's got to be —  
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Thursday	17th Dec	7.30 - 11.00pm
Friday	18th Dec	7.30 - 11.00pm
Saturday	19th Dec	7.30 - 11.00pm
Sunday	20th Dec	7.30 - 9.00pm
Monday	21st Dec	7.30 - 11.00pm
Tuesday	22nd Dec	7.30 - 11.00pm
Wednesday	23rd Dec	7.30 - 11.00pm
Christmas Eve	24th Dec	7.30 - 6.30pm

Christmas Day	25th Dec	CLOSED
Stephen's Day	26th Dec	CLOSED
Sunday	27th Dec	8.00 - 5.00pm
Monday	28th Dec	7.30 - 9.00pm
Tuesday	29th Dec	7.30 - 9.00pm
Wednesday	30th Dec	7.30 - 9.00pm
New Year's Eve	31st Dec	7.30 - 7.00pm
New Year's Day	1st Jan	8.00 - 5.00pm
Saturday	2nd Jan	7.30 - 9.00pm



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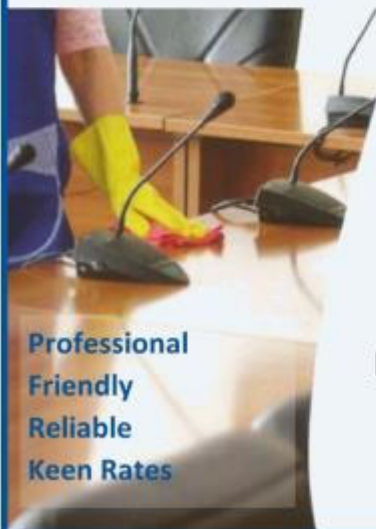
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# Advent Waiting in Hope

## **The Sacrament of Confession**

During the season of Advent  
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Monday to Friday in the  
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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.



## Congratulations Eugene

Last Sunday we were privileged to have in our Parish Church the Ordination of Eugene Keyes to the permanent Diaconate. The Diaconate is an ordained ministry which is rooted in scripture. Chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles records how the apostles appointed seven men to see to the needs of community members who were being overlooked. This is the essence of the ministry of deacons: to serve those in community who are poor and overlooked, whatever form their poverty may take.

In 1967, Pope Paul VI, restored the order of permanent deacons. In 2000, the Irish bishops began the process of reintroducing permanent diaconate into Ireland. Here in Kildare and Leighlin Diocese applications were invited in 2008 and the seven candidates accepted in 2009 were ordained on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Applications were again invited in 2015, and the three candidates accepted have been ordained in the diocese this year, one of them being our own Eugene Keyes.

Permanent deacons are not substitute priests, nor are they intended to take the place of religious or of lay ministers. In regard to the liturgy and sacraments of the Church, a deacon can baptise, preside at marriages and funerals, along with assisting the priest at the celebration of the Eucharist, including proclaiming the Gospel and preaching.







## A Visit from an Angel

What do you put at the very top of your Christmas tree? Some people put a star at the top of their tree. That's a good choice. After all, a special star played a very important part in the story of Christmas. Some people like to put an angel at the top of their tree. That's a good choice too, because angels also played a very important role in the Christmas story.

As you probably know, angels are messengers from God. Today, I want to tell you about a very important angel by the name of Gabriel. Many years ago, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to deliver a message to a young virgin named Mary

who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

The angel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." Mary was frightened and confused by the angel's greeting. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her. "You have found favour with God. You will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus."

Mary asked the angel. "How can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The baby will be holy and he will be called the Son of God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary replied, "let everything happen just as you have said."

God could have chosen anyone to give birth to Jesus, but he chose Mary, a young virgin living in the little village of Nazareth. She wasn't very important, but she was important to God, and he chose her to do the most important thing one could imagine -- he chose her to give birth to his Son. God still chooses unimportant people to perform important tasks. He has given you and me the task of sharing the good news of Jesus and his love to the whole world. "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) Can you imagine a more important task? This year, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us, like Mary, answer God's call. "I am the Lord's servant, Let it be with me just as you have said."

**Dear Father, we thank you for this story about how you sent the angel Gabriel to take your message to Mary. We also thank you that you have given us the task of taking the message of Jesus and his love to all the world. Amen.**



# A Visit from an Angel

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. Luke 1:30-31

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. The name of the angel who appeared to Mary  
A. Gabriel B. Elizabeth C. Joseph D. Michael
- \_\_\_ 2. To be filled with fear  
A. married A. happy C. afraid D. virgin
- \_\_\_ 3. Relative of Mary who was the mother of John the Baptist  
A. Sara B. Josephine C. Gabriela D. Elizabeth
- \_\_\_ 4. A heavenly being; a messenger for God.  
A. star B. elf C. angel A. king
- \_\_\_ 5. To be joined together as husband and wife  
A. engaged B. married C. virgin D. afraid
- \_\_\_ 6. The man to whom Mary was engaged to be married  
A. David B. Joseph C. Gabriel D. Jacob
- \_\_\_ 7. A very young person especially between infancy and youth  
A. teenager B. child C. man D. woman
- \_\_\_ 8. A nation or territory ruled by a king or queen  
A. kingdom B. city C. village A. county
- \_\_\_ 9. A pure or unmarried woman; a maiden  
A. angel B. virgin C. holy D. child
- \_\_\_ 10. The son who was born to Mary  
A. Gabriel B. Jacob C. Joseph D. Jesus



*Virtual Christmas Mass for Christmas Children's Christmas Mass will take on Monday at 9.15am from Portlaoise Parish Church.*

*If you are not in school on Monday, you can watch this from home. See our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie/webcam](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/webcam)*





# TIME TO THINK!

## LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Saint Matthew, tells us that the Lord had said through the prophet that the virgin will be with child and they will call him Immanuel which means "God with us". It is this name - Immanuel - which takes on added meaning at this time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ. This event in our common history tells us of how God Almighty came among us in humility to live as we live, to walk where we walk, to see what we see. He does so, not from a lofty throne, but with us in our sorrow and joy, in life and death.

Even under these circumstances, however, there is a sound of angels in the air, proclaiming the birth of Christ with great joy. As Christians, we glimpse in this singular event, the birth of the child Jesus in a desolate village at the margins of the Roman empire, the fragile beginnings of our own redemption. As people of faith, we know that in the Incarnation of the Lord, God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, draws near to us, loves us compassionately, liberates and accompanies us. As people of hope, we glimpse in the birth of Jesus, God's "yes" to life, and the birth of new possibility, new life triumphing over death and despair. The Incarnation is God's decisive "yes" to humanity and creation. In the Incarnation, God cares for us and raises us, gives up God's very self to identify with us, becomes human to make us like him by grace.

2020 has been a year that we will remember. In some ways, it has been a lost year, a year without any plan or direction, a year without confidence or certainty. It has been a year when truth has been shrouded in "fake news" and conspiracy theory and when we have truly stepped into the unknown. It is not the first time this has happened. There have been many "plagues" that have affected us through history and throughout the world but this has been the first in a world which is so interconnected and interdependent.

At a personal level, families have been separated, the elderly and vulnerable have become isolated, and loved ones have died. Poverty, depression, anxiety have increased. Yet there have been moments of celebration that have dotted our landscape. We have seen the dedication of our health care workers. We have witnessed heroic efforts being made for charitable causes and we



have testified to the beautiful deeds of kindness shown to one another. It is wonderful that our school communities continue to educate and do so with great hope and energy.

In the midst of the worst of times, we may have asked the question "Where is God in the midst of this crisis?" or "Why can't God come down and sort this out?" At this season of the year, we are reminded that God is in the midst of us, he has entered this broken world and he is Immanuel which means "God with us". In the child born to Mary, we see our Saviour, Jesus, and we humbly place our trust in him. In the quietness of this particular Christmas, may we know the presence of Immanuel in our lives and in our homes.

I warmly welcome the marvellous gift of science and the incredible effort that has produced vaccines to end this pandemic. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but in the meantime let's stay safe and be careful this Christmas. Yes, we have indeed a wonderful 2021 to look forward to. Hopefully we will appreciate the simple things that we all miss and took so much for granted. At all my Christmas Masses, I pray great health, peace and joy for you all.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day (or night) be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen

*Happy Christmas.*

*Fr. Paddy*



# Stradbally Road

Portlaoise

## 'Have your say'

### Discovery Survey

Help shape the development of a Masterplan for Lands at Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.

COMPLETE THE ONLINE SURVEY AT  
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL'S ONLINE CONSULTATION PORTAL:

<https://consult.laois.ie/en/surveys>

## Turley

working on behalf of



Laois County Council

Alternatively, please contact us by email ([planning@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:planning@laoiscoco.ie)) or in writing (addressed to Senior Planner, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EHP9) with all correspondence marked "Stradbally Road Masterplan".



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SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

RAFFLE  
1st: €100  
2nd: €50  
3rd: €30  
4th: €20

START TIME 3PM

€2500  
IN  
PRIZES

GATES OPEN 1.45pm

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# Christmas Week Timetable: Portlaoise Parish

## Christmas Arrangements 2020

### Our Christmas Masses

#### THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

(Christmas Eve)

10am, 12.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7.30pm and 9pm.

Ratheniska 5pm

The Heath 6pm

#### FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

(Christmas Day)

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

The Heath 9.30a

Ratheniska 10am

#### Please Note:

Due to demand  
we have added a  
Mass 7.30pm on  
24th.

Booking via website



#### SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

10am,

12noon (Polish Christmas Mass)

4.30pm, 6pm & 7.30pm.

#### SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

The Heath 9.30am

Ratheniska 10am.

#### MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER TO SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

#### SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY & TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Parish Church 10am

#### WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)

7.30am, 10am, 11am & 7.30pm

#### THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> & FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

7.30am, 10am & 11am

#### SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10am.

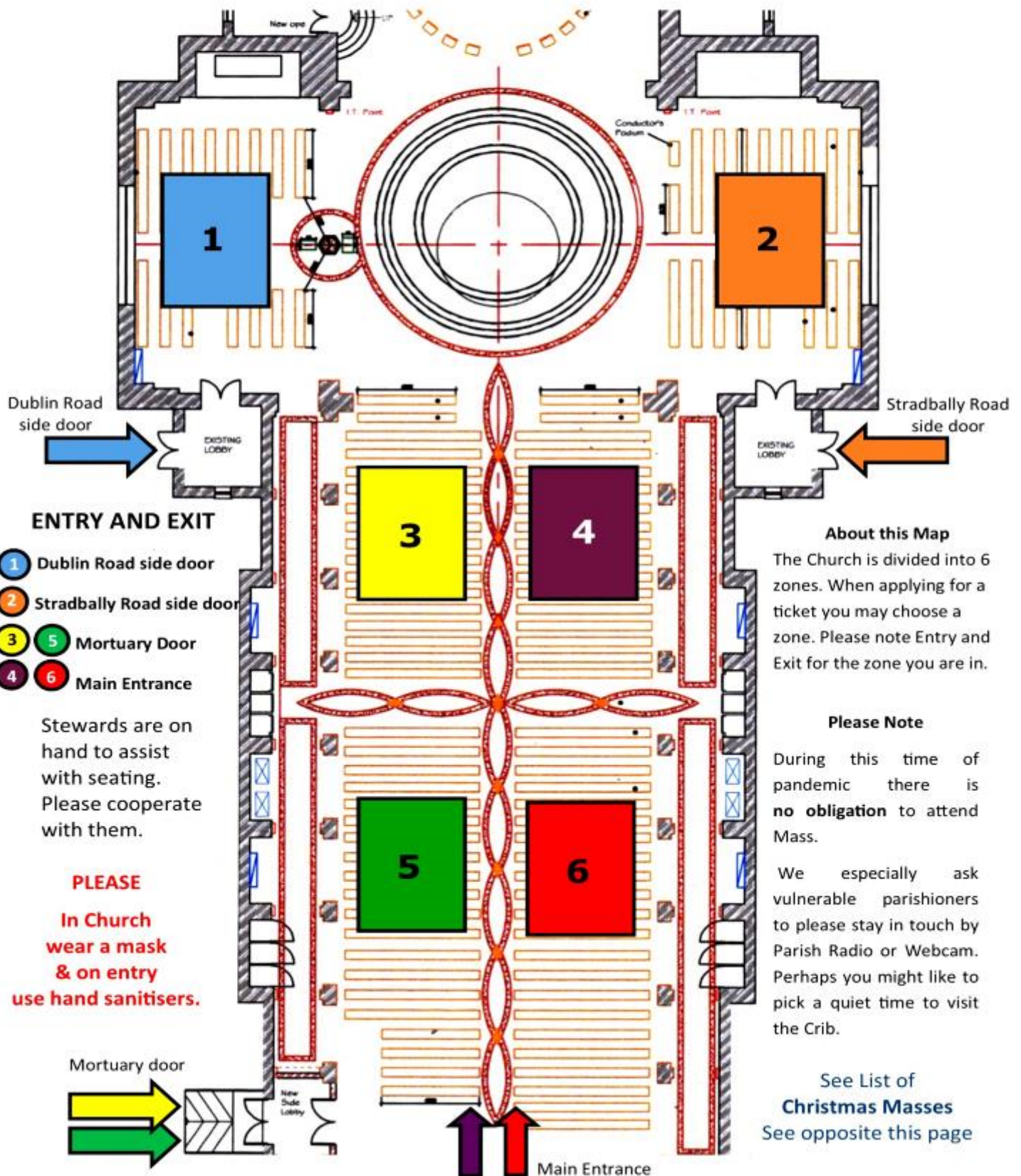


All our Christmas Masses will be streamed live from our Website, Facebook Page  
and Parish Radio (106.5FM)



## RETURNING SAFELY TO PUBLIC WORSHIP - OUR TICKETING SYSTEM

Our ticketing system is up and running and has worked well so far. 24th/25th booked out very quickly—sorry for those who were disappointed. At the time of going to press still some availability for Christmas Masses **on Sat 26th, Sun 27th**. For weekend, of **2/3rd January** tickets will be available from **Monday 21st (9am)** and for **9/10th January** on **Monday 28th** via our website, [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie). The helpline is no longer available. If you do not have access to the internet, please ask someone to assist or call to the Parish Centre - please note the Parish Centre will be closed from Thursday 24th to Monday 4th January, so all booking for **9/10th** will be online. Ticketing will also apply to the Heath and Ratheniska Churches. Please note: Tickets are not needed for weekday Masses.





# Waiting in Hope

An Advent bulletin for the home  
Week Four: 20 December 2020

## Linking with Your Parish

In the hustle and bustle of final Christmas preparations why not: Take some time this week to visit your parish church for a moment of quiet prayer to God. Check out the schedule for individual confession. Find out the arrangements your parish has in place for Christmas Mass attendance. See if there is anything you can do to help your parish in celebrating the Christmas Masses safely and joyfully this year.

## A Suggestion for the Home for Christmas

When the time comes to place the figure of Jesus into the crib, have the youngest member of the household carry the baby Jesus to the nativity scene. The family might like to say a prayer and sing a favourite Christmas carol together as they do this. See [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) for a prayer that can be used.

If the family is joining a livestream of Christmas Mass, before Mass begins light a candle and place the infant figure beside it. At the end of Mass the family can 'process' together to the crib, with the youngest carrying the infant.



## Keeping Christmas 2020 in the Home and Parish - a Family Prayer Companion



A four page leaflet for the home is now available on the Advent Resource page of [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) It contains some prayers for the 12 days of Christmas, including:

- + Christmas Eve – Prayer for placing figure of Jesus in the crib
- + Christmas Day – Prayer before your Family Christmas Meal
- + A Prayer at the Crib for the 12 days of Christmas
- + Feast of the Holy Family – A Family Prayer
- + Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) – Prayer suggestion
- + Epiphany – Prayer for chalking your front door and placing Magi at the crib.

## An Advent Tradition



## Reconciliation: Celebrating God's Forgiveness

An important aspect of preparing for Christmas for many people is the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation or confession. The honest assessment of our lives that Advent calls for will, invariably, lead us to seek God's forgiveness, mercy and love. As we draw closer to Christmas take some time to consider: *What in your life would you like to change? From whom do you need to share or seek forgiveness? For what do you want to say sorry to God?*

Opportunities for this sacrament may be limited this year. Look out for the schedule of individual confession in your parish. A webcam prayer service might also be available to you. Be assured that such a service or a sincere prayer asking for the Lord's mercy is already part of the journey to the Sacrament. Already before confession, a person on that journey enjoys the forgiveness of God. *See overleaf for the text of An Act of Contrition.*



## Weekly Advent Gospel Link



Because Mark's gospel doesn't start until the baptism of the adult Jesus, today we hear the account of the Annunciation from the gospel of Luke.

As we prepare to welcome Christ, we might embrace a few phrases from this gospel passage. The angel, a messenger from God, says to Mary and is saying to us today: *'The Lord is with you', 'Do not be afraid', 'Nothing is impossible to God'.*

At this Christmas time, can we respond to God's message to us and be the person God has created us to be - a person wonderfully made. Can we, like Mary, say to God: *'Let what you have said be done to me.'*

*See [kandle.ie](http://kandle.ie) for weekly Scripture reflections on the Advent Sunday readings by Fr Liam Lawton*

## An Advent hymn to think about...



*On these last days of Christmas our focus is not on a particular hymn but on a set of phrases that are sung within the liturgy in the final days approaching Christmas.*

The "O ANTIPHONS", traditionally sung during the last week before Christmas (December 17-23), are more than a thousand years old. The traditional Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is probably the most popular

and well known way of remembering some of the antiphons. They are called the "O Antiphons" simply because each begins with the word, "O". Originally used in monastic vespers during the last seven days before Christmas, gradually they came into use in the whole church. Today, at Evening Prayer (Vespers), the O Antiphons are used as the antiphons to introduce the Magnificat – Mary's Hymn of Praise. The Gospel Acclamation at all Masses in these seven days uses the "O Antiphons" as well.

Each antiphon denotes an attribute of the coming Christ. In Latin, they are: DECEMBER 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom); DECEMBER 18: O Adonai (O Lord); DECEMBER 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse); DECEMBER 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David); DECEMBER 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring); DECEMBER 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations); DECEMBER 23: O Emmanuel (O God With Us.) (Source: Catholicireland.net)

### Act of Contrition

O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

## An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 4

*You might like to light all the candles on your Advent wreath or your Advent Candle to begin your prayer*

Loving God,

On this Advent night we turn to you in prayer.

As we make our final preparations to celebrate the birth of your Son, we ask your blessing on our family.

Help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of love.

You showed us the greatness of your love in Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

You love us with an everlasting love.

May your love 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](http://iCatholic.ie)  
Led by Bishop Denis Nulty

Sunday 20 December 8:30pm

**SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE CATHEDRAL PARISH** Parishioners across the whole diocese are invited to join Bishop Denis for the Cathedral Parish Carol Service. 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. This livestreamed service of carols, readings and prayers can be accessed on [iCatholic.ie](http://iCatholic.ie).





# 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.

**Rosary** will be recited at Our Lady's Shrine, Top Market Square, Portlaoise at midnight on New Year's Eve.

## ABBEYLEIX/RAHEEN NOTES

**Adoration;**

**Raheen;** every Monday, 1pm-3pm

**Ballinakill;** 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.

**Evening Prayer in Raheen;** Every evening (except Tuesday & Saturday) from 6pm to 7pm with the Ursuline sisters. All are welcome.

**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.

Thank you to Laois County Council and Raheen Graveyard Committee for the works completed in Raheen Cemetery during the year. Pictured below is the renovated and restored Calvary.



## Cuisle Fayre Christmas Raffle 2020

In aid of the Cuisle Centre, Block Rd, Portlaoise

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize; €100 Cash Prize, sponsored by Joe Wright
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize; Hamper
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize; €50 Voucher, Hughes Pharmacy
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize; €50 Voucher, Shaws
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize; €50 Voucher, Cathy Browne Hairdresser
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize; €50 Voucher, Hughes Pharmacy
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize; €30 Voucher, Mulhalls Supervalu
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prize; €25 Voucher, Chocolate Brown
- 9<sup>th</sup> Prize; €25 Voucher, Dunnes Stores
- 10<sup>th</sup> Prize; Tesco Hamper
- 11<sup>th</sup> Prize; €20 Voucher, Lana Restaurant
- 12<sup>th</sup> Prize; Tesco Hamper
- 13<sup>th</sup> Prize; Tesco Hamper
- 14<sup>th</sup> Prize; Breslin's Pharmacy Gift Pack



Tickets cost €2 per line  
Draw will take place at 12 noon on Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> December in the Cuisle Fayre, Charity Shop

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

*Sheila Harnan Whelan,  
Manager, Cuisle Fayre.*

## FIREWOOD & TURF FOR SALE

1 Ton bags of firewood and Turf. Bags of hardwood, softwood and Turf. Contact;

**Noel 087-8622176**  
**David 086-8752944**

**Accordion Band Recital in the Parish Church on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. at 7:30pm. This recital will not be open to the public but will be live streamed on the Parish webcam.**

## D&N DIGGER HIRE

Self drive hire from 1 ton to 25 ton. Also; Dumpers and Rollers. Drivers available if required. Contact;

**Noel 087-8622176**  
**David 086-8752944**

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Hardwood Logs €5 each  
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## End of Year Rosary at The Grotto

New Years Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> 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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E-mail; [nayney07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nayney07@yahoo.co.uk)

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*Grace Tyrrell*

Boughlone, Portlaoise



*Eileen Percy*

Birchgrove, Portlaoise



*Ethna Dunne*

née Clooney  
Clonad, Portlaoise

*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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)



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David **087-2369887**

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PAUL; 087-2562137  
NIALL;  
086-2770095



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☎ Des 087-2794532  
☎ [moranundertakerslaois@gmail.com](mailto:moranundertakerslaois@gmail.com)

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E-mail: [info@kellysfuneralservices.ie](mailto:info@kellysfuneralservices.ie)



Main  
Street  
Abbeyleix



**In Loving Memory of  
PHYLLIS LALOR**

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Mam;

*A daily thought, a silent tear,  
A constant wish that you were here.  
Love and miss you everyday Mam,  
Gerard x*

Mam;

*A smile for all, a heart of gold,  
The very best this world could hold,  
Never selfish, always kind,  
These are the memories you left behind.  
Call Mammy's name out softly Lord,  
And when she looks your way,  
Tell her that we love her and miss her everyday.  
Love and miss you beyond words, Marie & Christy xx*

Nan;

*No special time is needed for us to think of you,  
For you were someone special and we thought the world of  
you.  
Missing you everyday Nan, love from your two special boys,  
Kyle and Finn xx*

Mam/Nanny;

*A loving Mother and Nan so true,  
No one on earth we'll find like you,  
For us you always did your best,  
God grant your soul eternal rest.  
Sadly missed, loved everyday, Daithí, Mags, Shauna, Oisín  
and Cillian xxxxx*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 8:30am.

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**In Loving Memory of  
MOLLIE FENNELLY**

Late of 30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.  
Died 30<sup>th</sup> December 2001 R.I.P.



*Gone, yet not forgotten,  
Although we are apart,  
Your spirit lives within us,  
Forever in our hearts.*

*Loved and remembered always by  
Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.*

*Also remembering her son Patrick whose months mind  
occurs at this time. R.I.P.*

*Rest in Peace Mollie*

**Birthday Remembrance  
In Loving Memory of  
CHRISTINE COUGHLAN**

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.  
Christine's birthday occurred 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



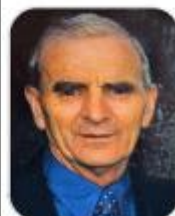
*Another birthday, another year, with  
precious memories of one so dear,  
Thoughts today of our lives together,  
Hold a love that will live forever.*

*Sadly missed, always loved and never  
forgotten by your loving family and friends.*

*May Christine Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JIMMY & GERTIE RANKIN**

1 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.  
Whose 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries (respectively) occur.



*Never more than a  
thought away,  
And those who have  
loved you dearly are  
thinking of you today.*



*Sadly missed and always  
remembered by their loving family.*

*May they Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
ANGELA (Sarah) DOYLE**

Kyle, Ballyknocken, Portlaoise.  
8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter &  
Paul's Parish Church on 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



*We little knew that morning that  
God was going to call your name,  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same,  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
You did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.*

*You left us precious memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always by our side,  
Our family chain is broken,  
And nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.*

*Love from Mam, Dad, Lisa, Bernard, Ciara and Donal.*

*May Angela Rest in Peace*



In Loving Memory of My Mother  
**CATHERINE KEOGH**

Borris Rd. Portlaoise.

42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurred 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020



*Will those who think of Catherine today,  
A little prayer to Jesus say.*

*Also remembering;*

My father Garrett, sisters and brothers at  
this time, John, Peter, Sean, Brigid, Mary,  
Kathleen, Laura and Anne.

*Always loved and remembered by  
Margaret, Oliver and grandchildren.*

*Also remembering her grandson Kevin, whose  
anniversary occurs at this time.*

*May Catherine Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOHN FITZPATRICK**

3 Ashton Manor, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



*Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Saturday  
19<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm.*

We miss you from your fireside chair,  
Your loving smile and gentle air,  
Your vacant place no one can fill,  
We miss you John and always will.

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Josie and all  
the family.*

*May John Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**FIONA CONROY**

Kilteale Avenue, Portlaoise.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



Loving Memories of you Fiona,  
we will never forget,  
Sadly missed along life's way, with  
silent thought and deep regret,  
We think of you every day,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts you're always  
there.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving  
daughter Isabel and Pascal, your Mother Mary  
and family.*

*May Fiona Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**MICHAEL LEECH**

Ridge Rd. Portlaoise and formerly Kellystown, Wolfhill.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020



*If we had all the world to give,  
We'd give it yes, and more.  
To hear his voice, to see his smile  
And greet him at the door.  
But all we can do dear Dad,  
Is go and tend your grave.*

*And leave behind tokens of love, to the best Dad that God made.*

With much love, Anne, Elizabeth, Colette, Geraldine,  
Michelle and families.

Michael's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
St. Mary's Church, Wolfhill, on Christmas Eve at 9pm.  
The Mass will be live streamed on the Ballyadams  
Parish Facebook page.

*May Michael Rest in Peace*

Spirit of God, loving and free,  
Spirit of God flow through me.

*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOSEPH DUFF**

37 Beladd, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



From the tree of life, each leaf must fall,  
The green, the gold,  
The great, the small.  
Each one in God's own time,  
He'll call with perfect love,  
He gathers all,  
A silent thought, a quiet prayer,  
God grant Joe, eternal care.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

*Loved and missed by Margaret, Eddie and family.*

*May Joseph Rest in Peace*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**PADDY CROSSAN**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



*Always in our Thoughts  
Forever in our Hearts*

*Sadly missed and always  
remembered by Pdraig,  
Michael & family, Kieran & family.*

*Rest in Peace Paddy*



## In Loving Memory of DENIS CAHILL

Kylevalley, Stradbally, Laois.

4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Holy Cross Church, Ratheniska, on  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

*"I did not see you close your eyes, or hear  
your last faint sigh, I only heard that you  
were gone, too late to say goodbye."*

*Miss you every second of every day.  
Love always Mam, Dad, Lily and Gran*

xoxox

*May Denis Rest in Peace*



## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE CHRIS & MOLLIE BERGIN

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise  
Both birthdays occurred 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*Two special people  
never forgotten.*

*Loved and remembered by all  
their family.*

*May Chris & Mollie Rest in Peace*



## PORTLAOISE STONE CENTRE LIMITED

Unit 3b Clonminam Business Park,  
Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois.

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- Old headstones renovated.
- Cement top and wide range of chippings available.
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Centre Midlands

Laois Hospice

Laois  
Arch Club



Donate Here  
or go to the 'Go Fund me' link on  
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The Crib is Kindly Sponsored by:



# Peace





## *Christmas Wishes*

Through the linkup, I am kindly given the opportunity to greet all our Parishioners at this special time. While it is not possible for me to contact everybody, I wish the Priests of the Parish, religious communities, parish staff and everyone in the three Church communities; Portlaoise, the Heath, Ratheniska, a



very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing. I ask the Lord to bless all who are unwell at home, in hospital or nursing homes or living alone. Throughout 2020, the Covid Pandemic made life so difficult for everybody. Thank God there is hope of a brighter future ahead with the vaccine coming in the New Year. Unfortunately there have been funerals over the last months and I extend my sympathy to those families experiencing the pain of bereavement, which is never easy. Despite all, we journey on, placing our trust in a loving God, who came amongst us, to show us how to live. I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2021. Be assured of remembrance every day in my Mass and prayer. Thank you for eleven wonderful years with you.

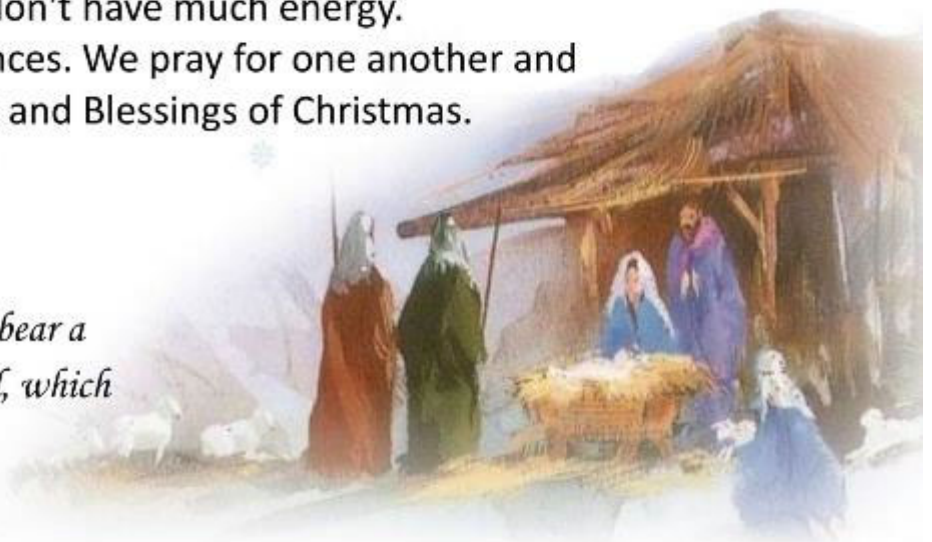
*T. J. Conroy S.P.S.*

I miss Portlaoise Parish very much. I am still recovering from a tough operation and I don't have much energy. Thanks for all your remembrances. We pray for one another and hope we all share in the Peace and Blessings of Christmas.

*E. Lalor S.P.S.*

*The virgin us with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.*

*Isaiah 7:14*





## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

16

24

31

32

No **€16,000** Jackpot Winner

### WINNERS

Sharon Murphy  
The Q  
Anne Ging  
Ben Lynch  
Ellen Maguire  
Kitty Timmons  
Sean Whelan  
Declan Fitzpatrick  
Nicola O'Connor

MATCH 3s €1,000

9  
Match 3s  
€112  
each

### PROMOTER

Lynda Campbell  
Browns Gala  
Anne Ging  
Betty Lynch  
M Maguire  
Chris Lacey  
Carmel Whelan  
Fitzpatrick's  
Michael O'Connor



### Christmas and New Year Lotto Arrangements

No lotto draw on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December  
Next lotto draw will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan



Play PARISH  
**LOTTO**  
ONLINE  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

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& Like Us portlaoiseparishlaois

Next Week's Jackpot **€17,000**

Parish Lotto can be played Online—see results sheet above!  
**An ideal Christmas Gift a yearly or half yearly Lotto subscription!**  
THANK YOU

## Promoters Prize

Congratulations to our promoters who  
have won a prize of €100 each

Pat Bowler  
Lil Gleeson  
Paul Dooley  
Nuala Arrigan  
Tanya Moore  
Mary Collins  
Betty Lynch  
Maura Buggy  
Mary Hennessy  
Frank Cullen



## 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](mailto:dlp@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP  
057 8621142 - Claire Scully



**Dear Customers, on behalf of all the Management and staff at Breslin's Supervalu Abbeyleigh, we would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Many thanks for all your custom throughout the year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2021!**



**THIS CHRISTMAS**  
— It's got to be —  
**SuperValu**



**Opening Hours:**

<b>Friday</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> December	7am - 9pm
<b>Saturday</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December	7am - 9pm
<b>Sunday</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> December	8am - 9pm
<b>Monday</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> December	7am - 10pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	7am - 10pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	7am - 10pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	7am - 7pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>St. Stephen's Day</b>	9am - 7pm
<b>Sunday</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> December	8.30am - 9pm
<b>Monday</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> December	7am - 9pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> December	7am - 9pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> December	7am - 9pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b>	7am - 7pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>	10am - 7pm
<b>Saturday</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	7am - 9pm
<b>Sunday</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	8.30am - 9pm

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