

**PORTLAOISE  
PARISH**  
**link  
up**  
6th December 2020

## Second Sunday of Advent



Msgr John at the blessing of the outdoor 'animal crib' on Tuesday evening with Rev. Janet Finlay. Wonderful to see the Crib at the entrance to the town from Stradbally. Thanks to Helen Kelly, the owner of the land and to all who helped in bringing it about.

It is attracting many visitors and will benefit three local charities: Downs Syndrome Centre Midlands, Laois Hospice and Laois Arch club.

See also page 26 and video on our Facebook page.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

# Come Lord Jesus



## 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](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie) and we can display it in our church and on our social media pages over the Christmas season.

## Tickets for Masses in our Parish

Covid 19 restrictions necessitate us controlling the numbers that attend Mass. See page 17 for an explanation on how to obtain tickets for our weekend and Christmas Masses starting from next weekend 12th & 13th December. It has a map of the Parish Church. Ticketing will also apply to the Heath and Ratheniska.

## VOLUNTEER PLEASE



We are very grateful to our group of volunteers who helped with stewarding and sanitising. As our churches are now open 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.

Please contact the Parish Centre 057 862 1142

## The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary December 8th

It is she, Mary herself, who is the Immaculate Conception; the day does not refer to Mary's conception of Jesus but to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. From

the very moment of her conception, she was filled with grace by God. The doctrine asserts that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved by God from the stain of original sin at the time of her own conception. The dogma of Mary being conceived without sin was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854.



## 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.**

## 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.**

All details available on our website  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

### This Week 29th November

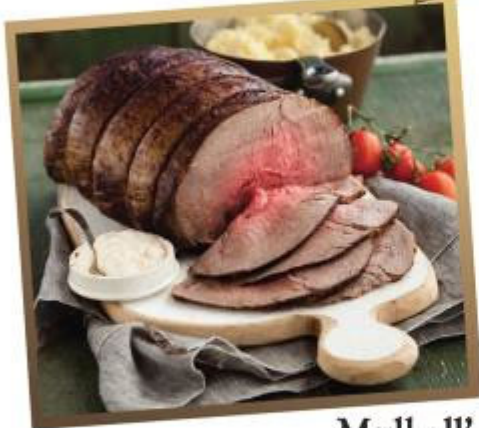
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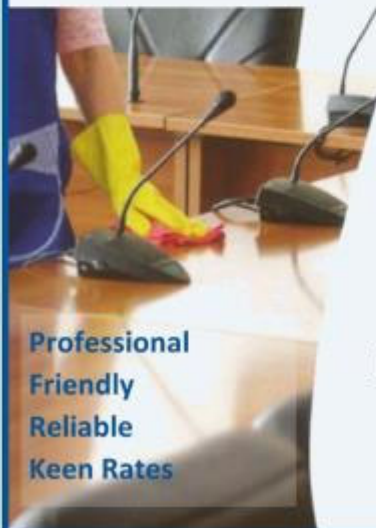
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# Advent Waiting in Hope

## **The Sacrament of Confession**

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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.

# 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

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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***



## Are you Ready for Christmas?

Wow! There are only sixteen days until Christmas! Are you ready for Christmas? That is a question we hear quite often these days, isn't it? What do people mean when they ask if you are ready for Christmas? Well, they usually mean things like...

- Do you have all of your shopping done?
- Have you finished wrapping all your gifts?
- Have you put up your Christmas tree and all the decorations?
- Have you sent your Christmas cards?
- Have you finished baking all of the Christmas goodies?
- Is your house clean and ready for visitors?

Are you ready for Christmas? What things do you need to do before you will be ready? There is another question that is much more important than "Are you ready for Christmas?" That question is, "Are you ready for Christ?"



In the Gospel today, we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out to the people, "Prepare the way for the Lord. Fill in the valleys and level off all the mountains. Make the crooked roads straight and the rough places smooth." Did John the Baptist really want the people to work on the roads? No, what John wanted was for the people to get ready for the coming of the Messiah. What he really meant was that the people needed to get their hearts right and return to God. You see, no matter how good people may think they are, there are always some crooked ways and rough places in their lives. There are things such as dishonesty, selfishness, pride, jealousy, and many more.

John wanted the people to make those crooked ways straight and rough places smooth so that Jesus could come and walk among them.

During this special season of the year, you and I need to make sure that we are ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make our crooked ways straight and smooth out the rough places so that we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that right now.



In Advent the priest wears purple, the colour of royalty.

This reminds us that we are waiting to welcome Christ, the King.

Dear Father, we want to be ready. Make our crooked ways straight and our rough places smooth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





# JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS



## *The Second Sunday of Advent*

Two purple candles are now lit for the first and second Sundays in Advent. The **Candle of Peace** is lit this Sunday on the second Sunday of Advent.

### Prayer for the Second Week of Advent

Loving God, On this Advent day we turn to you in prayer. As we wait the coming of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us. Bring your healing upon us. And help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of peace. May your peace guard our heart, our mind and our home. We ask this through our Lord. Amen.



### A Voice in the Wilderness Fill in the blanks

The \_\_\_\_\_ tells us that in the days before \_\_\_\_\_ began his ministry, a man called \_\_\_\_\_ began \_\_\_\_\_ and telling the people to \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming \_\_\_\_\_.

When told \_\_\_\_\_ people to prepare for the King, he didn't mean that they should go \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the floor, pick up their \_\_\_\_\_, and make their \_\_\_\_\_ . He meant that they should prepare their \_\_\_\_\_.

How? By \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_ and turning toward \_\_\_\_\_.

When they did this, John would \_\_\_\_\_ them in the \_\_\_\_\_ . That is how \_\_\_\_\_ got the name, " \_\_\_\_\_ "

### WORD BOX



Bible                      hearts                      God                      sweep                      Jordan River  
John                      toys                      prepare                      King                      preaching  
Jesus                      baptise                      John                      repenting  
Beds                      sins                      home                      John the Baptist



# TIME TO THINK!

## HOLY WAITING

There are many ways to wait. We know many people today who are waiting for the arrival of a better world. There are those who are waiting for the result of a Covid test. Some are waiting for their quarantine period to end. Most are eagerly waiting for a Covid-19 vaccine very soon to be distributed. Others are waiting to see if they will get their job back when the economy recovers. On the other hand, the farmer who sows a winter crop must wait patiently throughout the Spring and Summer for the grain to ripen at harvest time. And a woman expecting the birth of her child waits in a vastly different way to any of these; for her it is a time of great longing, a time of hope. Her time of waiting and hoping is realised in the birth of the child and there is great rejoicing.

Life teaches the farmer or the expectant parent how to wait. The life of faith also teaches us how to wait; to wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ, for the coming of God, for the fulfilment of life. Advent, from the Latin for 'arrival', is the time the Church remembers and celebrates that our God comes to us: in the Lord Jesus, in the events of our lives, in the silence of our hearts, and beyond this life - when we see the Lord face-to-face.

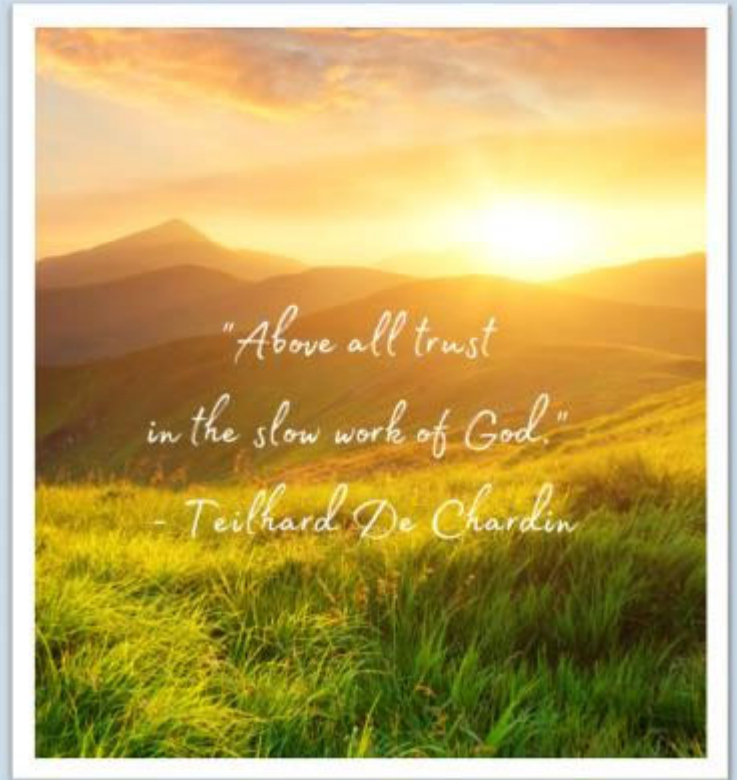
Jesus, tells the story of a man who leaves his home to go on a journey and puts his slaves in charge while he is away. He assigns them different work including the task of the doorkeeper "to be on the watch". They need to be vigilant because he can return home at any minute. Can we imagine the master's reaction if he finds his doorkeeper not on the job? Sleep, is commonly used to mean inattention, lack of alertness, as well as death. Surely not a good thing this Advent season.

In the prayer 'Patient trust' Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ reminds us of the tension between our desire to grasp time as if it is something to purchase and our desire to cooperate with the time of God as if it is a gift. He knows it takes courage to 'let go and let God' because it comes with frustration and uncertainty. Teilhard wants us to trust that it is only God who knows how our life will pan out. To take the risk in following Jesus and to accept our unfinished state.

If the doorkeeper is attentive and patient throughout his shift, he will "keep awake" and be ready to greet his master when he comes. He will be a model of mindfulness, that is awareness that arises from paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgmentally.

Can we, like the doorkeeper, accept the frustration and uncertainty of being in waiting? Can we trust that God's hand is leading us, letting our thoughts and feelings come and go in a mindful way?

Perhaps we can be in touch with the presence of Jesus while desiring an even closer relationship come Christmas day.



### Patient Trust by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability - and that it may take a very long time.

And so, I think it is with you;

your ideas mature gradually - let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be.

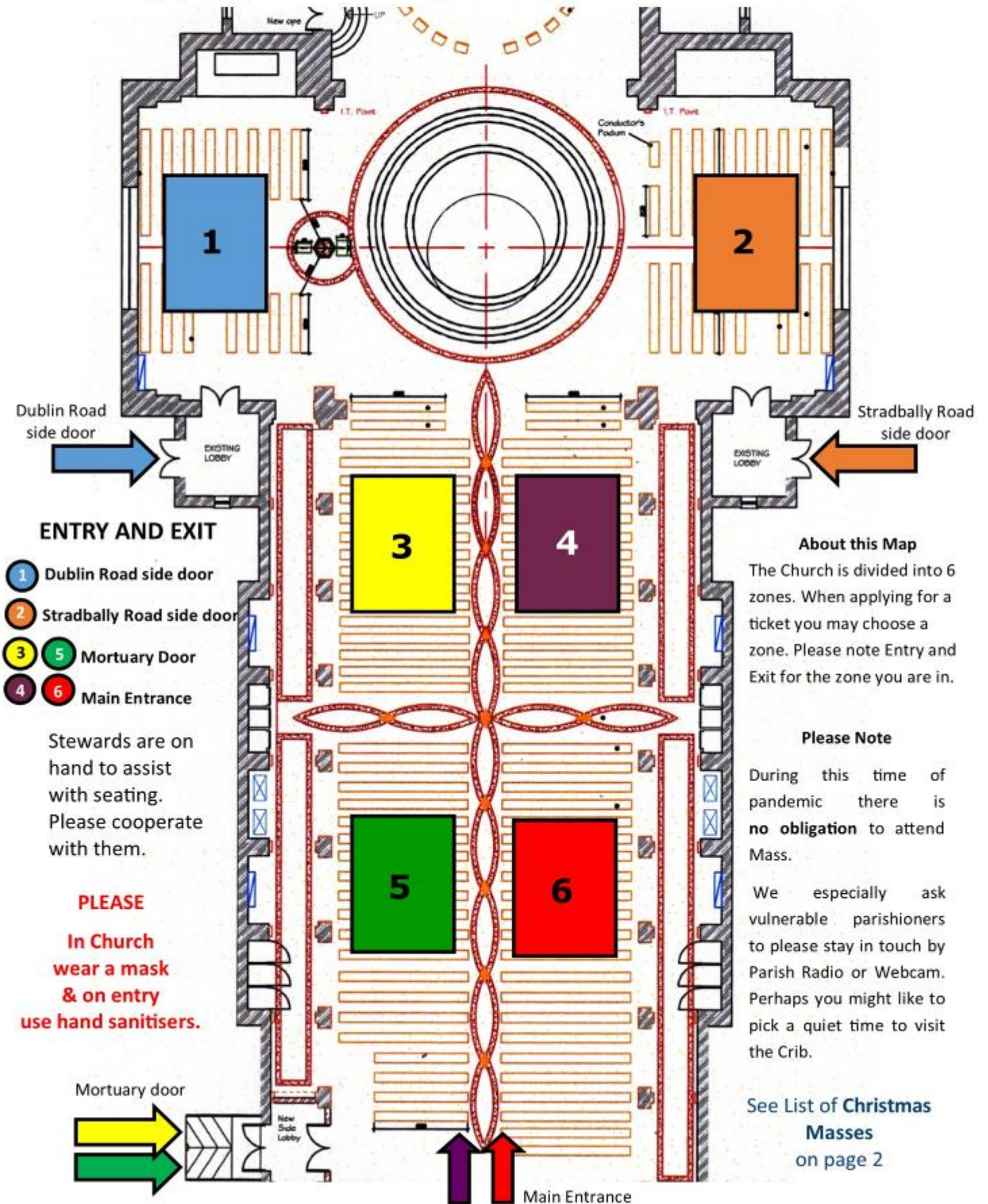
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ



## RETURNING SAFELY TO PUBLIC WORSHIP - INTRODUCING A TICKETING SYSTEM

From next weekend, 12/13 Dec., attendance at Sunday Masses will require a ticket. Tickets will be available from tomorrow, Monday 7th, via our website, [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie). If you do not have access to the internet you may phone these numbers, 085 236 1039 or 085 212 5978 from 11am to 4pm Monday to Thursday—the phones will not be attended outside of those times. Tickets for the following weekend (19/20th) and for our **Christmas Masses** will become available from Monday 14th. The same telephone assistance will apply during that week. Ticketing will also apply to the Heath and Ratheniska Churches.



# Waiting in Hope

An Advent bulletin for the home  
Week Two: 6 December 2020

## A Central Figure of Advent: John the Baptist

Over the weeks of Advent we encounter a number of key characters in the unfolding story of our salvation. In the Gospel this Sunday we are introduced to John the Baptist. An older cousin of Jesus, he was a prophet sent by God to prepare people for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. His life was one of continually pointing to Jesus. When his mother, Elizabeth, was pregnant with John, she was visited by Mary, and John leapt in her womb. This revealed to Elizabeth that the child Mary carried was the Son of God.

John's desert ministry was all about calling people to be ready for Jesus and the change he would bring to their lives. John's call to repentance is not mere fire and brimstone, scare tactics, but is a call rooted in the belief that God is coming to His people and we need to be ready. John's message provokes us into action, calling us to turn back to God and to ready ourselves for Christ to come into our lives. Crucially, this personal readying involves looking beyond ourselves, to how we treat others and live with others. As followers of Jesus, it calls us to lives of justice and right relationship with one another; it calls us to acts of kindness and charity to neighbour and stranger.

**For the desert places in which we walk,  
the streets we roam, the paths we cross,  
guide our feet, take us to places where You would go.  
Give us words that You would use  
that in this Advent season of promise and preparation  
we might point the way with John the Baptist  
to the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**

*~ written by John Birch*

**Linking with your Parish** Does your parish have a website, Facebook page or other social media accounts? Why not explore ways of connecting with your parish?

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Tuesday, December 8, we celebrate this feast day of Mary, remembering that from the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, Mary was preserved free from Original Sin, she was full of grace. See

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb_logo) for a short video on the meaning of this feast.

## An Advent Tradition

While the Christmas tree is very much part of the Christmas season, over the course of Advent the tree will begin to appear in more and more homes, signalling that we are getting closer to the feast of Christmas.

In the midst of winter, the evergreen tree, dressed with lights, reminds us of the life and light that comes to us through Christ. The colourful decorations of the tree are a reminder of the paradise tree of the garden of Eden, hung with the bright colour of fruit.

*Families are invited  
to say the following prayer  
together  
when they put up the  
Christmas tree  
in their home*



## A Blessing Prayer

Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we gather around this tree.

May its light  
and the cheer it gives us  
be a sign of the joy  
that fills our hearts.  
As we delight in this tree  
may we come to  
the knowledge and joy  
of the Christmas gift  
of salvation and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



## An Advent hymn to think about.... O Comfort My People

People will recognise the traditional Irish setting of this Advent hymn as *Bí íosa im chroíse* (*Jesus, be in my heart*). The words are based on the bible text of Isaiah 40 and were adapted and put to music by the late Chrysogonus Waddell, an American Trappist monk, liturgist and musician.

The soothing melody carries a strong proclamation of hope as we continue our Advent journey. In Isaiah 40, the prophet is looking ahead to a time of great pain when the People of God will experience exile from their homeland. His message from God to the people answers the questions they will have in the midst of their shock and suffering – Does God want to deliver us? Can God deliver us? Will God do it? God's response is yes; I have not forsaken you, I have not abandoned you, I am with you.

Wherever we are today, Isaiah's message from God still holds true. God speaks to us with words of comfort. In the root of the word, comfort is not just about being soothed. It is about being strengthened, being encouraged. Today, this Advent, God is coming to us to bring us comfort, to bring us strength and encouragement, to speak to our hearts with the good news of His love. Is your heart open for God?

1. *O Comfort my people and calm all their fear, and tell them the time of salvation is near. O tell them I come to remove all their shame. Then they will for ever give praise to my name.*

2. *Proclaim to the cities of Judah my word; that 'gentle yet strong' is the hand of the Lord. I rescue the captives, my people defend. And bring them to justice and joy without end.*

3. *All mountains and hills shall become as a plain, for vanished are mourning and hunger and pain. And never again shall these war against you. Behold I come quickly to make all things new.*

## An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for Week 2

*You might like to light the first two candles of 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 wait for the coming of your Son,  
we ask you to bless our family.  
Comfort us with your healing  
and help us to welcome your light into our lives,  
a light that gives us the gift of peace.  
May your peace guard  
our hearts, our minds and our home.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



## Weekly Advent Gospel Link

*Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.*

On the second Sunday of Advent we hear again from Mark's Gospel. We are now in Year B of the three year cycle of Sunday readings named Year A, B and C. Today, the text we hear comes from the start of Mark's writing and he opens with a very direct message. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is **the** Good News, the gospel. Mark's whole Gospel is about revealing for us who Jesus is.

Every day we listen out for the news of the day. But the Gospel of Jesus is the news of our salvation. And the message of John the Baptist points firmly to Jesus as the source of our salvation. The challenging figure of John the Baptist continues to call us, even today, to examine ourselves as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives once more. John reminds us that we are a baptised, forgiven people. We can be grateful for this forgiveness but we can also choose to be a better person as a result of it. And we can choose to share forgiveness with others in our lives. A key part of our Advent preparation is about figuring out this question: *what would it mean for me to be a better person, to be a forgiven and forgiving person, straightening the path for Jesus to take root in my life?*

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

## Be One in a Million!

SEND SOME LOVE AROUND  
THE WORLD WITH.

trócaire

TRÓCAIRE  
GIFTS OF LOVE

Trócaire supporters are set to deliver their one millionth gift to families in the developing world this Christmas. This year's Christmas Gift range includes new gifts to help people cope with the impact of Covid-19, including the Gift of quarantine care for families who have lost all their income due to quarantine or self-isolation.

There are 17 Trócaire gifts to choose from, such as chicks, beehives and solar lamps, ranging in price from €5 to €1000. Gifts can be purchased online at [www.trocaire.org/gifts](http://www.trocaire.org/gifts)



# 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 **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December** In honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners.

## ABBEYLEIX/RAHEEN NOTES

**Adoration;**

**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.

**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.

👍 "Like" us on Facebook  
**@portlaoiselinkup**

## Christmas Raffle

office letterbox or at Mass times before December 15<sup>th</sup>. €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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize:

Christmas Hamper worth €200.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:

Christmas Hamper worth €150.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:

Christmas Hamper worth €100.

*And numerous other hampers & prizes.*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
**SVP** ANNUAL  
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YOUR YES CAN LAST A LIFETIME

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Church Gate Collection  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

One week only by kind  
permission of Msgr. John Byrne

Please support this worthy  
cause. All money is spent in  
our local community.



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THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



*Betty Mahon*  
Bauteogue, Stradbally

*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 SHE REST IN PEACE**  
*Our sympathy to her family.*

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)

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

† **KEEGAN'S** †  
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Contact Matthew  
**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

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



Main  
Street  
Abbeyleix

## In Loving Memory of

**WILLIAM (BILLY) FARRELL**

Hillview Drive and formerly of St. John's Sq.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



*The years have passed,  
Just like a day,  
7 years, seems like yesterday,  
Your smile we remember,  
Your humour too,  
We really wish we could wrap our  
arms around you.  
We always smile, when we speak  
your name, and hold our memories,  
as close as your picture in a frame.*

*The world has changed, our lives  
too, one thing that hasn't changed is our love for you.  
Our family has expanded, you have a new grandson,  
We know you will shine down on him, just like  
the sun*

Missed and loved always, your wife Ann and children  
Christine, Jessica and William, son-in-law James  
and grandson Baby James.

*May William Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of

**LILY REID**

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at  
11:15am.**



Thinking of the thoughtful things,  
That you have said and done,  
And loving you a little more,  
Dear Lily, for every one.

*Always loved and remembered by her loving husband  
and family, extended family and friends.*

*May Lily Rest in Peace*

**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.

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

**ANGELA CLEARY née Colbert**

37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday away from home occurs 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

To a loving Wife, cherished Mother and adored Nanny



We think of you in silence,  
We often speak your name,  
But all we have are memories and your  
picture in a frame.  
Your resting place we visit and put flowers  
there with care,  
But no one knows the heartache,  
As we turn and leave you there.

Sadly missed by your loving husband Tom, daughters  
Stephanie, Tracey and Paula, grandchildren Craig, Ben, Ryan,  
Roisin and Willow. Always in our hearts.

*Rest in Peace Mam*

## In Loving Memory of

**SEAN PHELAN**

Straboe, Portlaoise, who died 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, at 11am.



Don't think of him as gone away,  
His journey's just begun,  
Life holds so many facets,  
This earth is only one.

Just think of him as living,  
In the hearts of those he touched,  
For nothing loved is ever lost,  
And Sean was loved so much.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his  
loving family and friends.*

*May Sean Rest in Peace*



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## In Loving Memory of DENIS BOWE

7 Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise.  
4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020



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

No special day is needed for us to  
think of you,  
You are always in our thoughts,  
No matter what we do.

*Loved and sadly missed by Margaret, Yvonne,  
Denis, David and extended family.*

*May Denis Rest in Peace*

## In Loving Memory of FRANK DUNNE

Brockera, Ballyfin, formerly St. Brigid's Place,  
Portlaoise.

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.



*Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered everyday,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts, you are  
always there.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife  
Kathleen and family.*

*May Frank Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### In Loving Memory of JOHN (Jackie) McEVOY

Park Upper, Stradbally.



The family of the late Jackie  
Mc Evoy, would like to express  
their sincere thanks to all who  
sympathised, sent Mass cards  
and messages of support on  
the sad loss of Jackie.

We would like to thank Msgr.  
John Byrne for his kindness to  
us and for the lovely funeral  
Mass celebrated and streamed

in the Parish Church, Portlaoise, and to Nuala  
Kelly for her beautiful singing and music also.

Thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode  
undertakers, for their professionalism and  
sensitivity in organising the funeral. Thanks also  
to the grave diggers who prepared Daddy's final  
resting place with such care.

We would like to send a heartfelt thanks to all the  
staff in St. Vincent's Community Nursing Unit,  
Mountmellick especially all the staff in St. Paul's  
Ward, where Daddy spent his final few years  
being so well cared for. We will be forever grateful  
for the kindness and compassion you showed not  
only to Daddy, but to us as a family also.

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

Jackie's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
at 12.30pm.

Loved and missed by all his family.  
May Heaven be your new Home Daddy.

*Rest in Peace*

## Christmas Remembrances

We are currently accepting Christmas  
Remembrances for our Christmas Day  
issue. The deadline to submit notices is  
**12 noon Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.*





**In Loving Memory of**  
**JOHN ARRIGAN**

Newpark, Portlaoise  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020



7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 11:15am

*Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.*

*May John Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**WILLIAM (Billy) FARRELL**

Hillview Drive and formerly St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.  
7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020



*We often sit and reminisce and have a laugh or two,  
Telling family stories of the things we used to do,  
They bring a smile, sometimes a tear,  
How we wish you were still here.*

Always remembered by his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

*May William Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**ELEANOR WALSH**

Capoley Lane, Portlaoise.  
8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.



"The best way to feel better is to make someone else feel good"  
- Eleanor Walsh

*Dearly missed by all her loving family and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Eleanor*

Second Sunday  
of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord!

THE  
**PARISH SHOP**



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- Cribs/Nativity Sets
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Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm  
Saturdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12 noon



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All Proceeds go to:

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Centre Midlands

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our Facebook Page



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SCOIL CHRÍOST RÍ

*This year, every  
Child needs some  
Extra magic*

All support appreciated

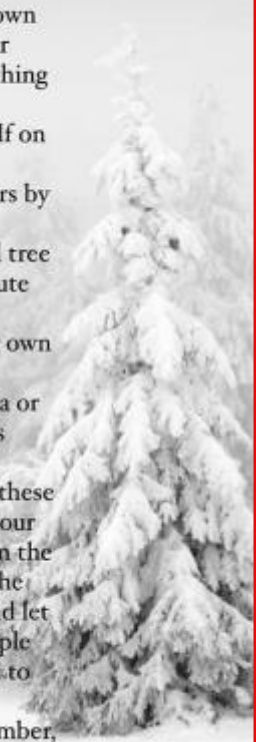
'Coiste Cinealtas' committee in Scoil Chríost Rí are appealing to the local community to donate any unused new toys they have at home. This year has been both financially and mentally challenging for many. We have all been affected in many ways.

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.

It's OK if you don't do Christmas  
Eve boxes  
It's OK if you don't do your own  
homemade advent calendar  
It's OK if you don't have matching  
festive PJ's  
It's OK if you don't have an Elf on  
the shelf  
It's OK if you don't leave letters by  
the fire for Santa  
It's OK if you don't have a real tree  
It's OK if you don't have a cute  
Christmas jumper  
It's OK if you don't make your own  
Christmas cakes  
It's OK if you don't visit Santa or  
create Christmas activities

AND it's OK if you DO all of these  
things because we ALL have our  
own traditions, ideas and fun in the  
run up to Christmas, so in the  
season of goodwill, let's live and let  
live, let's be kind and let people  
celebrate however they want to

You do YOU best of all - remember,  
comparison is the thief of joy xx



## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020



**No €14,000 Jackpot Winner**

### WINNERS

Lily Whelan  
Jason Dunne  
Agnes & Peter  
Gerard O'Mahoney  
Philip Fagan  
Tony Arthur

MATCH 3s €1,000



### PROMOTER

Lily Whelan  
Online Lotto  
Peter Ryan  
Martleys Shop  
Philip Fagan  
Mary Arthur

### Christmas and New Year Lotto Arrangements

Last Lotto Draw of 2020— Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

First Lotto Draw of 2021— Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January



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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 €15,000**

## 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](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

(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**

**'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am..... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'** Gospel Mk 1:1-8

## 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

*Supermac's*

FRESH RANGE

# *The Festive 5oz*

100% FRESH IRISH BEEF

with Caramelised Onion & Mushroom  
Swiss Cheese & Light Peppercorn Mayonnaise  
served in a freshly baked Kaiser Bun.



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supermacs.ie

*Happy Christmas to all our Customers  
from Supermac's Portlaoise & The Portlaoise Plaza.*