

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

10th January 2021



The Baptism of the Lord



The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds
are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman



The Crib at the
Church of the
Assumption
The Heath

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Living Baptism

Very few of us remember our own baptism, and perhaps we have never really even questioned why

it might be important, other than something we might need to attend a Catholic School or get married. Perhaps we need to look to Jesus' baptism to know how privileged we really are to have been baptised.

What does Jesus' baptism say to us? Jesus' thirty years of preparation before his public baptism remind us that it takes time to get ready for God's mission. How many countless hours did Jesus spend in prayer? What study, what thought, what agony must he have undergone before appearing in front of John to ask him to baptize him. We are reminded that baptism isn't just something that happens to us as children, it's something we have to live out on a daily basis.

January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and life changing reform ... that's what his baptism was all about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. The addict will tell you how difficult it is to quit gambling, drinking or cigarettes. All of us can point to parts of our life that remain stubbornly unchanged year in and year out. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Christians are hugely privileged people. We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism. Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit change isn't beyond any of us.



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

**Zofia Hanna Gancarz
who was baptised during
Christmas**

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He acknowledges that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.
2. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?
3. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Remember these experiences with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.
4. It is easy to lament the growing secularization in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the Church today?

Thank You

The Priests of the Parish are very grateful to all who subscribed to the Christmas Collection for their support. Thank you.



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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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Happy New Year to all our clients.

Online Pilates classes starting week commencing Monday 11th January 2021. Block of classes will run for an 8-week period on zoom. We are hoping to have both a beginner's class and a mixed level class. Please phone/text the clinic on 087-9945057 if you are interested and we will arrange to book you into a class. Current planned class times are as follows;

Tuesday 5.15pm to 6.15pm
Wednesday 10am to 11am
Thursday 5.15pm to 6.15pm
Thursday 7.00pm to 8.00pm

The clinic is currently fully operational and open with all necessary Covid-19 measures in place. This is being reviewed on a daily basis. Bookings can be taken for both in clinic sessions as well as online consultations where needed. Please phone 087-9945057 to book an appointment.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

PORTLAOISE NOTES

Rosary at the Grotto for 1st Fridays and Feast Days to our Blessed Lady, will be on hold until further notice.

Cuisle Fayre, Christmas Raffle Results, in aid of the Cuisle Centre, Block Rd, Portlaoise:

Prizes

1. €100 Cash Prize, sponsored by Joe Wright
2. Hamper
3. McElwee's Pharmacy Presentation
4. Voucher €50, Hughes Pharmacy
5. Voucher €50, Shaws
6. Voucher €50, Cathy Browne Hairdresser
7. Voucher €50, Hughes Pharmacy
8. Voucher €30, Mulhalls Supervalu
9. Voucher €25, Chocolate Brown
10. Voucher €25, Dunnes Stores
11. Tesco Hamper
12. Voucher €20, Lana Restaurant
13. Tesco Hamper
14. Tesco Hamper
15. Breslin's Pharmacy Gift Pack

Winner

- John Brennan
 Pattie Keogh
 Mary Delaney
 Josie Coss
 Margaret Coss
 Emma Larkin
 Maria Wright
 P.J. O'Reilly
 Deirdre Prendergast
 Una Whelan
 Anne Deegan
 Alan C/O D. Prendergast
 Willow Wright
 Agnes Gleeson
 Deirdre Prendergast

PLEASE NOTE

We will be continuing the printing of our weekly linkup magazine over the coming weeks, while working remotely. We ask that all Anniversaries/ adverts/notices are submitted via e-mail to;

linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

or phone to 057-8692154 before 12 noon Wednesday.

If you are phoning, please leave a voicemail with your phone number, as this phone will not be attended on a full time basis and we will return your call.

Thank you for your co-operation and stay safe.

Congratulations to All Our Winners!

The draw took place on Tuesday, 22nd December, in the Cuisle Fayre, Charity Shop. Thanks to our sponsors, the volunteers and Tommy Comerford who contributed to the hamper. We appreciate all who bought tickets and congratulate our winners. We thank all our customers for their support in 2020. We wish you all a Happy and Safe 2021.

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HANDING ON
THE FAITH



Make Your Father Proud

When you were growing up your parents probably kept a photo album of you as you were growing up. Parents would normally take pictures the very first day you were born and probably haven't stopped to this day. People don't use put pictures in photo albums much anymore. I guess you might say that a mobile phone is your new photo album. I guess we don't really need a photo album. We always have our camera with us and as soon as we take a photo, it is right there on our phone for all to see. Almost everyone is on Facebook these days. When you go to my Facebook page, it is full of the photos posted by your Facebook friends of their children or grandchildren.

Do you know why people like to show pictures of their children? It is because they love them and they are proud of them. They are proud of them on the day they are born and they are proud of them when they learn to walk and talk. They are proud of them when they start to school, when they play sports, or when they are in a play. In each and every stage of life, parents are proud of their children.

Do you think God was proud of his Son, Jesus? I know he was! How do I know? The Bible tells me so! The Bible says that when Jesus was baptised, there was a voice from heaven that said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Why do you think God was proud of his Son? I think it made God proud to watch him grow. The Bible tells us that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." (Luke 2:52) It always makes a father proud to watch his children grow in maturity and become wiser. And, of course, a father is always proud when his child is well-liked and respected by other people.

Another reason that God was proud of his Son is that Jesus always did what his Father told him to do. Do you always do what your father tells you to do? I doubt if any of us could answer "yes" to that question, but Jesus could. Jesus said "I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38) That would make a Father proud, wouldn't it?

The Bible tells us that when we trust in Jesus as our Saviour, we become the children of God. Wouldn't you like to be the kind of child that would cause God to look down from heaven and say, "My child, I'm proud of you!"

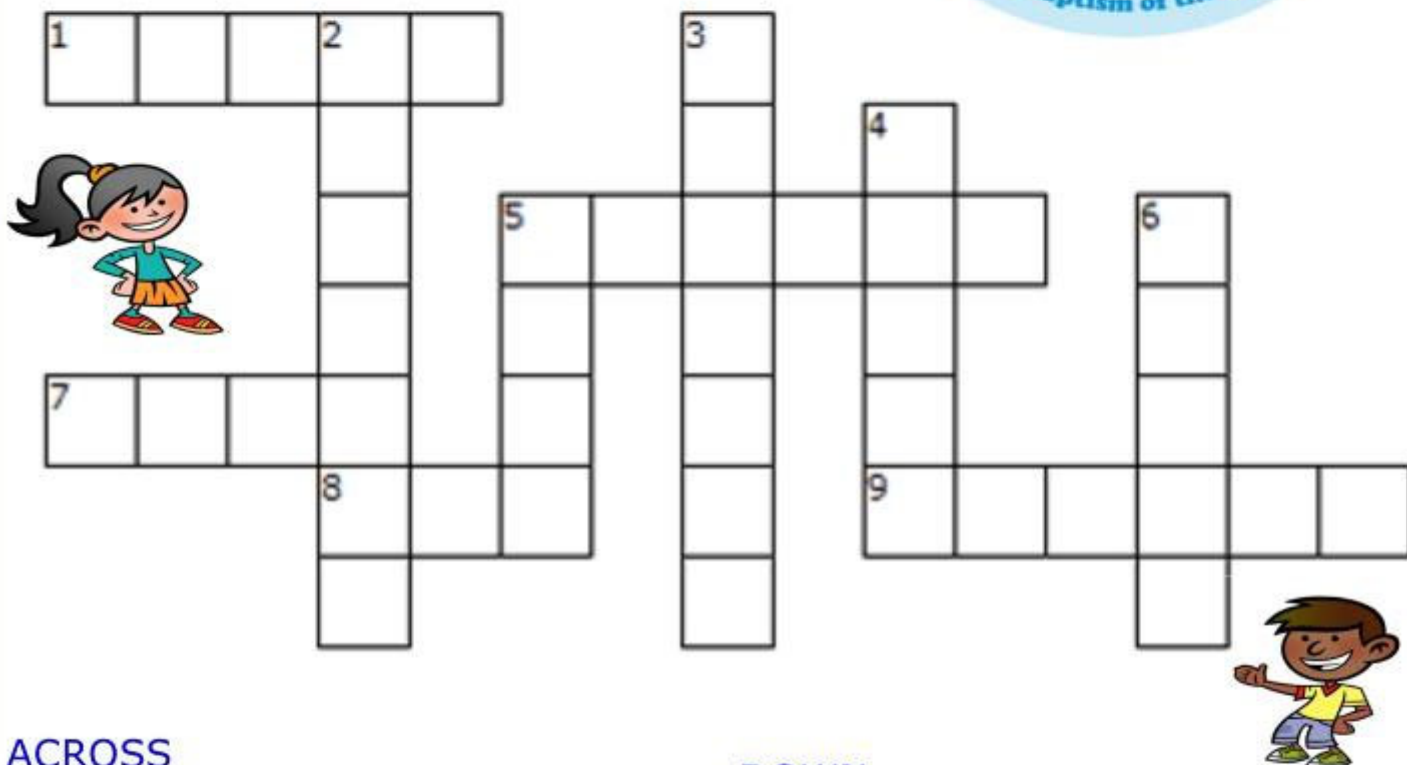


OUR PRAYER
Dear Father, help us to be more like Jesus, so that we
will be the kind of child of which you can be proud.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



The Baptism of Jesus

*As Jesus was coming up out of the water,
he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit
descending on him like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven:
"You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased."
Mark 1:4-11*



ACROSS

1. What was heard when Jesus was baptised.
5. The river where Jesus was baptised
7. The Spirit cam down from heaven like a _____.
8. To break one of God's commandments.
9. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. To pardon for sins.
4. The liquid used to baptise someone.
5. Name of the man who baptised Jesus.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE

JORDAN

JOHN

DOVE

REPENT

CONFESS

WATER

SIN

VOICE

HONEY



TIME TO THINK!

OUTRAGEOUS REFERENCE TO GOD. ...FAR FROM FUNNY

The head of the Catholic Church in Ireland recently expressed shock, over what he says is a "blasphemous" satirical clip broadcast on RTE's New Year's Eve Countdown Show, which he said was mocking and deeply offensive to Christians.

In two tweets, Archbishop Eamon Martin called for it to be removed "immediately" from the national broadcaster's online player.

I was deeply appalled, like so many, by the New Year's Eve Countdown Show which was broadcast on 31st December 2020 at 10.45pm. The section in question is the Waterford Whispers sketch. The RTÉ website reports at RTÉ apologises after complaints over NYE sketch (rte.ie): "It is understood the clip will not be removed from the RTÉ Player as requested, but a warning will be attached to the footage to advise viewers that the material may cause offence." This action is entirely inadequate.

RTÉ is obliged under Section 39 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 2009 to ensure that anything which may reasonably be regarded as causing harm or offence, or as likely to promote, or incite to, crime or as tending to undermine the authority of the State, is not broadcast.

RTÉ has an excellent historical record of presentation on religious matters – the broadcast of Mass on RTÉ News Now during the Covid-19 pandemic has been the subject of much appreciative comment. I find it beyond belief that those responsible for the New Year's Eve programme, and those in RTÉ with responsibility for oversight, were not aware of the offence that it would cause. It may be that those responsible took the view that God is a fictional being, and that therefore nobody would be offended. This shows a disastrous lack of understanding of the importance religious faith plays in the lives of people. Did they ask themselves how their parents or grandparents would view the material?

Whether one regards God as a very real being (as I do) or as a symbolic representation of values of goodness and compassion and love, the segment in question was entirely inappropriate. We show respect for the Irish National Flag – the Dept. of the Taoiseach has a 28-page booklet about the appropriate use of the Flag (gov.ie – The National Flag). The flag is a human construct with deep significance for Ireland. While some might care little if it is treated with disrespect, I'm sure that there would be widespread objection if this were done



publicly, and especially if this were done by RTÉ, the national broadcasting body. Similarly, there would be strong protest if a national monument like the Garden of Remembrance or the GPO in Dublin were shown disrespect.

It is true that the proportion of people who say they have no religious faith has increased, but RTÉ must be aware that the vast majority of people in Ireland do acknowledge religious connection, of whatever level. Freedom of speech is important, but so is respect for others, which no law can enforce. We remember the tragic events around Charlie Hebdo in January 2015. The violence was appalling, but it is difficult to believe that the producers of the magazine were unaware of the offence which would be caused by their insistence on their right to publish the cartoons in question. I would be surprised if our Islamic community is not also offended by the RTÉ programme – they are of the same family of Abrahamic faiths as Jews and Christians, and have a tradition of honouring Mary and Jesus. Was nobody in RTÉ aware beforehand of the likelihood of the segment of the show on 31st December causing offence? Did they just not care if it offended?

It is also deeply offensive to joke about rape. Too many in all our communities have suffered such violation. To describe the conception of Jesus as an incidence of rape is not at all consistent with the account in Chapter 1 of St. Luke's Gospel. To describe it as rape displays a lamentable ignorance. I believe that the offending segment should be removed, and to replace it not with a "warning" but with a statement of policy which reflects the true responsibilities of RTÉ in this regard.

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Paddy Dunne
Colliers Lane, Portlaoise



John Dalton
Timahoe
Former Supervisor of Portlaoise
Community Employment Group



Clare Dunne
née Fennell
Ballybrittas and formerly
Grattan St. Portlaoise



Patrick Nealon
The Hermitage, Portlaoise



Dolores O' Donovan
Higgins Park, Portlaoise



Frances Reddin
née O' Brien
Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise

Brendan Condrón - Carrick Hill, Portlaoise

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

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**BIRTHDAY
REMEMBRANCE**

*In Loving Memory of
A Dear Husband, Father and Grandfather
WILLIAM (Willie) O' REILLY
28 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
3rd Birthday away from home - 13/1/21*



Today would of been such a special day,
But now it brings sadness and sorrow,
If we could share one more day,
If there was just one more tomorrow,

But birthdays are a time for reflection,
To look over a year that's passed,
And we can't believe another year is
gone by, the time, it goes so fast.

But memories of more happier times,
In our hearts will stay,
We treasure each and every one,
Until we meet again someday.

So just for now we will blow a kiss to
Heaven above, to wish you a happy
74th birthday and send you all our love.



**Sadly missed and always remembered
your wife Anne, sons and daughters,
son-in-law, daughters-in-law and all your
grandchildren xxx**

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

*In Loving Memory of a Precious
Son and Brother*

DEAN BERGIN

3rd Birthday away from home.



Not a single day passes by that our
minds aren't filled with phenomenal
memories of your presence here
on earth.

On your birthday today, we wish you
a sunny day in paradise.

Missing you always on
your birthday Dean



Love your Mother Mossie, sisters Martina, Lisa, Sandra,
godson Keith, nieces and nephews xxxxxxx

May Dean Rest In Peace

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK (Pat) BOWLER**

*6 The Cottage, New Road, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 9th January 2021.*



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Saturday 9th January at 10am.

No morning dawns, no night returns,
But that we think of you,
Those left behind are very good,
But none replaces you,

Many a silent tear is shed, when we are all alone, for
the one we love so very much, the one we call our own.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by his loving
wife Maureen, sons Patrick, Paul and Niall,
daughters-in-law Jennifer and Donna, Paul's partner
Jackie, grandchildren and extended family.*

Rest in Peace Patrick



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**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN BRENNAN**

54 Borris Little, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 14th January 2021



Remember Martin with a smile today,
For he would not want our tears,
Reflect instead on memories of all his
happy years.

Sadly missed by your loving mother Nellie, brothers and sisters.

May Martin Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
LILY BYRNE**

Late of Capoley, Portlaoise. (Died 7th January 1981)



*Each time we look at your picture
You seem to smile and say;
"Don't be sad, but courage take and love
each other for my sake"*

*Sadly missed by your son Martin,
daughter-in-law Jacqueline & grandchildren
Lorraine, Michelle & Sarah and
her great grandsons Danny and Joe*

May Lily Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
AGNES CARROLL
ROONEY**

43 Liogard, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs at this time.



*My heart still aches in
sadness,
My silent tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.*

*A silent thought, a secret tear,
Keeps your memory ever near,
Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal,*

*Love leaves a memory no one can steal,
Though absent you are very near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered
by all her loving family.*

May Agnes Rest in Peace

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
PHYLLIS LALOR**

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise, whose
80th Birthday occurred 6th January 2021.



May the winds of Heaven blow
softly and whisper in your ear,
How much we love and miss you
and wish that you were here.

**Happy Heavenly Birthday
Mammy**

Love and miss you always.

Ger, Daithí, Marie, Christy & Mags, Kyle, Finn,
Oisín, Cillian & Shauna xxxxxxxxxx

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH (Lizzie) FARRELL**
"Chestnut Drive", Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
1st Birthday away from home.



Missing you on your Birthday

Birthday wishes, sent from Heaven
from your family below,
We miss and love you dearly, and we
wanted you to know.

Your birthday's not forgotten,
And your memory lives on,
We celebrate the life you had, even
though you've gone.

If we were given just one wish, one that would come true,
We'd wish you back beside us,
To spend this day with you.

We will always love and miss you, and will often shed a
tear, especially on your special day, year after year.

**Greatly missed by your loving husband Frank,
sons Michael, David, Kenneth, daughter Regina
and extended family xx**

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

Happy Birthday Gran

You have a place within our hearts, that no one else can
fill,

You're a dear and special Grandmother, who we love
and always will.

Always and forever missed, Jennifer, Stephen, Ava
and Saoirse xx

Rest in Peace Gran

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
PADDY RANKIN

Killoughan, Stradbally.

1st Anniversary occurs 15th January 2021.



The family of the late Paddy Rankin, wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy from relatives, friends and neighbours following Paddy's sudden passing.

A special word of thanks to the emergency services, Fr. Ciprian Matei CC Portlaoise and the Gardai

who attended on the night of Paddy's passing.

Sincere thanks to Comerford Lynch undertaker, Stradbally for the professional and compassionate manner in which they carried out the funeral arrangements. Thanks also to Dr. Connor Grimes, who Paddy attended over the past few years.

Our sincere thanks also to Park/Ratheniska GAA Club for their help with traffic management, the guard of honour and all the support they provided at this time.

Thank you to Msgr. John Byrne for his support and for celebrating Paddy's funeral Mass.

Paddy's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Friday 15th January in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise at 10am. Mass will be live streamed on Portlaoise Parish website.

In Loving Memory of **CARMEL FITZPATRICK**

née Dunne

Annefield Terrace, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 10th January 2021.



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

*Sadly missed by all the
Fitzpatrick and Dunne families.*

Rest in Peace Carmel

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE **CHRISTOPHER FITZPATRICK**

35 Borris Road, Portlaoise, whose

Birthday occurs 10th January.



Our thoughts are ever with you, though you have passed away, And those who have loved you dearly, are thinking of you today.

*Loved and sadly missed by all his
loving family.*

Rest in Peace Christopher

In Loving Memory of **MARY TYNAN**

Rathevan, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 9th January 2021



There is no night without a dawning,

No winter without a spring,

And beyond death's dark

horizon, our hearts once

more will sing.

For those who leave us for a while, have only gone away,

Out of a restless careworn world, into a

brighter day.

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

*Sadly missed and always remembered by her
husband Luke and family.*

Rest in Peace Mary

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

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Fax: (057) 8662997

Mobile: (087) 2538930

Email: info@portlaoisestone.ie

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
7th January 2021



No €17,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Monica Smith
Marie Rowe
Lorraine McDonald
Jack the Lad
Maggie May
The Dandy Man
Pat, Anne & Ellie O'Brien
Nancy Fitzgibbon
Elly Devane
Claire Scully
Peter Ryan
Marie O'Brien
Keith Campbell
Mary Doyle
Pat Hennessy

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Monica Smith
Marie Rowe
Lotto Gift
Julie Conroy
Frank Cullen
Rocky Kehoe
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Anthony Preston
Parish Shop
Peter Ryan
Marie O'Brien
Flanagans Foodstore
Martleys Shop
Jack Kavanagh

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Next Week's Jackpot €18,000

Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



Fr. Theodore Tomasik SVD
Tel: 057 8622301

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can
viewed on our website and our Church
Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

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

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times
057 8600119)



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

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Support for the Parish

We have traditionally depended on the passing of the collection baskets at Sunday Masses for support. *Thank you* to the many who have found new ways of continuing to support the Parish during this time of Lockdown. The generosity of so many means we continue to be well supported and can pay our way at this time.

Ways to contribute to our Parish

Envelope boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre

Direct payment by cheque or cash

Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church

Donation facility on our website

Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre

Or Transfer directly to our Account

Portlaoise Parish Account:

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

THANK YOU

Christmas in Our Parish

