

PORTLAOISE

PARISH

**link
up**

17th January 2021

**Second Sunday
In Ordinary Time**



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Great Expectations

It's strange but true, that we tend to live up to other people's expectations.

If someone expects very little of us, then it is likely that we will end up achieving next to nothing. Living up to high expectations can feel daunting, but the surprising thing about great expectations, is that very often they have the power to transform us. Living up to great expectations can make us into better people.

In today's gospel, Jesus meets Andrew's brother Simon. He looks at him and says, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas, meaning Rock." The new name must have filled Peter's friends with astonishment. "A rock" Peter certainly wasn't. Peter we know was a bit of a hot head. He was impulsive, rash, sometimes misguided and often passionate. To describe him as a 'rock' was surely inappropriate. Yet slowly and surely, Peter starts to live up to Jesus' expectations, and slowly but surely, Peter changes from a hot headed fisherman, into a steadfast leader of the Church. As we see so often in the Bible, Jesus' expectations have the power to transform.

By comparison, we seem to live our lives with fairly banal expectations. Our greatest ambition, as we wake each morning might be to clear our 'in tray' at work, or take the car to the car wash. Are we missing something? Is God calling us to greater things and we simply aren't listening? For each of us God has a job to do. Of each of us God has great expectations. Surely amongst our resolutions for 2021, we must plan how to answer God's call.

Jesus said to them: 'Come and see.' So they went and saw where he lived and stayed with him.

Today's Gospel John



We welcome into our Parish Community

Éanna Liam Ó Braonáin
Dun Masc

Emily Robyn McCormack
The Beeches

who was baptised last weekend

A Prayer for Students and Teachers

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding.

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students.

Amen.

SERVICES VIA WEBCAM / RADIO FROM OUR PARISH CHURCH MASS EACH DAY 10AM

While current restrictions last
We invite you to join in worship via our Webcam accessible at

www.portlaoiseparish.ie
Parish Radio 106.5fm
shalomworld.org/live

This Week 10th January 2021

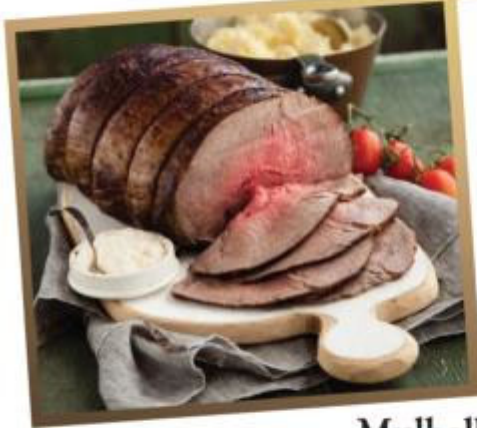
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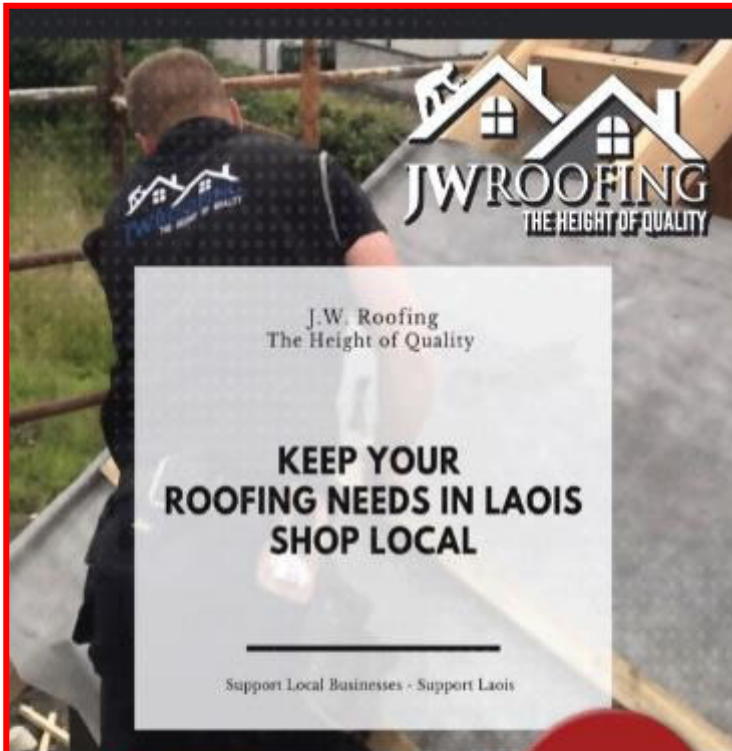
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Prison Officers, Nurses, Shop Workers, Farmers etc. may require additional cushioning and correction.

ELDERLY PEOPLE;

May benefit from Orthotics to support, comfort & Correct the Mechanics of the feet. Conditions such as arthritis and diabetes may require softer coverings.

SPORTS PEOPLE;

May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.

CHILDREN;

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

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

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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 morning (time to be confirmed)

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.

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PLEASE NOTE

We are continuing the printing of our weekly linkup magazine over the coming weeks, 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.

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TIME TO THINK!

MOTHER AND BABY HOME REPORT

The publication of the report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in our country casts a necessary light into a painful episode in our social history. When what was hidden for decades in the back room is brought into the front room it makes for very painful reading. Like many of you, I know wonderful women who lived through this horrendous reality, finding themselves physically removed from their families and loved ones and sent away in fear of gossip and scandal. Most I met were bitter and the nastiness and rejection they experienced from family, relatives, neighbours and fathers of their children was repeated in Mother and Baby Homes in the attitudes of nuns they came across. They suffered a double whammy that affected them for the rest of their lives. They were abused by their violators and violated further by those they hoped to get some Christian charity and support from. And there were many compassionate nuns, motherly nuns; however, as we know hierarchical structures, ensured that these people usually never ended up in charge. The men escaped responsibility.

I welcome the publication of the report into the Mother and Baby Homes. This report, and those like it, which explore our painful past make for extremely disturbing reading. They reveal deep wounds, and bring to light the profound injustices perpetrated against the vulnerable in our society over a long period of time - against women and children whose lives were regarded as less important than the lives of others. The silence which surrounded this shameful time in the history of our land had long needed to be shattered. The pain of those who were hidden away must be heard; those once largely without a voice now can speak clearly to our world, and we need to listen, even when what we hear pierces to the heart.

What I have read in the report is a cause of great sadness. I know that those sentiments will be shared by you all. In too many cases, the experience of those who resided in institutions, which were managed by religious congregations and State funded, is a cause of shock and shame. The brave testimonies of those who entered seeking care but who subsequently endured emotional suffering are bleak and shameful. Like others, I found the details of the high infant mortality very distressing. While a lack of resources and an intense social poverty go some way towards contextualising the period of this report, the lack of kindness and compassion, as identified by the Commission, is also clear. When Church, state and society lose respect for the individual and forget that we are made in the image and likeness of God, dignity is forgotten and human life is not valued. Like many others, I am saddened and shamed by this report.



I have met with individuals who were either resident or born in these institutions. In addition to what for many were the unacceptable conditions and the inadequate assistance received, they have been unfairly burdened with an unwarranted but enduring sense of shame. There is also a tendency to forget that every child who was born in these homes had a father and that many of the women who gave birth there conceived in tragic or violent circumstances. The report acknowledges this clearly. In many instances, the experiences of these women have been so painful as to prevent them from ever sharing their story with their families. It is a wound that they bear silently. That is profoundly sad and we have an obligation to do what we can to lift this burden.

Those who were adopted are desperate to seek information about their family. Here much work needs to be done. For this reason, I welcome wholeheartedly the proposal by Government to establish a mechanism to assist those who are trying to establish contact. This is a welcome and practical step which will enable information to be shared, while also acknowledging that many who gave birth in these institutions want to leave the past behind them. This is a difficult time for all those who lost children to adoption or who were themselves adopted. We should also acknowledge those who provided a loving, kind and supportive home for the children that they adopted.

While we look back at the failures in the religious institutions that existed in our country at that time, we must also cast a critical eye on the structures of today to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not replicated. The personal stories contained in the report speak powerfully and starkly to our world today. Let us not repeat the errors, failings and horror of the past which have been highlighted and, above all, let us remember and value the dignity of each human person.



**Jesus said to them:
"Come and see." So they
went and saw where he
lived and stayed with
him.**

**IN THE FIRST READING TODAY
(1 SAMUEL 3:3-10.19)**

Samuel thought his teacher, Eli, was calling him, but he was not. He was being called by God but needed a teacher to explain this experience and tell him how he should respond.

Jesus is calling us to follow Him!
We choose to follow Him when we proudly say and show that:

- **we believe in Him,**
- **we wish to talk to Him in prayer,**
- **we choose to be loving people...**

**IN THE SECOND READING TODAY
(1 CORINTHIANS 6:13-15.17-20)**

God created our bodies, they are the annunciation of his goodness.

Therefore, our rights over them cannot be absolute. Because God speaks our bodies into existence they must be treated with respect.



**IN THE GOSPEL TODAY
(JOHN 1:35-42)**

The greatest of all revelations of God is Jesus and by staying close to him we allow it to enter our hearts. By staying with Jesus, Andrew grew in appreciation.

At first meeting Jesus was just 'Teacher' but the next day he was 'Messiah'.

Liturgy of the Word

The **Gospel Acclamation** is read or sang before the Gospel. We stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

During the season of Lent we do not use the word 'Alleluia' in the Mass.



The **Gospel** stories tell us about Jesus and we hear what he said to his friends. The Gospel is the most important part of the Liturgy of the Word.

We always stand when listening to the Gospel. Before the Gospel is read by the Priest we make the **sign of the cross** on our forehead, our lips and our heart. This means *"may the Lord be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart"*.



"... I WILL MEDITATE ON YOUR LAW AND THINK OF YOUR NAME..." - PS. 119:15

Glory



"LEAVE YOUR MOUTH OF TRUTH IN MY MOUTH..." - PS. 119:42

to you



"... I WILL PRAISE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART..." - PS. 88:12

Lord

At the end of the Gospel the Priest says: **'The Gospel of the Lord'** and we all respond with the words, **'Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ'**.



The Homily: After the Gospel we sit down and listen to what the Priest has to say about the readings and how we might be able to put this into practice for us.

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



Seamus Dargan
Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise



Joseph O' Shea
28 O' Moore Place,
Portlaoise



Dean O' Farrell
Dunmasc, Portlaoise



Anthony (Tony) Keyes
Lalors Mills, Portlaoise

Kathleen Conroy

née O' Neill

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise and Ballinakill

Sean Lalor

Raheen

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

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to
the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

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***In Loving Memory of
DAVID RAFTER***

*Glenside, Abbeyleix Rd., Portlaoise.
2nd Year Away from Home.*



Somewhere beyond the sunset,
where loved ones never die,
You sleep in a beautiful garden
beneath a golden sky,
Though Heaven and earth
divide us, we are never far
apart, for you are always in our
thoughts and forever in our
hearts.

Never ever forgotten, Vanda, Stefan and Amy xx

**Remembering my beloved son David
Not only today, but every day**

You will never be forgotten, that simply cannot be,
as long as I am living, I will carry you with me,
Safely tucked within my heart, your light will always
shine, a glowing ember never stilled, throughout the
end of time,

No matter what the future brings, and what may lie
ahead, I know that you will walk with me along the
path ahead,

So rest son and be at peace and let your soul fly
free, one day I will join you for all eternity.

Sadly missed always, love Mam xx

**Remembering my darling brother Daithí on his
2nd Anniversary**

The moon may rise, the sun may set, but you are
someone we will never forget,

Your name is precious, it will never grow old,
It's engraved on our heart, in letters of gold.

**Loved and always missed,
Martina John and Craig xx**

Remembering David on his 2nd Anniversary

Rest in peace David, fly like your pigeons, high up
in the sky.

From all the Szwaglis family.

The world changes from year to year, our lives from
day to day, but the love and memories of you David
shall never fade away,

So sleep in peace David, for yours is an eternal
sleep, until we meet again.

**Loved and missed dearly, from James, Claire,
Aaron, Rachel and Jonathan xx**

Rest in Peace David

***Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of
EOIN STONE***

*43 Thornberry, Abbeyleix
On your 1st Birthday away from Home*



Eoin, you were loved more
than you know, I just can't
believe you had to let go,
Newspapers, pen tapping,
shamrock rovers for you,
These were the things you
loved to do,
Your life was simplistic,
There wasn't much to say,
You were a man of simplicity,
you liked it that way,

A great book reader you were, and DVDs too,
You enjoyed TV series, that was so true,
Dr Phil and Southpark they were your thing,
With this in the background, all else was in sync,
When I look back now I see your big smile,
I feel you squeezing me tight holding me for a while,
Holly the dog she was like a baby to you,
She knows something is wrong, she feels it too,
When you were a chap you had the whitest blonde
hair, you wore this top that had a lovely cute bear,
You have a family that loves you and wanted nothing
more than for you to be well,
Unfortunately, Eoin life had a different story to tell,
So on the 10th of April, you were called home,
I really hope now you're not alone,
You're joining others who have also departed too soon
left families behind with open wounds,
So now Eoin the time comes that we say our
goodbyes, I love you so much it's hard not to cry,
But we pray and we hope your resting above,
Your soul is at peace, your heart filled with love,
Look after us Owenta, fly high from above,
Watch over your family and protect us with love.

Happy 25th Birthday Eoin

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

Rest in Peace Eoin

***In Loving Memory of
JOSEPHINE O'REILLY***

*Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise, whose anniversary
occurred 13th January.*



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

**From your sons Martin and Jas, daughter Eileen, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.**

May Josephine Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
CARMEL FITZPATRICK**

Borris Road, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurs 20th January 2021.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Wednesday 20th January at 10am.



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

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by
James, Betty, Noel and families.*

Rest in Peace Carmel

**In Loving Memory of
ROSANNA KERRY**

née Phillips

61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary away from home occurred 12th January 2021



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 sons, daughters, grandchildren,
great grandchildren & extended family xx*

May Rosanna Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
FRANCES DUNNE**

*Late of Silverdale, Abbeyleix Rd. Portlaoise who died on
14th January 2010. 11th Anniversary of a dear sister and best friend.*



*To hear your voice, to see your smile,
To sit and talk to you a while,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.*

*Loved and remembered always Chrissie,
Yvonne, Trevor, Jack & Aine xxxxxx*

May Frances Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
BRIDIE DOODY**

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurred 15th January 2021.



On the occasion of the first anniversary of her death, we the nephews and nieces of the late Bridie Doody, would like to thank all who sympathised with us on our bereavement; all those who called to the house, attended the Rosary, removal to the Church, funeral Mass and burial; To all who sent Mass Cards, floral tributes, letters and messages of sympathy, we are truly grateful.

We would like to thank the staff of Portlaoise Hospital who cared for her in her final days. A special thanks to her carer Bernie Brennan for her kindness and wonderful good humour.

Aunt Bridie was blessed with many devoted friends who were so helpful to her in her latter years especially Betty Murphy, Mary McEvoy, Caroline Byrne, Kathleen Ryan and her neighbours Brenda and John Drea.

To her Monday night ladies; Lily Whelan, Chrissie Clarke and Patricia Curley for their unstinting attendance over decades in some cases and their great kindness and caring.

Sincere thanks to Fr. Eddie for a beautiful ceremony and to Rankin's Undertakers for their professionalism with all the funeral arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICK & ELLEN MAHER**

*Grange, Stradbally whose anniversaries occur at this time.
Also remembering Eileen, MaryAnn and John.*



*In God's care you
rest above,
In our hearts you
rest with love,
Never more than
a thought away,*

Loved and remembered everyday.

Lovingly remembered by all your family.

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET HOULIHAN**

14 Oaklawn, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 18th January 2021.



The Day You Went Away
Today's the anniversary of the day
that we lost you,
And for a time it felt as though our
lives had ended too.
But loss has taught us many things,
And now we face each day,
With hope and happy memories,
To help us on our way.

And though we're full of sadness, that you're no longer
here,
Your influence still guides us, and we still feel you near.
What we shared will never die, it lives within our hearts,
Bringing strength and comfort, while we are apart.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving
husband James, sons, daughters, sons-in-law,
daughters-in-law, grandchildren and extended family.*

May Margaret Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARTIN BRENNAN**

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



Along the road of suffering, you found a
little lane, that took you up to Heaven and
ended all your pain,
You may be out of sight, we may be worlds
apart, but you are always in our prayers
and forever in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Ann,
Helen and Mark,*

May Martin Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**

Whose 10th Anniversary occurs 17th January 2021



*Those we love remain with us,
For love itself lives on,
Cherished memories never fade,
Because one loved is gone,
Those we love can never be,
More than a thought apart,
For as long as there is a memory,
They live on in our hearts.*

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

May Michael Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
DAVID RAFTER**

'Arville' Glenside, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurred 15th January 2021



Second year away, I miss you
more every day,
A dear friend and brother like
no other,
Memories now are all I have,
I treasure them with all my heart,
They're magical, fun loving and
sweet,
Why wouldn't they be, you made
them for me!

Not a day goes by when I don't stop and think,
my brother, my friend, we will meet again,
Until that day comes I will continue the trend,
You with me in spirit always, David my friend.
Love always, Jack, Jenni, Cian and Hollie.

I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing
new, I thought about you yesterday and days before
that too,

I think of you in silence, I often speak your name,
All I have are memories and a picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake, with which I will never
part,

God has you in His keeping, I have you in my heart.
Love always, Adrian, Leonie and Anna.

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.

**Forever in my thoughts
Love always, your sister Linda.**

He walks with me down quiet pathways,
And speaks in wind and rain,
For the magic power of memory,
Gives him back to me again.

**Always in my thoughts David
Love Kathleen, Sean and family.**

If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch
for me. Place them in my brother's arms and tell him
they're from me.

Tell him that I love and miss him and when he turns
to smile, place a kiss upon his cheek and hold him
for a while.

Because remembering him is easy, I do it every day,
But there is an ache within my heart that will never
go away.

**Love always, Dolores, James, Ava, Darragh and
Conor.**

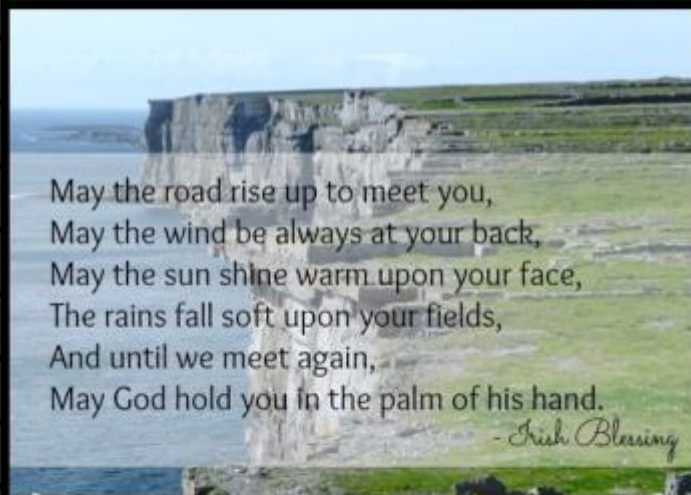
Rest in Peace David

In Loving Memory of
RICHARD ANDERSON
 Late of 37 Upper Beladd, Portlaoise.
 2nd Anniversary occurs 19th January 2021



It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone,
 A part of us went with you, the day God took you home,
 If tears could build a stairway,
 And heartaches make a lane,
 We'd walk our way to Heaven and bring you back again,
 In life we loved you dearly,
 In death we love you still,
 In our hearts you hold a place, no one could ever fill.

Sadly missed by your loving wife Cecilia and family.
Rest in Peace Richard



May the road rise up to meet you,
 May the wind be always at your back,
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rains fall soft upon your fields,
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

- Irish Blessing



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In Loving Memory of



NANCY CONROY
 Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.
 and
WILLIAM CONROY
 Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise,
 formerly O' Moore Place.
 and
ESTHER CONROY
 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

Whose Anniversaries occur at this time.

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

Sadly missed by all their loving family & friends.
May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
A Wonderful Husband and Father
MARTIN WALSH

118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 21st January 2021



Our lives go on without you Martin but
 nothing is the same,
 The special years will not return when we
 were all together.

Martin's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
 in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
 Thursday 21st January at 10am.

*Always loved and sadly missed by your loving
 wife Margaret, sons Anthony and Joseph,
 daughters Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia and
 Colette, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law,
 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Martin

Portlaoise Parish



Results for

14th January 2021

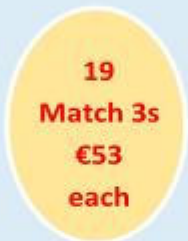


No €18,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

John Moylan
Joan McEvoy
Joe O'Connor
Stephanie Traynor
Josie & Har Fitzgerald
Shane O'Neill
Henry Hewitt
Billy Bayham
Joe Paisley
Julia Conroy
Peter Ryan
Hugh & Ellen Maguire
P. Lawless
Marie Conroy
Christine Cripps
Brendan Delaney
Chrissie Cripps
Pat & Heather
William Marum

MATCH 3s €1,000



Play PARISH



PROMOTER

Ross Moylan
Peggy Kelly
On Line Lotto
Nuala Arrigan
Lotto Gift
Geraldine O'Neill
Nora Walsh
Anne Young
Browns Shop
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Margaret Maguire
Martley's
Martley's
Celine Cripps
Declan Fitzpatrick
Celine Cripps
Heather Mortimer
Rita Watkins

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Next Week's Jackpot €19,000

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

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 be 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

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