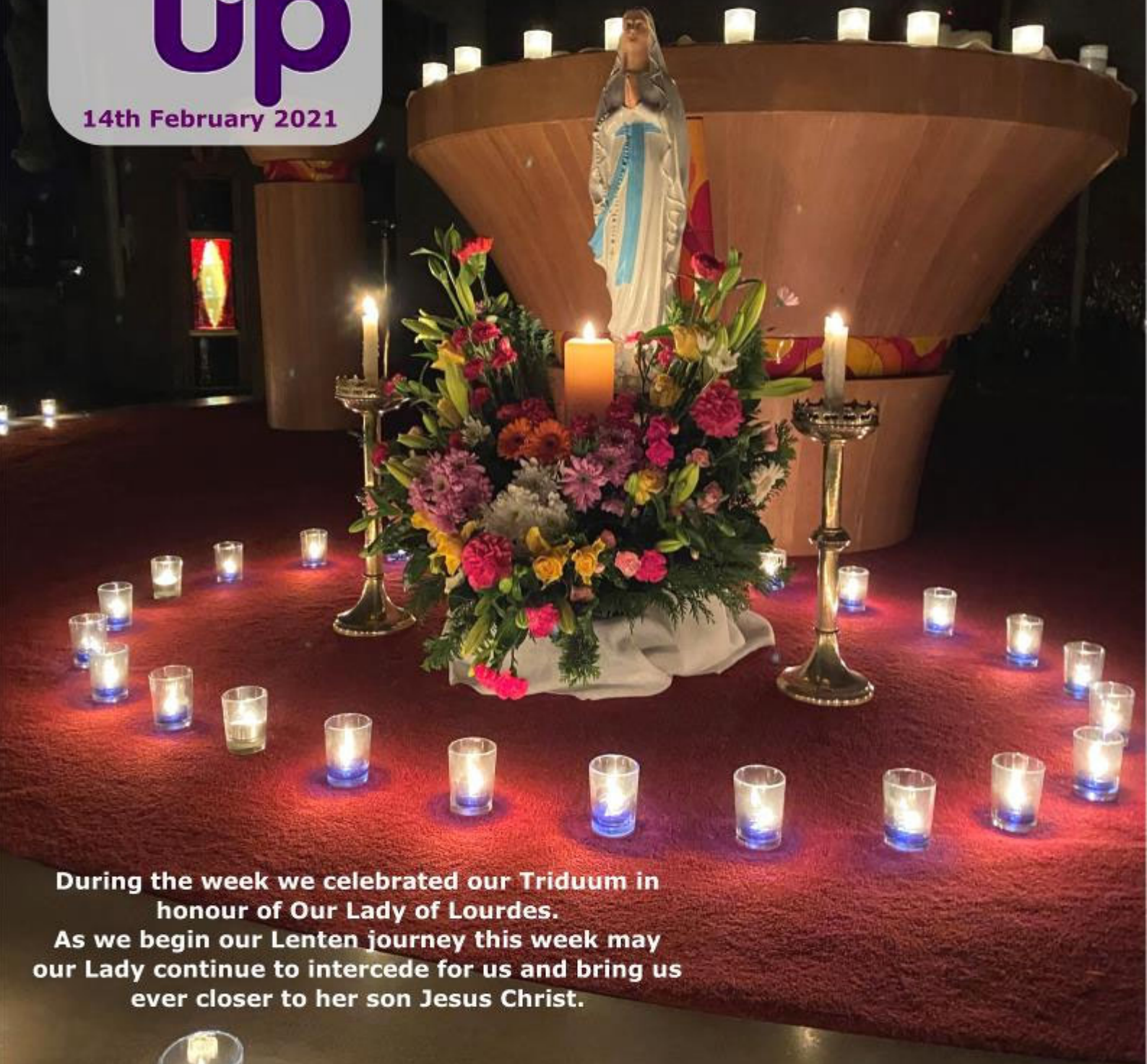


**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

14th February 2021

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Also Temperance Sunday



During the week we celebrated our Triduum in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes.

As we begin our Lenten journey this week may our Lady continue to intercede for us and bring us ever closer to her son Jesus Christ.

**The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie**

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fb.com/portlaoiselinkup

Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie



Back From the Brink

'Dysfunctional' is a word we hear a lot nowadays. Parents who drink, gamble or who neglect their children are deemed 'dysfunctional'. Those who

take drugs, steal or spend aimless and less than useful lives are labelled dysfunctional. As a society we are often guilty of shunning the dysfunctional, fearing them or even despising them. For those of us who have been labelled as dysfunctional we sink into an abyss of loneliness and desperation. There are those of us who know what it is like to have sunk so low that there seems no way back.

The leper in today's story knew no way back from the affliction that had ostracised him from society ... no way back that is, until he heard of Jesus. The leper kneels before Jesus and begs for a cure, and moved by pity Jesus makes him well again, commanding him not to rush off and tell everyone. Of course, the leper cannot keep Jesus a secret. The ex leper has not just been healed of an illness, he has been rescued from an existence where he could not function at any level. Now the ex leper can return to his home, his community and his loved ones. For the ex leper his life has been transformed. His life had been restored, but restored with a meaning it didn't have before. The ex leper has been made whole, emotionally, spiritually and physically. How can he keep his tremendous joy to himself?

Today we are asked to put ourselves in the place of the leper. Jesus asks us to look at our lives and ask ourselves what is missing. What is it that can isolate us? What is it that builds barriers? What makes us live lives of bigotry, fear, anger, jealousy, frustration, insecurity, pain or misunderstanding? What is missing from our lives that could make us function as a whole? Might it be purpose, determination, humility, courage, forgiveness, mission God?

When God brings us back from the brink of isolation, it is hard to feel anything but joy, and if that joy is contagious, is there any better way to promote Jesus' desire for living life in wholeness?



Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Darragh Joseph Hibbitts,
Aghnaharna Drive.
baptised last weekend

LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent when we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for



prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads on this day, are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour.'

Blessed Ashes will be available in the Parish Church and Parish Centre from 11am on Wednesday.

A BIT OF HISTORY!

13th February 1633

Galileo Galilei went on trial for professing a belief that the Earth revolves around the Sun.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46 Ps 31:1-2,5,11

1 Cor 10:31-11:1 Mk 1:40-45

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. We are very appreciative of the continued support of so many during this difficult time



New Envelope Boxes covering the coming year - up to the end of January 2022 - are now available in our Church porches and Parish Centre. The boxes contain envelopes for each week and also for the Priests collections and other special collections during the year. We don't know when we will be able to gather safely in Church for Mass again and even then it is highly unlikely that we will be passing collection baskets. So we have to find a new way of supporting our Parish. One excellent way is to take a box of envelopes and make your contribution by placing the envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre. By writing your name and address on your first envelope contribution we can assign that number to you and record your contributions which will enable us to take advantage of the 'Revenue Tax Back' facility. We would recommend this method of contributing but there are of course other ways of supporting.

Some other ways to contribute to our Parish

Direct payment by cheque or cash

Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church

Donation facility on our website (you can set up a regular payment via this facility also)

Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre (or see below)

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)

If you make a direct transfer to one of our accounts or submit a S/O to your Bank, please inform the Parish Office

057 862 1142

or email info@portlaoiseparish.ie

STANDING ORDER SET UP FORM

To the Manager _____

BANK

BRANCH ADDRESS

I / we hereby authorise and request you to debit my / our account

NAME

BIC

IBAN

And to Credit Portlaoise Parish:

Account Name

PORTLAOISE PARISH

BIC: AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

Receiver reference _____

Please insert your name here— it will appear for reference on the Parish statement

Start Date

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
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<p>PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR FEET A LOT; Prison Officers, Nurses, Shop Workers, Farmers etc. may require additional cushioning and correction.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<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.

086-8675060

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Wednesday	8.30am to 8pm
Thursday	8.30am to 6pm
Friday	8.30am to 6pm
Saturday	9am to 12 noon

Please phone 087-9945057 to book an appointment.

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PLEASE NOTE

We are continuing the printing of our weekly linkup magazine during current restrictions, 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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COVID-19 Support Line for Older People; ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary, seven days a week, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

New SOSAD Ireland voluntary mental health and bereavement centre opening soon in Portlaoise; The SOSAD Laois free telephone counselling service is now active for anybody in distress or who simply needs to talk. Phone SOSAD Laois 083-8664157. Facebook SOSAD Laois

Portlaoise Community & Family Resource Centre are hosting a FREE ONLINE event for parents and caregivers; Parenting and Managing Anxiety in Children with Dr. Malie Coyne, clinical Psychologist, Wednesday 24th February at 8pm. Book your place today. Tel. 057-8686151 / 087-9171359
E-mail; info@portlaoisefrc.ie

Empowering and Protecting Children Online; Have you children aged 8-13 years? Laois Libraries in association with CyberSafe Ireland are hosting an online webinar which offers a general overview of the main factors to consider around social media, gaming and the online world. This one hour webinar will take place on Tuesday 16th February at 7pm. If you are interested, please e-mail; mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie. Places are limited.

The Council phone line 057-8664000 is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for the Laois Community Response Support Helpline, to facilitate the most appropriate community response to the needs of vulnerable people living in the community, where their usual sources of support have become unavailable due to Covid-19 also to deal with normal council queries.

Call or e-mail; covidsupport@laoiscoco.ie

Dogs and cats get frostbite too! Never leave them out in the cold



KEEP WELL

Help is at Hand

for your emotional wellbeing and mental health during COVID-19

Laois Community Call Helpline - 1800 832 010

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ambulance / Fire / Gardaí: **CALL: 112 or 999**

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:

Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise: **057 86 21364**

MIDOC GP OUT OF HOURS SERVICES: **1850 302 702**

NATIONAL SUPPORTS

SAMARITANS (emotional support service)

FREEPHONE: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.ie

CRISIS TEXT LINE: Free 24/7 text service providing support for people going through a mental health or emotional crisis
Text: **YMH to 50808**, anytime day or night | www.text50808.ie

PIETA 24/7 Free therapeutic support: **1800 247 247 / Text HELP to 51444 / www.pietahouse.ie**

AWARE HELPLINE: **1800 804 848 (10am-10pm) www.aware.ie**

ALONE support for older people: **0818 222 024**

LGBT Ireland Helpline: **1890 929 539 / www.lgbt.ie**

LOCAL SUPPORTS

Midland SIMON Community: www.midlandssimon.com
Regional Office: **090 644 4641 / Tullamore Accommodation Centre: 087 6359 760**

Citizens Advice Centre: Portlaoise Centre: **076 1075 590**

Family Resource Centres: www.familyresource.ie
Portlaoise Centre: **057 86 86151 / Mountmellick Centre: 057 86 24601**

SVP Laois: Portlaoise: **057 86 60486 / Mountrath: 086 6616270**

Laois Traveller Action Group: **057 86 82210 / www.ltag.ie**

Laois Partnership Company: www.laoispartnership.ie
Portlaoise: **057 86 61900**

MABS Money Advice and Budgeting Service: **076 107 2620 / www.mabs.ie**

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

GROW: **1890 474 474 www.grow.ie**
SHINE: **midlands@shine.ie**

HSE INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Covid-19: **1850 241 850 / email: hselive@hse.ie**

Mental Health: **1800 111 888 / www.yourmentalhealth.ie**

HSE - DRUG & ALCOHOL LINE: **1800 459 459 / www.drug.ie / www.drinkaware.ie / email: helpline@hse.ie**

HSE PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE (emotional support and advice)
email: mlmpsychosocial@hse.ie

COUNSELLING SUPPORT

Teac Tom Counselling Support: Stradbally: **056 779 6592 www.thethomashayestrust.com**

ONLINE Support and counselling www.turn2me.org / www.mymind.org / www.suicideorsurvive.ie

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

JIGSAW Offaly: **057 93 52871 / email: offaly@jigsaw.ie / www.jigsawonline.ie** (outreach service to Laois)

Youth Work Ireland Laois: **057 86 65010 / www.ywilaois.ie**

CHILDLINE: **1800 666 666 Free (24/7) Text 'Talk' to 50101 / www.childline.ie**

Spunout: youth information website: www.spunout.ie

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Irish Hospice Foundation: **1800 807 077 (10am-1pm)**

Midland Living Links: **086-1600 641 www.bereaved.ie / www.childhoodbereavement.ie**

Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer (PIETA):
Midlands: **086 418 0088**

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT

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WOMENS AID: **1800 341 900 (24/7) / www.womensaid.ie**

MEN'S AID: **(01) 554 3811 / email: crisis@anyman.ie**

Domestic Violence Service: National Helpline: **1800 341 900**

Laois Domestic Violence Support Service:
057 86 71100 / www.laoisdomesticabuseservice.ie



Our KandLe Family Lenten Promises

Let's do Lent together in 2021

What is this?

Bishop Denis is inviting families ahead of the Lenten season, (beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17), to sit down together and share ideas on how you might together and /or individually take on *acts of prayer, fasting and charity* of your choosing before completing the 'Our KandLe Family Lenten Promises' sheet. *If you live alone, remember you are part of your parish and the KandLe diocesan family – join your Lenten promises to those of the rest of your faith family.*

Why acts of prayer, fasting and charity in Lent?

The season of Lent gives us a chance to think about our life as followers of Jesus and to prepare ourselves to be ready to renew our baptism at Easter. It can be a time of reflection and taking stock, a time of turning back to God and reminding ourselves of what it means to live as a follower of Jesus, as a Christian in the world. The Lenten good works of prayer, fasting and charity are there to help give us this focus.



Prayer The COVID-19 pandemic has seen so many people turning to God in prayer - a reminder to us of what we instinctively know to be true - that God loves us and cares for us, and is with us always. This Lent could be a great time for families to begin or renew praying together. We can be aware of God and talk to God in prayer in so many ways. Saying a prayer before your main meal together, blessing yourselves when you leave your home, praying a

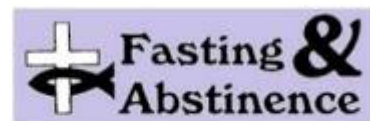
decade of the rosary, reading and thinking about a passage from the bible, joining in a time of prayer in your local church via technology, saying a night time prayer, visiting your parish church for a short time of prayer?



Lord, teach us to pray

What appeals to you in these suggestions? What other suggestions do family members have?

Fasting Many people see Lent as a time of fasting from something. We might give up sweets or cigarettes or alcohol, or meat on a Friday; we might fast from words that are hurtful to



ourselves and others or we might fast from habits that keep us from living well. We can always take it one step further and take up a positive action! We might, for example, decide on concrete actions that will help the environment such as conserving water, recycling properly and turning off lights. The fasting we do can help us create a space in our lives for God, who feeds all our hungry. Are there habits that we have that are causing pain or hurt in our families that we could try to give up this Lent? What suggestions do family members have for fasting?

Charity Linked to our fasting, whatever form it may take, is a concern for those who have no choice but to fast because of poverty and injustice. That concern connects us directly back to our baptismal commitment of making Christ present in our world through our actions. There is a great tradition in Ireland of supporting Trócaire in Lent and learning more about its work. How



might your family support Trócaire this Lent? Do you have suggestions for other ways of giving money or assistance/acts of kindness to those in need locally, especially needs arising from COVID-19 this Lent?



Our KandLe Family Lenten Promises

As members of the KandLe family I/we promise to undertake the following, together or as individuals, this Lent:

Prayer

Fasting

Charity

Signed by: _____



A KandLe Family Prayer for Lent: Creator God,
be with us as we make our Lenten journey together
as part of the KandLe diocesan family.

Give us the strength to do what we have promised
and the love to help one another along the way.
When Easter comes, may our Lenten promises
have brought us closer to you and to your Son, Jesus. Amen.





TIME TO THINK!

LENT - A TIME FOR TRUE PRAYER

Lent in lockdown is perhaps enough penance for any of us!! Living through a pandemic brings huge challenges, not just physically but also emotionally and indeed spiritually. Many find comfort and hope by nourishing our spiritual lives. Lent is an opportune time.

"But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you". Matthew 6:6

One of the most important parts of true prayer is that it takes place deep in the inner room of your soul. It is there in the inner depths of your being that you will meet God. Saint Teresa of Ávila, one of the greatest spiritual writers in the history of our Church, describes the soul as a castle in which God dwells. Meeting Him, praying to Him and communing with Him requires that we enter into the deepest and innermost chamber within this castle of our soul. It is there, in the innermost dwelling, that the full glory and beauty of God is discovered.

God is not just a God who is "out there" far away in Heaven. He is a God who is closer and more intimate than we could ever imagine. Lent is a time, more than any other time of the year, when we must strive to make that journey inward so as to discover the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity.

What does God want of you this Lent? It's easy to begin Lent with more superficial commitments, such as giving up a favourite food or doing an extra good deed. Some choose to use Lent as a time to get in better physical shape, and others decide to dedicate more time to spiritual reading or other holy exercises. All of this is good and useful. But you can be certain that the deepest desire of our Lord for you this Lent is that you pray.

Prayer, of course, is much more than saying prayers. It's not only saying the rosary, or meditating upon Scripture, or reciting beautifully composed prayers. Prayer is ultimately a relationship with God. It's an encounter with the Triune God who dwells within you. True prayer is an act of love between you and your beloved. It's an exchange of persons: your life for God's. Prayer is an act of union and communion by which we become one with God and God becomes one with us.

The great mystics have taught us that there are many levels to prayer. We often begin with the recitation of prayers, such as the beautiful prayer of the rosary. From there we meditate, ponder and reflect deeply upon the mysteries of our Lord and His life.



We come to know Him more fully and, little by little, discover that we are no longer just thinking about God, but we are gazing at Him face to face.

As we begin the holy season of Lent, reflect upon your practice of prayer. If the images of prayer presented here intrigue you, then make a commitment to discover more. Commit yourself to the discovery of God in prayer. There is no limit and no end to the depth to which God wants to draw you through prayer. True prayer is never boring. When you discover true prayer, you discover the infinite mystery of God. And this discovery is more glorious than anything you could ever imagine in life.

Feel warmly welcome to join with me for daily reflections during lent on my facebook account.

I Will Turn
(A daily prayer for Lent)

Lord, I will turn,
Turn my face towards you.
I will lay before you the desert areas I hide
And turn to soak in your refreshing words of life.
I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits
And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love.
I will draw back from the harsh pull of media
And turn to bathe in the gentle power of your Spirit.
Lord, today I turn my face towards you.
I will turn
To soak in your words of life,
To rest in the warmth of your love,
And to bathe in the power of your Spirit.

St. Fintan's Day – 17th February

It was in the year 603, on the seventeenth day of February that St. Fintan passed from this world to his heavenly reward at his monastic abbey at Clonenagh between Portlaoise and Mountrath. Some put his age at the time of death to be as old as ninety but more likely he had reached late seventies or early eighties. Despite the passage of over fourteen hundred years since his death, St. Fintan's legacy continues to live on and there are many strong associations with his name in this part of Co. Laois; St. Fintan's Hospital in Portlaoise; St. Fintan's Churches in Mountrath, Raheen and Ballyfin; Scoil Fionntáin Naofa in Shanahoe; and St. Fintan's GAA Club in Mountrath – to name but a few.

The place of St. Fintan's birth is uncertain but it is generally considered that Clonkeen in the parish of Raheen was his birthplace. He descended from the very same stock as St. Brigid (who died in the year 523 – eighty years before Fintan's death). As a young man he entered Terryglass Monastery on the banks of Lough Derg in Co. Tipperary which was run at that time by St. Columba. After passing his noviciate, Fintan and two companions moved to Clonenagh and founded a monastery there. He collected around him a community of monks who lived under very strict rule. They tilled the land by spade or hoe and they abstained from all animal food. They had not even a single cow as their strict rule did not even allow them the use of butter or milk.

In prayer, fasting and in constant vigils, St. Fintan passed his years never relaxing the rules of his strict observances. It is believed that he performed many miracles during his lifetime. For example, on one occasion a man whose son was paralysed prostrated himself at Fintan's feet and asked in God's name that his son might be healed. Fintan extended his hands in prayer and soon afterwards the paralysed man recovered to full health.

It is widely believed that a famous school existed at St. Fintan's monastery in Clonenagh and that a seminary flourished there long after his death producing scholars of the most profound learning. It is also believed that the "Book of Cluain Eidhneach" was written by St. Fintan and other writers. Many distinguished disciples flocked to what was regarded as a hive of wisdom at Clonenagh while St. Fintan was abbot there. Amongst them was the celebrated St. Comgall, founder of Bangor Abbey in Co. Down who is also associated with the founding of a church at Shanakill near Shanahoe.

The Clonenagh monastic site has traditionally attracted passers-by on what was formerly the Dublin to Limerick road because of the fame of what became known as the 'Money Tree.' Tradition has it that this sycamore tree hosted the well of St. Fintan and pilgrims left coins in its trunk and branches – thus it became known locally as the 'Money Tree.' The original sycamore tree fell to the ground during a storm some years ago but a healthy new tree has since taken root in the same spot.

What of St. Fintan's association with Cromogue in the parish of Raheen? According to local tradition St. Fintan first lived at Cromogue before taking up residence at Clonenagh. It is said that when his monks had brought the building materials to both sites, the churches of Clonenagh and Cromogue were built in the course of one night. St. Fintan's Road, which was an old causeway from Clonenagh to Cromogue, is said to have been of miraculous origin, its construction believed to have been instantaneous. The ruins of an old church still stand at Cromogue cemetery and there is a belief that until its tower falls to the ground St. Fintan will celebrate Midnight Mass there every Christmas Eve. A short walking distance from these ruins in a tranquil and scenic spot is St. Fintan's Well, a peaceful place which attracts numerous visitors all year round. Many pilgrims take a small stone from the bottom of the well and keep it as a preservative against accidental death. Another local tradition concerns the one-eyed trout which, if spotted in the well, will relieve the fortunate pilgrim of any ailment they may be suffering.

When St. Fintan found that his death was approaching, he called his brethren around him. He named Fintan Maeldubh as his successor as abbot of Clonenagh. Then raising his hand and imparting benediction on his people, and having received Holy Communion, he passed to his eternal reward. It was the 17th day of February, thus the celebration of the feast day of St. Fintan on that date.



Also known as Pancake Tuesday - 16th February 2021

Why do we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day?

It was the last chance for a spot of indulgence before 40 days of fasting, and also an opportunity to use up food that couldn't be eaten during Lent. This included eggs, fat and milk, which were made into pancakes and eaten on that day. The earliest known English recipe dates from the 15th century, although pancakes had been eaten in other countries for centuries before that.

7 tips to make the perfect pancake every time!

1. Check the freshness of your flour
2. Whisk your dry ingredients to avoid big lumps
3. Resist the over-mix
4. Rest the batter overnight
5. Use a big skillet or, better yet, a griddle
6. Wipe out the pan between batches
7. Pay attention so they do not burn

Ingredients

- 100g plain flour
- 2 eggs
- 300ml semi-skimmed milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower/vegetable oil plus extra for frying
- pinch salt



Method;

1. Put 100g plain flour and a pinch of salt into a large mixing bowl.
2. Make a well in the centre and crack 2 eggs into the middle.
3. Pour in about 50ml from the 300ml of semi-skimmed milk and 1 tbsp. sunflower oil, then start whisking from the centre, gradually drawing the flour into the eggs, milk and oil. Once all the flour is incorporated, beat until you have a smooth, thick paste. Add a little more milk if it is too stiff to beat.
4. Add a good splash of milk and whisk to loosen the thick batter. While still whisking, pour in a steady stream of the remaining milk. Continue pouring and whisking until you have a batter that is the consistency of slightly thick single cream.
5. Heat the pan over a moderate heat, then wipe it with oiled kitchen paper.
6. Ladle some batter into the pan, tilting the pan to move the mixture around for a thin and even layer. Quickly pour any excess batter into the mixing bowl, return the pan to the heat.
7. Leave to cook, undisturbed, for about 30 secs. If the pan is the right temperature, the pancake should turn golden underneath after about 30 secs and will be ready to turn.
8. Hold the pan handle, ease a palette knife under the pancake, then quickly lift and flip it over. Make sure the pancake is lying flat against the base of the pan with no folds, then cook for another 30 secs before turning out onto a warm plate.
9. Continue with the rest of the batter, serving them as you cook or you can freeze the pancakes for 1 month, wrapped in cling film or make them up to a day ahead. Enjoy!





Lent in our Parish

Ways to engage in the Lenten journey

Consecration to St. Joseph for the Year of St. Joseph:

15th February to 19th of March, 33 days of prayer to St. Joseph, everyday after the morning Rosary (9:30am) will a daily prayer to St. Joseph.

Triduum to St. Joseph.

19th-20th and 21st of March, three days to celebrate and to pray through the intercession of St. Joseph

Confessions.

Every Friday, from 6pm to 7pm a priest will be available for Confession in the Prayer Room, here in the Church.

Stations of the Cross:

Throughout the Lent, every Friday at 7:30pm we will pray together the Station of the Cross, led by a priest.

Ashes will be available in the Church porches



A prayer to begin my Lenten journey

Loving Jesus, as I place on my forehead the sign of your saving cross
You say to me, repent and believe in the Gospel.
Walking into Lent my heart is set on you.
May my **fasting** fill me with hunger for you,
may my **prayer** draw me deeper into your presence,
may my **acts of charity** bring your love to my home and community.
Lord of life, grant that by turning back to you in these 40 days
I will re-awaken the joy the joy of my Easter faith;
for you rise me up from fear and despair and call me to hope and trust in God
who is with me always.
With you, I will rise again. Amen

**OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;**



Rory Buchanan

De Vesci Court
Fairgreen
Portlaoise

Catherine (Kitty) Hogan

née Kelly
Blackhill, Oldtown, Abbeyleix

*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

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH (Joe) O' TOOLE**

Shanahoe, Abbeyleix.

4th Anniversary occurs 16th February 2021



Gone from our lives, one so dear,
But in our hearts, forever near.

*Loved and remembered always by his
loving family, Anne, Siobhán, John,
Pamela, Gráinne and their families.*

Rest in Peace Joseph

REPENT

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
IS CLOSE AT HAND

MATTHEW 4:17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
PATRICK FENNELLY
30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.



Patrick's sister Mary, brother-in-law, Eugene and nephews Sean and Ronan would like to thank most sincerely all those who supported us in our recent very sad loss of our beloved Patrick.

Thank you to those who sent floral tributes, sympathy cards, Mass cards, letters, e-mails and placed condolences on RIP.ie. Thank you for your many phone calls.

Sincere thanks to our relatives especially our dear cousins, neighbours and friends who gave us so much support, your thoughtfulness and kindness are much appreciated.

Heartfelt thanks to Msgr. Byrne and the Priests of the Parish, especially Fr. Ciprian Matei for his celebration of Patrick's funeral Mass. Thanks to Nuala Kelly for her beautiful singing.

Our thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for the professional and compassionate manner in which you carried out Patrick's funeral arrangements. Thanks to the gravediggers for preparing Patrick's final resting place.

Sincere thanks to the nurses, doctors and staff of Tullamore hospital ICU for the professional and dignified care they gave to Patrick in the final days of his life and for the tremendous support they gave to us at such a difficult time.

We sincerely thank the staff of St. Fintan's hospital, Monresa and the Link centre for their care of Patrick over many years. A very special thanks to the staff of Birchwood House, Tullamore, for the kindness and wonderful care they gave to Patrick during his years there. We will never forget your care of Patrick and your support to us as a family.

Thanks to the residents of Monresa and Birchwood House for sharing your friendship with Patrick, especially his love of soccer and music.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a sincere expression of our gratitude.

The Holy sacrament of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Rest in Peace Patrick

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.



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In Loving Memory of SEAN KEOGH

Late of 6 Park View, Portlaoise. 10th Anniversary. Died 14/2/2011.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday 14th February at 10am.**

*Sean, deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
To love and to cherish and never forget.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife Bríd and all his family.

May Sean Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

Our Loving Father WILLIAM KERRY
61 Knockmay Estate, Portlaoise. Died February 1999.
22nd Anniversary occurs 19th February 2021.



Your gentle face and patient smile,
with sadness we recall,
You had a kind word for each
and died beloved by all.

*Sadly missed by your loving family
Rest in Peace William*

In Loving Memory of MARGARET LAWLESS

52 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 18th February 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Thursday 18th February at 10am.**

There is a garden in my heart, where happy memories grow, of those who mean the world to me, as seasons come and go, And among the fairest flowers, that there could ever be, is the memory of you, dear sister, and how much you mean to me.

Sadly missed by her loving sisters and brothers, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Rest in Peace Margaret

In Loving Memory of LARRY McDONALD

45 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary occurs 13th February 2021.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Sunday 14th February at 10am.**

*Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you are always there,
The gates of memory will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows,
With tender love and deep regret,
We who love you will never forget.*

Sadly missed by his loving wife Margaret, sons, Maurice, Paul, Gregory, grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Rest in Peace Larry



LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

In Loving Memory of PADDY and MARY DEMPSEY

The Heath
36th & 22nd Anniversaries occur at this time.

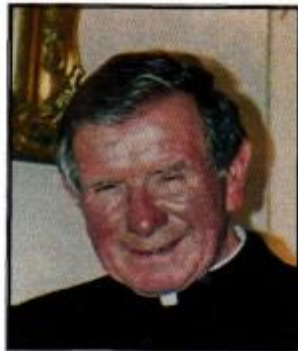


*A special day we cannot share,
So our gift to you must be a prayer.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church at 10am, this **Sunday 14th February.**

*Loved and remembered by Liam C
May Mary and Paddy Rest in Peace*

For Thee, O Lord, I have left everything



In loving memory of
V. Rev. Patrick Kehoe P.E.
Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

Who died on 6th February, 2015

Aged 84 years

Rest in Peace

O God, by Whose favour, Thy servant, Patrick, was raised to the sacred dignity of the Priesthood and thus honoured with the Apostolic functions, grant we beseech Thee, that he may be raised to the eternal fellowship of the Apostles in Heaven, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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David **087-2369887**

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PAUL; 087-2562137
NIALL;
086-2770095



In Loving Memory of **DONAL GRAHAM**

2 The Green, Stradbally and Lakeglen, Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 14th February at 10am.

*Donal's family would like to thank
everyone for your kind expressions of
sympathy and your many lovely memories of Donal.
May God bless you all.*

Rest in Peace Donal

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Portlaoise Parish

Results for

11th February 2021



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Patricia Lawless
Jacqueline Byrne
James Houlihan
Peggy Cahill
Jamie Fennelly

MATCH 3s €1,000



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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 8661605

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

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You may also play our Lotto on line at

www.portlaoiseparish.ie

33 Days for St Joseph

In response to Pope Francis declaring the Year of St Joseph, the Irish Dominicans are inviting you to join us online as we make a collective consecration to St Joseph, while also asking his intercession for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

8PM DAILY

33 Days Beginning
15th February

To the Feast of St Joseph
19th March

Join us as we:

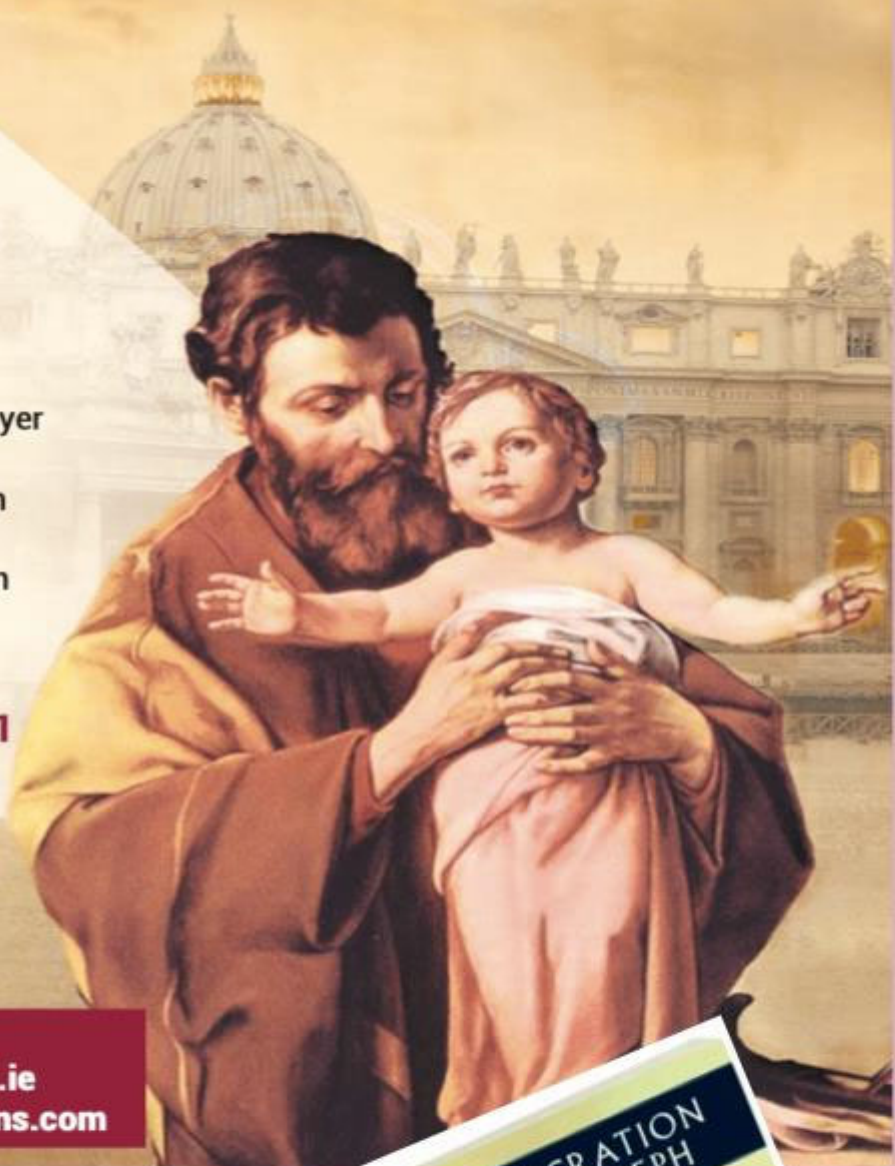
- * Pray the Holy Father's Prayer for the Year of St Joseph
- * Recite the Daily Reading in Preparation for the Consecration to St. Joseph
- * Invoke the Prayer for Vocations

Zoom ID: 986 4005 1501
Passcode: 122013

All are Welcome!

All prayers and readings will be displayed on screen.
For more information contact:

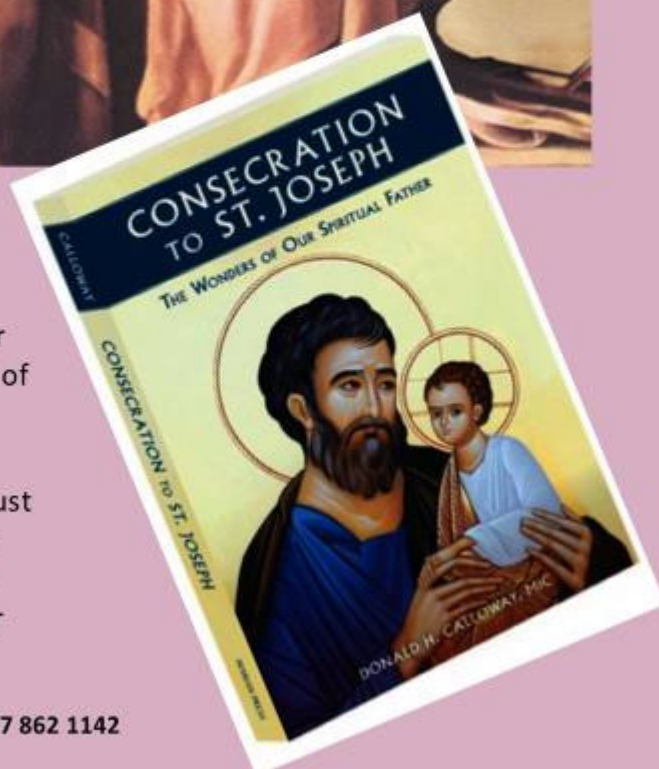
Fr Colm Mannion OP
colm.mannion@dominicans.ie
www.irishdominicanvocations.com



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

We also invite you to join us virtually, following the 9.30am Rosary, before the 10am Mass, in the Parish Church we will pray the meditations and prayers from this book each day for 33 days beginning on 15th February and ending on the Feast of St. Joseph, 19th March.

Drawing on the wealth of the Church's living tradition, Fr. Donald Calloway, calls on all of us to turn to St. Joseph, entrust ourselves, our Church, and our world to our spiritual father's loving care, and then watch for wonders when the Universal Patron of the Church opens the floodgates of Heaven to pour out graces into our lives today.



The book is available at the Parish Centre: to order and collect 057 862 1142