

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

18th April 2021

Third Sunday of Easter



*"Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us
on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*

Luke 24:32

The disciples told their story of what had happened
on the road to Emmaus and how they had
recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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



Enlightenment

When we are struggling with our faith, we might be tempted to think that as long as we are 'good people' that will suffice.

But what sets those

who are simply 'good people' and 'Christians' apart?

The other disciples were really not so very different from Doubting Thomas. When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines three pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. He shows them the marks on his hands and feet, he invites them to touch and check that he is flesh and blood, and he shares a meal with them. But it is only when Jesus opens their minds to understanding the scriptures that they come to believe in him. By interpreting what has happened, the risen Christ draws the disciples out of their confusion. Amongst some of his famous last words to them, were words of encouragement to go and preach his message and a reminder of prophecies fulfilled and promises made.

Being a Christian today isn't easy, and simply accepting the Jesus we have grown up with sometimes isn't enough to sustain us. Perhaps we have given up believing and think that being a good person will be good enough. Understanding the difference between living life simply as a good person, and living life as a Christian comes of believing in the risen Jesus. As Christians we are continually striving to follow Christ's example. Today, through prayer, scripture debate, and putting faith into action, we continually work for the same enlightenment and understanding that Jesus gave his early disciples. To find that enlightenment we need to look to scripture as the disciples did. We need to look at the authors of the books within the Bible and understand who they were, something of the times they lived in, and who their audience was. There are commentaries to read and videos to watch, and of course, the Bible itself. We don't need to be great scholars. The original disciples weren't. All we need is the desire for enlightenment.



We welcome into our Parish Community

John Anthony Coughlan
Carrigeen

Jason Anthony Bronzon
Lakeplace, Kilminchy

Ellen Carmel Hayes Delaney, Fielbrook

Who were baptised recently.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3:13-15,17-19 Ps 4:2, 4, 7, 9
1Jn 2:1-5 Luke 24:35-48

Give Thanks for Your Vaccination

As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the frontline workers and key workers who continue to save lives in our country and in the world.

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare.

Our aid agencies are already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks they can do more. Thank you for your donation to Trócaire. Total amount collected to date from our parish is **€10,722. Thank you!**

Go to the World

*Jesus did not command the whole world
to go to church.*

*Jesus commanded his church
to go to the whole world.*

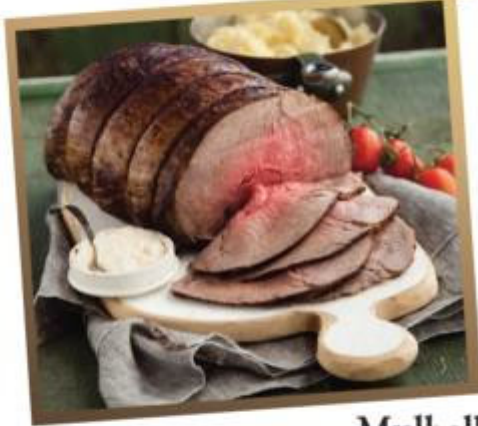
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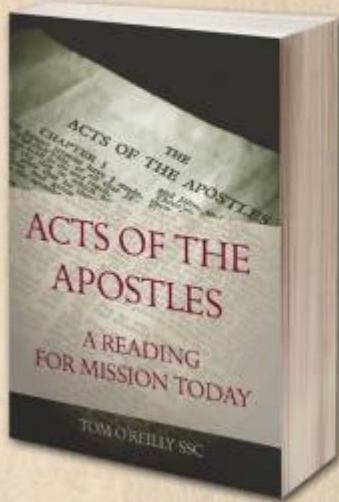
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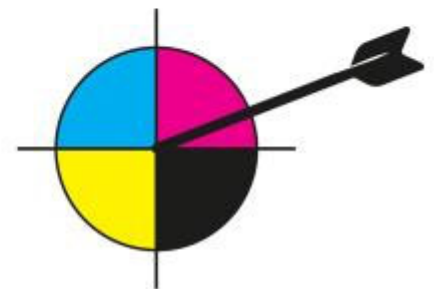
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Is it Jesus, or a Ghost?

I remember times when I was a youngster when I went on camping trips. One of the favourite activities on those trips was sitting around a campfire at night and telling ghost stories. Even though I kept telling myself, "There is no such thing as a ghost," that didn't keep some of those stories from scaring the daylights out of me, and they often made it difficult for me to go to sleep that night.



Even in Bible times, some people believed in ghosts and were afraid of them. Today's Bible lesson is one example of that.

The story begins after two men had walked along a road to a place called Emmaus. They were discussing the crucifixion of Jesus and all of the events that had taken place in the past few days. They wondered what it all meant. As they walked, they were joined by a man on their walk. They did not recognize that the man was Jesus. There is much more to that part of the story, but it is enough for now that we know that Jesus revealed himself to them. Finally, they recognised that the man was Jesus. They were so excited to see that Jesus was alive that they jumped up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem.

The two men found Jesus' disciples and began telling them what they had seen. The Bible tells us that as they said these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." Do you think the disciples felt peace? No! The Bible says that they were terrified and filled with fear, thinking that they had seen a ghost!

Once again Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."

Still the disciples stood in disbelief, so Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of fish, and he ate it as they watched. That was even further proof that they were not seeing a ghost. A ghost doesn't need food.

The disciples had seen Jesus die. They had seen him placed in a tomb. But now they saw Jesus alive. Not just this day, but for more than 40 days, they saw him and talked with him. They even watched him eat food. They were not seeing a ghost! Those same disciples went all over the world, telling the story of Jesus' crucifixion, his death, and his resurrection. They never stopped telling the story during their whole lives.



Our Father, we serve a risen Saviour. He is alive! Help us to be witnesses of what he has done in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Jesus Appears to the Disciples

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 16-5-1-3-5 _____
- 8-1-14-4-19 _____
- 4-15-21-2-20-19 _____
- 2-15-14-5-19 _____
- 6-5-5-20 _____
- 6-18-9-7-8-20-5-14-5-4 _____
- 10-5-19-21-19 _____
- 7-8-15-19-20 _____
- 6-12-5-19-8 _____
- 6-9-19-8 _____



PEACE	HANDS	DOUBTS	
BONES	FEET	FRIGHTENED	
JESUS	GHOST	FLESH	FISH





TIME TO THINK!

LIVE SIMPLY... SHARE GENEROUSLY

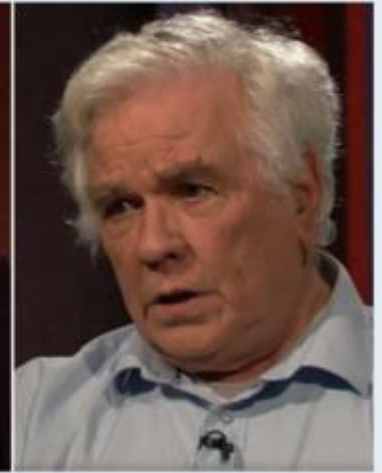
Tommy Tiernan has inched ahead of Ryan Tubridy in the battle for RTÉ's weekend viewers after his most recent show clocked up 12,000 more audience members than the chat-show host. I really enjoy the show. Tommy is a remarkable listener, empathetic and his connection with people is most inspirational.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ made quite an impact with his interview on The Tommy Tiernan Show on Saturday 10th April. In the course of a 15-minute conversation with the host, Peter described his relatively privileged upbringing, his attraction to the Priesthood, and his passion for a just social order, especially when it comes to the homeless and other people living on the margins. Although he received a good-quality private education, he said, his real education began in 1974 when he saw the appalling conditions of life in Dublin's inner city. It changed everything for him. He has dedicated his life since then to working for the homeless, living among them in a flat in Ballymun, Dublin. The lack of political will and the destructive neoliberal faith in the market to handle housing issues makes him deeply angry.

Specifically, Peter explained how his experience of poverty in Dublin led him to abandon the legalistic idea of God which he had held up to then. In a telling anecdote, he described how one young man in the inner city said to him, "The very thought that there might be a God depresses me". Peter understood this to mean that the man believed in a God of the law, a God who has laid down rules and laws that one had to live by. "And he had broken every one of them," Peter added with a laugh, so he imagined God looking down and seeing him as unlovable, as a bad person for breaking the rules. What Peter saw, however, was that the young man had suffered an abusive and violent childhood and extreme neglect. "If there is a God," he concluded, "this kid must have a special place in God's heart, because of what he has suffered." So gradually, Peter said, he came to reject the God of the law and to believe in a God of compassion.

In response to Tommy Tiernan's question about how ordinary people who have a reasonably comfortable existence, even if weighed down by mortgage payments and the like, should respond to the present situation, Fr. Peter commented that he was not looking for them to give away all their possessions but that they should try to *live simply and share generously*.

Tiernan opened the conversation saying "I have this feeling that you're one of the only people in public life that we can trust". Something of that same confidence in Peter's goodness and authority was evident from the social media response to the interview too. Michael O'Regan, a journalist with The Irish Times tweeted, "When will governments listen to Fr. Peter McVerry? Great interview with this great man who has dedicated his life to the marginalised." And Sean Kelly MEP remarked, "It was humbling and refreshing listening to the wonderful Fr. Peter McVerry".



Other comments on social media included:

"The thing about Peter McVerry is the fire never goes out. Never. Sometimes the rest of us feel the fire gone out and that's when we know we're struggling but with him never. Inspirational".

"Father Peter McVerry embodies the best of social activism and the best of Christianity. A really excellent and flowing interview as ever by Tommy Tiernan".

"It's not popular to say this but Father Peter McVerry gives me faith that people associated with religion still have a role to play in this country. I also think and want to respect two of my Grand Aunts who as Nuns gave their lives to the poor of the inner city"

"A revealing interview with the wonderful human being who is Peter McVerry."

"What an inspirational Irishman. Every word Fr. Peter McVerry says makes complete sense but the establishment have no interest in it, full of compassion, so much insight in every sentence, absolutely inspirational man, a proper hero. Peter McVerry must, objectively, be the best man in Ireland. Surely he'd be a shoo-in for president".

A prayer for Healing

Every day I need thee Lord.. but this day especially,
I need some extra strength to face whatever is to be,
This day more than any day,
I need to feel you near,
To fortify my courage, and to overcome my fear.
By myself, I cannot meet the challenge of the hour,
There are times when humans help, but we need a higher power,
To assist us bear what must be borne, and so dear Lord,
I pray,
Hold on to my trembling hand,
And be near me today.



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 18,500 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

COVID-19 Community SUPPORT GRANT

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

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Our sympathy to their families.

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on to the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

**In Loving Memory of
STATIA CAMPION** née Flynn

Harlow, Essex, UK and formerly Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.



The death has occurred of Statia Campion
née Flynn, of Harlow, Essex, UK, formerly
of Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise on
7th April, 2021.

Sadly, missed and loved by her children
Mary, Anne-Marie, Edward,
Linda (Deceased) and her grandchildren
(Harlow, UK).

Also, loved and never forgotten by her sisters and brother;
Gay O'Sullivan, Ennis; Phyllis Graham, Ballydavis, Portlaoise;
Ann O'Connor, Liogard, Portlaoise; Liam Flynn, Dundalk and
all her loving family and friends.

Forever in our Hearts

Rest in Peace Statia

10TH ANNIVERSARY

**In Loving Memory Of
DAVE WALSH**

68 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise. Died 22nd April 2011.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 18th April at 10am.

*Words are few, feelings are deep,
Memories of you we will always keep.*

Sadly missed by his loving wife & family

May Dave Rest in Peace

let His light shine.



**In Loving Memory Of
MICHAEL COLLINS**

Subur, Newpark, Portlaoise

A Dear Husband, Father and Grandfather.

4th Anniversary occurs 25th April 2021



Michael's Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on
Sunday 25th April at 10am.

*Lonely is our home without you,
Life is not the same,
The world would be like Heaven,
If we could have you back again.*

Loved and sadly missed by your wife Sally, son
Alan, daughter Ruth and family.

May Michael Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
IDA MITCHELL

Balladine Heights, Abbeyleix. Died 18th April 2020



On Ida's First Anniversary, Helen and Hazel with their families wish to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with us on her death.

Thanks to all who sent sympathy cards, Mass cards, letters of sympathy, phoned and all those who left messages on RIP.ie and Facebook.

Special thanks to her good neighbours in Balladine and Mountrath Rd. who stood out for her funeral, along with those in attendance approaching the church.

Thanks to the staff of Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise, Brookhaven Nursing Home and Dr. Kemple surgery for their great care.

A sincere thank you to Reverend Alec Purser for conducting Ida's funeral. Thanks to Eamonn Kelly and Eamonn Healy, funeral directors, for their kindness and professionalism.

Thanks to her good neighbours in Balladine who looked out for Ida at all times.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

Rest in Peace Ida

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of
DAVID RAFTER

'Arville' Glenside, Portlaoise.
50th Birthday occurs 21st April 2021



You were very kind and thoughtful with a warm and loving heart, And when other people needed help, you always played your part. You're thought of every single day whatever time of year, But somehow more than ever now, your special day is here. No present can be given and that's really very hard, But there's a world of love inside this special little card.

Each memory is shining bright, and treasured dearly, too, but memories can't take the place, of someone dear, like you.

Happy 50th Birthday David
Loved and missed always, your sister Linda xxx

I think of you in silence, and make no outward show, For what it meant to lose you, only I as your sister will know.

Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, It's the heartache of losing you, that will never go away.

Happy 50th Birthday David
Always in our thoughts
Love always Dolores, James, Ava, Darragh & Conor xxx

I wish you could be here bro, so we could have had a beer, and celebrate this milestone, with a party full of cheer.

Unfortunately you can't bro, and that's hard to take, but I know you know we have a bond, that time can never break,

Your laugh and jokes I will always miss, but always remember this brother, the day will come when you and I will share our birthdays again, together in paradise.

Happy 50th Birthday Dave
Love always, Jack, Jennifer, Cian & Hollie xxx

David, I understand that Heaven needed more angels like you, so you had to go, however I wish your departure could have been delayed a little.

I miss you not only today, but every day, and will never stop missing you until the day we meet again in eternity brother.

Happy 50th Birthday Dave
Love always Adrian, Leonie & Anna xxx

You are the break in the clouds, that lets the sun shine through.

Thinking of you on your 50th birthday,
love from Kathleen, Sean and family xxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BREDA WALSH

(née Keogh)

Late of Chelmsford, Essex and Ridge Road,
Portlaoise.



Wishing you were here today for even just a while, so we could say Happy Birthday and see your loving smile.

But we'll gaze upon your pictures and think of you with love, and hope you're celebrating in Heaven up above.

Forever loved
Never forgotten and always missed

Matty, Jason, Helena, Emma, Shane, Viola, Marley and all the grandkids and extended family.

May Breda Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

A Cherished Mother, Grandmother,
Great-Grandmother, Sister and Sister-in-Law

KATHLEEN PAISLEY

Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 28th April 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise, on Sunday 25th April at 10am.

Your name is often spoken,
We talk about you still,
You haven't been forgotten,
You know you never will.

No words or verse could ever say,
How much we miss you every day,
Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
We love you too dearly to ever forget.
Some day we know we'll meet again,
Some day, we know not when,
To clasp your hand in a better land,
Never to part again.

We will love and miss you always.

*From all her loving family, extended family
and friends.*

Also remembering at this time; Kathleen's late husband Joe, her brother Bill Doyle and all deceased members of the Doyle and Paisley families.

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

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of MARY (Mollie) KEOGH

Ridge Road, Portlaoise,
whose Anniversary
occurs at this time.



ALSO HER SON
PAT KEOGH

whose 27th Anniversary
occurs 21st April 2021



Deep are the memories, precious they stay
No passing of time away, can take them away.
*Loved and remembered everyday by all your
loving family.*

May Mary & Pat Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

MARY BURNS

Block Rd. Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurred 13th April 2021



*There are some who bring a light so
great to the world, that even after
they have gone, the light remains.*

Sadly missed by
daughters Margaret, Mary & Brigid,
sons-in-law Pat, Seamus & Joe,
grandchildren Megan, James,
Shane, Lauren, Sarah, Michelle, Joanne and husband
Patrick and Mark, great-grandchildren Patrick-James
and Jane-Mai.

Rest in Peace Mum.

In Loving Memory of TOM MITCHELL

4 Stradbally Rd. Portlaoise,
22nd Anniversary occurred 12th April 2021



*Treasured thoughts of one so dear,
often bring a silent tear,
Thoughts of scenes long past,
Years roll on but memories last.*

*Sadly missed by his loving son Kevin
and family.*

May Tom Rest in Peace

Birthday Remembrance THOMAS DOHENY

St. John's Sq., Portlaoise.



We cannot send a birthday card,
Your hand we cannot touch,
But God will take our greetings,
To the one we miss and love so much.

*Sadly missed by your sons, daughters,
grandchildren, great-grandchildren and
all relatives and friends.*

Also remembering other deceased relatives and friends
at this time.

May Thomas Rest in Peace

PLEASE NOTE

Anniversary Masses
included on memorial
notices must be
booked at reception prior to submitting your
notice. Tel. 057-8621142 to book the Mass.

**In Loving Memory Of
PATRICK CASEY**

Ballymaddock, Stradbally.

4th Anniversary away from home occurs 26th April.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on **Sunday 25th April at 10am.**

Sadly missed by his wife Christina, sons Joe and Colm, daughters Claire and Annmarie and grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Patrick

**In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH MARY
McEVOY**

*64 Beladd, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary away from home.*



The Broken Chain

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

You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide, and although we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same, But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Mothers never really die

Death beckoned her with outstretched hand,
And whispered softly of "an unknown land",
But she was not afraid to go,
For though the path she did not know,
She took death's hand without fear,
For He who safely brought her here,
Had told her He would lead the way, into eternity's bright day,
And so she did not go alone into the "Valley that's unknown",
She gently took death by the hand,
And journeyed to "the promised Land",
And there, with step so light, stands to pray,
She polishes the sun by day,
And lights the stars that shine at night,
And keeps the moonbeams silvery bright,
For Mothers really never die,
They just "keep house up in the sky",
And in the Heavenly home above,
They wait to welcome those they love.



When I lost you

I wish I could see you one more time, come walking through the door, but I know that is impossible,
I will hear your voice no more.
I know you can feel my tears and you don't want me to cry, yet my heart is broken because I can't understand, why someone so precious had to die,
I pray that God will give me strength and somehow get me through, as I struggle with the heartache, that came when I lost you.



Mother

To one who bears the sweetest name, and adds lustre to the same, long life to her, for there's no other, who takes the place of my dear Mother.

To my much missed Mother

You were so special to me, and even though time has passed, it never diminishes your memory and spirit, they live on long after you. Love James xx

Elizabeth's Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Sunday 25th April at 10am.

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

**In Loving Memory of
PAUL DOYLE**

*St. Brigid's Place and The Elms, Forest Park.
Anniversary and birthday occurs 15th and 16th April.*



*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.*

Sadly missed by your mother Edith and all your loving family.

May Paul Rest in Peace



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**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL (Mick) GRIFFIN**

19 Marian Place, Portlaoise.
30th Anniversary occurs 17th April 2021



*Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
And we will always remember you.*

**Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on
Saturday 17th April at 10am.**

*Sadly missed and always loved, Mary & Tommy, Ger & Olive,
Geraldine & Tommy, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and
great-great-granddaughter.*

May Michael Rest in Peace



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*Philippians 4:6: Be anxious for nothing, but
in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God.*



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Portlaoise Parish



Results for

15th April 2021

06

13

15

23

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Ann McEvoy
Stacey & Mick Flaherty
Alanna McDermott
Declan & Breda McGill
Leo Bergin
Chloe Groarke
Donal Hetherington
Emeka Smith
Michael O'Connor
Pat Lalor
Paddy Quarney
Josie & Tommy Kirwan
Davy Tobin
Brendan Carroll
Aran Gaughan
Caroline Farrell

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Match 3s
€63
each

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On Line Lotto
Mary Hennessy
Veronica Doheny
Kathleen Brown
Geraldine Greene
Greg Keenan
Paddy O'Connor
Parish Centre
Mary Arthur
Mary Mortimer
Pamela Killeen
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Betty Phelan
Jerry Dooley

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Next Week's Jackpot €20,000

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 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 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

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Subject to availability of space

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PARISH SHOP

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

25TH APRIL 2021



Next Sunday, 25th of April is Vocations Sunday. Let us pray together for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Prayer for Vocations

LORD of the Harvest,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage
to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving
for vocations blossom in the
good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish
ministries, and families with the confidence
and grace to invite others to embrace
the bold and noble path of a life
consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament,
so that we may cooperate
with you in building your reign of mercy
and truth, of justice and peace.

Amen.