

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

13th June 2021

**Eleventh Week
in Ordinary Time**



A great day for the pupils and staff of St. Francis as they moved into their new School on the Borris Road.

(Some members pictured here with Msgr. John)

See also back page.



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

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Small Beginnings

Seeds are amazing! We plant them, provide the right environment and then wait. Miraculously, the seeds flower into an array of fabulous plants. We can help the plants to grow, but we cannot make them grow, this power is out of our hands. Ultimately we cannot predict the harvest. The seeds of faith work in the same way. We can teach someone else about God but ultimately that is all we can do. People react to God's word in countless different ways, ways we cannot predict. Jesus' first disciples were to take comfort in the knowledge that although they were entrusted to plant the seeds of faith, they were not responsible for the harvest God would take care of that.

The task of planting the seeds of faith in the twenty first century can seem as daunting as it must have seemed to those early disciples. Can we really make any difference to a world that allows daily atrocities? Today's gospel offers yet more consolation. Jesus speaks of the tiny mustard seed. Despite its insignificant appearance it grows into an impressive shrub substantial enough to provide shade. It's thought provoking that such a humble seed should provide so impressive a result. Jesus teaches us that we mustn't be overwhelmed when faced with a seemingly overwhelming task. We must simply implement Christ's teaching with whatever humble means we have, and leave God to do the rest.

The kingdom of God ... is like a mustard seed,... the smallest of all seeds on earth...; it grows into the biggest shrub of them all...'

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday - Friday: 7.30am, 10am & 11am

Saturday: 10am

Sunday

Vigils 5pm & 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

ELEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Ez 17:22-24

Ps 91:1-3, 13-16

2 Cor 5:6-10

Mk 4:26-34

LORD

As I prepare for my exams help me to study well.
Help me to stay calm and not become over anxious.
Let Your Spirit guide me and help me to remember
what is truly important in life.

Help me during the exams to remember what
I have studied and to present my answers
to the best of my ability.

Lord, stay close to me and help me in my studies.

Amen.

**We continue to pray for all our students doing
their Leaving Cert.**



We welcome into our Parish Community

Eirinn Colette Ryan, Rathevan Heights

Aislinn Kate Costelloe, Ashley Gardens

Adam Robert Cullen, The Hermitage

Jack Michael Flannery, Ballymaddock

Saoirse Rubia Murphy, Hawthorn Drive

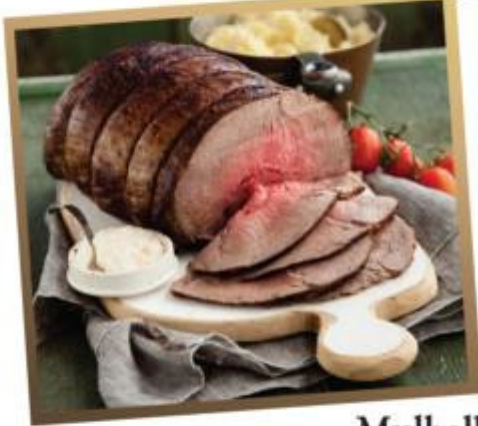
Gregorij Mickans, Carmody Way

Baptised last weekend



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NEW WEBSITE

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www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie

One of the main aims of the website is to allow our clients to make **online bookings** at their own convenience.

You will be able to select your physio and a time that suits you. However we are always available on the phone on 087-9945057 should you be unable to find a time that suits. We will occasionally be posting information on focus topics in our advice section. Take a look when you get a chance and any feedback is more than welcome.

Thanks as always for your support.
Kind Regards, all @ Laois Physiotherapy Clinic

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<p>SPORTS PEOPLE; May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.</p>	<p>CHILDREN; Who are in toeing, out toeing, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.</p>

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

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The Fatima Candle will be lit at
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honour of Our Lady
of Fatima and for
the intentions of all
parishioners.



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Show up at Laois Covid 19 Test Centre with ID and you will be tested.

Please encourage your family and friends to come to be tested:

Close Contact with a confirmed case

If they have any symptoms please see

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>

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Before visiting an elderly family member

Before/After a family/friend gathering

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'Do you
not care
that we are
perishing'

The front cover of the June magazine from an illuminated gospel executed in Cologne c. 1040

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The Last Supper



People have a lot of ways to help them remember things. One of the oldest memory tricks is a simple piece of string. If you want to remember something, tie a piece of string around your finger. Then, every time you look at your finger and see that string, it will remind you of what it was you wanted to remember.

Another method people use is to use post-it notes. Simply write what it was you need to remember and stick it on the mirror in the bathroom, or, perhaps on the refrigerator. Then, every morning when you are getting ready to go to school, or whenever you go to the refrigerator for a drink or a snack, you will see the reminder.

In today's Gospel, Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate the Festival of the Unleavened Bread. As they were eating, Jesus took some bread, blessed it, and broke it into pieces and gave it to his disciples. He said, "Take it and eat, for this is my body."

Next, Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks. Then he said, "This is my blood of the covenant." All of the disciples drank from the cup.

Ever since that day, the followers of Jesus have followed the example given in the Scriptures. Some call it Communion, others call it the Lord's Supper, and others, the Eucharist. Whatever we call it, we do it to help us to remember that Jesus gave his body and shed his blood in death on the cross so that we might have eternal life in heaven with him. What a beautiful reminder for you and me.



Prayer

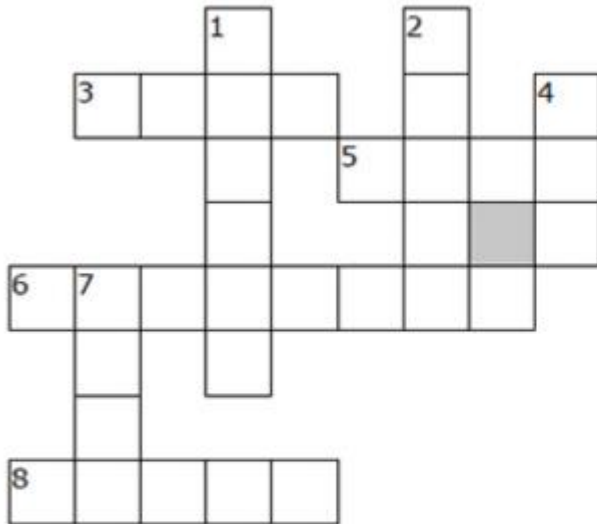
Father, we thank you for Jesus and for the salvation we have because of his death on the cross. As we partake of the bread and wine, help us to remember his sacrifice.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



Crossword Puzzle - The Family of God



ACROSS:

3. A person who is not owned or controlled by some one else.
5. A man or boy.
6. Persons between birth and youth.
8. A native or inhabitant of Greece.

DOWN:

1. A women or a girl.
2. A person who is owned by someone else and works for them.
4. A member of a race of people whose religion is Judaism.
7. One who receives wealth or property from a parent.

Jew - Heir - Female - Slave - Male - Greek - Children - Free

Word Search - The Family of God

P J B H H V O E Y Z L A D E K
 I E A E S G E R F O D G H E B
 J S P I K S C L O T H E D V B
 T U T R W I C F T V F B Y O N
 F S I S L F J E M B H L N Y D
 T E Z K P G I E A P O P O B K
 O M E W S T Y V W F O V J N E
 J G D W I J P U F P N K T S E
 V F E M A L E R A C H R I S T
 G R Y O Z N K O I Z Y M J K S
 E R K S G M C G T B O E J X E
 P R E F O K D J H R L T U V R
 U E J E R N O N P A L N A H A
 Y A B D K E S L M J X L F X J
 A U R U Q N E U L W S L M L Y

HEIRS

BAPTIZED

SLAVE

JESUS

ONE

JEWS

CLOTHES

GREEK

SONS

FREE

FAITH

PROMISE

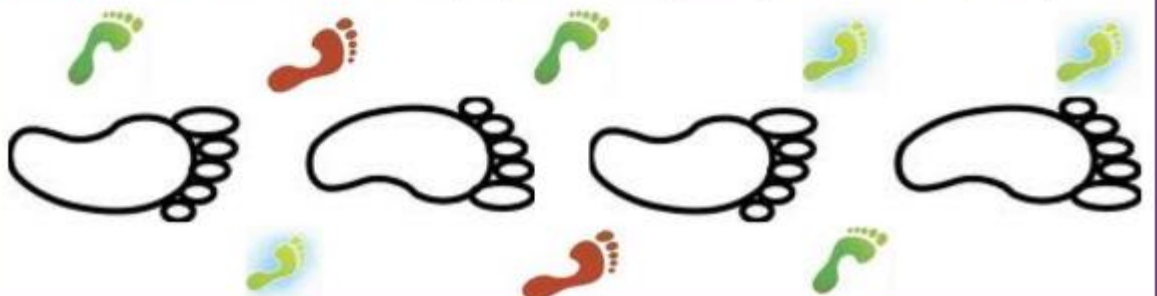
FEMALE

CHRIST

MALE



Follow Me: write or draw in the footprints the ways that you can put other people first.





TIME TO THINK!

1500TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. COLMCILLE

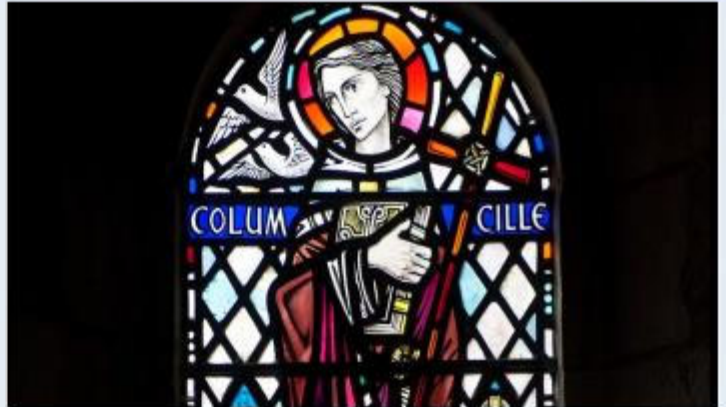
St. Colmcille (also known as St. Columba) is one of Ireland's patron saints, a distinction he shares with St. Patrick and St. Bridget. He was born in Gartan, County Donegal in 520 (or 521). There are many sites associated with the life of the inspirational 'Colmcille' and also dedicated to him throughout Derry and Donegal. In 545, he founded his first monastery in Derry / Doire Cholm Cille – and in 563 set sail with twelve monks from Derry to the island of Iona in Scotland where he died in 597.

Firstly, he has an interesting name. Colm means a dove – and that may or may not have been his birth name. But the name Colm has a distinguished pedigree because the word in Hebrew for a dove is Jonah. Those two men were brought up in the faith of their ancestors and both were somewhat reluctant missionaries in a foreign country. Jonah was sent to Nineveh where he had little confidence that his message would have any effect and ended up being thrown into the sea, as he tried to escape God. Columba, too, had trouble with the sea as he set out to take on a very difficult task, partly in penance for trouble that he had been involved in. And tradition tells of the saint challenging a monster on Lough Ness. We all have our plans but we share with Columba a strange faith in a God who can write straight on very crooked lines, a God who can build peace even in conflict situations, who can calm the worst of stormy waters.

For me this means that where the Irish church is at present is a graced place, not a place of disaster. For those who believe in a God of forgiveness, our mistakes and stupidity can be places where divine foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. People become saints, not because they are perfect but because they allow the grace of God to weave something beautiful out of the imperfections of their lives and do great things with and despite them. In their failures Columba and Jonah discovered a God whose weakness was stronger than human strength. Holiness comes forth when we allow God to chisel away at our lives – often in painful ways – and allow little nuggets of divine beauty to sparkle. Columba chose Iona because it was a place where he could not see Ireland. We too have to find our own Iona, our place where we cannot look back to former glories and be led by the grace of God to places that we cannot see.

Secondly, Columba showed himself to be a wise leader. He took responsibility for the deaths that arose because of the battles that he and his people were involved in, especially since the alleged basis for the battle was a dispute over a religious book. Down through history people have fought over issues that were seen as being more important than people. We see leaders, sometimes religious leaders, who achieve positions of power by exploiting the fears and anger of others. Columba showed a form of leadership that was born of his being prepared to suffer by going into cold, challenging exile. The best of leaders – like Jesus – do not ask others to do what they will not do themselves. One of St Paul's letters talk of Jesus emptying himself of his divinity and becoming human – and then humbling himself even further to accept death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-11)

Thirdly, Columba was a man of prayer. Prayer is sometimes seen as a silly childish attempt to wring favours from a distant or non-existent God. For Columba prayer was a discipline that moulded his heart in the image of the Lord who is *the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness* (Exodus 34:6). There is no contradiction between a life of prayer and a



missionary heart. For Columba, prayer was not an escape from reality but a call to go out. Those who face the long inner journey involved in a deep spiritual life are then able to undertake long outer journeys into unknown and challenging territory. It is not surprising that our culture, which promotes access to information about the whole world, is going in the direction of great local fragmentation and loneliness, where lives at the earliest and latest stages can be discarded as of no value. We have the crazy situation where people can have a thousand friends around the world and none around the corner. Jesus calls us in our own deserts and on our own Calvaries, not to seek to escape reality but to face it with faith in a God who crossed the stormy seas with us. Real prayer calls us embrace reality with courage, knowing that God in Jesus is in the midst of it.

Columba faced the same human crises and regrets, challenges and idealism that people face in every generation. Circumstances change but human beings don't. He would ask us who celebrate his memory to seek God in going out from our comfort zones, to offer loving, generous leadership at every level in society and to seek God prayerfully in both the windswept and the sunny days of our personal Iona. And if we do that we will be a blessing on today and on the tomorrow that we seek to create for our children.

Prayer of St. Colmcille

Lord, Thou art my island; in Thy bosom I rest.

Thou art the calm of the sea;
in that peace I stay.

Thou art the deep waves
of the shining ocean.

With their eternal sound I sing.

Thou art the song of the birds; in that tune is my joy.

Thou art the smooth white strand of the shore;
in Thee is no gloom.

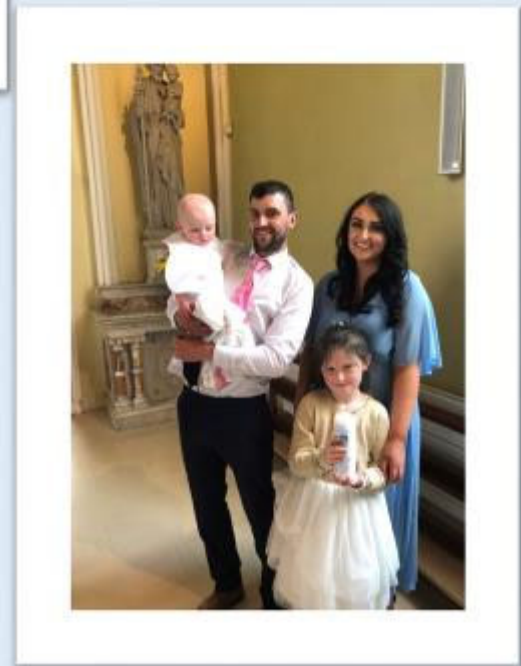
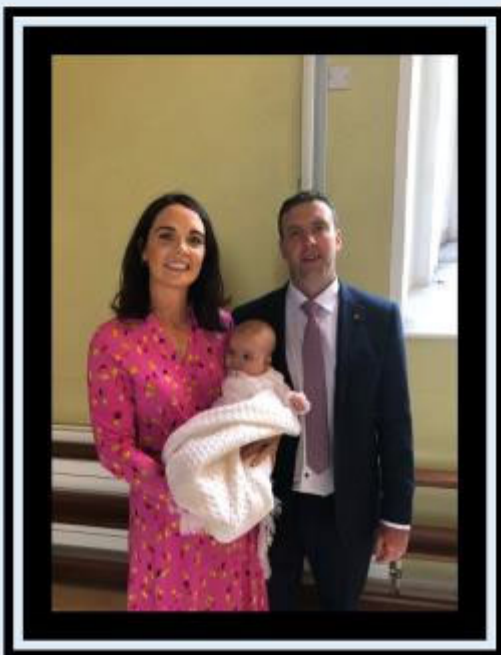
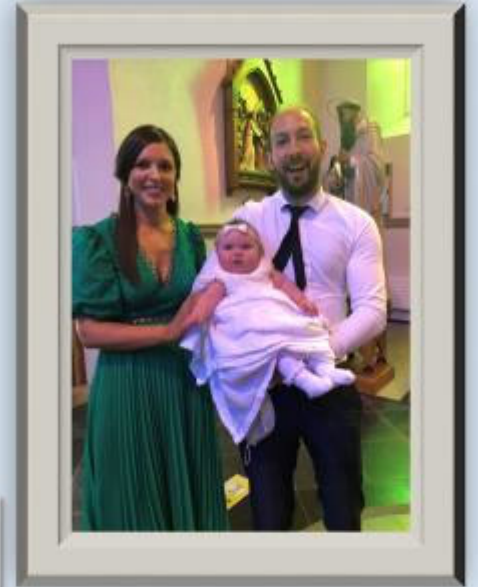
Thou art the breaking of the waves on the rock;

Thy praise is echoed in the swell.

Thou art the Lord of my life.



*We Welcome to our
Community of Faith*



May God bless all families we are awaiting the birth of new life

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



Liam Farrell

late of Two Mile
House and Portlaoise

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me: your rod
and your staff - they comfort me.*

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to his family

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
JOHN DUNNE**

*St. Christopher's, Ballyfin Road,
Portlaoise.*

3rd Anniversary occurs 19th June 2021.



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
on Sunday 20th June at 10am.*

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

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN (Johnnie) ALLEN**

Eyne, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary occurs 13th June



*Your life was love and labour
Your love for your family true
You did your best for all of us
We will always remember you.
Looking back with memories
Upon the path you trod
We bless the hours we had with you
And leave the rest with God.*

So sadly missed by all your loving family xx

**In Loving Memory of
Our dear brother
PATRICK (Pat) PAISLEY**

*Formerly of St. John's Square, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 9th June 2021.*



*Treasured memories keep for ever
of times when we were together,
each of us in our own way,
have special thoughts of you today.*

*Also remembering at this time;
Our Parents Christopher and
Kathleen, our brother Mike and
our sister in law, Sylvia.*

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

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this Saturday 12th June at 5pm.*

*Loved and sadly missed by all their loving families
and friends.*

May they all Rest in Peace



Come to me,
all you who labour & are overburdened
Matthew 11:29



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**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Willie) Mills**

Whose 24th Anniversary occurs on
Thursday 17th June.



Everyday, in some small way
Memories of you come our way
Though absent, you are always near,
Still missed, loved and always dear.

Love always your sister Marie, nieces Hayley, Shaunagh,
Kelsey, Faydagh and Brannagh xxxxxx

**In Loving Memory of
NOREEN COSS**

26 Grattan Street, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 17th June 2021.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
on Saturday, 19th June at 5pm.
It's so sad that you had to go
Your leaving caused so much pain
You were so special to us all
Earth's loss is Heaven's gain.

Fondly remembered by your loving family, much loved
grandchildren, brothers and sisters and extended family,
and friends.

May Your Gentle Soul In Heaven Rest in Peace NoREEN

**In Loving Memory of
MARGARET (Peggy)
GORMAN**

Borris Great, Portlaoise



Peggy's Month's Mind Mass will
be celebrated on Sunday, 20th
June at 12.30pm.

May Margaret
Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM (Willie) Mills**

Whose 24th Anniversary occurs on
Thursday 17th June.



William's anniversary mass will be
celebrated on Saturday, 12th June at
6.30pm.

Sadly missed and always remembered by
your brother Paddy, sister in law Anna,
Nieces Chloe, Aishling and Laura x

May William Rest in Peace

**The Ursulines of Mary
Immaculate**

Morello Convent

Raheen, Co. Laois



We are praying for you!

Send us your
Prayer
Requests



brigidaprayer@gmail.com

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



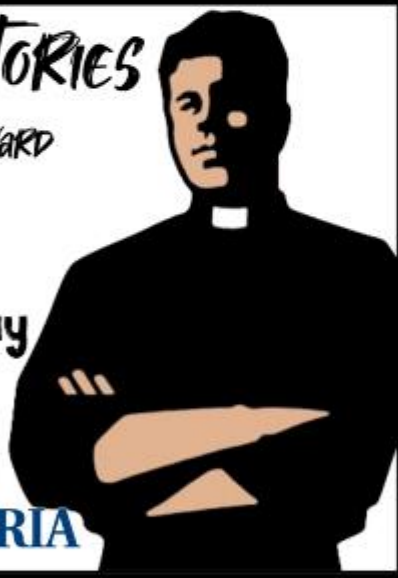
Vocation Stories

with FR. DAVID VARD

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Wednesday
at 2pm

on

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Contact Matthew

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David **087-2369887**

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Contact;

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PAUL; 087-2562137

NIALL;

086-2770095



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Adoration; Every Day in the Parish Church after Mass until 7pm

Every Sunday in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, from 2:45pm to 4pm.

Ballinakill every Friday, 3pm-6pm.

Shanahoe every Friday, 1:45-3pm, Rosary 2:30pm, followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet. Adoration Sundays 2.55-4pm.

Knock Church every Saturday from 7pm to 8pm.

Ballyroan every Friday, 10am-4pm.

Portlaoise Parish

Results for

10th June 2021

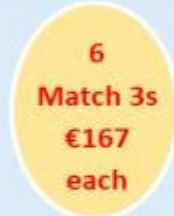


No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Paddy Lalor
Mairead O'Loughlin
Amanda McEvoy
Tony Preston
Linda Murphy
The Gang

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Paddy Lalor
Maura Loughlin
Parish Centre
Tony Preston
Bernie Lalor
Paul Dooley

Next Week's Jackpot **€13,000**

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Play PARISH



Priests of the Parish



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



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



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



Fr. Theodore Tomasik SVD
Tel: 057 8622301

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

Safeguarding

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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

The seed is the word of God,
Christ the sower

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

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
Twitter: @portlaoiseparish

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



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

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space
E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
057 8621142

How St. Paul Became St. Francis!

