

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

**Sunday 4th July 2021**

**Fourteenth Week  
in Ordinary Time**



**Photo  
Sunday 4th July  
1965**

'My House shall be called a house of prayer'

Matt. 21:13

Open every day 7am to 9.30pm.

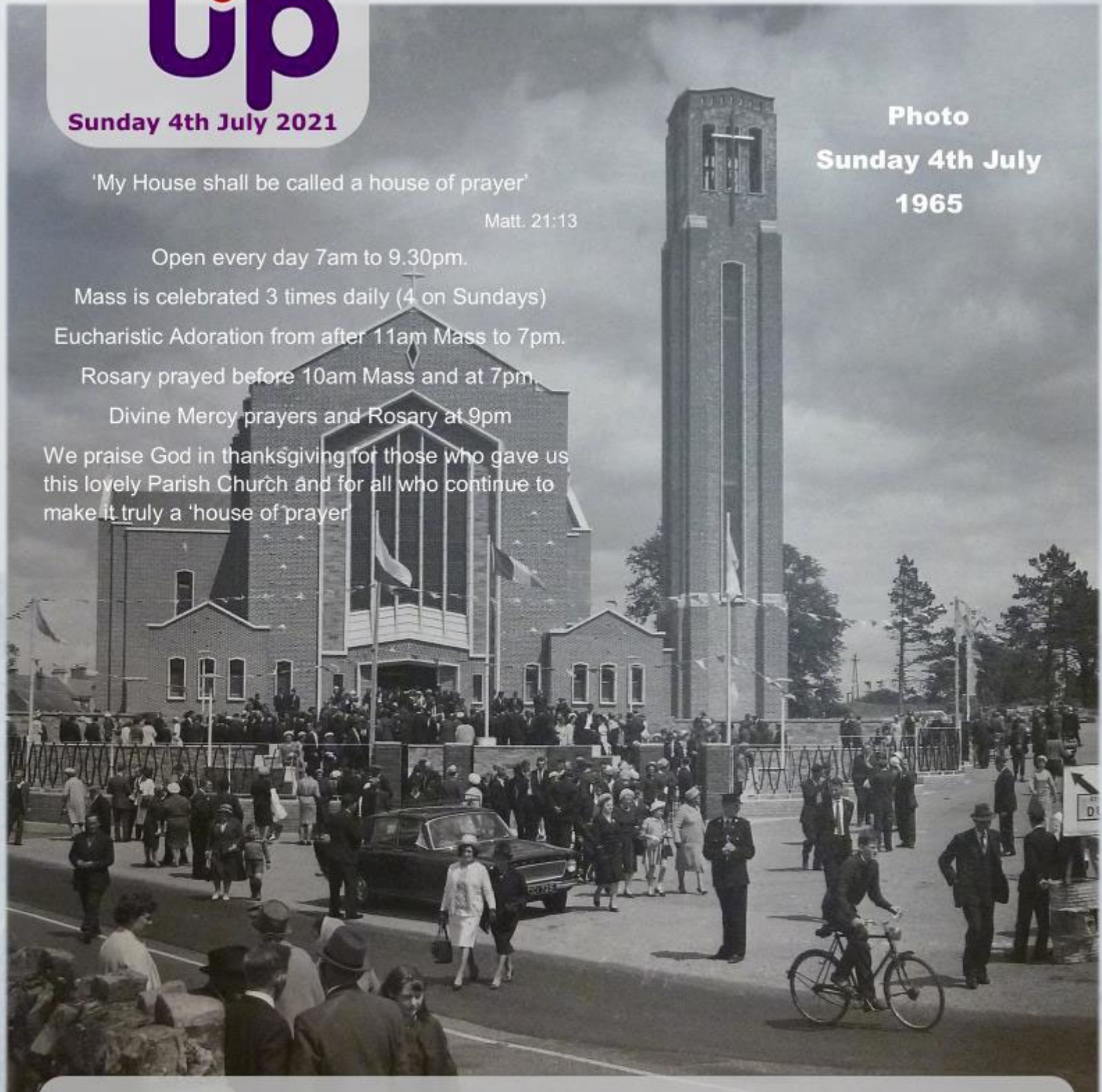
Mass is celebrated 3 times daily (4 on Sundays)

Eucharistic Adoration from after 11am Mass to 7pm.

Rosary prayed before 10am Mass and at 7pm.

Divine Mercy prayers and Rosary at 9pm

We praise God in thanksgiving for those who gave us  
this lovely Parish Church and for all who continue to  
make it truly a 'house of prayer'



**The Parish Centre 057 8621142**  
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### Words of Wisdom

We readily accept words of wisdom if we hear them from the pulpit, or from a learned lecturer in



theology. We are less likely to accept words of wisdom if we hear them from a TV soap, the man in the corner shop, or from our own children. We need to trust our source of information before we trust the information itself. At the end of the day, in our eyes some people are qualified to dish out words of wisdom and others are not. The danger of this outlook is that we can end up believing absolutely everything from the mouth of someone highly qualified, and nothing from the mouths of those who haven't a qualification to their name. This is sad, because anyone can have an insight to share, and by closing our minds we do not hear the wisdom and an opportunity is lost.

When Jesus returned to his hometown to preach, he was treated with similar disregard. When the Nazarenes heard him speaking they could not take him seriously because they could remember all too well his humble origins. Wasn't he just a carpenter ... Mary's son? They closed their minds against Jesus, and because their minds were closed, Jesus could not work any great deed that day.

Of course, there is more to this story than Jesus being rejected in his hometown. This is a story about how we too can ignore or reject God. This is a story about the stumbling blocks we encounter in our faith. Perhaps our pet stumbling block might be our unwillingness to listen to others in the belief that we know best. Our stumbling block might be a reluctance to ask for help, fearing that this might be a sign of weakness. Our stumbling block might be the inability to recognise the voice of God in our day-to-day surroundings. Could God be talking to us through a partner, through our children, parents or friends? Where will the next prophet come from, the other side of the globe or the other side of the street? The trick is, not to rule anything out. God is more likely to work wonders in an open mind than a closed one.

### 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

FOURTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekiel 2:2-5

Ps 122

Corinthians 12:7-10

Mark 6:1-6

### Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for July 2021

**"A Better Normal"**

As we move from lockdown and Covid restrictions we hear a lot of people speak of the "new normal" while others want to return to how



things were before all this. Will the 'old normal' ever be the same? How will the 'new normal' look? Either way, it's clear that we all have some rebuilding to do, and in rebuilding, we all have to create a 'better normal'. Pope Francis's challenge for this month is to look for areas of conflict either locally or globally and think how we can approach that conflict in a spirit of friendship and dialogue. We all imagine that we work very hard, but when it comes to making a mark on the world perhaps we are all a little lazy. Our lives cannot just be about providing for our families. As Christians we have to look to the common good. This month we are asked to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention ".....that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship."



### We welcome into our Parish Community

Declan Lorcan Kinahan, The Pines

John Francis O'Reilly, Clonkeen

Aoibhinn Mary Ging, Ballyclider

**Baptised last weekend**





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## NEW WEBSITE

We have recently launched our new website;  
[www.laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie](http://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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## Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

Do you feel welcome when you go to Mass on a Sunday? I hope so! After all, most of the children here are your friends that you see at school each day. Some of them live near you. You probably play together and have much in common with them. Even the adults here today know who you are and they probably know your parents too. Why wouldn't you feel welcome here?

Now, let me ask you another question. If Jesus were to walk in today, do you think he would feel welcome? You would probably answer, "Yes," to that question. After all, we all know who Jesus is and all of the wonderful things he has done, but would you be



surprised to know that Jesus was not welcome in the Synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth? That is what today's gospel tells us.

Jesus had just healed many people and even raised a young girl from the dead as we learned in last week's gospel. He left there and returned to his hometown. As he always did, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. He began teaching, and many who were there were amazed at what they heard. They did not know that Jesus had so much wisdom and power.

Some of the people in the synagogue began to make fun of Jesus. "Who does he think he is? And where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't he the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Don't his sisters live right here in the same town with us?" They were offended by the teachings of Jesus and refused to believe in him.

Jesus responded to those who rejected him by saying, "A prophet is not accepted in his own hometown, among his relatives, on the streets he played in as a child." Not only that, but because of their unbelief, Jesus was unable to do any miracles among them except to place his hands upon a few people and heal them. Jesus was amazed at their unbelief.

Jesus told his disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8). But just as many in Nazareth rejected Jesus, they would also reject his disciples as well. If you and I tell others about Jesus, they might reject us too. They might say, "Who do they think they are? They are just a bunch of kids." Jesus told us to be his witnesses. He never promised that it would be easy.

### *Our Prayer*

Father, just as Jesus was rejected in his own hometown, we may also be rejected when we tell others about Jesus. Help us to remain his faithful witnesses, even when it isn't easy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





## REJECTION AT NAZARETH (MARK 6:1-6)



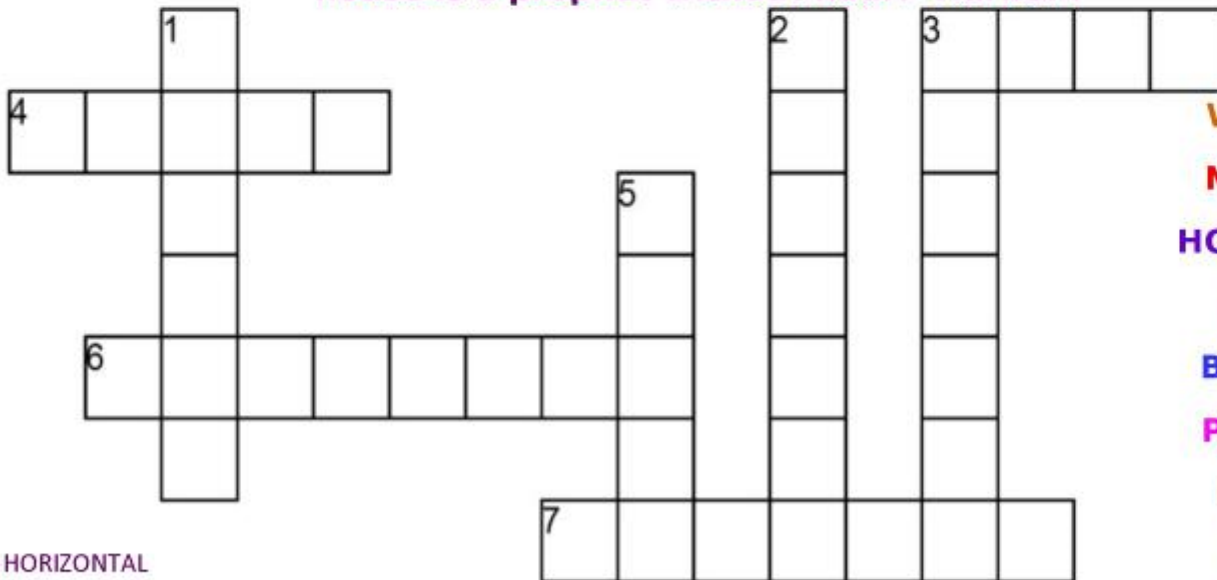
## Green Holiday Tips

- If there's a choice of jumping on an aeroplane or jumping on a train, choose the train. Everyone knows how air travel is bad for the environment.
- When you're exploring new places, hire a bicycle rather than taking the car.
- Take care to eat local food rather than choosing food that's travelled thousands of air miles.
- Don't buy things like cheap sun glasses that will only last one holiday. Choose things that will last far longer.
- Decline plastic straws in your drinks if you don't need them.
- When visiting the beach, remember to take your litter home!



## Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth

Jesus said to them "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor. Mark 6:4



WISDOM  
MIRACLE  
HOMETOWN  
FAITH  
BROTHER  
PROPHET  
HONOR  
MARY

### HORIZONTAL

- The mother of Jesus
- To have great trust or belief in something or someone
- The town or city where a person was born or grew up
- A man or boy with the same parents as another

### VERTICAL

- The ability to judge what is true or right
- One who is a spokesman for God to man
- An event that can only be done through the power of God
- To treat with great respect





# TIME TO THINK!

## DON'T JUDGE OTHERS BEFORE YOU KNOW THEM



Pope Francis often refers to the "Poison of Gossip". Passing on bad news is negative and toxic. The more at peace we are within ourselves, the more at peace we are with one another. As we begin the month of July, I pray, you will all be filled with light, hope and peace of mind.

"A 24 year old boy seeing out from the train's window shouted...

'Dad, look the trees are going behind!'

Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old's childish behaviour with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed...

'Dad, look the clouds are running with us!'

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man...

'Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?'

The old man smiled and said...'I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.'

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you."

Christianity is the only religion which worships the scapegoat, the one who is hated, excluded, spat upon, blamed for everything, ridiculed, shamed, and made expendable. Christianity is the only religion that focuses on imitating the victim and which sees God in the one who is surrounded by the halo of hatred.

There are some important lessons to be learned from this, not the least of which has to do with where we see truth, goodness, and God. We need, today, some correctives since we live in a culture which, not unlike most cultures in the past, scapegoats some persons to the benefit of the others and then identifies God and holiness with those who have created the scapegoats.

God is not to be confusedly identified with the myths of success, power, glamour and popularity. Never confuse God, or what is holy with current cultural religion, which, antithetical to Christ, worships the included, the glamorous, the ones who aren't shamed and ridiculed, and the ones who seem important and indispensable. The God of our culture and the God that is preached in so many of our churches is not the God who dies on a cross, is hated, spat upon, and is excluded and scapegoated out of ignorance.

'Be kind, don't judge, and have respect for others. If we can all do this, the world would be a better place. The point is to teach this to the next generation.

-Richard



No, our culture does not worship a crucified God. The God Jesus revealed is still, in our very own culture, excluded, mocked, scapegoated, made expendable, and often killed, mostly in the name of God and truth.

Where do we see this?

Our own culture, like every other culture past and present, creates a category of persons that it deems expendable and then subsequently victimises through exclusion, ridicule, scapegoating, and often through actual death. The ones who constitute that category shift slightly from time to time, but there is always a common denominator: it includes always those who are the weakest.

Thus, for instance, our culture marginalises and scapegoats the sick, the poor, the handicapped, the unborn, the unattractive, non-productive, the aged. These we deem expendable and subsequently take away full status within the human race. Worse still, we identify God and holiness with those who are doing the excluding, as for instance the ruling party. But this is antithetical to true religion and true wisdom.

Where is God? God is on the side of the victim, standing with the one who is excluded, and specially present in the one being ridiculed, and dying in the one who is being put to death. True Christianity knows this. It worships the scapegoat—the one who is surrounded by the halo of hatred. Populist mantras, such as "building walls" ..... seriously challenges what true Christianity is about. May values of tolerance, inclusion and compassion represent the Gospel message of love and forgiveness.





This photo taken on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1953 at the blessing of the grotto in Raheen Cemetery which was built to mark the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Fr. Christopher Coyne P.P. Raheen.

Included in the photo from left to right are Monsignor Conway, Fr. Paddy Breen (a deacon at the time), Bishop Keogh, Fr. Brown, P.P. Portlaoise, and Fr. Keogh, C.C. Raheen.

Also in the photo are Mr. John Whelan, Shanahoe NS, Mrs Agnes Lalor, Raheen NS, Ms. Kathleen Delaney and George Dalton.

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



*Jim McCormack*

Formerly Fielbrook Drive,  
Portlaoise  
Died in South Africa



*Lucy Byrne* née Bergin

Carlow and formerly Meelick,  
Portlaoise

**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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

**In Loving Memory of**

*A Precious Daughter, Sister, Aunt  
and Granddaughter*

**LEONA CUDDY**

*Meelick, Portlaoise.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary away from home occurred 2<sup>nd</sup> July.*



She lived and laughed,  
And loved and left,  
Time cannot heal the  
heartache, or stop a silent  
tear,  
It won't take away the  
memories of one we loved  
so dear.

*Forever in our hearts, missing you always,  
Mam, Dad, Gary, Shane, Rhys, Luke and  
granddad Mick.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10am.

*Rest in Peace Leona  
May Heaven be your Bed*

**In Loving Memory of  
JUDY CONROY**

*née Dowling  
5 Borris Little, Portlaoise.*



Months Mind Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 12:30pm.

You can only have one Mother, patient, loving,  
kind and true, no other friend in all the world,  
will be the same to you.

As we gaze upon our pictures, beautiful memories  
we recall, of a face so full of love and sunshine and  
a smile for one and all.

If we could visit Heaven, on this our saddest day,  
Maybe for one moment, our pain would go away,  
We'd put our arms around you, hug you one more  
time, tell you that we love you Mam and sit with  
you awhile.

But for now we must be parted, life without you is  
so hard, but you will never be forgotten and you will  
live on in our hearts.

*Deeply missed, loved and forever remembered by her  
loving family, extended relatives and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Mam*



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of

### MARGARET FENNELLY

Thornberry, Abbeyleix.

*1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021*



On the first anniversary of Margaret's passing, her daughters Ann-Marie, Melissa and Siobhán, son James, sons in law and extended family wish to thank sincerely all those who sympathised and offered great support.

Thanks to all who called to the house, phoned, messaged, sent cards, floral tributes and who left their condolences on RIP.

Heartfelt gratitude to the doctors and nurses at Portlaoise General Hospital for their care and empathy.

Thanks to our neighbours, friends and relatives that lined the route for Margaret's removal.

Sincere thanks to Fr. Paddy who celebrated the funeral Mass and for live streaming to allow family and friends to be with us virtually.

And also sincere thanks to Laura Kelly for her support and kindness in organising a beautiful array of music at the church.

Thanks also to Kelly Undertakers for their support, kindness and professional manner in which they attended the funeral.

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

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 11am.

*Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day, no longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you're always there.*

Rest in Peace Margaret



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NIALL;

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**Maria Goretti**

**Feast Day 6th July (Tuesday)**

### **St Maria Goretti (1890 - 1902)**

Maria Goretti was the third of seven children of a poor peasant family living near Corinaldo in the province of Ancona in Italy; owing to extreme poverty the family later migrated to a village near Anzio.

In order to make ends meet, Maria's father entered into partnership with a man called Serenelli, and shared a house with him and his two sons, one of whom was called Alessandro. Her father died in 1900, when Maria was ten.

Maria impressed everyone with her radiant purity. She was naturally pious, kind, and helpful. She was also outstandingly beautiful – and Alessandro Serenelli was an outstandingly passionate and undisciplined man. She resisted his attentions, which only made her the more desirable, and narrowly managed to escape a serious sexual assault, which he made her keep secret by means of threats of murder.

A month later Alessandro arranged things so that he would be alone in the house with Maria; and he had a dagger. She tried to resist, begging him to have care for his immortal soul, but he thrust a handkerchief into her mouth to prevent her from crying out, tied her up, and threatened her with the dagger. Alessandro, enraged, stabbed her fourteen times.

She did not die, though her entrails were hanging out from one of her abdominal wounds. She was taken to hospital, seven miles of bad road in a horse-drawn ambulance, and was operated on for more than two hours. She lived for twenty hours more, became a Child of Mary, received the Last Sacrament, and specifically forgave her murderer. She died in the afternoon of 6 July 1902, at the age of eleven years, eight months, and twenty days.

Alessandro narrowly escaped being lynched, and was tried and sentenced to thirty years' penal servitude with hard labour. For the first seven years or so he maintained a cynical and defiant attitude, but he repented, and dreams of Maria herself figured largely in his repentance. (You might say, he pretended to repent so as to get his sentence reduced – but the most sceptical experts were convinced, and he had to remain in prison for another twenty years, which is a long time to sustain a pretence).

Maria was beatified in 1927. Alessandro was released in 1928; and he and Maria's mother received Communion side by side on Christmas Day 1937, and they spent Christmas together.

Maria was canonized in 1950. Her mother was present at the ceremony, the first time this has ever happened. Some people say that Alessandro was there too, others not; but it is certain that he spent his last years in a Capuchin monastery: he died in 1970.

**Saint Maria Goretti is patron Saint of Inmates, rape victims, youth and forgiveness.**



**July edition now available at the Parish Centre (€6)**

Magnificat Magazine is a monthly publication designed for daily use, to encourage both liturgical and personal prayer. It can be used to follow daily Mass and can also be read at home or wherever you find yourself for personal or family prayer.

Magnificat Magazine is a spiritual guide to help you develop your prayer life, grow in your spiritual life, find a way to a more profound love for Christ, and participate in the holy Mass with greater fervour.

**Cover: Mary Magdalene by Santo di Tito (1536-1603)**



## Portlaoise Parish



## Results for 1st July 2021



### No €15,000 Jackpot Winner

#### WINNERS

Ben Dallas  
Martin & Betty O'Neill  
PJ Gleeson  
Brian Murphy  
Angie Mills

#### MATCH 3s €1,000



#### PROMOTER

Mick & Mary McDonald  
Martin O'Neill  
Lotto Gift  
Anthony Preston  
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Next Week's Jackpot **€16,000**

## Priests of the Parish



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



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.  
Tel: 057 8600122



Fr. David Vard C.C.  
Tel: 057 8600121



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](http://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](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142 - Claire Scully

## Support for the Parish

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

### Ways to contribute to our Parish

Envelope boxes available at Church porches and Parish Centre

Direct payment by cheque or cash

Cashless Point at the back of the Parish Church

Donation facility on our website

Standing Order forms available at the Parish Centre

Or Transfer directly to our Account

Portlaoise Parish Account:

IBAN: IE53AIBK93327916658045

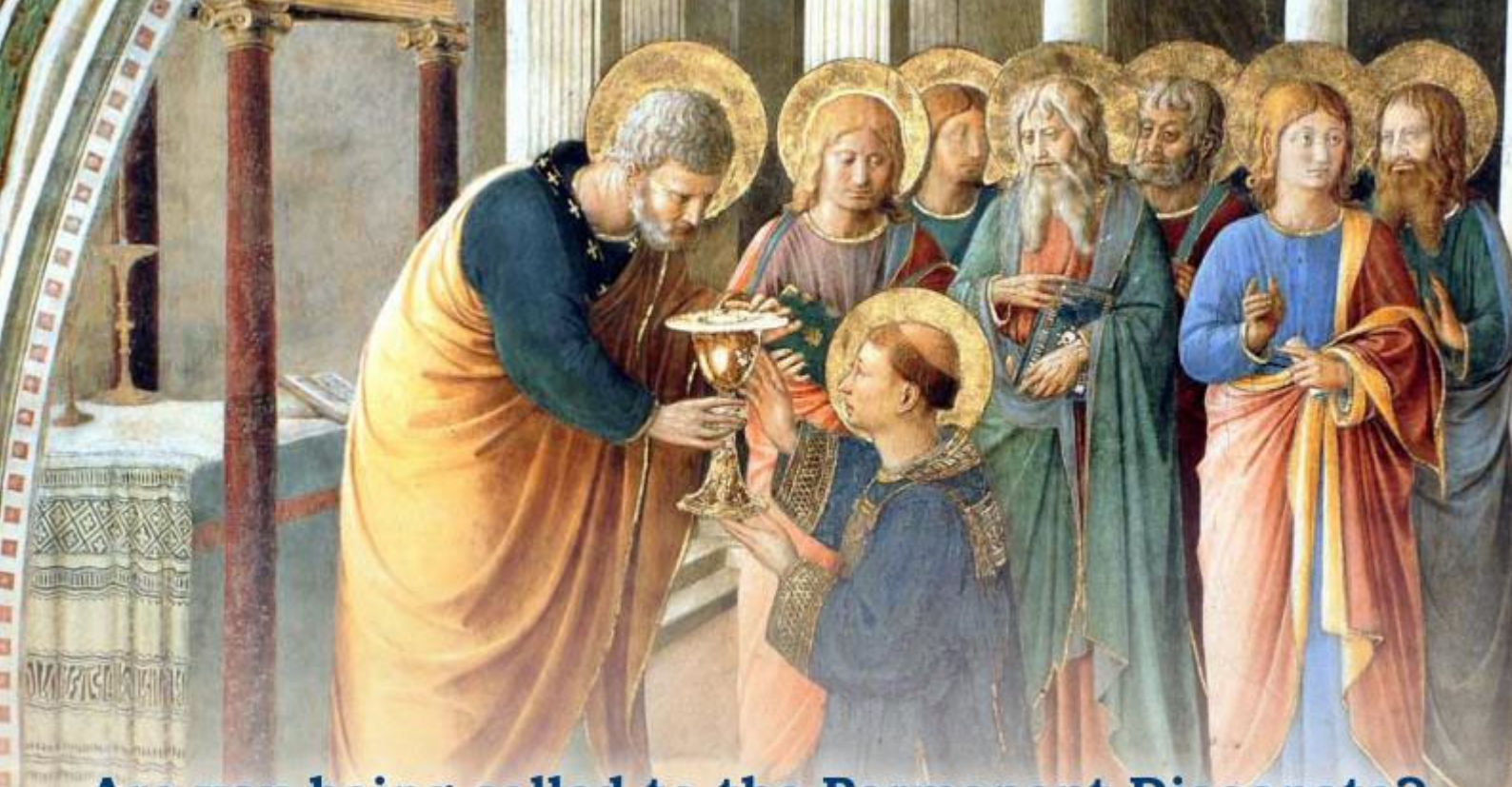
Portlaoise Parish Clergy Fund Account:

IBAN: IE12AIBK93327916658201

(The BIC for both accounts is AIBKIE2D)

THANK YOU





**Are you being called to the Permanent Diaconate?  
Permanent Deacons are ministers of the Word, the altar and service.**

Bishop Denis is inviting expressions of interest in learning more about formation for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

The Permanent Diaconate is open to men aged between 30 and 60 who have a genuine sense of vocation to this calling. Deacons are self-supporting and continue in their family lives and secular employment.

A new programme of discernment and formation for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese will commence in September 2021.

For further information please contact Rev. John McEvoy before Saturday July 31st.

Tel: 059 9161114

Email: [permanentdiaconate@kandle.ie](mailto:permanentdiaconate@kandle.ie)

**'You did not choose me but I chose you' – John 15:16**