

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**

**link
up**

15th August 2021

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Church of the Assumption, The Heath

Today 15th August

Rosary 7pm followed by Mass



Photo from 2019

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

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The Job's Yours

We've got great plans for our lives. We're going to publish a book travel the world in a camper van, win X Factor of study for a Phd. Forgetting our own agenda to do God's will certainly isn't an appealing alternative. Who in their right mind would choose to work in a

soup kitchen if they also had a job offer from Bill Gates? The other problem with doing the job God has planned for us is that it often isn't all that obvious. Some of us have a calling that is screamingly obvious, delivered by angels even. Others have a vocation that slowly becomes apparent over a number of years, but what if we suspect that God has no job lined up for us at all? Could our apparent lack of vocation mean that we're not really looking for one?

Today's feast is a celebration of Mary's life and her assumption into heaven. Mary is a model of vocation and fidelity, a fidelity that demands self-knowledge courage and sacrifice. For those of us who feel we have no vocation we could learn many lessons by studying Mary's brand of discipleship. Motivation is key. Mary's motivation was to support God's plan. Nothing Mary ever did or said was for her own glory. At the same time there can be few people who could claim to have led a more challenging or rewarding life than Mary's. Similarly, when we make plans it is useful to examine our motivation. God doesn't necessarily want us all to rush off and work in a soup kitchen (there aren't enough soup kitchens!) Nor would God have given us all different talents if he wanted us all to do the same thing. But if our plans are inspired by fame and impossible wealth, then God probably isn't behind the idea! If our plans involve changing the world for the better or improving the quality of someone else's life, the job's yours.

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

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6, 10

Psalm 44:10-12, 16

I Corinthians 15:20-26

Luke 1:39-56

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

The spiritual powers receive her with honours due to God, and she who is truly the Mother of Life departs unto life, the lamp of Light which no man can approach, the salvation of the faithful and the hope of our souls

The Feast of The Assumption, Great Vespers)

We welcome into our Parish Community

Naoise Angela Doyle, Heathfield

Emily Jane Morrissey, Aghnaharna Drive

Sean Michael Fitzpatrick, Ashley Gardens

Ross Shane Brophy, Clonrooske View

Daisy Mae Healy, Triogue Manor

Aoife Helen Gretta Byrne, Ridge Road

Oscar Zawacki, Maryborough Village

Baptised last weekend





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NEW WEBSITE

We have recently launched our new website;
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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ROSARY AT THE GROTTTO - 8PM

Sunday 15th August; Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 17th August; Feast of Our Lady of Knock

† The Irish Catholic

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Don't try to overhaul your life overnight.

Instead, focus on making one small change at a time.

Over time, those small changes will add up to big transformation.

Don't give up!



TIME TO THINK!

OLYMPIC INSPIRATION

Wilma Rudolph is the absolute proof that nothing is impossible. Born prematurely, in a family of 21 children, with little to no resources to sustain a professional sports career, Wilma had to face even bigger challenges when she was stricken with polio. Not to mention this was the 1950s, which made things even more complicated. But she had a fire burning inside her, an unstoppable strength that nothing, not even polio or social barriers could ever stop her.

*"The triumph can't be had without the struggle
Wilma Rudolph*

By the time she was 12, she had overcome polio, started to walk again, to her doctor's surprise, and took up athletics. Eight years later she was already an Olympic champion. Wilma defied all odds and won three gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Rome, in 1960.

Kellie Harrington wanted to put a smile on the nation's face and she did. Her interviews were honest and very real. There was nothing robotic or artificial. She was lovely. She also remembered everyone; her family and neighbours; her workmates; her training team. We couldn't help but break into a smile. It wasn't the colour of the medal but rather the authenticity of the voice. I have no doubt her resilience, courage and humility will be an inspiration for future generations.

The Olympics has concluded and soon we welcome the para Olympics. That they happened at all, is quite a miracle. It is a celebration of commitment and persistence. I read a few days ago of the work of many of the athletes' families. The energy and cost and stamina is most impressive. These families are an example of greatness. The fine-tuning of the skills by the athletes is admirable. But it highlights too that we are all Olympians. We arrive from God. We are loved into life. We are challenged to be the best we can be. We are unique. We have something different to offer life. There is no room for the moaners and the groaners. We are called to bring colour and light to the world. Laughter, Artistry, Beauty, Wonder, Miracle - everyone has that within.

Watching the Olympics is a highlight every few years. Maybe you're like me, captivated by athletes at the peak of physical excellence, giving their all to win a medal and make their countries proud. What we're seeing this summer is the result of many years of athletes' total dedication to their chosen sport. At this level, training is a full-time job, and athletes rearrange their lives to accommodate it. They move to where the best training facilities are; they follow special diets; they wear appropriate gear. They religiously follow their coaches' orders and they put up with the pain and strain of rigorous practice.



Olympic athletes' entire lives narrow to the single objective of going for the gold. This makes me wonder, should we as Christians be any less committed in our pursuit of Jesus?

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul - who surely knew about the ancient games in Olympia, Greece, compares following Christ to a race several times. 1Corinthians 9:24-27 reads like an athletic playbook:

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

The following prayer brings rich blessing on all involved in the special Olympics we all look forward to.

Special Olympics Opening Prayer

As we begin this day of friendly competition, let us take a moment to pray.

Lord, watch over our athletes today,
Give them courage and confidence, to do their best,
Fill them with a spirit of fair play,
Make them gracious in winning,
Make them brave and proud in their attempts,
Give them the joy of Your Kingdom, where
everyone's gifts are honoured and celebrated,
Keep them safe and strong, under your protective care.

We ask you this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.
Amen.



THE GIFT OF LOVE

One of my favourite movies is "The Sound of Music." In that movie, there is a song called "My Favourite Things." Some of you may have seen the movie and you may know that song. If so, you will remember that the character named Maria, sings about her "favourite things." One of the things that she mentions in that song is "brown paper packages tied up with string."

On Christmas morning, we will wake up to find a lot of packages under the tree. Packages wrapped in brightly coloured paper and tied up with pretty ribbons and bows. What if there was one package under the tree wrapped in plain brown paper tied up with string -- and what if that package had your name on it? Would that be the package you would choose to open first? I don't think so! After all, a gift is supposed to come in a beautiful package, isn't it?

You know, I think that is why a lot of people have missed out on the gift that God sent to them. You see, God's Gift didn't come in a beautifully wrapped package. God sent Jesus, His only Son, as His gift to us. His mother was a young virgin... his earthly father was a poor carpenter... he was born in a stable. Not a very pretty package, is it? But do you know what? It was the greatest gift the world has ever known. It was the gift of salvation and it had your name on it... and yours... and yours... and mine!

The gospel tells us that when Mary found out that she had been chosen to be the one to deliver God's gift to the world, she was filled with joy. She hurried to the home of Elizabeth to share the good news. When Elizabeth heard the news, she exclaimed in a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Well, the Lord has fulfilled his promises to us too. He has sent us the gift of His love, but some people are so busy unwrapping the beautifully wrapped packages that this world offers that they have missed out on the greatest gift. Maybe it is because it came wrapped in brown paper tied up with string.

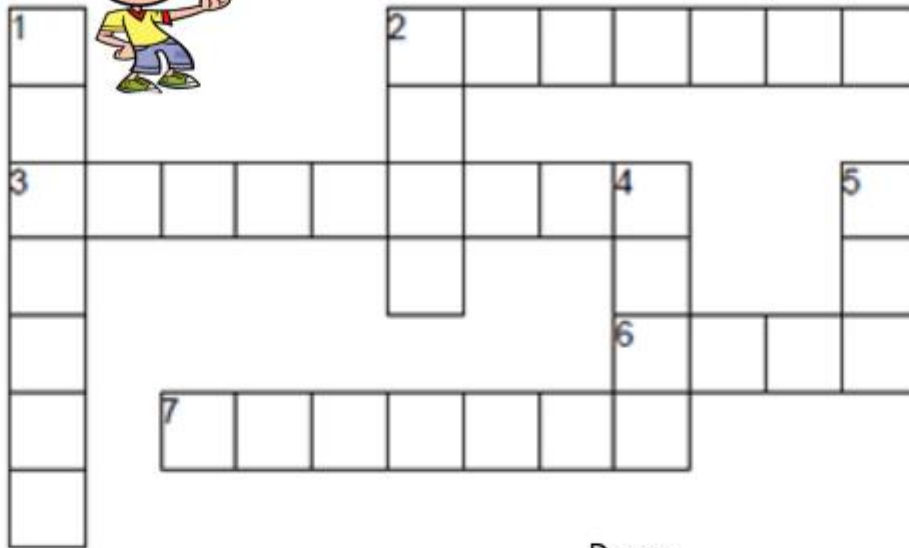


Dear Father, we are thankful that you loved us so much that you sent your only Son to be our Saviour. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Gift of Love

Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promise to her! Luke 1:45



Children! a task for you

Find this image of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our Parish Church.

Across

Down

- 2. To accept as true
- 3. The mother of John the Baptist
- 6. The mother of Jesus
- 7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

- 1. Highly favoured by God
- 2. An infant; a young child
- 4. The place where a person lives
- 5. The feeling of great happiness

**ELIZABETH
JOY**

**PROMISE
MARY**

**BLESSED
HOME**

**BELIEVE
BABY**

FOR
WORDSEARCH

ELIZABETH
FULFILL
FILLED
GREETING
BELIEVE
BLESSED
CHILD
PROMISE
LEAPED
JUDEA
ZECHARIAH
JOY
BABY
HOME
MARY

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



Prayer for Today

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



Bishop Denis - Diocesan Appointments 2021

This past 15 months have seen huge upheaval for us all: an upheaval that has given us time to reflect and re-evaluate how we do things. It is in this vein of a changing landscape that I announce the diocesan appointments this year. While at first glance there may seem to be only seven priests involved in the changes, which have been kept to a minimum, I would like to emphasise that every one of our 78 priests in parish ministry or available for parish ministry is involved in the diocesan changes in this exceptional pandemic time. We need to be much more supportive and cooperative with our neighbouring parishes. We need to facilitate time off for colleagues. We need to be much more comfortable pulpit sharing. Together we must carry one another and become less consumed by our individual parishes.

I envisage both Fr. Shem and Fr. Petru, while taking up curacy appointments, will also, in time, be Support Priests in the wider fraternity of parishes where they will be ministering.

I very much thank all our priests who have generously accepted new and additional responsibilities.



The following appointments, will take effect from August 20th next:

Mgr. John McDonald P.P. The Curragh to become P.E. C.C. The Curragh

Fr. PJ Somers C.C. The Curragh to become P.P. The Curragh

Fr. John Brickley P.P. Kilcock to become P.P. Staplestown & Cooleragh

Fr. George Augustine C.C. Kilcock to become P.P. Kilcock

Fr. Liam Lawton to become Adm. Edenderry for one year while continuing his diocesan duties.

Fr. Shem Furlong, Knockbeg College to become C.C. Bagenalstown

Fr. Petru Medves C.C. Bagenalstown to become C.C. Abbeyleix, Ballinakill & Raheen

A familiar name among the changes - Fr. George Augustine.

We congratulate him on his appointment as Parish Priest of Kilcock and wish him well. He was well trained in Portlaoise!



Also note the appointment of Fr. Petru (Peter) Medves as Curate in Abbeyleix, Raheen and Ballinakill. Fr. Petru will reside in the Curates House, Dublin Road, (the house Fr. Tom occupied until his retirement). The bishop has referred to the need to be less consumed by our individual parishes and embrace a more supportive and cooperative approach among neighbouring parishes.



Confirmation rescheduled

New date September 18th 11am

O'Moore Park



We regret the disappointment and hassle caused by having to reschedule our planned Confirmation ceremony. The new date is Saturday 18th September at 11am.

The decision to reschedule was taken in the light of the stubbornly high number of cases of the Corona virus nationally and in our own area of Portlaoise. We are hopeful that come September the situation will have eased somewhat. The decision is also in line with Government regulation and the advice of NPHE. The success of the vaccine programme and the opening up of the vaccine opportunity for young people in the 12 to 15yrs age bracket will be a further help.

We will have over 300 young boys and girls receiving the Sacrament in what we envisage as a joyful and worthy celebration. The ceremony will be presided over by Bishop Denis and he will be accompanied by the priests of the Parish and others assisting. The candidates and families will receive further details in early September as arrangements are finalised.

We are very grateful to Laois GAA for making their magnificent facility at O'Moore Park available to us for the occasion and their cooperation at all times.

Next Saturday 22nd August

The Feast of the Queenship of Mary

The title 'Queen of Heaven' or Regina Coeli, for Mary goes back to at least the 12th century. The feast was established by Pope Pius XII in 1954. At the Annunciation the angel Gabriel announced that Mary's son would receive the throne of David and forever. Her Queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship.

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption, and is celebrated on the octave day of that feast. In establishing the feast Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, closely associated with Jesus redemptive work, her preeminent perfection and her intercessory power.



The fifth Glorious Mystery
From Our Lady's Shrine in the Parish Church

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

Pray for us O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen

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



Patsy Keating

née Lynch
Fieldbrook,
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 SHE REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to her 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
GERARD & THOMAS LAWLESS**

*Whose Anniversaries occur 14th and 6th August respectively;
(24th & 9th Anniversary)*



*Wonderful memories woven in
gold,
This is a picture we tenderly hold,
Deep in our hearts a memory
is kept, to love, to cherish and
never forget.*



*Sadly missed by Mammy, their loving family, nieces, nephews, godson
Kameron and extended family and friends.
Also remembering baby Harris at this time*

May Gerard and Thomas Rest in Peace

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

*46 Borris Road, Portlaoise.
23rd Anniversary occurs 16th August 2021*



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

*Fondly remembered by her family;
John, Tom, Margaret and all her
grandchildren.*

Also remembering our Dad and sister Ella.

Rest in Peace Alice

**In Loving Memory of
TOM BERGIN**

*66 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
22nd Anniversary occurs at this time.*



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this
Sunday 15th August at 12:30pm.*

*Time passes, memories stay,
Quietly remembered everyday.*

From his loving wife Mary & family.

Rest in Peace Tom

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH DOWNEY**

7 Harpurs Lane, who died 18th August 2005.



*As each day dawns, we think of you,
As each night falls, we pray for you,
And throughout our lives, no matter
where,*

*In our hearts you are always there.
Always remembered by his family and
grandchildren.*

May Joseph Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MARY CLOONEY**

*Shanahoe Rd, Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix.
8th Anniversary; 20th August 2021*

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the
Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix, on Saturday 21st August at 5pm.*



*Your memory is a keepsake from which
we'll never part. God has you in His arms;
we have you in our hearts.*

*Always remembered, never forgotten by her
loving husband Paddy, daughters Anne &
Patricia, sons-in-law Eamon & Aidan and
grandchildren Roisin, Tommy, Sean & Conall.*

Rest in Peace Mary

**In Loving Memory of
BRIDGET (Cissy) MILLS**

*St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
Birthday Remembrance; 19th August 2021.*



*Mammy on your Heavenly birthday,
You were an Angel on earth,
Now you're an Angel in Heaven,
To the world you were our Mammy,
To us you were our world.*

*Love you and miss you so much always xxx
Gean, Cathy, Marie, Patrick and Teresa,
son-in-law Ian, daughter-in-law Anna and all your
grandchildren who you loved and adored. RJP*

In Loving Memory of
JOHN SEAN BONHAM

Balladine, Abbeyleix
1st Anniversary occurs 17th August 2021

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise on
Tuesday 17th August at 10am.



I close my eyes and see your face,
Smiling at me from a beautiful place,
You tell me you are never far away,
And that we will meet again some day,
I ask if you could stay a while,
I miss your laugh, I miss your smile,
Then you whisper sweetly into my ear,
I never left you, I am always here.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered by his sisters
Rose, Agnes and Nellie xxx*

Rest in Peace Our Dear Brother



A Daily Prayer

May He support us all the day long,
till the shades lengthen and the
evening comes, and the busy world
is hushed, and the fever of life is
over, and our work is done. Then in
His mercy may He give us a safe
lodging, and a holy rest and peace
at the last.

Saint John Henry Newman



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
TOM LALOR

19 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.



The family of the late Tom Lalor would like to express their sincere appreciation for the support and kindness shown to them on their recent sad loss.

Thank you to all those who sent Mass cards, phone-calls, messages, attended the funeral in person and online and for the ongoing support in these difficult times, especially

from family, neighbours, and friends.

We would especially like to thank members of Portlaoise GAA Club and Mountrath Golf Club who formed Guards of Honour.

Thank you to all the staff at Droimnin Nursing Home, Stradbally and Portlaoise General Hospital for the wonderful care given to Tom.

A special word of thanks to Fr. David Vard for a beautiful Mass, to Aishling Rohan for the lovely singing and the music and to Teddy Fennelly for the beautiful Eulogy at the end of the service.

To Matthew Keegan and all the staff at Keegan's Funeral Directors, many thanks for their caring, sensitive and professional handling of the arrangements.

Finally, many thanks to Bernie's nieces and nephews for all their help and support through this sad time.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, we trust this acknowledgement will be accepted as a token of our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all your support and kindness during our sad loss.

The Holy Sacrament of Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Tom's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Portlaoise this Saturday, 14th August at 6:30pm.

Rest in Peace Tom

When I am Gone

Release me, let me go,
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love and you can only guess,
How much you gave me in happiness,
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I travelled on alone.

So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust,
It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on,
So, if you need me, call and I will come,
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart,
You'll hear all my love around you soft and
clear.

And then when you must come this way
alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say

"Welcome Home".



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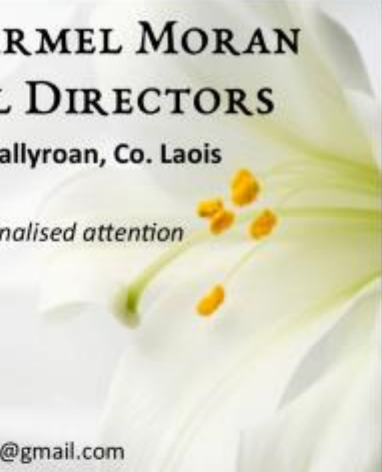


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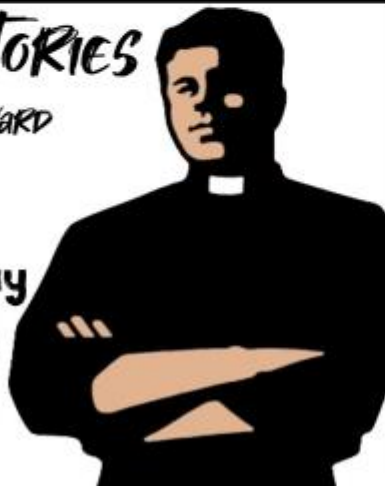


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Portlaoise Parish



Results for

12th August 2021

05

16

17

19

No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Dragons Den
One Crazy Pup
Ambrose Larkin
Willie Kerry
Margaret Keenan
Morrin Family
Paddy Campion
Bridget McSpadden

MATCH 3s €1,000

8
Match 3s
€125
each

PROMOTER

Kathleen Baldwin
Julie Conroy
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Anthony Preston
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Celine Cripps
Mary Haslam

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Clergy 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 8622301



Deacon Eugene Keyes
Tel: 057 8621142

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 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
057 8621142 - Claire Scully

Mary has been taken
up to heaven

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

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and**

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21st and 22nd August 2021

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Suggested donation €5 euro for 5 sunflowers.

Bring your own scissors/secateurs