

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
up**

29th August 2021

**Twenty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

**SEASON OF
CREATION**

1st September
to 4th October



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

2021

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Heart of the Matter

Could it be true that at one stage or another we have all been guilty of hypocrisy? It's hard to get through life without finding that our actions and our

words don't quite marry up. We know the tell tale signs all too well. We go to the polling booth to vote, or commit our opinions to 'Facebook', and experience a slight discomfort. It's a discomfort we know of old, but have become very good at ignoring. It's the discomfort that comes of saying one thing but doing another. It's the discomfort that comes of teaching something but not practising it. The discomfort is telling us that we might be guilty of hypocrisy. In today's gospel Jesus warns us against religious hypocrisy. Is there a danger that we have all become very good at saying the right things, but of doing something else?

Today we see Jesus voicing exasperation with rules that had become burdensome, unimportant and hypocritical. In biblical days there were a great many traditions and rules on the proper way to prepare food. There were rituals regarding the washing of hands, pots, and bowls. The Pharisees challenge Jesus on allowing his disciples to eat with dirty hands, but Jesus shocks the Pharisees by suggesting that their man made laws are irrelevant. Without actually throwing the rulebook out of the window, he suggests that we concern ourselves with matters of greater importance. Outer appearances are all well and good, but what lies beneath? What really matters is what comes from our hearts. "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person," he tells them, "but the things that come out from within are what defile."

Key to guarding against hypocrisy is to remember before condemning others, that our own hands mightn't be as clean as we think. The person who goes to church on Sunday and appears to be doing all the right things, is not necessarily a good person if he or she doesn't do good deeds during the rest of the week. Similarly, the person who breaks man made laws is not necessarily a bad person. Jesus tells us to use what is in our hearts when it comes to moral yard sticks, and not the rules made by others. What really matters is how well we listen to what is in our hearts, and how well we act upon it.

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



Fáilte

We welcome into our Parish Community

Ryan James Nerney, Loughshanahawn

Charlie Leo Ozols, Dunmasc

Noah Declan Doocey, Mountrath Road

Evelyn Margaret Delaney, Berryridge Ave.

Gracie Jane Brennan, The Hermitage

Bobby Donnacha Lambert, Capoley

Alfie James Lambert, Capoley

Hannah Rose Darcy, Glenbarrow

Ellen Rose Troy, Mell Street

Baptised last weekend

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Psalm: 14:2-5

James: 1:17-18, 21-22, 27.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Best of Luck

Gary



Gary O'Reilly

Tuesday 31st August 8:00—17:15 (Japanese Time)

Men's H5 Handcycling Time Trial

Wednesday 1st September 9:30—17:15 (Japanese

Time) Men's H5 Handcycling Road Race.



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PILATES CLASSES

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Osteoporosis exercise classes are ongoing and can be joined at anytime, please enquire at the clinic for more information on times.

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Confirmation

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

When we cooperate with the graces and gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, we grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes that we develop as we grow in faith. The Church identifies these qualities and attitudes as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

You may have heard of people in the bible who change their names when they took up the call to follow the Lord? Can you match the below descriptions with their new assumed name?

- Saul use to persecute Christians. An encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus changed him forever.
- Levi use to be a tax collector, a profession renowned for greed. He encountered Jesus and left everything to follow him.
- Simon was a fisherman who left everything to follow Jesus, who gave him a new name.
- Abram was given a new name by the Lord as part of a promise of future descendants.

Matthew
Abraham
Paul
Peter

What confirmation name are you taking and why? Take a moment to reflect on the below questions.

Name:

Why:

A new name symbolised a new beginning. In what ways do you hope that Confirmation will be the start of something new for you?

Who have you chosen to be your sponsor? Why did you choose them? How might they encourage you to grow in faith?

From 12noon on Monday, 30th August we invite all Confirmation Candidates to register and get a ticket for the Confirmation Ceremony on September 18. Please see portlaoiseparish.ie/sacraments/confirmation for more information



Clean Hands – Clean Heart

I remember times when I was a child that my mother would call out, "Dinner is ready!" and we would all gather at the dinner table. Many times I had been outside playing and my hands were quite dirty. As I sat down at my place at the dinner table, my mother would almost always ask, "Did you wash your hands?" I must confess that sometimes I would answer, "Yes" when the truth of the matter was that I had come straight to the dinner table without washing my hands.



Do you always wash your hands before you eat? Clean hands are one of the most important ways to help us stay healthy. Even when our hands look clean, they have germs on them that can make us sick. It is a good idea to use soap or a hand sanitizer to make sure we get rid of those germs you can't see. It is important to have clean hands before we eat, isn't it?

One day a group of Pharisees noticed that some of Jesus's disciples were eating without first washing their hands. They asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples follow our tradition? They eat without first following our hand-washing ceremony." Jesus responded to the people who questioned him, but his answer was not what they wanted to hear.

Jesus knew the hearts of the people who were complaining about his disciples' unwashed hands. He answered them by saying, "You hypocrites! You are the people the prophet Isaiah wrote about when he said, 'You ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition.'"

Jesus wasn't saying that washing our hands is not important. He was saying that the Pharisees thought that clean hands were more important than a clean heart. They were more concerned with following the traditions of men than they were with following the Word of God.

Jesus called the crowd to gather around and listen to what he had to say. "All of you listen. It's not what goes into your body that makes you unclean, it is the bad words that come out of your mouth. Out of your hearts come evil thoughts, greed, cheating, and envy. This is what makes you unclean."

Our Prayer



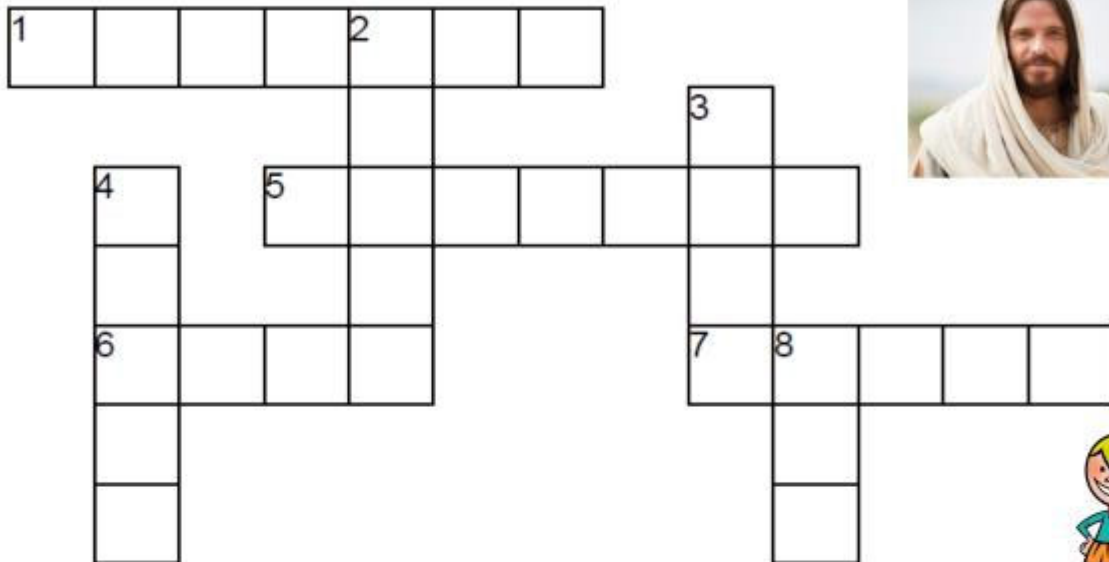
Heavenly Father, we know that it is important to have clean hands, but even more important to have a clean heart. Create in us a clean heart so that all that we say and do will honour you. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Clean Hands – Clean Heart



So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"



ACROSS

- To express love and adoration towards God
- Something that is dirty or soiled
- The two edges of flesh around the mouth
- The centre of your emotion, I love you with all my _____.

DOWN

- The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
- To make something clean using soap and water
- The accepted way that things should be done
- To take food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow.



**LIPS
HEART**

**EAT
WORSHIP**

**WASH
HANDS**

**UNCLEAN
RULES**

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for holiday times
For freedom, family and friends.

Help me to keep these happy times in
my heart.

I am excited to start school.
To spend time with my teacher and
school friends.

Help me to settle back into this school year!
Help me to learn, to grow in confidence
And to have lots of fun.

Amen.





TIME TO THINK!

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

The person who has probably done most in the Christian world to promote the idea of concentrating on our breathing as a form of prayer is the Indian Jesuit Tony de Mello, who sadly died prematurely in 1987, at the age of 55. He was greatly influenced by Buddhist spirituality. He gave a number of retreats in Ireland and made a lasting impression on all who heard him. He was not always favourably received, as some of his views were (at least at that time) controversial. His most constant message; God loved us unconditionally. This may seem rather commonplace today, but when Tony began his retreat ministry there was a strong emphasis in the Catholic Church on sin and the divine punishment for sin, so most Christians believed that God did not really love us unconditionally, but only on condition that we did not sin, or at least that we repented for our sins.

Tony did not always give clear and immediate explanations as to how concentrating on your breathing could be a form of prayer. Furthermore, his insistence that it could take many hours of this exercise to experience the spiritual benefits of this form of prayer meant that not too many of his listeners persisted in the exercise long enough to discover any benefits for themselves, since they were carrying out the exercise in blind faith, and were inclined to waver along the way, like Peter walking on the water.

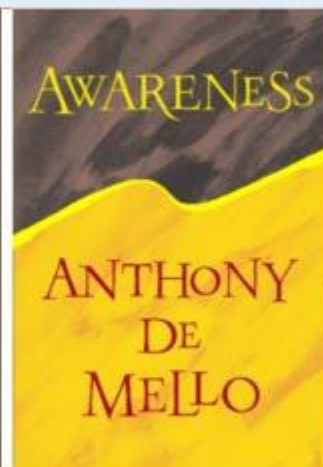
The breathing awareness exercises that Tony prescribed were very simple: "Become aware of the air as it comes in and goes out through your nostrils... Do not control your breathing. Do not attempt to deepen it. This is not an exercise in breathing but in awareness. Observe it."

Tony's main point was that people live too much in their heads, and are far too little conscious of the activity of their senses. As a result, he stated, they rarely live in the present. Even in their prayer, they are almost always in the past or in the future, mulling over their past sins or praying for some future event to happen, or perhaps not to happen. But, as Tony put it, God isn't yesterday or tomorrow; God is now.

To succeed in prayer it is essential to make contact with the present, and the only way of doing this is by getting out of your head and returning to your senses. It is certainly true that you can think about the past, and about the future; but you can't feel something from the past or future. You can only feel what is happening now.

Before you use awareness of breathing as a means of prayer, it is important to think about what you are hoping for from this kind of prayer. It is probably not helpful to think of it as a way of communicating with God, but rather of giving God an opportunity to communicate with you. This is an understanding of prayer characteristic of St John of the Cross, who said "if the person is seeking God, much more is her beloved seeking her". As Tony de Mello himself wrote, "The Holy Spirit is not produced by any efforts of our own. He cannot be 'merited'. There is absolutely nothing we can do to get him. We can't produce the Spirit. We can only wait for him to come". So the intention with which we embark on this kind of prayer is important.

Tony talks about the importance of removing the 'dross' in prayer. By dross in this case he means the vast number of thoughts and words and images that we interpose between ourselves and God when we are



communicating with God ; or perhaps even more to the point, when God is trying to communicate with us. But it is impossible to clear the mind of dross unless we put something else in its place. We can't think of just nothing. If you try to 'clear your mind', thoughts will run in from all over the place. Clearing the mind is achieved only by getting out of the mind (to the extent that this is possible), and by substituting sense impressions (in this case awareness of our breathing) for thoughts. In this kind of activity we are firmly in the now, where God resides, which puts us, so to say, on the same wavelength. Live in the present moment, says Tony de Mello. Why not concentrate on the now, instead of hoping for better times in the future?

So, in short, in order to make awareness of our breathing an effective way of praying, it is important to enter prayer with the aim of waiting for God to communicate with us, and then to give our attention solely to our breathing as a way of silencing our minds, and clearing the 'dross' from our minds, and in this way to enter into the 'now' of God's action in the world. This is not to expect any conscious messages or revelations, but just to leave ourselves open to the touch of God's spirit, in the hope that this may slowly, over time, change our lives, in most cases without us even realising what is happening to us.

Tony de Mello also suggests that it is questionable whether this should be our only way of praying. For one thing, concentration on our breathing for very long periods of time could bring about unwelcome psychological effects. A few minutes a day may be enough for many people. It is also possible that if we make awareness of our breathing our only way of praying, it can be due to laziness – it is also important for our spiritual life to take the time to build up some images and words, perhaps from the Bible, which can echo in our hearts when we are praying. Tony de Mello describes other forms of prayer, and though some of these exercise the brain more than simple awareness of our breathing, they also focus on the now, and leave room for the action of God's grace in our lives. It is important to admit that praying can be at times a fatiguing and frustrating experience, especially when it is riddled with distractions. Giving our brains a rest from time to time, and returning to our senses, can relieve the tension in our prayer, and bring us moments of deep peace.

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



Anna Marie O'Brien

née Malone
Hillview Drive, Portlaoise



Barbara Lawlor

née Breen
Kilnamanagh, Dublin and
Portlaoise



Alan J. Murphy

The Downs, Portlaoise and
Kilkenny

Eddie Edward Kirk

Boley, Abbeyleix

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to their families.

A message of sympathy may be left for the family by logging on to
the death notice at www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN SCULLY**

Ridge Rd., Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 2nd September 2021



Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Thursday
2nd September at 10am.

Your life was one of kindly deeds,
A helping hand for others' needs,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories left behind.

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL DALTON**

4 Borris Little, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 27th August 2021



*Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife
Margaret, family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
MAUREEN SCULLY**

Glenbrook, Ballyroan.

15th Anniversary occurs 4th September 2021



*Always so good, unselfish and kind,
Few on this earth her equal we find,
Honourable and upright in all her ways,
Loving and loyal to the end of her days.*

*Loved and remembered by Anne, Claire
and Bernard.*

Rest in Peace Maureen

**In Loving Memory of
LILIAN MALONE**

'Cumbria' Green Road, Portlaoise.

13th Anniversary occurs 28th August 2021



*Each time we look at your picture,
You seem to smile and say,
Don't be sad but courage take,
And love each other for my sake.*

Always remembered by John, Mary and family.

May Lilian Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JULIE DWANE née Matthews**

25 Mountain View, Ballyfin Rd., Portlaoise.



Months Mind Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this Sunday
29th August at 11:15am.

*Sadly missed, loved and remembered
by her loving partner Martin Byrne.*

Rest in Peace Julie

**In Loving Memory of
CHRISTOPHER CON CARROLL**

26 Beladd Upper, Portlaoise.
16th Anniversary occurs 29th August 2021



*Chris, I would like to say so many things,
I don't know where to start,
I only know I miss you from the bottom of
my heart,
When I am sad and lonely and everything
goes wrong, I seem to hear you whisper,
"cheer up and carry on".*

Loved and remembered always by your loving wife Sheila.

May Christopher Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
EDWARD (Ned) McEVOY**

Capoley, Portlaoise - 23rd Anniversary (30th August)



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Sunday 29th August at 12:30pm.

*Time unfolds another year, memories keep you
very near. No need for words except to say
you are loved and missed each passing day.*

In God's care you rest alone, in our hearts you rest in love.
Never more than a thought away, loved and remembered
everyday by Sarahann, Ailish, Mary, Joe and Breda and
families.

Also thinking of our Mother Madge at this time.

May Edward Rest in Peace

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
ARON GING**

Whose 2nd Birthday away from home occurs 28th August.



*Thinking of you always
It is especially difficult today not to
have you here,
To celebrate the happy times we
shared over another joyful year,
We wish we had just one more chance
to see your happy smile,
To laugh and celebrate with you,
just for a little while,
We'll hold you close forever,
deep within our hearts,
And though you are not here with us,
know that we'll never part,*

*This day was always special, so we just want to say,
That we are thinking of you with lots of love,
On this, your Birthday.*

Happy Heavenly Birthday Aron

*Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.
Loved and remembered by all your loving family.*

Rest in Peace Aron

**In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN KAVANAGH**

Colt.

2nd Anniversary occurs 3rd September 2021.



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

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Fintan's Church, Raheen, on
Saturday 4th September at 7pm.

*Sadly missed by all her loving family,
extended relatives and friends.*

Also remembering her son

BARRY

whose 50th birthday occurs
1st September

May They Rest in Peace



**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
In Loving Memory of
ARON GING**

Whose 2nd Birthday away from home occurs 28th August.



Heavenly Birthday
My birthday gift to you would be
sweetest thoughts carried in memory of
my love for you that will always live on
in life, as in death you will
never be gone.

*Always on our minds, forever in our hearts.
Always loved and remembered dearly by
your loving dad, sisters Lisa and Emma,
brother Ross and nephew Michael JJ xx*

Rest in Peace Aron

**In Loving Memory of
ALLAN WRIGHT**

The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 1st September 2021



*I am still with you
If it seems that I am far away, on this
empty and solemn day,
Just open your heart and know its
true,
That I am still right here with you.*

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Iva,
children Janet, Barbara, Alan, Teresa
and Siobhan, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and all your loving family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Dear Allan

**In Loving Memory of
PETER KEOGH**

Late of Borris Rd., whose 26th Anniversary occurred 27th August.



Gone are the days we used to share Peter,
But in my heart you are always there,
The gates of memory will never close,
I miss you more than anyone knows,
With tender love and deep regret,
I who loved you will never forget.

Lovingly remembered today and forever.
Deeply missed by your loving Julie xxx

May Peter Rest in Peace Forever

**In Loving Memory of
JULIA (Peg) HOLOHAN**

12 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
9th Anniversary occurs 1st September 2021



You're not just a memory silently kept,
You're a part of our family, we will never
forget,
Gone from our sight and from our touch,
But in our memories, loved so much.
Loved always & remembered by
Liz, Peter & family and niece Lorraine.

Gone from home that smiling face, those cheerful happy
ways, the heart that won so many friends, in by gone happy
days.

From P.J., Ann & family.

It's not the tears that are shed at the time, that tell of the
hearts that are broken, but the silent tears in the after years,
when our loved ones name is spoken.

Sadly missed & remembered by Mary, Liam & family.

Thinking of you today and always.

From James & family.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Wednesday 1st September at 10am.

May Julia (Peg) Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
TOMMIE KEOGH**

Ridge Rd. Portlaoise
whose anniversary occurs on 1st September 2021



You're not just a memory silently kept,
You are part of a family
that will never forget

Loved and always remembered
by all your family

May Tommie Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
CAROLINE KHANDKER**

Died 25th August 1982
And her Mother

TERESA KHANDKER
née McCormack. Died 13th May 2019



I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new,
I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too,
I think of you in silence, I often speak your name,
All I have are memories, and your picture in a frame,
Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part,
God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts.

Deeply missed and always in our hearts,
Hector, Samantha, Shabil, Nashad and families.

May They Rest in Peace

**Treasured Memories of
CHRISTOPHER DWANE**

28 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.
15th Anniversary occurred 27th August 2021.



We did not know that morning,
What sorrow the day would bring,
When a heart of gold stopped beating,
And we couldn't do a thing,
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone,

For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.
Always remembered by his loving mother and family.

May Christy Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
JOE CARROLL**

35 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 3rd September 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Friday 3rd September at 10am.

Your life was one of kindly deeds,
A helping hand for others needs,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories left behind.

Sadly missed by Mary, Marie, Tracy, Liam, Des and all
his loving family.

Rest in Peace Joe

In Loving Memory of
SADIE CONROY

*Rathmoyle Road, Abbeyleix.
6th Anniversary occurred 25th August 2021.*



*Will those who think of
Sadie today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.
Loved and remembered always
by all her loving family.
Rest in Peace Sadie*



MAGNIFICAT

September edition now available at the Parish Shop. Price €6.

Monthly Liturgical Magazine, a personal prayer book with Daily Liturgy of the Hours, Mass Readings, Reflections, and Articles.

In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH HOLOHAN Jnr.

*Rathmoyle Rd., Abbeyleix
Anniversary occurs 27th August 2021*



*Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.
Sadly missed by George, Ann and
family and his sister Phil.
Rest in Peace Joe*

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
26th August 2021



No €20,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Suzanne Keenan
Teresa Timmons
John Joe Ging
Des Murphy
Brian Fergus
June Phelan
Alan
Liam Timmons
Daniel & Aidan Rankins
Margaret Delaney
Declan Bergin
Joe Williams

MATCH 3s €1,000

12
Match 3s
€84
each

PROMOTER

Lotto Gift
Anne Ging
Anne Ging
Elizabeth Dowling
Anne Ging
Eileen Preston
Flanagans Foodstore
Paul Dooley
M Farrell
Declan Fitzpatrick
Celine Cripps
Michael O'Connor

Play PARISH



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Next Week's Jackpot **€20,000**

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

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

Sunflower Charity Event



The 'Sunflower Days' at the Heath House was greatly appreciated. Over 1400 people visited. €8500 was raised for Laois Offaly Families for Autism and Portlaoise Parish Centre services. Thank you!



Photo below: Organiser and owner of the Heath House, Roisín O'Connell - Hussy presenting Msgr. John with a cheque of €2500. Our sincere thanks!

