

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
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up**

12th December 2021

**Third Sunday
of Advent**



KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Lamas keeping an eye on the Crib at Kelly's, Bloomfield.

A beautiful Crib at the approach to our town from Stradbally.

Well done to all who brought it about.

See also page 19.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Joy

What Must We Do?

How many times are we shamed into saying, "I'll never grumble again!" We watch children who have life threatening illnesses finding something to smile about. We see families living in poverty, seemingly happy when

they have every excuse to be deeply unhappy. We read about the men and women, who despite disability or overwhelming odds, adopt a positive attitude and achieve great things. These people are living proof that happiness doesn't come from everything being right in our lives.

The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete meaning to rejoice. Rejoicing, exulting, being happy and singing for joy are the themes in today's liturgy. But how are we to feel happy in a world where there isn't much to feel happy about what must we do?

John the Baptist gives us the answer, "If anyone has two tunics," he says, he must share with the man who has none."

We have all experienced the joy of giving a gift..... the inner glow that comes with knowing we have bought someone exactly what they always wanted. We experience this same pleasure in sharing what we have with those who have nothing.

To the tax collector and the soldier John says, "Exact no more than your rate. Be content with your pay."

What joy is there in gain if it's at someone else's expense? Do we really get any satisfaction at saving a couple of pence at the supermarket knowing it is at the expense of a third world farmer working for virtually nothing at all. At this season in particular we remember not to exploit those who work hard for little profit. We remember whilst doing our Christmas shopping to look for the 'Fair Trade' labels. If we are employers we remember not to make unreasonable demands in order to line our own pockets.

Most importantly this Christmas, we remember that happiness comes from being content with what we have.



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& 10am

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8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday

After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.

Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent.



The Latin Gaudete is translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The reference to joy, hope and optimism are dominant at this point in Advent.

The lesson we can take from this is that Christians ought to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families, workplaces, and social circles. If you can't feel cheerful to order, use the opportunity to work out which parts of your life fill you with the most optimism.



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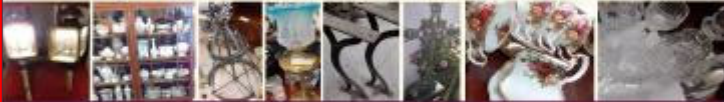


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Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Joy

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week Three: 12 December 2021



Rejoice Sunday & Bambinelli

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday. The rose coloured candle we light this day represents this joy, which is echoed in the Entrance Antiphon

of the Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'

St John Paul II, began a tradition in Rome that continues today. On this Sunday, children and their families from across Rome come to St Peter's Square, bringing with them the figure of the infant Jesus from their crib. After the Angelus, the children raise up the figures and the Pope blesses them. The day is now also known affectionally as **Bambinelli Sunday**, the Italian for babies. In many places the blessed figure is wrapped and placed under the family Christmas tree to be unwrapped and finally placed in the crib at Christmas – reminding us of the first and most important gift of Christmas!

In Advent 2019 Pope Francis once more encouraged families to have a nativity scene or crib in the home. He said that it '*... helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things.*'

Suggestion for the home Assemble a crib for your home with hay and the animal figures. As we get closer to Christmas, add the shepherds, Joseph and Mary, leaving the three Magi at a distance from the crib until January 6th. On Christmas Eve place the figure of Jesus into the crib and say a prayer together. *Look out for the diocesan prayer card for Christmas 2021 with this and other prayers for the 12 days of Christmas - available on www.kandle.ie*

An Advent Tradition The Nativity Scene

In about 1223 AD St Francis wanted to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way, helping people to recall the humble surroundings in which Jesus was born (his nativity). In the town of Greccio, near Assisi, with the help of a local landowner he set up a live crib with stable, hay and animals. The local people came at night with torches and candles to celebrate Mass. On seeing the scene they were reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger. St. Francis' initiative at Greccio popularized the making of a Christmas crib in our homes, churches, hospitals, schools and other places.



A Blessing Prayer by the Family Crib

God of all people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have shown us your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son
to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice,
mercy, and love.
Lord, bless our family and all who will look
upon this crib in the coming days;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and lift our thoughts to Him,
who is God-with-us, our Emmanuel and
the Saviour of all. Amen.

*What are the
Advent Sunday Readings
saying to me?*



ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING

Why not spend time reflecting on the Sunday Scriptures this Advent alone or with others? See www.kandle.ie for our weekly Scripture Sharing Reflections on the Advent Sunday readings. Look out for a local scripture sharing group in your parish.

If there isn't one, why not create one yourself and invite others to it?

Many thanks to Sr Kate Cuskelly, Sr Cecilia Molloy, Sr Joan Pierce and Sr Ann Wash for preparing these reflections and prayers.

SOME ONLINE ADVENT COMPANIONS

Advent Music Playlist: If reading a digital copy, click here for this week's Advent play list: [Catholic Advent Hymns and Carols](#) 22 Advent hymns & Carols. See previous bulletins for more playlists.

Interactive Advent Calendar: This annual popular offering from the Bishops' Conference is full of daily prayers and resources for the home, you'll find it at: www.catholicbishops.ie

Free Daily Prayer App: Universalis.com does all the calendar calculations for you, and enables you to join in the daily prayer of the Church. Every day it gives you access to the readings of the Mass of the day as well as all the texts for praying the Liturgy of the Hours/ the Divine Office, and so much more.

This Advent we ask you to pray that the Synod we are undertaking as a Church will be a means 'to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term' - that is a Church that journeys together, that listens to one another and to the Holy Spirit, a Church in which we all have a part. Synodality is not about an event but a way of being Church together.

In the coming months we will be asking you to share in the conversation on how we are doing on our journey together as Church.

The Synod prayer can be accessed on: <https://www.kandle.ie/synod/>



ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...JOY

"Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's love for us... Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing — sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war or even death — can take that love away." Henri Nouwen

"The Christian identity card is joy, the Gospel's joy, the joy of having been chosen by Jesus, saved by Jesus, regenerated by Jesus; the joy of that hope that Jesus is waiting for us, the joy that - even with the crosses and sufferings we bear in this life - is expressed in another way, which is peace in the certainty that Jesus accompanies us, is with us." [Pope Francis]

Remembering those in need

In the Advent season we are especially called to support those in need as much as we can. There are many charities that need our assistance, including **St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, Focus Ireland, the Peter McVerry Trust, Pieta House, the Simon Community**, to name a few. Please give what you can.

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 3

You might like to light three candles on your Advent wreath or Advent Candle to begin your prayer

Loving God,
On this Advent night
we turn to you in prayer.
As we prepare to celebrate
the birth of your Son,
we ask your blessing on each of us.
Open our hearts
to the good news that you bring to us
and help us to welcome your light
into our lives,
a light that gives us the gift
of joy in the Lord.
May we see that our deepest joy
comes from knowing you.
May this joy fill our hearts, our minds
and our home.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



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HANDING ON
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The Gift That Jesus Brings

In the Gospel today we learn that John, even though he was in prison, was hearing about all the wonderful things Jesus was doing. He sent a message to Jesus by some of his friends. "Ask Jesus if he is the Messiah we have been expecting, or should we continue to watch for someone else?"

When they asked Jesus that question, he answered, "Go back to John and tell him about the things you hear and see: The blind can see. The crippled can walk. People with harmful skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life. And the Good News is told to the poor."

If you were blind, what better gift could you receive than to be able to see? If you were crippled, what better gift could you receive than to be able to walk? If you were dead, what better gift could you receive than the gift of life? Jesus is God's gift to us. Jesus came to earth to give us life -- eternal life! What a gift!

Dear God, thank You for Jesus! We know that every good gift we receive comes from you and the greatest gift is eternal life brought down to us through your Son. Father, we thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday

The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "**Rejoice**". You can see this word in Sunday's missalette or on our screen in the Parish Church at the beginning of Mass.



Rose vestments can be worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.





THE GIFTS THAT JESUS BRINGS

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

When John heard in _____ what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

_____ replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive _____, the lame _____, those who have leprosy are _____, the deaf _____, the _____ are raised, and the _____ is preached to the _____.

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."



| | | | | |
|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| cured | good | Jesus | poor | sight |
| dead | hear | news | prison | walk |



ALTAR SERVERS

To show our appreciation to all our Altar Servers for their hard work, we are holding a Christmas Movie and party in the Parish Centre after school on Friday 20th December. Children can be collected from the Parish Centre at 5.30pm.





TIME TO THINK!

'O Holy Night continues to inspire hope and comfort.'

The gun should never have been left lying around in the first place. Making the carelessness even worse was that it was loaded. With two unsupervised eight-year-old boys messing with it, something catastrophic was bound to happen. It did. Young Brignon squeezed the trigger. There was a loud, sharp, crack, a whiff of gun smoke, a gush of blood, and an eruption of high, hard screechy-screaming. Placide Cappeau, a son of winemakers and barrel makers, was suddenly and excruciatingly on his way to becoming permanently one-handed. The bullet destroyed his right hand, which had to be amputated. That put paid to any idea that when he grew up he would become a cooper like his dad. Jacques Brignon, father of the boy who accidentally shot Placide, was distraught. In an attempt to make amends, he offered the Cappeau family financial support for the education of their amputee son. The handgun incident happened in 1816 in the small town of Roquemaure, about seven-and-a-half miles north of Avignon in the south of France.

Placide was accepted by the College Royal d'Avignon. There, at the age of 17, he won first prize in drawing. Subsequently he studied literature in Nimes, and in 1831 he obtained a law degree in Paris. But he never practiced law. Instead, in Roquemaure he became a wine merchant whose main hobby was writing verse. A competent enough poet, he never achieved widespread literary success or fame, though he was well known enough locally to get himself elected Mayor of the town. Born and brought up a Catholic, he had drifted away from religion, only rarely attended Mass, and in conversations with people directed a lot of biting criticism at the Roman Catholic clergy in general.

The parish Priest of Roquemare was close to giving up on him, especially when Cappeau began to publicly espouse socialism. However, in what proved to be a last throw of the dice in attempting to draw Cappeau (right) back into the bosom of Mother Church, in 1847 the priest asked him to write a Christmas poem for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The priest also asked him to take it to one of France's most famous and successful composers, Adolphe Adam, for a musical setting. Cappeau felt both puzzled and flattered, and told the priest he would do his best to come up with something suitable. For reference, he turned to Luke's gospel about the birth of Christ, reasoning that it would give him an authoritative framework on which he might base his poem. Then, on December 3rd of that year, during a long, bumpy and swaying journey by coach from Roquemare to Paris, he began the task of putting words on paper. It was on the section between the cities of Macon and Dijon that he did the bulk of the work. By the time the coach trundled into Paris, he had completed it. He gave it the title *Cantique de Noel* (Song of Christmas).

What he had done was to imagine what it would have been like to witness the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. When he read and re-read what he had written, he felt deeply moved by the words.

Now he had to get the poem to Adolphe Adam, whose theatrical successes included the ballets *Faust*, and *Giselle*, and *La Fille du Danub*. Adam had been commissioned to compose orchestral works and ballets that were performed in faraway St Petersburg, and in Berlin and London. He was at the height of his fame.

Into his hands now came Cappeau's poem, and, given its subject matter and the beautiful style of its writing, it presented him with a challenge unlike any he had been presented with before.

He spent three weeks perfecting his composition, and ended up with what is frequently called a heartbreakingly beautiful piece of music.



Cappeau took the song back to Roquemare and handed it over to the parish priest, who was overcome with awe and gratitude.

He contacted a Parisian opera singer who lived locally, and at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, she gave the first public performance of the carol that would become known as *O Holy Night*, and would be (and is) sung tearfully and with reverence all over the world.

The congregation at that Midnight Mass loved the carol, and within a short time it won the hearts and approval of people all over France. The Catholic Church in France originally endorsed its use in Christmas ceremonies.

And then something strange happened. The church authorities denounced the carol. Placide Cappeau had denounced the Catholic Church and joined the socialist movement, and Adolphe Adam was found to have had Jewish ancestry. The reasons given by the church authorities for banning *Cantique de Noel* were, 'its lack of musical taste!' and 'total absence of the spirit of religion!' But the common people disregarded the denunciation. They wouldn't let the song die. *Cantique de Noel* continued to be sung at Christmas ceremonies all over France.

An extraordinary happening during the 1870/71 Franco-Prussian War was allegedly the reason the Catholic Church authorities received the song back into religious ceremonies. During a lull in battle, a French soldier jumped up out of his trench, stood in full view, and sang *Cantique de Noel*. Not one shot was fired at him. The Germans were so moved that one of their soldiers then stood up and sang one of Martin Luther's hymns. Nobody fired a shot at him either. It resulted in the armies of both sides honouring a 24-hour Christmas truce.

The English words of *O Holy Night* were written by an American named John Sullivan Dwight who introduced the song to America.

And on Christmas Eve, 1906, *O Holy Night* became the first song ever broadcast over the radio when Reginald Fassenden played it when experimenting with a microphone and the telegraph. *O Holy Night* continues to inspire hope and comfort. Blessings we all need in abundance this Christmas...

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 20,600 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles



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In light of new government restrictions, access to the Linkup Office will be **LIMITED** until further notice.

We ask that where possible adverts, notices, memorials and Christmas Remembrances are e-mailed to linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

If it is necessary to call to the office with your notice, please ensure that you have **written your notice in full** prior to arrival in order to adhere to Covid guidelines.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and co-operation.



ABBEYLEIX PARISH

**St. Vincent de Paul
Annual Christmas
Church Collection**

18th/19th December

At all Masses in Ballinakill, Knock, Abbeyleix, Ballyroan, Shanahoe and Raheen



ROSARY AT THE SHRINE

Market Square

New Year's Eve at midnight

(organised by the new Shrine committee)
All are welcome



JOHN DALTON Memorial Walk New Year's Day In Timahoe at 1pm

In aid of the Fatima Invalid Fund and Irish Wheelchair Association
Sponsorship cards available from
David Dalton 087-1305448
Maura O' Brien 087-1210263

The Fatima Candle will be lit at 10am Mass in the Parish Church, Monday **13th December** in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and for the intentions of all parishioners. Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at 8pm. All are welcome.



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P.J. Walsh

Borris Road
Portlaoise



Sheila Delamy

Kellyville Park
Portlaoise

Norah Duff née Nevin,
Thornberry, Abbeyleix

*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 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
ETHNA DUNNE**

Clonad, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 15th December 2021

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in St. Fintan's Church
Raheen on **Saturday 18th December at 7pm.**



A smile for all, a heart of gold,
The very best this world could hold,
Never selfish always kind,
These are the memories you left behind,
Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

*Also remembering her loving husband Anthony at this time.
Sadly missed and never forgotten by all your loving family.*

May Anthony & Ethna Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL McCABE**

"Glasheen", Cork Rd. Portlaoise.



*Months Mind Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Sunday 19th December at 11:15am.*

*In the hearts of all those who loved you,
you will always be there.*

*Sadly missed, forever loved and remembered by his loving
wife, sons, grandchildren and extended family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Michael

**In Loving Memory of
MARY PATRICIA LALOR
née Breen**

Boley, Abbeyleix.

2nd Anniversary occurs 15th December 2021.



*2nd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, this Sunday
12th December at 12 noon.*

*We think of you in silence, we often speak your name,
But all we have are memories and your picture in a frame,
Your resting place we visit and put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache as we turn and leave you
there.*

*Thinking of you always, your loving husband Donal,
children, Margaret, Alice, Noreen, Donie, Patricia,
Thomas, John & Patrick, Xx
Rest in Peace Patsy*

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN ARRIGAN**

Newpark, Portlaoise

8th Anniversary occurred 8th December 2021



*8th Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, this
Sunday 12th December, 11:15am.*

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

Rest in Peace John

**In Loving Memory of
DENIS (Dinny)
FITZPATRICK**

46 Liogard, Portlaoise.

13th Anniversary occurs 13th December 2021



We miss you from your
fireside chair,
Your loving smile and
gentle air,
Your vacant place, no one
can fill,
We miss you Daddy and
always will.
He was a husband so very
rare, content in his home
and always there,

On Earth he toiled, in Heaven he rests,
God bless you Din, you were one of the best.

*Lovingly remembered by your wife Doreen,
children Ann, Tina, John and Dor, sons-in-law,
daughter-in-law and grandchildren.*

May the Lord lay his gentle hand upon him

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**For a very special Mother
MARIA McDONALD**

10 Beladd, Stradbally Rd., Portlaoise.

13th December - 2nd Birthday & Christmas Away from Home.



Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

xxx

Sadly missed by your husband Oliver,
sons Lee and Cody, daughters Sharon,
Margaret, Sierra and Jan xxx
grandchildren, sons-in-law, sister
Angela and a dear Friend Kathleen x

Rest in Peace Maria

**In Loving Memory of
JOHN ROCHE**

Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 18th December 2021.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on **Saturday 18th December at 6:30pm.**



I hide my tears when I say your name,
But the pain in my heart is still the same,
Though I smile and seem carefree,
There is no one who misses you more than
me.

Your presence I miss, your memory I treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife
Mary, sons, daughters, grandchildren, sons-in-laws,
daughters-in-law, great-grandchildren and extended family.

May John Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
Our Brother
JOE KERRY**

Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs
12th December 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Thursday 16th December at 10am.

*Also remembering Our Nephew
JOHN-PAUL MITCHELL
Whose Anniversary occurs at this time.*

We wish we could see you one more time,
come walking through the door, but we
know that is impossible, we will hear your
voices no more.

We know you can feel our tears, and you don't want us to cry,
yet our hearts are broken because we don't understand why
you had to die.

We pray that God will give us strength and somehow get us
through, as we struggle with the heartache, that came when
we lost you.

*Always loved and remembered by all their loving
family and friends.*

May They Rest in Peace



**In Loving Memory of
SEAN PHELAN**

Straboe, Portlaoise, who died 10th December 2019

2nd Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 11th December at 6.30pm.



Don't think of him as gone away,
His journey's just begun,
Life holds so many facets,
This earth is only one.

Just think of him as living,
In the hearts of those he touched,
For nothing loved is ever lost,
And Sean was loved so much.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his
loving family and friends.*

May Sean Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL & BRIDGET RYAN**

Kilmurry, Stradbally, whose 8th and 3rd Anniversaries occur at this time.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, the Heath, this Sunday 12th December at 9:30am.



To your resting place we visit, place flowers there with care,
But no one knows our heartache, when we turn and leave you there.



Sadly missed by their loving family, extended family and friends.

May They Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**In Loving Memory of
ANGELA CLEARY née Colbert**

37 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

4th Birthday away from home occurs 11th December 2021.

To a loving Wife, cherished Mother and adored Nanny



We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
But all we have are memories and your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit and put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.

Sadly missed by your loving husband Tom, daughters Stephanie, Tracey and Paula, grandchildren Craig, Ben, Ryan, Roisin and Willow and great-granddaughter Grace.

Always in our hearts.

Rest in Peace Mam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**In Loving Memory of
PATRICIA TERRITT**

34 Cherrygarth, Portlaoise. Died 3rd November 2021



We the family of the late Patricia Territt would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who sympathised with us. Thank you to everyone who sent Mass cards and for the lovely sentiments that were written on the website and to those who sympathised with us in person. We would like to thank and sincerely acknowledge Mary as

Mam's carer. Mary looked after Mam with such compassion and kindness that can never be repaid. We would also like to thank Shannon who also helped care for Mam in later years.

A special word of thanks to the residents of Cherrygarth for their help and support in recent years.

Thanks to Dr. White and his team and to Lloyds Pharmacy who cared for Mam over the years.

Thanks to Msgr. John Byrne who celebrated the funeral Mass which was beautiful and meant so much to the family. Thanks to Heather Fogarty for the beautiful music and singing.

Thanks to everyone for their kindness, to those who brought food and refreshments to the house or who helped in any way.

Our sincere thanks to Moloney's Funeral Directors for the kind and professional manner in which they carried out Mam's funeral arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Patricia's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 12th December at 12:30pm.

Rest in Peace Patricia

**In Loving Memory of
ROBERT O'CONNOR**

Liogard and Forest Park, Portlaoise.
15th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Time may hide a sadness, like a smile can hide a tear,
But memories will last forever,
Of one we loved so dear,
Not just a memory or part of the past,
But ours to remember as long as life last.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish on Sunday 12th December at 12.30pm

Sadly missed by Mammy, Daddy, Mark, Adrian, Liz & family, Lorraine, Bernard & family.

May Robert Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
THOMAS TERRITT**

34 Cherrygarth, Portlaoise.

34th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 12th December at 12.30pm.



Our thoughts are ever with you, though you have passed away, And those who loved you dearly are thinking of you today.

Sadly missed by all his loving family & friends.

May Thomas Rest in Peace

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

Marian House, Dublin Rd., Portlaoise.
42nd Anniversary occurred 10th December 2021



A sudden call from God on high,
We had no chance to say goodbye,
Without farewell you fell asleep,
But memories of you, we will always keep.

From his loving sons Martin and Jas, daughter Eileen, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May James Rest in Peace

RICHARD BOOTH

Killeen, Mountmellick.
2nd Anniversary.



In loving memory of Richard who died
11th December 2019.

Also remembering his sister Jacinta (Moore),
whose 1st Anniversary occurred 4th December.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in the
Church of the Assumption, the Heath, this
Sunday 12th December at 9:30am.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

In Loving Memory of **TOM & NUALA HOLMES**

Formerly of "Sally Gardens", Main St. Portlaoise and
Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise.

Nuala's 9th Anniversary occurred 1st December 2021
Tom's 21st Anniversary occurs 11th January 2022



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

*Always loved and never forgotten
by all their loving family,
extended family and friends xx*

May Tom and Nuala Rest in Peace



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of **ELIZABETH (Lil) BARTLEY**

née Conroy

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.



Elizabeth's family would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with them on their recent sad loss.

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended the Rosary at Keegan's funeral home and the funeral Mass, both in person and via the webcam.

A special thank you to all who sent Mass and sympathy cards, flowers and messages of condolences.

Sincere thanks to the doctors and especially to the nurses of Portlaoise I.C.U., who looked after Elizabeth with such kindness. Special thanks to Dr. Robert Lawlor and all the nurses and staff of the Cedar Clinic who looked after Elizabeth over the years. Thanks also to Breslin's pharmacy for looking after Elizabeth over the years.

Sincere thanks to Fr. David Vard for all his support and kindness, for praying the Rosary with us in the funeral home and for the beautiful Requiem Mass.

Special thanks to Fr. Liam Merrigan and Fr. Willie Hennessy who concelebrated the Mass.

Our thanks also to John Hosey for the beautiful music during the funeral Mass and also to Alan Smyth for his singing at the graveside.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Keegan's Funeral Directors for the kind and professional manner in which they carried out Elizabeth's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers, Brendan and Adrian Dunne, for preparing Elizabeth's final resting place with such care.

Thanks also to Bosco's Catering and the Parish Centre who provided refreshments after the funeral Mass.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Elizabeth's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Saturday 18th December at 6:30pm.

Sadly missed and forever remembered by her daughter Monalisa, her sons John, Oliver, Shay and Darren, son-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family.

Rest in Peace Elizabeth

In Loving Memory of My Mother
CATHERINE KEOGH

Borris Rd. Portlaoise.
43rd Anniversary occurs 14th December 2021



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

*Also remembering;
My father Garrett, sisters and brothers at
this time, John, Peter, Sean, Brigid, Mary,
Kathleen, Laura and Anne.*

*Always loved and remembered by
Margaret, Oliver and grandchildren.*

*Also remembering her grandson Kevin whose anniversary
occurs at this time and her granddaughter Laura Heffron
who passed away 18th September this year.*

May Catherine Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
FRANK DUNNE

Ballyfin and formerly St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
6th Anniversary occurs 9th December 2021

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, Saturday 11th December at 6:30pm.



*As each day dawns we think of you,
As each night falls we pray for you,
Throughout our lives, no matter where,
In our hearts you are always there.*

*Sadly missed by his loving wife Kathleen
and family.*

Rest in Peace Frank

In Loving Memory of
FRANK SYDES

Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 17th December 2021.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Friday 17th December at 10am.

*The world changes year to year,
Our lives from day to day,
But the friendship and the memories,
shall never pass away.*

Sadly missed by your neighbours and friends.

Rest in Peace Frank

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
FINT GORMAN

Cherrygrove, Portlaoise.



Fint's wife Ann and family would like
to express their sincere thanks to all
who sympathised, sent Mass cards,
attended the rosary and funeral
Mass.

To all our neighbours and friends
who were very thoughtful sending
refreshments to our home.

A very special thanks to the Copd nurses and our
family doctor, Dr. White, who cared so well for Fint
over the past few years.

Our thanks to the Ambulance Service, Fire Services
and Garda who did all they could for Fint on the day
of his passing.

A massive thank you to Matthew Keegan and David
Goode from Keegan's funeral directors for the kind
and professional manner in which they carried out
Fint's funeral arrangements.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually
please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of
our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to all who
knew Fint.

Fint's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Thursday 16th December at 10am.

Rest in Peace Fint

FINAL DEADLINE

*For Christmas Remembrances and
Anniversaries for the Christmas
edition;*

12 noon

**This Wednesday
15th December**



*Owing to the large volume of notices
received, we cannot guarantee
inclusion of notices beyond this deadline.*

Access to the Link-up Office is currently limited so
if possible, please e-mail your notice and photo to
linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

If it is necessary for you to call to the office with
your notice, please ensure that the notice is fully
written prior to arriving at the office, to avoid
delays and adhere to Covid guidelines.

Happy is he who
does not lose faith

— Matthew 11:5 —

† KEEGAN'S † FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Contact Matthew

087-2549195

David **087-2369887**

HENRY RANKIN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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057-8620567
PAUL; 087-2562137
NIALL;
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The Sign of Peace in a no contact era!



The physical contact 'sign of peace' may be suspended during this time of pandemic (and rightly so!) but the obligation to be committed to peace before we receive Holy Communion, of course, remains.

We hope to reintroduce the invitation to offer each other a 'sign of peace' at Mass from this Sunday, (12th Dec. 3rd Sunday of Advent).

The response can be a simple smile or a 'thumbs up' or a joining of hands or placing the right hand over the heart, a slight bow or indeed any gesture you deem appropriate to indicate your desire for peace.

Please do not offer to shake hands

Fr. DAVID VARD
presents

VOCATION STORIES

WED @ 2PM
only on

RADIO MARIA



Christmas NOVENA

Join us from the 17th December as we enter a period of profound preparation for Christmas.

17th - 18th - 7.15am

19th - 8.30am

20th - 24th - 7.15am

Our 7.15am Masses will be celebrated by candlelight, this is traditionally called a *Rorate Mass*, and links our preparation to the *that of the Virgin Mother*.

The concluding prayer of the Novena will be said at the 8.30am Mass on Christmas Day

Portlaoise
PARISH

Advent

ENCOUNTER

ST. PETER AND PAUL'S

PORTLAOISE

DECEMBER 17TH 6.30PM

Adoration
Confession
MUSIC
Testimony

Portlaoise
PARISH

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
9th December 2021



No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Fergus Haines
Mary McEvoy
Ciera Tobin
Martin Maher
Margaret Langford
Keith Kilduff
Annemarie
Ellie Devane
Colette Storey
Denise Delaney
Luke Winters

MATCH 3s €1,000



PROMOTER

Victor Haines
Peggy Kelly
Online Lotto
Parish Centre
Margaret Langford
Martley's
Betty Lynch
Anthony Preston
Mary Arthur
Mary Arthur
David Tobin

Next Week's Jackpot is €13,000

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& Like Us portlaoiseparish-



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: @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
(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



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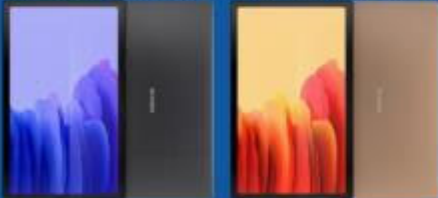
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