

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

19th December 2021

**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**



**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!**



Our Christmas Novena continues this week at 7.15am Monday to Thursday and will conclude on Christmas Day at the 8.30am Mass.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)



# Come, Lord Jesus

## Lord of Love



### Believing in Promises

It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder the promises we read in the bible don't always make us jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise then it probably would. There's a saying that goes, "We question all our beliefs, except for the ones we really believe, and those we never think to question." It seems that belief is key in getting excited about a promise. Mary obviously had no doubts; this is illustrated in her promptness to act on God's commands. We might not confess to doubts, but if we really don't harbour any doubts, why then do we hedge our bets? Why do we squash God into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things?

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life .... God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.

Today we welcome Bishop Denis,  
and wish him a Happy Christmas.  
Celebrant of our 10am Mass.



### Collectors for Christmas Masses

Usual Collectors are required to help in Church porches on Christmas Day for the Clergy Collection or if anyone is interested in helping out, please contact the Parish Office during office hours Tel: 0578621142. **Thank you.**



We welcome into our Parish Community  
Ruby-Ann Burke, Rathleague  
Who was baptised last weekend.

### Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday - Friday

7.30am & 10am

Christmas Timetable see page 22



### Penitential Service

Parish Church

Monday 20th December

7.30pm.

### Christmas Collection

for the support of the Priests.

The Christmas Collection for the Clergy will be held at all Masses on Christmas Day.

Envelopes are in the Development Boxes or you can pick up an Envelope in Church porches.

Thank you for your continued support.

### 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: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

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)

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Sunday	19th Dec	8am-8pm	St. Stephen's Day	26th Dec	CLOSED
Monday	20th Dec	7.30am-10pm	Monday	27th Dec	8am-5pm
Tuesday	21st Dec	7.30am-10pm	Tuesday	28th Dec	7.30am-7pm
Wednesday	22nd Dec	7.30am-10pm	Wednesday	29th Dec	7.30am-9pm
Thursday	23rd Dec	7.30am-10pm	Thursday	30th Dec	7.30am-9pm
Christmas Eve	24th Dec	7.30am-6pm	New Year's Eve	31st Dec	7.30am-7pm
Christmas Day	25th Dec	CLOSED	New Year's Day	1st Jan	8am-5pm



Ger Mulhall

*Dear Customers,*

On behalf of Management and Staff of Mulhall's SuperValu, we would like to wish all our Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2022!

*Ger Mulhall*

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13th – 24th December

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
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| <b>3 Months</b> gym & pool €130           | <b>12 Months</b> pool only €279  |
| <b>3 Months</b> family (pool only) €199   | <b>10 adult</b> passes €60       |
| <b>6 Months</b> gym only €139             | <b>10 child</b> passes €35       |
| <b>6 Months</b> gym & pool €239           |                                  |
| <b>6 Months</b> pool only €139            |                                  |
| <b>6 Months</b> over 55's gym & pool €210 |                                  |
| <b>12 Months</b> couple pool only €520    |                                  |



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## Portlaoise Thrift Shop

Peppers Lane, Portlaoise



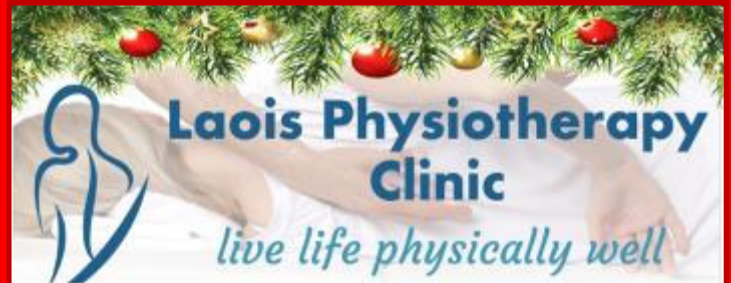
We generously donate to Hospice Care locally and have done so continuously since our shop opened!

We are now in need of furniture; beds, wardrobes, dressing tables, bedside lockers, tables, chairs etc. Ladies, gents and children's clothing and all types of bric-a-brac.

Your donations help to make peoples lives more comfortable.

We can collect on request at your convenience.

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NICOLA CALDBECK BSc MISC P MAACP

CONOR BOLTON BSc MSc MISC P

*Details of our classes starting mid-January will be available in the next few weeks.*

We are closing for Christmas on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will offer an on call service from then to the New Year.

*Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.*



*Thank you for your support throughout the year.*

### QQI LEVEL 5

#### Modules Available

Module	Day	Time
Payroll	Wednesday	11-13:00
	Friday	9-11:00
Spreadsheet Methods	Thursday	11-13:00
	Friday	11-13:00
Database Methods	Monday	9-11:00
	Thursday	9-11:00

### QQI LEVEL 6

#### Modules Available

Module	Day	Time
Finance	Monday	10-12:45
	Tuesday	9-11:00
Spreadsheet Methods	Tuesday	11-13:45
	Wednesday	11-13:00
Applied Economics	Monday	9-10:00
	Wednesday	13:30-15:30
	Friday	11-13:00

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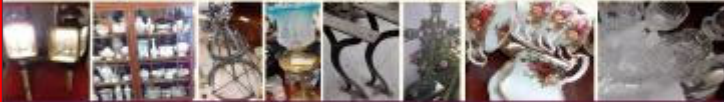
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**SAVE €15.00**

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## *Mary Visits Elizabeth*

Today is the last Sunday before Christmas. Are you getting excited? I am! What are some of the things that you look forward to at Christmas — besides opening presents of course? What are some of the family traditions your family has? The thing I remember most about the Christmases of my childhood is our family get-together. We almost always went to my Grandmother's house and had a big family get-together. It was often the only time during the year when I got to see some of my aunts, uncles, and cousins. We had so much fun visiting, eating, and playing games. In my mind, one of the very best things about Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus with family.



In the Gospel today the story tells what happened after God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby and that she would name him Jesus. Can you imagine how Mary, a teenager engaged to marry a young carpenter, must have felt to hear news like that? After she recovered from the shock, the Bible tells us that Mary hurried to the home of a relative, Elizabeth, to tell her the news. Elizabeth was also expecting a baby and the Gospel tells us that when she heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and said to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed." That is amazing! Before Mary even said a word about having a child, Elizabeth knew it and she knew that the child was going to be a very special child! "Why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord would visit me?" Elizabeth said. "You are a blessed woman because you have believed that the Lord would do what he said."

So, at the very beginning of the Christmas story was an event that was shared with family and it is a time that has meaning to us as families today. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, it is certainly appropriate that we celebrate it with our families just as Mary did with Elizabeth.

## *Our Prayer*

Heavenly Father, we are thankful for this time of joyful celebration of our Saviour's birth. We pray that we will honour his birthday as a time of celebration with our families. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



*We wish our young parishioners  
a very happy Christmas*



Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

E	O	U	N	X	B	F	R	Z	T	L	H	Q	V	D	J	S	A	K	I	C	Y	P	W	G	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 18-4-25-1-11 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 25-18-6-8-20-1-11 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 14-20-8-25-20-4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 16-2-17-1-23-12 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 26-18-8-22 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 18-7-8-18-20-15 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 6-20-8-10-12 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 17-2-4 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 16-1-17-3-17 \_\_\_\_\_
10. 6-2-8-4 \_\_\_\_\_

**An Angel visits Mary**

**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.**

**Luke 1:31**

**GABRIEL                  SON                  MARY                  BORN                  VIRGIN**

**AFRAID                  JOSEPH                  ANGEL                  BIRTH                  JESUS**



### *The Story of the Poinsettia*

One Christmas Eve, a young Mexican boy was walking to his local church. Because he was very poor, he couldn't afford a present for the baby Jesus in the crib. This made him really sad. All of a sudden, while on his way to the church, an angel appeared to him and told him to pull up some weeds that were growing on the side of the road, and bring them to the crib for Jesus. The little boy did as the angel had told him. As he laid the weeds in the crib, he bowed his head and prayed. As he did, the weeds began to change into little red flowers with star-shaped leaves. Everybody was amazed at what had happened. We call these flowers Poinsettias, or 'Flor de la Noche Buena', (the Flower of the Holy Night) in Spanish.



### **A LOVELY TRADITION**

Placing the figure of the baby Jesus in the Crib on Christmas Eve. Often the youngest

member of the family gets this honour. It may be accompanied by this prayer:

**Emmanuel, God with us,  
 come to each of us and stay with us.  
 Protect us and guide us as a family,  
 free us from worry  
 and let your love grow in our hearts  
 so that we may be Emmanuel,  
 God with us,  
 to one another  
 over these Christmas days  
 and beyond.  
 Amen.**



# TIME TO THINK!

## LET THE LIGHT SHINE

At this time, every year, we hear these words from Scripture: 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light'. Familiar words indeed, and easily left unheeded. But this year the darkness is more immediate, more encircling. Knowing the darkness helps us to appreciate the light.

Have we not seen these months of difficulty during this pandemic marked by countless acts of random kindness, quiet heroism, selfless service, remarkable community efforts, all directed towards those most in need? In our nature, in our make-up, there is an indomitable spirit of goodness that responds with sacrifice and love. It is the spark of the divine within us, the sense of a life in essence never private but shared with others, with the whole of creation.

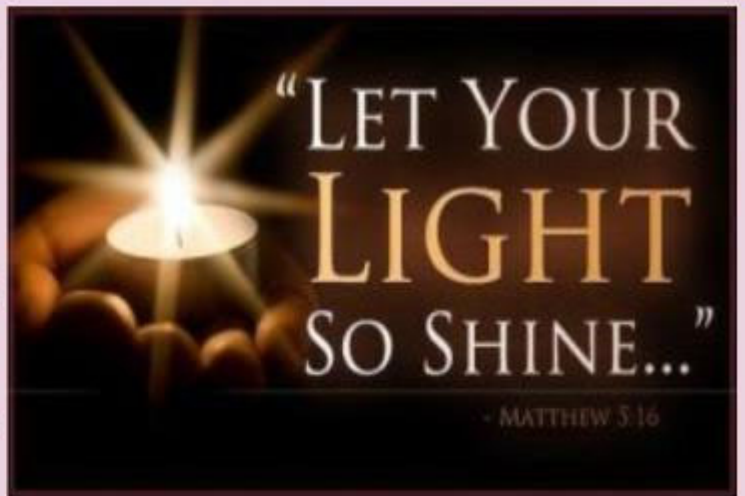
This spark is fully revealed in the person of Jesus, God of God, Light of Light, born in poverty so that all may approach him.

In him, the fullness of light and love comes into the darkness of our world, at present confused, disoriented, trying to feel the right way forward. In his life, he brings this light and love to the darkness of lonely suffering, to the darkness of the torture and cruelty of his death. He brings a light and a love which overcomes all darkness and death, setting us free, as St Paul says, to be a people 'of his very own', having 'no ambition except to do good'.

For people throughout the world we have been living in a time of crisis. And a crisis is a crossroads in which we face choices about which way to go, about what to do next. At a crossroad we look for the signposts, the indications about the road to take.

At this time of crisis we must set up those signposts, clearly and unambiguously, signposts which signal the kind of society we want to emerge from this period of darkness. Of course there are the great challenges of economic recovery, of building a deeper sense of mutual responsibility between nations and states, not least in the distribution of vaccines to the poorest. But I think more of the domestic and local signposts we want to erect. Can we not build back better? Surely we can create a more kind culture, a daily discourse of respect towards those with whom we disagree, a practice of compassionate standing together in times of stress and hardship, a deeper empathy for the suffering of others.

These we have seen bud as we journey an uncertain pathway throughout this pandemic. These are the roads we want to take, roads on which we overcome divisions of colour and class, taking us beyond the division of wealth and well-being. Let us set up those signposts at this crossroads of our history, knowing that the light come into the world this Christmas is given so that we can know the truth, the goodness and the beauty by which to shape our future. It is in the person of the Christ-child, God in our flesh, that we find our road of life, the ending of our fears and



the fulfilment of our hopes. The words of my favourite carol, O Holy Night – incidentally the most popular carol of all – remind us of the Gospel we have just heard. The carol invites us, in a soaring melody, to harken to the angel voices announcing this birth. 'Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine when Christ was born!' The angel voices, in our day, may only be a whisper, easily lost amidst clamour and noise. But listen! Listen to that quiet whisper in the depth of your heart. Later verses of the carol, in its original text, explain the message they bring: he who has come is our Saviour, our Redeemer.

'The Redeemer has broken every bond. The Earth is free and Heaven is open. He sees a brother where there was only a slave. Love unites those whom iron had chained. Who will tell him of our gratitude? For us all he is born, he suffers and dies. People stand up! Sing of your deliverance!'

This we shall do! This 'night divine' is our time of joy and thanksgiving and our hope for the future we must fashion together.

A happy Christmas to you all!

*"A Christmas Childhood," Kavanagh harkens back to the winters of his childhood. This poem was born out of Kavanagh's loneliness and solitude and he penned it having spent a Christmas season alone in his flat in Dublin. The poem is filled with nostalgia for rural, farming, family life and his memories come to us through Christian imagery from the story of the birth of Jesus. Enjoy*

A Christmas Childhood by Patrick Kavanagh

One side of the potato-pits was white with frost –  
How wonderful that was, how wonderful!

And when we put our ears to the paling-post  
The music that came out was magical.

The light between the ricks of hay and straw  
Was a hole in Heaven's gable. An apple tree  
With its December-glinting fruit we saw –

O you, Eve, were the world that tempted me.



## 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

LOOKING FOR THE  
PERFECT GIFT  
THIS CHRISTMAS?

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FURTHER DETAILS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

You may also join the parish lotto online at  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

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## **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**

## **TV SERVICES**

Repairs to TV and home entertainment equipment.  
Also we supply and fit and repair Saorview, Aerial and Satellite systems. Contact;

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All domestic, solid fuel and oil servicing.  
Water softener installation.  
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**Contact Alan;**  
**085-1141395**

## **FULL-TIME CHILDCARE POSITION AVAILABLE**

6 boys aged from 7 years down to 1 year old, from two neighbouring families, ideally minded in one of the children's homes. Monday to Friday 9am-5:30pm. Schools pick ups in Ratheniska required, use of family 7-seater provided.

**Enquiries to 086-0822038**

## **LAMBERT HEATING & PLUMBING**

**Covering all your Heating & Plumbing needs;**

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## **ERAWAN THAI MASSAGE**

**Pepper's Court  
Portlaoise**

Open Monday-Saturday  
11am-7pm

**083-0988602**



## **PORTLAOISE NO NAME CLUB**

Meeting every **Wednesday** from **7pm to 9pm** in the Youth Cafe over the Credit Union.

Cost is €2 per week with no registration fee. The Club is open to ages 15-18 years of ages.

Please call, text, or WhatsApp

Elaine for further details,

**089-4918293** or e-mail

**portlaoisenonameclub@gmail.com**  
or via our social media accounts.

## **Hugh Thompson MIDLAND HEATING SERVICES**

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Oil Cookers & Gas Boilers

Plus Power Flushing of Heating Systems

Removing all the old sludge and water that has built up in your radiators and boilers over the years with clean water and inhibitors to reduce fuel bills and save money.

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## **LAOIS COUNSELLING SERVICES**

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Confidential,  
Non-Judgemental service.

Enquires to;

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## **FRENCH GRINDS**

Available for secondary school students - €30 per hour.

I am a graduate of Trinity College in Dublin, with a distinction in spoken French.

I have lived in France for one year. Master's in French literature from Leiden University.

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## **ACTIVE BUILDING SERVICES**

Extensions, renovations and alterations. Domestic Plumbing, Oil Fired Central Heating. Plumber on call, Portlaoise and surrounding areas. Tel.;

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## **S&A Cleaning Services**

**Laois Area**

Deep cleaning houses, apartments etc.

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## **ROSARY AT THE SHRINE**

Market Square, Upper Main St.

**At Midnight**

**New Year's Eve**

*(organised by the new Shrine committee)*

All are welcome

## **MATHS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> CLASS**

Key strands of the curriculum covered in a classroom style environment. Experienced primary school teachers with over 10 years experience.

To register a place or for further info, please contact us at

**mathsmastersprimary@gmail.com**

Starting January in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Limited places available.



# ABBEYLEIX PARISH

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

**18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> December**

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

## Merry Christmas

Wishing all our members of Portlaoise Active Retirement, a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful Christmas. Unfortunately because of the current situation with the virus we cannot celebrate the season together. Since the start of the pandemic we have endured testing times with courage and resilience. Do not lose heart now. Think positive into 2022 beginning with a New Year celebration lunch and entertainment in Midland Park Hotel for all members.

Joy  
hope  
LOVE  
PEACE  
Christmas

## End of Year Rosary at The Grotto New Years Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 8pm



### BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Have a Blessed Candle lit and displayed at the grotto for the sick, deceased, your intentions or in thanks giving. Your Candle will be lit from 5pm on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> until after midnight. (Rosary at 8pm).

Your donation for the Candle will go to Mary's Hands in Medjugorje run by Jacov, the youngest visionary, and the invalids, pilgrims and poor in our own society.

Candle bookings can be made through the shop in the Parish Centre or by contacting any of the following;

Anthony Egan	086-1993803
Paddy Connolly	087-2117174
John Egan	087-1254841
Michael Houlihan	087-9212028
Jimmy Shiels	087-6872633



*A Mass will also be offered for your intentions in Portlaoise and Medugorje.*

## Live Animal Charity Crib Portlaoise

**At Kelly's Farm, Bloomfield Cross, Portlaoise.**



**LAOIS  
HOSPICE**

**R32H725**

*All proceeds go to;*



**Down Syndrome Centre Midlands, Laois Hospice and  
Kolbe Special School**

**Donation box at the Crib or donate online via the 'Go Fund me'  
link on our Facebook Page**

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/live-animal-charity-crib-portlaoise>



Hi, I'm Bianca and I am really looking forward to celebrating my first Christmas and meeting you all!

The Crib is kindly sponsored by:



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EVERYTHING FOR THE FARMER

# Come, Lord Jesus

## Lord of Love

An Advent bulletin for the home  
Week Four: 19 December 2021

### Linking with Your Parish

In the hustle and bustle of final Christmas preparations why not: Take some time this week to visit your parish church for a moment of quiet prayer to God. Check out the schedule for individual confession or the parish reconciliation service. Find out the arrangements your parish has in place for Christmas Mass attendance. See if there is anything you can do to help your parish in celebrating the Christmas Masses safely and joyfully this year.

### A Suggestion for the Home for Christmas

When the time comes to place the figure of Jesus into the crib, have the youngest member of the household carry the baby Jesus to the nativity scene. The family might like to say a prayer and sing a favourite Christmas carol together as they do this. See [www.Kandle.ie](http://www.Kandle.ie) for a prayer that can be used.

A family might do this when they come home from Mass or, if the family is joining a livestream of Christmas Mass, before Mass when they light a candle and place the infant figure beside it. At the end of Mass the family can 'process' together to the crib, with the youngest carrying the infant.



### Keeping Christmas 2021 in the Home and Parish - a Family Prayer Companion

A four page leaflet for the home is now available on the Advent Resource page of [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

It contains some prayers for the 12 days of Christmas, including:



#### Keeping Christmas 2021 in the Home and Parish

The Christmas season is a time of joy and hope for all. It is a time to look back on the year that has passed and to look forward to the year ahead. It is a time to reflect on the life of Jesus and to share in the joy of his birth. The leaflet contains prayers for the 12 days of Christmas, including: Christmas Eve - Prayer for placing Jesus in the crib; Christmas Day - Prayer before your Family Christmas Meal; A Prayer at the Crib for the 12 days of Christmas; Feast of the Holy Family - A Family Prayer; Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) - Prayer suggestion; Epiphany - Prayer for chalking your front door and placing Magi at the crib.

- Christmas Eve - Prayer for placing Jesus in the crib
- Christmas Day - Prayer before your Family Christmas Meal
- A Prayer at the Crib for the 12 days of Christmas
- Feast of the Holy Family - A Family Prayer
- Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) - Prayer suggestion
- Epiphany - Prayer for chalking your front door and placing Magi at the crib

May the blessing of Christmas  
bring God's peace, love, healing, joy and hope  
to your hearts and homes this year.

### An Advent Tradition



### Reconciliation: Celebrating God's Forgiveness

An important aspect of preparing for Christmas for many people is the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation or confession. The honest assessment of our lives that Advent calls for will, invariably, lead us to seek God's forgiveness, mercy and love. As we draw closer to Christmas take some time to consider: *What in your life would you like to change? From whom do you need to share or seek forgiveness? For what do you want to say sorry to God?*

Look out for the schedule of individual confession or parish reconciliation service in your parish. If you are isolating and unable to attend, be assured that a sincere prayer asking for the Lord's mercy is already part of the journey to the Sacrament. Already before confession, a person on that journey enjoys the forgiveness of God.

*See overleaf for the text of An Act of Contrition.*

*A last chance to reflect on the  
Advent Sunday Readings -  
what are they saying to me?*

### **ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING**

See [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie) for our weekly Scripture Sharing Reflections on the Advent Sunday readings.

If you haven't had a chance to do so, why not take time for yourself this week and treasure God's word to you in your heart.

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

### **SOME ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...LOVE**

Divine love - the love that changes lives, renews history, liberates from evil, fills hearts with peace and joy.

Tonight the love of God has been revealed to us: it is Jesus... Christmas reminds us that God continues to love us all, even the worst of us. To me, to you, to each of us, he says today: "I love you and I will always love you, for you are precious in my eyes"...At Christmas, the question is this: "Do I allow myself to be loved by God? Do I abandon myself to his love that comes to save me?"

...Let us receive the gift that is Jesus, in order then to become gift like Jesus. (Pope Francis)

*God so loved the world  
that he gave his only begotten son. (John3:16)*

"Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbour. Act as if you did." (C.S. Lewis)

### **SOME ONLINE ADVENT COMPANIONS**

**Advent Music Playlist:** If reading a digital copy, click here for our final Advent play list suggestion: [Catholic Advent Hymns and Carols](#) where you can enjoy listening to 22 hymns in these last days of Advent.

**Video Reflections on Advent Hope, Peace, Joy & Love:** The Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation has produced four short reflections (between 2-3 mins each) led by people from across our diocese. They can be viewed at <https://www.kandle.ie/advent-resources/>

**Interactive Advent Calendar:** It's not too late to treat yourself to these resources. This annual popular offering from the Bishops' Conference is full of daily prayers and resources for the home: [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

### **Act of Contrition**

O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

**Praying as we journey to a more synodal Church...**At Christmas we remember that God is with us, walking with us and showing us the way. Please make the synod prayer part of your weekly prayer routine as we seek to truly become a Church that walks with our God and with one another.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 4**

*You might like to light all the candles on your  
Advent wreath or your Advent Candle to begin  
your prayer.*

Loving God,

On this Advent night we turn to you in prayer.  
As we make our final preparations to  
celebrate the birth of your Son,  
we ask your blessing on our family.  
Help us to welcome your light into our lives,  
a light that gives us the gift of love.  
You showed us the greatness of your love  
in Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.  
You love us with an everlasting love.  
May your love fill our hearts, our minds and  
our home.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



# Christmas and New Year Timetable: Portlaoise Parish

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENITENTIAL SERVICE)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church 7.30pm

## CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 12noon

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 1pm

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December Parish Church after 10.00am Mass to 1pm

## PARISH CHURCH

To ensure the safety of those attending Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day admission will be by ticket.

Tickets available on-line [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm

See also page 23

## CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES

Portlaoise Parish Church  
4pm, 5.30pm, 7pm and 9pm.

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

Parish Church 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm  
The Heath 9.30am  
Ratheniska 10am  
Polish Mass 5pm



## SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER (THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH)

Parish Church 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm  
The Heath 9.30am  
Ratheniska 10am

## MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> TO SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY (including NEW YEAR'S DAY)

Parish Church 10am

## SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY (SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)

Parish Church 5pm, 6.30pm (Vigils) 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am and 12.30pm  
The Heath 9.30am  
Ratheniska 10am

## MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY to WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

Parish Church 10am

## THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY (THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)

7.30pm (Vigil Wednesday) 8.30am, 10am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm

The Heath: 9.30am

Ratheniska: 10am

## FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY (FIRST FRIDAY)

Parish Church 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

## SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

Parish Church 10am



All our up-to-date Mass Times can be accessed on our website [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)



## CHRISTMAS MASS TICKETS

To help control the number of people in our Parish Church this Christmas, we are once again operating a ticket system.

Tickets are only required for the Parish Church and for Masses beginning at 4pm on Christmas Eve and all Masses on Christmas Day.

Tickets will be made available from our Parish Website on Monday 20th December from 1pm. If you need assistance in obtaining your tickets you may visit the Parish Centre on Tuesday from 12-2pm, subject to availability. We encourage you to get your tickets online, maybe with the help of another family member or friend.

We are also encouraging people to attend just one Mass over the Christmas weekend, including Mass on the 26th, leaving it free for as many people as possible to attend Mass.



*Wishing you all a healthy, happy and holy  
Christmas season.*

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

*Margaret Conroy*

O' Moore Place, Portlaoise



*Liz Flanagan*

née Wright

Green Road, Portlaoise



*Carmel Croke*

née Conroy

Pallas, Portlaoise



*Lorcan Patrick Cogan*

Dunmasc, Portlaoise

East London/Wicklow/Wexford



*Sean (John) Fitzpatrick*

Thornberry, 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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/deathnotices)

**In Loving Memory of  
DENIS CAHILL**

Kylevalley, Stradbally, Laois.



5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Holy Cross Church, Ratheniska, this Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

*"Sometimes when I close my eyes, I can imagine things just as they used to be.....It only lasts a moment but that moment, is magic"*

*Miss you every day, love you always  
Mam, Dad, Lily and Gran xoxo*

*May Denis Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JIMMY & GERTIE RANKIN**

1 Elm Lawn, Portlaoise.

Whose 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries (respectively) occur.



*Never more than a thought away, and those who have loved you dearly are thinking of you today.*



*Sadly missed and always remembered by their loving family.*

*May They Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
FRANCES REDDIN**

4 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary occurs 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15am.

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday,  
Unseen, Unheard but always near,  
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.*

*Sadly missed by all her loving family.*

*Rest in Peace Frances*

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  
CHRIS & MOLLIE BERGIN**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise

Both birthdays occur 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021



*Two special people  
never forgotten.*

*Loved and remembered by all  
their family.*

*May Chris & Mollie Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOSEPH DUFF**

37 Beladd, Portlaoise.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

*Your words are few, your feelings deep,  
Memories of you are ours to keep.*

*Missed and remembered by your sister  
Margaret, brother Eddie and family.*

*Rest in Peace Joe*



**In Loving Memory of  
MONICA MULDOWNEY**

Togher, Portlaoise

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021



The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon  
you,  
To shine upon you and be gracious  
unto you,  
The Lord lift up the light of his  
countenance upon you,  
And give you peace. Amen.

Loved and remembered always by Bernadette, Columba,  
Aidan, Gerard and their families and all the extended family.

*Rest in Peace Monica*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOHN FITZPATRICK**

3 Ashton Manor, Portlaoise.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, this Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



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 his loving wife Josie and all the family.

*May John Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
PADDY CROSSAN**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021.



Always in our Thoughts  
Forever in our Hearts

Sadly missed and always  
remembered by Padraig,  
Michael & family, Kieran & family.

*Rest in Peace Paddy*

**In Loving Memory of  
PHYLLIS LALOR**

Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise.

4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Mam;

A daily thought, a silent tear,  
A constant wish that you were here.  
Love and miss you everyday Mam,  
Gerard x

Mam;

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.  
Call Mammy's name out softly Lord,  
And when she looks your way,  
Tell her that we love her and miss her everyday.  
Love and miss you beyond words, Marie & Christy xx

Nan;

No special time is needed for us to think of you,  
For you were someone special and we thought the world of  
you.  
Missing you everyday Nan, love from your two special boys,  
Kyle and Finn xx

Mam/Nanny;

A loving Mother and Nan so true,  
No one on earth we'll find like you,  
For us you always did your best,  
God grant your soul eternal rest.  
Sadly missed, loved everyday, Daithi, Mags, Shauna, Oisín  
and Cillian xxxxx

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church this Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.

*Rest in Peace Phyllis*

**In Loving Memory of  
ANGELA (Sarah) DOYLE**

Kyle, Ballyknocken, Portlaoise.

9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in Sts. Peter &  
Paul's Parish Church, Friday  
24<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.



We little knew that morning that  
God was going to call your name,  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same,  
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.  
You left us precious memories, your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side.  
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.

Love from Mam, Lisa, Nick & Aoibhinn, Bernard,  
Nichole, Arden & Naoises, Ciara, Graham, Adam,  
Abigael, & Alexandra and Donal.

*May Angela Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*In Loving Memory of  
TOM MOORE  
Derrykearn, Abbeyleix*



The family of the late Tom Moore, who passed away 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021, wish to thank most sincerely the many relatives, neighbours and friends who attended Tom's home, removal and funeral. We also thank those who sent Mass

cards and left messages of sympathy on R.I.P.ie We would like to thank Dr. Madden, John O' Donnell and all the medical team at Portlaoise Hospital who took care of Tom over the years. Sincere thanks to Fr. Paddy Byrne and Fr. Petru for celebrating the thoughtful Requiem Mass. A special thanks to Damien Bowe for his lovely singing. We are grateful to Seamus Burke Funeral Directors for their professionalism, the grave diggers and Raheen Graveyard Committee who prepared Tom's final resting place. Thank you to Doogue's Raheen who provided refreshments. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest appreciation. Mass has been offered for your intentions.

*Rest in Peace Tom*

## In Loving Memory of FIONA CONROY

*Kilteale Avenue, Portlaoise.  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.*

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



Loving Memories of you Fiona, we will never forget, Sadly missed along life's way, with silent thought and deep regret, We think of you every day, No longer in our lives to share, But in our hearts you're always there.

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your loving daughter Isabel and Pascal, your Mother Mary and family.*

*May Fiona Rest in Peace*

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

11

28

29

31

No €13,000 Jackpot Winner

**WINNERS**

Phil McCormack  
Gianni & Alex  
Dennis Lennon  
Pauline Tansey  
Angela Preston  
Elizabeth Lynch  
William & Lucy Byrne

**MATCH 3s €1,000**

7  
Match  
3s  
€143  
each

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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](mailto:dlp@kandle.ie)

**Parish Centre**



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto: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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times  
057 8600119)



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

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday  
Subject to availability of space

E-mail: [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP  
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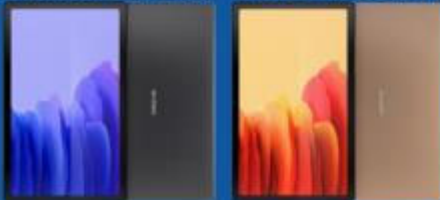
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