

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

5th December 2021

**Second Sunday  
of Advent**



**YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH**  
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

*Keeping Christ in Christmas*

*Make sure to have a Nativity set in your home.*



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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 Peace*



### Children's Choir

Unfortunately rehearsals for members of our Children's Choir have been suspended for the time being in line with Government advice and regulations regarding Children congregating outside of School. This suspension of gathering is for a two week period from the 1<sup>st</sup> December. We still entertain the hope that we can resume then and have a Christmas Carol service and sing at the 10am Mass on Christmas morning. Of course all that is subject to circumstances at the time.

Visit our website: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

### *Pope Francis's Prayer*

#### *Intention for December 2021*

When we think back to those people who have most influenced us or enabled change in our lives, we might remember that those people influenced us not by what they said but what they did and how they lived their lives. We all have a desire to emulate those people we most admire. Living this kind of life is the best form of evangelisation. Pope Francis tells us the Church needs "creative people who proclaim the Gospel, but who proclaim it neither with a mute nor with a loudspeaker, but rather with their life, with gentleness, with a new language, and opening new ways." This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention "for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit, with joy and much peace."



Mass times for the coming week  
ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

**Monday & Tuesday**  
7.30am & 10am

**Wednesday**  
**(The Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**  
7.30pm (Vigil) 8.30am, 10am,  
12.30pm & 7.30pm  
The Heath: 9.30am  
Ratheniska: 10am



**Thursday & Friday**  
7.30am & 10am

**Saturday**  
10am

**CONFESSIONS**  
Saturday

After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.



### **An Garda Síochána Mass**

Mass for deceased members and family members of both serving and retired members of An Garda Síochána will take place in the Parish Church on Monday 6th December at 11am. **All welcome**



### **The Immaculate Conception of Mary - December 8th**

Like the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated during Advent, is related to the mystery of Jesus. To fulfil her unique role in the mission of Jesus, Mary was conceived free from original sin through the foreseen merits of her Son.



### **We welcome into our Parish Community**

Alex William Farrell, Hawthorn Way  
Hollie Mae Galligan, Riverview  
Tommy Larry Brady, Well Road Court  
Johnny Thomas Forde, Shaen  
Isabel Raphael Cushen, Ballymaddock  
Donnacha John Fingleton, Cherrygarth.  
**Who were baptised last weekend.**



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6 Months gym only €139	10 child passes €35
6 Months gym & pool €239	
6 Months pool only €139	
6 Months over 55's gym & pool €210	
12 Months couple pool only €520	



All of the above offers can also be purchased as a gift card. Offers available to purchase from 13<sup>th</sup> December until 1.00pm on Christmas Eve

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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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## PILATES CLASSES

7 week course of Pilates for beginners on Mondays, 7-8pm in Portlaoise Parish Centre. Starting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Bookings now open with limited places available.

Please call Debbie on 087-9945057 or e-mail; [info@laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie](mailto:info@laoisphysiotherapyclinic.ie) to book a place.

Note: Vaccine Cert required to attend.

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### TIME

9.30am - 3.30pm  
 (TBC)

LIMITED NUMBER OF **FREE** PLACES AVAILABLE

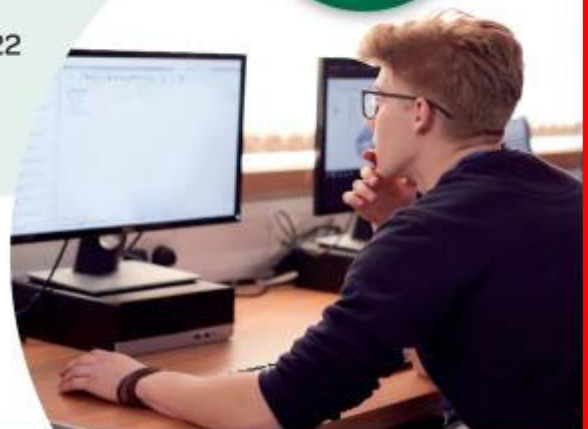
Closing date for applications: **MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**



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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 next Sunday, (12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. All may be accompanied by a slight bow.

**Please do not offer to shake hands**



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Age Action's Care and Repair prioritises carrying out jobs in the homes of older people who are being discharged or have recently been discharged from hospital. If someone is coming out of hospital, no matter where they live, we would support them to make sure their home is safe.

Care and Repair can remove trip hazards, install handrails, replace toilet seats or move a bed downstairs to make sure the home is ready for their return.

If you require work done in your home to make it safer after a stay in hospital we can help.

If you are a professional working with older people who would benefit from this service you can download a referral form from [www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)

For all other queries about Care and Repair please contact us using these numbers:

Age Action national line: 0818 911 109  
 Age Action in Dublin: 01 4756989  
 Age Action in Cork: 021 2067399  
 Age Action in Galway: 091 527831  
 Email: [careandrepair@ageaction.ie](mailto:careandrepair@ageaction.ie)

Age Action  
Age Equality

care+  
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**JUMBLE AND  
BAKE SALE**

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**At our HQ on the Mountrath Rd.**

**Portlaoise**

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Modules Available	Day	Time
Towards QQI Level 3		
Introduction to Computers (3N0881)	Friday	10-13:00
Towards QQI Level 4		
Introduction to Word Processing (4N1123)	Thursday	10-13:00
Introduction to Spreadsheets (4N1120)	Monday	11-14:00
Towards QQI Level 5 Business Studies		
Payroll (5N1546)	Wednesday Friday	11-13:00 9-11:00
Spreadsheet Methods (5N1977)	Thursday Friday	11-13:00 11-13:00
Database Methods (5N0783)	Monday Thursday	9-11:00 9-11:00
Towards QQI Level 5 Healthcare Support		
Infection Prevention & Control (5N3734)	Thursday Friday	9-11:00 10-12:00
Intellectual Disability Studies (5N1652)	Tuesday	11-15:30
Care Support (5N0758)	Monday Thursday	9-11:00 ONLINE 11-13:00
Towards QQI Level 6 Business Management		
Spreadsheet Methods (6N4089)	Tuesday Wednesday	11-13:45 11-13:00
Finance (6N4165)	Monday Tuesday	10-12:45 9-11:00
Applied Economics (6N4091)	Monday Wednesday Friday	9-10:00 13:30-15:30 11-13:00





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No 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois

Dear Parishioner

We are writing to thank you once again for your continued support in our local community. We appreciate each and every donation you have given us and we would like to express how very grateful we are for your generosity and much needed support, particularly over the last couple of years. We as a Conference continue to work hard to ensure your valuable donations and our time are put to the very best use to help those in our community.

*Our upcoming Annual Appeal weekends are:*

***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
&  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021***

Christmas is meant to be a time of togetherness and hope, but for many families we support locally it may be filled with worry. This winter, families around Portlaoise may face impossible choices. They may struggle with the decision of heating the house or having a Christmas dinner, should they put presents under the tree, or pay the electricity bill?

Through your donations we can help alleviate the struggle some families face making these impossible choices, and we can help ensure these families can enjoy a little bit of the magic that comes with this time of year.

This Annual Appeal is a hugely important time for St. Vincent de Paul, Portlaoise. Since the Covid-19 Pandemic we have added additional ways for our kind donors to be able to support us and the work we do.

***You can use the St. Vincent de Paul Donation Box in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church***

***You can donate by post to St. Vincent de Paul, Ozanam House, No. 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise.***

***You can donate using your Online Banking using our IBAN number:  
IE73AIBK93327917987070***

***You can tap a donation on the credit card machine in our SVP shop.***

We would like to say a very sincere **THANK YOU** from our Portlaoise Conference for your continued support and generosity. Without your donation our work would not be possible. Your donation will be vital in helping us to succeed in making an incredible difference to the people's lives we are able to change for the better.



## The SVP Annual Food and Toy Christmas Appeal

All food and Toy donations can be left at Reception in the Parish Centre. Please ensure that all food items are non-perishable. Thank you for your continued support.

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All Proceeds go to:

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Laois Hospice

Kolbe Special  
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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>

**Open from  
Sunday  
28th November**



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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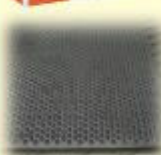
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We would like to wish all our Customers a very **Happy and Peaceful Christmas** and we look forward to your continued support in 2022.



## Are you Ready for Christmas?

Wow! There are only sixteen days until Christmas! Are you ready for Christmas? That is a question we hear quite often these days, isn't it? What do people mean when they ask if you are ready for Christmas? Well, they usually mean things like...

- Do you have all of your shopping done?
- Have you finished wrapping all your gifts?
- Have you put up your Christmas tree and all the decorations?
- Have you sent your Christmas cards?
- Have you finished baking all of the Christmas goodies?
- Is your house clean and ready for visitors?

Are you ready for Christmas? What things do you need to do before you will be ready? There is another question that is much more important than "Are you ready for Christmas?" That question is, "Are you ready for Christ?"



In the Gospel today, we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out to the people, "Prepare the way for the Lord. Fill in the valleys and level off all the mountains. Make the crooked roads straight and the rough places smooth." Did John the Baptist really want the people to work on the roads? No, what John wanted was for the people to get ready for the coming of the Messiah. What he really meant was that the people needed to get their hearts right and return to God. You see, no matter how good people may think they are, there are always some crooked ways and rough places in their lives. There are things such as dishonesty, selfishness, pride, jealousy, and many more.

John wanted the people to make those crooked ways straight and rough places smooth so that Jesus could come and walk among them.

During this special season of the year, you and I need to make sure that we are ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make our crooked ways straight and smooth out the rough places so that we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that right now.



In Advent the priest wears purple, the colour of royalty.

This reminds us that we are waiting to welcome Christ, the King.

Dear Father, we want to be ready. Make our crooked ways straight and our rough places smooth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.





**JOHN THE BAPTIST  
PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS**



*The Second Sunday of Advent*

Two purple candles are now lit for the first and second Sundays in Advent.

The **Candle of Peace** is lit this Sunday on the second Sunday of Advent.

**Prayer for the Second Week of Advent**

Loving God, On this Advent day we turn to you in prayer. As we wait the coming of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us. Bring your healing upon us. And help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of peace. May your peace guard our heart, our mind and our home. We ask this through our Lord. Amen.



**A Voice in the Wilderness**  
Fill in the blanks

The \_\_\_\_\_ tells us that in the days before \_\_\_\_\_ began his ministry, a man called \_\_\_\_\_ began \_\_\_\_\_ and telling the people to \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming \_\_\_\_\_.

When told \_\_\_\_\_ people to prepare for the King, he didn't mean that they should go \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the floor, pick up their \_\_\_\_\_, and make their \_\_\_\_\_ . He meant that they should prepare their \_\_\_\_\_.

How? By \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_ and turning toward \_\_\_\_\_.

When they did this, John would \_\_\_\_\_ them in the \_\_\_\_\_ . That is how \_\_\_\_\_ got the name, " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**WORD BOX**



- Bible
- hearts
- God
- sweep
- Jordan River
- John
- toys
- prepare
- King
- preaching
- Jesus
- baptise
- John
- repenting
- Beds
- sins
- home
- John the Baptist



# TIME TO THINK!

## THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Generosity is a wonderful gift. To have a big heart is a blessing that is to be open and compassionate in love to the needs of others. Generosity is contagious and beneficial. Fact...The more we give the more we receive. Generosity is measured in our ability to engage and be present to the needs of others. It is also very important to be generous to ourselves. The more I care for myself the greater I can care for others... Christmas is a celebration of generosity. God's love is so overwhelming that he embraced our human vulnerability and became one of us, a birth that evoked generosity from shepherds to wise men. May we all be blessed with generous hearts this Christmas.

A charming story is told of Poinsettia, a poor Mexican girl, who had no gift to present to the baby Jesus in his crib, as was customary on Christmas Eve. As Poinsettia walked slowly to the chapel with her friends and family her heart was full of sadness rather than joy. An angel appeared to the little girl and spoke to her "I am sure that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes". Not knowing what to do, the little girl knelt at the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at these insignificant weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. Poinsettia fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel. As she approached the crib she remembered the angel's words. She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the feet of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant crimson red, all who saw them were certain that they had seen a miracle right before their eyes. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flores de Buena, Flower of the Holy Night, known by all of us for its Christmas colour, called the Poinsettia.

This is a powerful story of Christian hope in a time of darkness and uncertainty. And yet even where one can be overwhelmed and indeed choked by the overgrowing destructive weeds regarding so many structures in our society, the Poinsettia offers us hope. This is a time of cleansing, a time for renewal, a time for change. Jesus born in great poverty to a family placed on the margins is our source of new life, renewal, hope and confidence. Jesus feels no doubt the immense pain and suffering that is felt in the hearts of so many good people at this time. He dwells in our hearts that may be disillusioned.

The gift of Christmas is to indulge in a bright light that is so much brighter than any darkness.

There are no limits when it comes to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. There are no cutbacks in the unconditional love Jesus has for us all. The new life of Jesus Christ is not something that just once happened but a promise that needs to be realised in all our lives. This is the time. It is the weeds of hurt and brokenness, disillusionment and anger that we place at the foot of our Saviour this Christmas. His Presence will transform and allow us to begin again.

The Little Drummer Boy is one of my favourite Christmas songs, largely because I see myself in this lad. If I were to encounter Jesus on earth, I'd feel as if I had nothing to offer. Though the beauty of the story is that God doesn't see us this way. He simply asks us to give Him our all, and in the little drummer boy's case, it's a song. And you know what? It's a perfect gift. God knows exactly what we're able to offer, and He wants us to use our talents to praise and honour Him. That's exactly what this little drummer boy does. This song is meant for young children, but reading the words of this classic Christmas song is sure to get anyone into the Christmas spirit.



### *A Christmas Blessing*

*God grant you lightness in your step,  
A smile on every face you meet,  
Loved ones gathered at your hearth,  
And at your door, good friends to greet,  
A holy hymn upon your lips,  
A window candle burning bright,  
And may the Good Lord bless your heart,  
And come to dwell here Christmas night.*

May health of body and peace of mind be our loved ones greatest gifts this Christmas.



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## **PORTLAOISE NO NAME CLUB**

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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.

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## **H.S.E. Retired Staff Christmas Celebrations**

Regrettably the HSE Christmas Dinner and Mass scheduled to take place Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise is now cancelled due to rising Covid numbers.

## **FUEL FOR SALE**

3 large net bags Logs €10

5 bags of Kindling €10

Orders over €50 receive

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All-in good condition.

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Rosary and prayers at the Shrine, Market Sq. at **2:30pm this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December.**  
All are welcome.  
Please support Our Lady.

## **FOR SALE**

Two single bed frames, black iron, €80 per frame. Tel. **086-3724101**

## **FOR SALE**

Second hand 3+1+1 black leatherette couch with pine trimmings, free for collection. Tel. **087-2295627**

## **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

**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](mailto: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.*



# THE PARISH SHOP



**CALL IN AND BROWSE OUR LARGE SELECTION OF;**

- *Cribs/Nativity Sets*
- *Christmas Ornaments and Gifts*
- *Cards for all occasions*
- *Diaries and Calendars*
- *Bibles and Books*
- *Christmas Mass Bouquets €3*

## **Christmas Opening Hours**

Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm  
Saturdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm

*Christmas Blessings*



# Come, Lord Jesus

## *Lord of Peace*

An Advent bulletin for the home  
Week Two: 5 December 2021

### An Advent Tradition

As we move through Advent the Christmas tree will begin to appear in more and more homes, signalling that we are getting closer to the feast of Christmas.

In the midst of winter, the evergreen tree, dressed with lights, reminds us of the life and light that comes to us through Christ. The colourful decorations of the tree are a reminder of the paradise tree of the garden of Eden, hung with the bright colour of fruit.



*Families are invited to say the following prayer together when they put up the Christmas tree in their home.*

### *A Blessing Prayer*

Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we gather around this tree.  
May its light  
and the cheer it gives us  
be a sign of the joy  
that fills our hearts.  
As we delight in this tree  
may we come to  
the knowledge and joy  
of the Christmas gift  
of salvation and peace.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### An Advent Character & an invitation for us to walk in faith: St Joseph

The year of St Joseph draws to a close on December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't had a chance to ponder his story perhaps now is a good time! As an Advent character, his was a supporting role in the truest sense of the word, and yet his choices mattered so much! Joseph's story can remind each of us that our willingness to take the journey of faith affects everything. It tells us that walking in faith will require something of us, perhaps more than we thought we were capable of. But it also tells us that if we say yes to God and trust in God's path for us, like Joseph, we, too, can find our place in the greatest story ever told. We, too, can experience God-with-us. Walking in faith, we, like Joseph, can recognize the coming of the Divine into our hearts and call his name Jesus.



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Wednesday, December 8, we celebrate this feast day of Mary. We remember that from the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, Mary was preserved free from Original Sin. She was full of grace. See [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb_logo) for a short video on the meaning of this feast.

### Linking with your parish in Advent

Does your parish have a website, Facebook page, Twitter account or other social media? Why not look it up and follow what's happening in your parish?

## ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...PEACE

In his letter, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis writes: "In the family, three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: 'Please', 'Thank you', 'Sorry'. Three essential words! ...Let us not be stingy about using these words, but keep repeating them, day after day...never let the day end without making peace in the family."

From Advent PEACE by Lindy Thompson: As one flame, shared candle to candle, can fill a sanctuary with light, so be it with your peace, from one heart to another, one interaction at a time, until no place in the world is without your light. Amen. Isaiah 52:7 "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"



REMEMBER OTHERS  
THIS ADVENT

[WWW.TROCAIRE.ORG/GIFTS](http://WWW.TROCAIRE.ORG/GIFTS)

## SOME ONLINE ADVENT COMPANIONS

**Interactive Advent Calendar:** This annual popular offering from the Bishops' Conference goes live on November 28. Full of daily prayers and resources for the home, you'll find it at: [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

**Advent Music Playlist:** This week our featured Spotify music playlist is: [Music for Advent with John Rutter and the Cambridge Singers](#). 25 Advent hymns to travel with you during the week ahead!

**Pray As You Go:** A daily audio reflection on the Advent readings of the day. [www.Pray-as-you-go.org](http://www.Pray-as-you-go.org)



Walking  
together in  
Advent:  
A synodal  
journey

As we make our Advent journey, this image, taken from the Universal Synod logo, reminds us that Christians walk together. Listening to, caring for and supporting one another - there is no one greater than the other. Let us pray this Advent that each of us can be that Christian to and with one another. Let us pray that we can be part of making our parishes grow even more to be places where we can travel as companions together.



*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 <https://www.kandle.ie/advent-resources/> 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 – in person or online?**

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

'A voice cries in the wilderness;  
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be  
laid low, winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.  
And all shall see the salvation of God.' (Luke 3:4-6)

*Prepare the way of the Lord  
make straight his paths.*

## An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for Week 2

*We invite you to take a moment before bedtime to pause and thank God for your Advent day. Bring to God any worries or concerns you may have, any places of conflict or disturbance in your life. Pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family. You might like to light the first two candles of 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 wait for the coming of your Son,  
we ask you to bless our family.  
Comfort us with your healing  
and help us to welcome your light into our lives,  
a light that gives us the gift of peace.  
Help us to forgive and to love,  
and to bring your peace where it is needed.  
May your peace guard  
our hearts, our minds and our home.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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



*Eilish Hughes*

Formerly Borris Road  
Portlaoise.  
Died in San Francisco on  
7<sup>th</sup> October

Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Church at  
12 noon, on Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> December, followed by interment  
of ashes in family grave in Sts. Peter & Paul's Cemetery.



*Olivia Greene*

Oakleaf Place  
Died in England. F.A.L.



*Edward (Eddie) Bergin*

Tunduff, Abbeyleix

*Phil McCann* née Holohan

Balladine, Abbeyleix

*Martina Bergin*

Boley, Shanahoe

**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  
MARY FINNAN**

Late of 6 Borris Road, Portlaoise.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary occurs 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,  
on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Mary and friends.  
Rest in Peace Mary*

**Forever Remembered  
EILEEN PERCY**

Portlaoise.  
Sunrise 25/6/49. Sunset 10/12/20



Eileen's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Mass will  
be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's  
Parish Church, on Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15am.

*An Amazing Mother, Nanny,  
Sister and Hero, cherished by all her  
family and friends.*

*Nanny*

Walk along with me Nanny and hold my little hand,  
I have so many things to learn that I don't understand,  
Teach me things to keep me safe,  
From the dangers everyday,  
Show me how to do my best,  
At home, at school, at play,  
Every child needs a gentle hand to guide them as  
they grow, so walk alongside me Nanny,  
We have a long way to go.

**In Loving Memory of  
ELEANOR WALSH**

Capoley Lane, Portlaoise.  
9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.



"The best way to feel better is to  
make someone else feel good"  
- Eleanor Walsh

*Dearly missed by all her loving family  
and friends.*

*Rest in Peace Eleanor*

**In Loving Memory of  
DENIS BOWE**

7 Ashley Gardens, Portlaoise.  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated  
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church  
on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

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

*Sadly missed by your loving wife Margaret, daughter  
Yvonne, sons Denis, David and extended family.*

*May Denis Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
ELIZABETH GING**

8 New Road Portlaoise. Died 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008  
13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs at this time.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.**

*It's lonely here without you,  
We miss you more each day,  
For life is not the same to us,  
Since you were called away.*

*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 and always remembered by your daughter Bernie, son-in-law Ivan, grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

*May Elizabeth Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
WILLIAM (BILLY) FARRELL**

Hillview Drive and formerly of St. John's Sq.  
8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm.



*It's been the hardest thing to lose you  
You meant so much to us  
But you are in our hearts and that is  
where you will always be.  
We know Heaven called you, but we  
wish you could have stayed  
At least the memories we have of you  
will never fade.  
We did not want to lose you, but you  
didn't go alone*

*Part of us went with you, when God called you home.*

*So just remember one thing, we are not apart  
You are always in our memories  
And forever in our broken hearts.*

Loved and missed always, your wife Ann and children Christine, Jessica and William, son-in-law James and grandson James.

*May William Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
LILY REID**

Colliers Lane, Portlaoise.  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurs 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**

Thinking of the thoughtful things,  
That you have said and done,  
And loving you a little more,  
Dear Lily, for each and every one.

*Always loved and remembered by her loving husband and family, extended family and friends.*

*May Lily Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
JOSEPH & BRIDGET  
CLEAR**

Whose Anniversaries occur at this time.



Will those who think of them today,  
A little prayer to Jesus say.  
*Always remembered by your loving family.*

*May Joseph and Bridget Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of  
PASCHAL FARRELL**

56 St. Brigids Place, Portlaoise.  
Paschal's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occurred 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 12:30pm.

*We thought of you today,  
But that is nothing new,  
We thought about you yesterday,  
And days before that too.*

*We think of you in silence, we often speak your name,  
All we have are memories and your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is our keepsake, from which we'll never part,  
God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.*

**Sadly missed and remembered by his loving Dad, brothers, sister, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grand-niece, grand-nephews and extended family.**

*Also remembering his Mam at this time R.I.P.*

*May Paschal Rest in Peace*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### In Loving Memory of **BILLY DARGAN**



The family of the late Billy Dargan would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with them on Billy's passing. To those who sent Mass cards and messages of support and for all the lovely memories shared online by his friends.

To Fr. David Vard and Msgr. John Byrne for all your support and kindness.

Our thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode for your professionalism.

A special thank you to all staff, past and present of St. Fintan's Hospital for caring for Billy throughout his life. To Portlaoise GAA for your Guard of Honour, thank you, Billy being one of their number one fans all of his life. To Pat Boran on his wonderful poem that captured Billy so well.

Thanks also to Ava Lalor for your beautiful singing at Billy's funeral Mass.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our sincere appreciation to all who knew Billy.

*Rest in Peace Billy*

## In Loving Memory of **MARY KATE SHEEHAN**

Late of 68 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary occurs 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Church on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

A picture of you I carry in my heart,  
I close my eyes to see it, when the world  
gets dark,

A memory of you I carry in my soul,  
I wrap it close around me, when the nights  
get cold,

If you ask how I am, I'd say just fine,

But the truth is, if you could read my mind,  
Not a day goes by, that I don't think of you.

Sadly missed by your daughter Philomena, your grandchildren  
Stacey, Aishling, Dillon, Leanne, Melissa & Nicole and your great  
grandchildren.

*Rest in Peace Mary-Kate*

I am with you  
*always*  
Matthew 28:20

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### In Loving Memory of **CHRISTY PAISLEY**

27 St. John's Sq. Portlaoise.



Christy's wife Rose and family would sincerely like to thank all those who sympathised with us on our recent sad loss.

A heartfelt thank you to all who called to the house and those who attended at the Rosary for Christy both in the house and at Keegan's funeral home and all who attended at Christy's funeral service in person and via the webcam. A special thank you to those who sent cards, flowers and messages of condolences.

Also thank you to family, neighbours and friends who very thoughtfully brought food and refreshments to the house and helped out in any way.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words and love for Christy, it has been a great source of comfort, support and strength to us during this sad and difficult time.

We sincerely thank Dr. Shields and staff in the Cardiac Department, Dr. Ausaf Mohammad, Rheumatologist and Dr. Crotty of the Haematology Clinic, all of Tullamore Hospital. To the Doctors, Nurses and all staff of the Surgical Ward of Portlaoise Hospital and the staff of Kilminchy Nursing Home please know our family are very grateful to you all for the level of care, kindness, compassion and dignity shown to Christy over the last two years but especially in Christy's final weeks.

A special thank you to Christy's Home Carers, most recently Bukola and William, we thank you for the kindness and care you showed to Christy.

To Dr. White and staff and to Chemco Pharmacy thank you both for looking after Christy over the years.

We are sincerely thankful and grateful to Msgr. John Byrne for his prayers and many visits with Christy in Portlaoise Hospital, we know those visits were of great comfort to him.

Thank you also for the beautiful funeral service celebrating Christy's life. Thank you to Fr. David Vard who was the priest on call the night Christy passed. Thank you also to Sarah Troy for the beautiful music during the funeral service.

Thank you to the staff of the Parish Centre, we appreciate all your kindness and help.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Keegan's Funeral Directors for the kind and professional manner in which they carried out Christy's funeral arrangements and to the grave diggers for preparing Christy's final resting place.

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

Christy's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in  
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> December  
at 11.15am.

*Rest in Peace Christy*



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Remembering your loved ones at Christmas

We are currently accepting Christmas Remembrances and Anniversaries for our Christmas edition.

The deadline to submit notices will be **12 noon Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

Owing to the large volume of notices received, we would ask that notices are submitted as early as possible.

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

If you would like to repeat a previous remembrance/anniversary notice, you can call the office on **057-8692154.**

*Thank you for your patience, understanding and co-operation with the above procedures.*



† **KEEGAN'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS** †

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Contact Matthew  
**087-2549195**

David **087-2369887**

**HENRY RANKIN**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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PAUL; 087-2562137  
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086-2770095



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

## Portlaoise Parish



Results for  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

06

12

18

24

**6 Winners shared €20,000 Jackpot  
receiving €3,334 each**

### Winners

Glen Bradshaw  
Patricia Lawless  
Breda Conroy  
Marie O'Keeffe  
Declan Culliton,  
Michael Farrell,

### Promoters

Nuala Arrigan  
Browns Shop  
Breda Conroy  
Anne O'Keeffe  
Mary Arthur  
Pam Killeen

29  
Match 3s  
€35  
each

**Next Week's  
Jackpot is  
€12,000**

See full list of Match 3 Winners on our parish website  
[www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)

Results sheets available from Parish Centre

Play PARISH

Follow Us @PortlaoiseParish  
& Like Us portlaoiseparish-



## 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

## 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](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)

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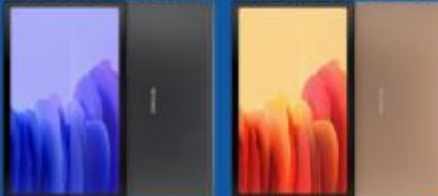


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