



20th March 2022

Third Sunday
of Lent

WE STAND WITH
UKRAINE

Listening Lent

Inviting all to a
Listening Lent Session in
Portlaoise Parish Centre

Tuesday 22nd
March 2022 at 8pm



The Synodal Pathway
of the Catholic Church in Ireland

The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise

When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply

happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise....something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.

LENTEN STATIONS

For the support of our Priests

Envelopes are available in Church porches for those who haven't got Development Boxes and wish to contribute to the Priests Collection. You can drop this envelope in one of the collection boxes provided in our Churches or returning to the Parish Centre during Lent.

Mass times for the coming week

ST. PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday—Friday

7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm.

Saturday

10am

Sunday

Vigils 5pm & 6.30pm (Saturday)

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, THE HEATH

Sunday: 9.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, RATHENISKA

Sunday: 10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday

After 10am Mass & after 5pm Mass.

Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church porches or you can pick up a box in the Parish Centre.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Nella Mazurek, Bluebell Way, Esker Hills

Glenda Sophie Culleton, Camcloon

Amanda O'Donoghue, Colliers Court

Bronagh, Rose Lawlor, Broomville Close

Bobbi Shiel, Parnell Crescent

Chloe Rose Winters Lacey, Rath Gailine

Margaret O'Donoghue, Old Knockmay Road

Tim Martin Delaney, Ballygormill, Timahoe

Who were baptised Recently

The Feast of the Annunciation Friday (25th March)



On Monday March

25th, nine months before Christmas, we celebrate one of the Church's most important feast days, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. It is interesting to reflect that God did not need any human being in order to do his work, however, he chose to redeem us in a way that included human participation through a humble young woman's consent.

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- Willingness to work alone
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Closing Date for receipt of completed applications;
Friday 25th March 2022

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Current Vacancies Muiriosa Foundation

Portlaoise Active Retirement: The re-opening of our Wednesday Afternoon club at 3pm in the Parish Centre has been a huge success. So many of us are so happy to re-acquaint with old friends and make new ones.

Wed. 23rd March: We have hired a professional to entertain us for the afternoon with his wide repertoire of music, song, storytelling etc.

Wed. 30th March: AGM – We hope to see you all there and new members very welcome.

Our holiday to Clonakilty on 25th April is filling up fast. There are a few seats still available. For further info. contact Secretary, Trudy Nealon 086-03136182.

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Limited Places Remaining March & April – Portlaoise

A box will be placed in the Parish Church beside Our Lady for the month of March, for anyone wishing to make an application for full or part sponsorship on the **2022 Parish**

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Please include your name, address and contact details.



Join with us to pray the Rosary via the Parish webcam daily at 9:30am, 7pm, 9:30pm.

Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto after evening Mass on the First Friday of every month.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHOIR

I would like to congratulate Sarah Troy on resuming the 10am Choir and to wish her and the girls and boys all the best with their endeavours.

I encourage the children to practice as much as possible

and to support and be guided by Sarah, who I am sure will be an excellent director.

On my own behalf I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes since I announced my retirement. A special thank you to Msgr. Byrne and the former members of the choir for their good wishes and much appreciated gifts.

Catherine Quigley

Thank you

Portlaoise Cemetery Committee would like to thank all those who donated so generously to their recent Church gate collection. All money raised will be used for the upkeep of Portlaoise cemetery. Thank you.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

30th June to 6th July 2022

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Irish Cancer Daffodil Day is back on the streets this year! Daffodil Day is Friday, 25th March 2022. We need volunteers to collect at various locations in Portlaoise. Please contact Cathy 086-8797907 or message the Facebook Page **Portlaoise Daffodil Day** with your name, mobile number and time available. We also require your fresh flowers! If you have any daffodils you can spare from your garden, please leave into Martley's shop starting Monday, 21st March. Closed buds preferred, to stay fresh for Daffodil Day.

Earth Hour 2022 – Saturday 26th March, 8.30pm:

Each year Earth Hour provides us with an opportunity to show how much we care about our planet - our common home. We are being called on to reverse Nature loss by 2030. On the night of Earth Hour at 8.30pm we are being asked to switch off as much light and other facilities as possible in solidarity with our planet. Let us join our supporters in 190 other countries in a movement for our own futures, not just for the Earth.

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FOR UKRAINE
AT MASSES NEXT WEEKEND 26th/27th

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 meet and greet each other

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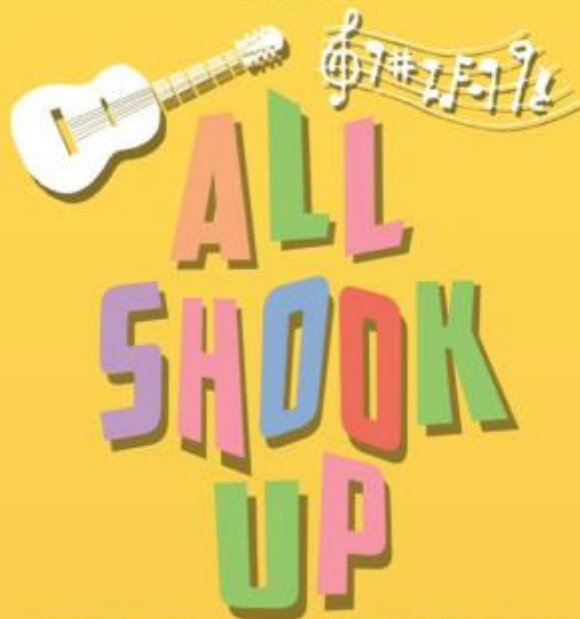
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Living a Fruitful Life

What is your favourite fruit? Apples, oranges, peaches, bananas?? Mine is Apples. Yum! Yum! Do you know what I think would be great? I think it would be great to have a lot a fruit trees in your yard so that any time you wanted a snack, you could just go out and pick a piece of fruit off of the tree. But what if you had an fruit tree in your yard that never had any fruit on it? It wouldn't be good for anything except shade, would it?

In the Gospel today, Jesus told a story about a man who planted a fig tree in his garden. After some time had passed, he went to look for some fruit on the tree, but there was none. Year after year he watched the tree, but the tree never produced any fruit. Finally, the man went to the gardener who took care of the tree and said to him, "For three years I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! It is just taking up space in the garden."

The gardener answered, "Please, sir, give it one more chance. Leave it for another year. I will give it special attention. I will dig around the tree and give it plenty of fertilizer. If the tree produces fruit next year, great, if not, then you can cut it down."

In telling this story, Jesus was really talking about us and about God. God has "planted" us here on this earth and he expects us to produce good fruit in our life. What kind of fruit does he expect? When He looks at the way we live our life, he wants to see things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness. There are times when he is disappointed in what he sees, but he is willing to give us another chance.

What can we do to help us produce the kind of fruit that God expects? We can worship regularly, read his Word, and pray. Those things will help us to live a fruitful life.



prayer



Heavenly Father, we know that you expect good things from your children.

Help us live a life that will be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Types of Prayer

- Seeking Forgiveness from God / Confession / Contrition
- Giving Thanks / Thanksgiving
- Giving Praise to God / Adoration / Worship
- Seeking Help / Intercession
- Seeking Guidance

Confession / Contrition

Sometimes we pray to say sorry for letting someone down or hurting someone or failing to do the right thing 'forgive us our trespasses'



Thanksgiving

Sometimes we pray giving thanks to God because things are going well in our lives 'hallowed be thy name'



Intercession

Some people pray because they have illness or suffering in their lives



Petition

Sometimes we pray to God asking his help when times are difficult or we are powerless to help someone we love.



WHY DO

Different circumstances give rise to different kinds of prayer

Protection

Sometimes when we feel weak and vulnerable we pray to God to strengthen us.



WE PRAY

Petition

Some people pray to create a stronger bond between themselves and God



Seeking Guidance

In times of crisis in our lives we pray for guidance.



Adoration/Worship

Praising God. God is a mystery. 'Who art in heaven'





Time to Think!

The Little Flower....A Powerful Saint

St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) was a French Catholic who became a Carmelite nun at an early age. She died in obscurity at the age of 24. However, after her death, her autobiography - *Story of a Soul* was published and became a best-seller around the world. Her books explained her spiritual path of love and selflessness, and she became one of only three females to be considered a doctor of the Catholic Church.

Free gifts make us suspicious. Even with God's gifts, we feel uneasy - how can God give me love unless I deserve it?

Thérèse of Lisieux had unique insight into God's generosity, our failings are like a drop of water in the furnace of God's love. Because we little appreciate God's compassion, we project onto him our narrow human standards. We imagine that our weaknesses drive a wedge between God and us.

Thérèse says the opposite: *'Resign yourself to stumbling at every step, even to falling; love your powerlessness,'* and again, *'What a grace when in the morning I feel no courage, no strength to practise virtue.'* It's OK not to be OK. It is hard for us to believe this, and harder still to live by it. This may be due to a religious heritage which told us that God's love must be earned by observing his law. The guilt such a tradition induces has more to do with pride than holiness. When I fail, it is not before God that I feel guilty, but before an idealised image of myself. I have let myself down. Despite my efforts I failed to live up to my ideals, so my pride is wounded. The God I'm serving is not the God of Jesus Christ; it is my image of God, my ideal self.

For Thérèse, conversion meant abandoning this illusory God in which there is so much self-centredness. This led to her discovery of the 'little way' that turns upside-down how many of us look at the Christian life, introducing us to a spirituality of imperfection. Thérèse does not trivialise moral failings, but sees them in the perspective of God's mercy. As a mother overlooks her child's failings, so does God look generously on our weaknesses. Far from displeasing God, they can be grace-bearing. They help us experience Christian life as a celebration of God's love rather than a struggle towards self-perfection.

Thérèse says, *'The more one is weak, without desires and without virtues, the more one is suited for the operations of God's consuming and transforming love.'* This brings our relationship with God to a new level. From being timid and distant, we develop a boldness that thrills God's heart. We experience how passionate God's love is for us. In that strange logic of love, we come to understand the vulnerability of God; he cannot refuse our neediness. Our faults remain, but, rather than damage our relationship, they draw us into deeper levels of intimacy.

There is no room for God's love in the hearts of the proud. Effort, not grace, is their way to God. They need to learn that God cannot be bought. His friendship cannot be won by our achievements. All is gift.



Thérèse tells us, 'Those who live by the gospel are not looking anxiously to see results, not counting on success, not concerned about what progress they have made. They live by faith and confidence, giving themselves completely over to God's mercy.' She illustrates this by the image of a stairs. God is at the top, watching our efforts to reach him. Knowing that we cannot measure up to the gospel ideal, he bends down to us. This is the way we reach union with God - not through grim determination and effort, but through his love taking us to himself.

Miraculous Invocation to St. Therese

O Glorious St. Therese, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and inspire the human family,
I implore your Miraculous Intercession,
You are so powerful in obtaining every need of body and spirit from the Heart of God,
Holy Mother Church proclaims you "Prodigy of Miracles... the greatest Saint of Modern Times",
Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention in silence here) and to carry out your promises of spending Heaven doing good on earth...of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses,
Little Flower, give me your childlike faith, to see the Face of God in the people and experiences of my life, and to love God with full confidence,
St. Therese, my Carmelite Sister, I will fulfil your plea "to be made known everywhere" and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.



What is a Synod?

The word "synod" evokes the image of "walking together on the way". For the Church it is a time-honoured way of working out together the "navigation map" for the Church at particular times. Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Pope Francis emphasises that this is not simply a matter of discussion as in a parliamentary debate. Rather it is primarily a prayerful spiritual time of communitarian discernment. It is about finding the best ways for every baptised person to fulfil the Church's mission of proclaiming to the world, God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis has emphasised that "it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium". Synodality is at the heart of the pastoral conversion that Pope Francis emphasises in the Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium*).

What is a Listening Lent Session?

This Lent our Diocese, Kildare and Leighlin, have invited us all to take Lent as a way of listening to each other and the Holy Spirit. Our session on March 22nd is a way of doing just that! We will be asked three key questions and everyone will be able to have their voice heard and their thoughts, comments and/or concerns will be fed back to the Bishop at the Chrism Mass. Please see kandle.ie/synod for more information.

Portlaoise Parish

Inviting all to a Listening Lent Session in
Portlaoise Parish Centre

Tuesday 22nd
March 2022 at 8pm

Abbeylisle, Raheen and Ballinakill

Inviting all to a Listening Lent Session in
Abbeylisle Manor Hotel

Wednesday 30th
March 2022 at 7.30pm

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



Michael Fitzpatrick

Harpurs Lane and
Boughlone Way,
Portlaoise



James (Jim) Moore

Bettystown, formerly Kyle,
Ballyknocken, Portlaoise
and Birmingham

Noel Thomas Patrick O' Shea

Upper Main Street, 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

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL & MARGARET CONROY

O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

*Margaret's birthday occurs 20th March and also remembering
Michael's birthday which occurred 6th January.*



Mam and Dad, without a farewell you
fell asleep, but memories of you we
will always keep.

We miss you both everyday,
You were so precious and unique.
A guiding light throughout our lives,
you were our strength when we were
weak.

Happy memories flood our minds whenever we think of you,
but you can never be replaced, that sadly is true.
We shall always remember the closeness we had, we love you
and miss you both, our kind and loving parents.

*Loved and remembered always by your sons Michael,
Eddie, Andrew, Paul, Jimmy and your daughter Theresa.*

May They Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
ANGELA (Jill) KEENAN**

4 New Row, Green Road, Portlaoise.

2nd Anniversary occurred 14th March 2022.



*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Saturday 19th March at 10am.*

When we look upon your picture,
Sweet memories we recall,
Of a face so full of sunshine,
And a smile for one and all.

Sadly missed by all your loving family.

Rest in Peace Angela

**In Loving Memory of
BREDA HOLOHAN**

Killeen, The Heath

8th Anniversary occurs 19th March 2022



A day without a thought of you is
very hard to find,
I'm always thinking of you and you
are always on my mind,
All the things we did together,
I'll remember them forever.

*Sadly missed by your loving husband
Michael, sisters Mary & Betty and
neighbours and friends.*

May Breda Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of TERESA LOOBY

84 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
1st Anniversary occurs 29th March 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church,
Portlaoise on Sunday 27th March
at 12:30pm.

*Those Special memories of You
will always bring a smile,
If only we could have you back
for just a little while,
Then we could sit and talk again
like we used to do,
You always meant so very much
and always will do too,*

*The fact that you're no longer here will always cause us pain,
But you're forever in our hearts until we meet again"*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by Caroline, Declan,
Regina and Enda, relatives, neighbours and friends.*

As an acknowledgement of the family's appreciation for
Mass cards, Sympathy cards, RIP messages, the Holy
Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered for your intentions.

*"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day,
Unseen unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of MARY FINGLETON

Park, Stradbally.
3rd Anniversary occurs at this time.



Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered everyday.

*Lovingly remembered by all her
family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Mary

In Loving Memory of ELIZABETH McDONALD

22 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
44th Anniversary and Birthday
remembrance occur at this time.



*You gave us years of happiness,
Then sorrow came with tears,
You left us wonderful memories,
We will treasure through the years.*

Love you always Mam.

May Elizabeth Rest in Peace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
MOIRA WALSHÉ née Delaney
Laurel Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise.
Died 28th March 2021.



Moira's husband and family wish
to express their appreciation to
all who sympathised with them in
person or online with cards and
flowers, on Moira's death.

Special thanks to Fr. David Vard
for visiting Moira a number of
times for which she was truly grateful, and for
celebrating her Requiem Mass.

Thanks also to Monsignor John and all the Priests
for their support and to Martin Delaney for his
music and singing at the Mass.

Thanks to the doctors and nurses in Portlaoise and
St. James hospitals for their care and support given
to Moira during her illness. Our great appreciation
to Sonya Brennan and all the palliative care team
for looking after Moira, and to Dr Michelle Byrne.
To the very helpful staff in Chemco Pharmacy,
thanks. Sincere thanks to Ciaran O' Sullivan for
looking after Moira's funeral in a very caring and
professional manner.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually,
please accept this acknowledgement as a token of
our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

Moira's 1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church Portlaoise, on
Sunday 27th March at 11.15am.

Rest in Peace Moira

In Loving Memory of FRANCES DOODY

Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
3rd Anniversary occurs 26th March 2022.



Death changes everything,
Time changes nothing,
We still miss the sound of your voice,
The wisdom in your advice,
The stories of your life and just being in
your presence,
We still miss you just as much today as we
did the day you died.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church, on Saturday 26th March at 6.30pm.

*Always loved, never forgotten, Carol, Michael,
Eimhin and Dee, Aisling, Eoghán and Maria and
great-grandniece Robyn xxxxx*

Rest in Peace Frances

In Loving Memory of JOE RYAN

Avondale, Abbeylax Rd., Portlaoise.
2nd Anniversary occurs 22nd March 2022

*We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again.*

*Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by
your wife Babs, son Martin and family.*

Rest in Peace Joe



In Loving Memory of Our Dear Mother HANNAH TUOHY

10 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise.
7th Anniversary occurs 23rd March 2022

*You held our hand when
we were small,
You caught us when
we fell,
The hero of our childhood
and of latter years as well,*



*Every time we think of you,
Our hearts are filled with pride,
And though we'll always miss you,
We know you are by our side.*

*So greatly missed, so dearly loved,
by your sons, daughters, sons-in-law,
daughters-in-law, sister Katie, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Mam x

In Loving Memory of BERNARD DEVANEY

Newpark, Portlaoise. Died 28th March 2020
2nd Anniversary occurs at this time

*Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 26th March at 6:30pm.*

*Greatly missed and fondly remembered by
his family and friends.*

Rest in Peace Bernard



In Loving Memory of JOHN O' BRIEN

15 New Road, Portlaoise. Died 23/3/2012.
10th Anniversary occurs at this time.

*It's been the hardest thing to lose
you, you meant so much to me,
But you are in my heart John,
And that's where you'll always be.
I know that Heaven called you,
But I wish you could have stayed,
At least the memories I have of you,
They will never fade.*

*I did not want to lose you, but you
did not go alone, because part of me went with you,
When Heaven called you home.*

*So just remember one thing, we are not apart,
You're with me in my memories and in my broken heart.
Sadly missed by your sister Theresa, Shane and Yvonne.*

May John Rest In Peace



Be reconciled to God

Corinthians 5:20



Stations of the Cross for Peace

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Friday Evening
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FOR
UKRAINE



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**"Is that in the Gospels?" - The Idea of
Dogma**
Fr. Francis Gavin

**"Jesus, Yes! The Church? No" -
Answering a modern Cliché**
Nashville Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia

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**"I Chant Believe It!" - Medieval Music in
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Maghnus Monaghan

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
16th March 2022



No €14,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Jolanta Zadora
Jacinta McCormack
Roseanne Lee Kelly
Kate & Tom Bonham
PJ Cahill
Stephen Maguire
Keith Campbell
Frank Morrissey
Peg Russell
David Bracken

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10
Match 3s
€100
each

Next
Week's
Jackpot
is
€15,000

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Lotto Gift
Anne Brennan
M Maguire
Flanagans Foodstore
Anthony Preston
David Tobin
M Farrell

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Join us live on Facebook every
Thursday evening at 5pm for our
parish lotto draw

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

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722

E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Twitter: @portlaoiseparis

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

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are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie
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