

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

3rd April 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**WE STAND WITH
UKRAINE**

On Friday 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation, we joined virtually with Pope Francis in Rome as we prayed together for peace and consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We continue to stand with Ukraine and pray for a peaceful end to war all over the world.

The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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The First Stone

It's a sad fact of life, if you do something good, it isn't remembered for very long. You are only as good as your last good deed. But if you do something bad, there will be those who insist on never forgetting it. There will always be those who mutter, "Oh that's 'so and so' the one who had the affair." "That Mr. Thingymajig,

the one who embezzled the company funds." It's a very sad human failing. We are loathe to let the failings of others go.

In today's gospel reading the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. According to the Law of Moses such a woman should be stoned. What has Jesus to say on the matter? As ever, The Scribes and Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus into giving an answer that is unlawful. Jesus however is great at not falling into traps. "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone," he replies.

When we have made a mistake in life, the last thing we need is condemnation. Condemnation is rarely useful.

Condemnation sends us to a dark place where we fester. Denied our second chance, our self esteem is eroded. We begin to see ourselves in a different light. Other people think we are bad or weak so perhaps we are. Our self image spirals downwards, we start to behave the way people expect us to behave.... badly! But the people, who have pointed the finger of blame; are they really in any position to judge?

We are extraordinarily quick to throw the first stone. Our powers of empathy are limited. Perhaps we enjoy moral outrage. Perhaps we enjoy gossiping at someone else's expense. Today we are challenged. The next time we open our mouths to condemn, we are asked to find mercy instead, the same mercy we expect when we have fallen from grace.

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.



**We welcome into our
Parish Community**

Zuzanna Koniuszenska, Rinuccini

Nelly Rae Winnifred Nevin, Colliers Wood.

Noah Jsoeph Pearson, Carmody Way

Who were baptised last weekend.

**Pope Francis' Prayer
Intention April 2022
For the World's Health
Workers**



"Imagine struggling to simply exist. You struggle to fill your stomach, struggle to clothe your family, and struggle to afford even a shack of a house. When you are sick, you do not have medicine. When you have children, they cannot go to school. And when you need money, you cannot find work."

This month Pope Francis asks us to look at medical mission in our poorest and war torn parts of the world. We are asked to pray for the world health workers and medical missions. We are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention for April "... **for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.**"

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over to help them improve their library services. Share your opinions
and suggestions by filling out a short questionnaire at your local library
during the months of April and May. Share with your families, friends
and community groups. Please help us to spread the word so we can
hear from as many older persons as possible.

Matthew 25 Verse 40 "I was in prison and you came to visit
me." Inmates are easy to forget, locked away they seem to disappear
from society. The Guild of St. Philip is a voluntary organisation that
visits inmates in prison twice per month. Do you have time to spare?
Would you like to offer a hand of friendship? If so please contact
Catherine on 086-0462405 for more information.

Older people need your support! ALONE is recruiting volunteers to
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and befriending service for older people. ALONE asks that interested
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Grotto after evening Mass on the
First Friday of every month.*



Pointing Fingers—Throwing Stones

One day Jesus got up early and went to the temple. As often happened, a group of people gathered around Jesus and he sat down and began to teach them. As he was teaching, some teachers of the law brought a woman who had been living a sinful life and made her stand before Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "this woman was caught in a terrible act of sin. The law of Moses says that she should be punished by stoning. What do you say?" The Bible tells us that they were trying to trap Jesus

into saying something against their laws so that they could bring charges against him.

Jesus bent down and began writing with his finger in the dirt. The men kept questioning Jesus trying to get him to say something. Finally, Jesus stood and said to them, "Whoever is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her," then he bent down and continued writing in the dirt. The men who had accused the woman looked at one another and walked away.

Jesus stood and spoke to the woman. "Where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" he asked.

"No one," the woman answered. "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Have you ever seen someone doing something wrong and you pointed an accusing finger at them? I think most of us would have to admit that we have. I had a pastor one time who was fond of saying, "Remember, when you point your finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at you." Try it, point your finger at someone and then look at your hand. Three fingers are pointing back at you!

That is the point of Jesus' teaching in our lesson today. Not one of us is perfect and we should remember that when we want to point fingers or throw stones at someone else. I have a small stone for each of you. Take it home and put it somewhere that you will see it when you think you might be tempted to point out someone else's faults.

My Prayer

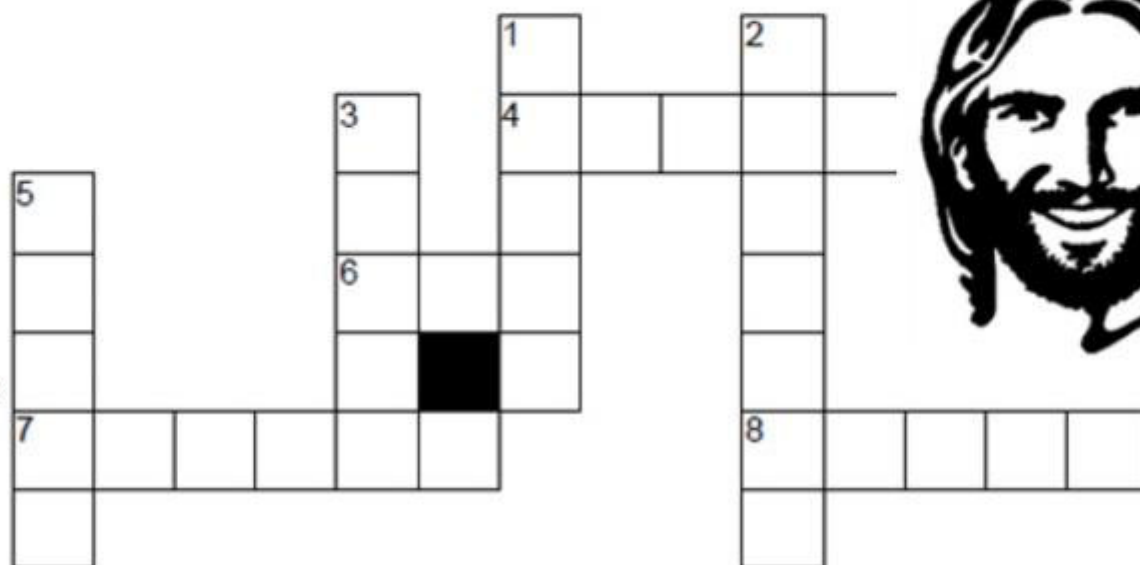
Our Father, help us to have the forgiving attitude that Jesus taught us in our lesson today. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.



Pointing Fingers & Throwing Stones

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them. "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" John 8:7

Puzzle is based on John 8:1-11



ACROSS

4. To send something such as a rock or a ball through such as a rock or a ball through the air
6. To break God's laws or commandments
7. To say that someone has done something wrong
8. Prophet who received the 10 Commandments

DOWN

1. Another name for a rock
2. To judge someone; to sentence someone for a crime.
3. The Son of God
5. An adult female person.

WOMAN

SIN

JESUS

CONDEMN

ACCUSE

MOSES

STONE

THROW



J	I	K	Z	S	Y	H	A	T	A	J	P	P	A	D
X	O	B	Y	D	T	X	I	S	E	F	O	I	C	F
P	D	S	W	U	X	O	N	K	I	M	T	R	C	G
S	K	O	T	L	J	I	N	W	E	N	P	Z	U	N
L	R	P	I	M	S	T	E	E	A	P	E	L	S	D
C	M	I	E	O	S	H	Q	M	G	U	H	C	E	W
C	H	Q	S	R	T	N	O	C	O	N	D	E	M	N
H	A	P	T	N	A	W	S	E	B	Q	O	F	P	M
Z	K	B	H	I	U	E	Z	K	J	D	W	E	K	V
A	C	L	R	N	G	M	Y	F	E	A	I	B	Y	Q
G	G	Z	O	G	H	B	P	Q	S	W	L	M	E	X
V	G	E	W	A	T	B	D	J	U	J	O	D	U	S
A	D	U	L	T	E	R	Y	W	S	M	K	I	X	T
O	C	Y	V	A	C	U	N	R	F	I	R	S	T	F
P	Q	R	D	E	W	L	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S

JESUS

MORNING

ACCUSE

THROW

WOMAN

TAUGHT

ADULTERY

FIRST

SIN

TEMPLE

STONE

CONDEMN

TEACHERS

CROWD

LAW





Time to Think!

The Danger of Keeping Silent

The number of priests and members of religious orders in Ireland has dropped by 70% since 1970. In the past three years more than 25% of all priests in Ireland have died. The average age of priests has risen substantially in that time; it is now well above 70. Add to that problems of health and morale, and you have a serious difficulty with staffing, to name just one. I currently hold the responsibility as Parish Priest of three parishes. Clustering parishes has become the norm. In our diocese many clergy generously continue holding active posts of responsibility well into their 80s. I often marvel at these elderly Priests being so selfless despite the burden that comes with old age. However, does the institution think it is acceptable that this responsibility is inflicted on such men?

The volume of work has not grown less; if anything the contrary is true, but the numbers available to do it have declined. Statistics and anecdotal evidence could be multiplied, but it is unnecessary. This situation did not develop overnight. A substantial decline in vocations began as far back as thirty years ago. There was no shortage of voices calling for action, for a review of the way that we are church, for the training and empowerment of lay-people, for the creation of structures of dialogue, participation, and subsidiarity. In response, some wagged a finger in reproof, saying, 'God will provide'. That was to evade the issue, and the decline continued. Regrettably, little of the above was done. A crash landing, therefore, seems more likely than a soft one. If you don't learn lessons the easy way, you are taught the hard way. If you don't take the initiative, you will be boxed into a corner by circumstances beyond your control, and with no room for manoeuvre. If you don't reform, you precipitate a revolution – or a collapse.

Perhaps it is providential. The model of Church, that is to say, the particular way of being the Church we have lived with in Europe for centuries is on its last legs and, most likely, will collapse. What will follow? It is impossible to know, and speculation about the future usually gets it wrong. What may emerge will be a new model of Church, more democratic and less hierarchical, more charismatic and less structured, more lay and less clerical, smaller and less concerned with numbers. Out of that, a new understanding of the Christian faith may also emerge. In much of the world, the Catholic Church turned the faith into a control system. That was to repeat the Pharisees' mistake, and to miss the point that Jesus was trying to free people from that. If the faith is seen as prophetic and motivating, focusing on relationships, enabling people to realise their humanity, it will be true to itself and be welcomed. Otherwise, it will wither, and have to await a better day.

Pope Francis invitation for universal Synod is a very positive initiative. Our national Synod is an opportunity for all of us to engage in a process where our hopes and frustrations as members of Church are promised to be listened to and indeed acted upon. This process in Germany and other European countries has been very real and honest. The heart of the Gospel pulsates with love, compassion and inclusion.



My own sense is that as the disciples realised, when they felt like walking away, they said "Lord to whom shall we go? you have the message of eternal life".

Cardinal Mario Grech, speaking in relation to the universal Synod warned against "The Danger of Keeping Silent". The Synodal process is a time for speech. A time to let the voice of the Church speak and bring forward the issues, the problems that inhabit our Synodal Church. For a long time, we chose to remain silent, but now it is time to speak. It is time for the local Churches to voice their concerns. It is a time to let the liberal and conservative sides of the Church speak, frankly and openly, and air their concerns. There is a time to remain silent, and a time to speak, and the Synodal process is privileged time and space in which the inner voice of the Church is allowed to speak, a time and space in which the Holy Spirit is allowed to speak, through the different organs of the Church. For a long time, we chose to remain silent, now it is time for the polyphony that constitutes the Church to be played ...and don't be surprised if there are some false notes along the way.

As we move closer to the celebration of Easter, hold firm to the power of hope. Christ whose light is brighter than any darkness, who dwells not in the certainties of black and white or do's and don'ts but rather in the grey zone is present in all our vulnerable lives.

Recent youth retreats I was involved with gave me great hope. The following reflection on the gift of light was written by a young confirmation student.

Light Is

Light is the stars burning bright in the night
Light is the love shining inside us
Light is joyfulness in our lives
Light is the hope surrounding us every day
Light is also helping someone in need
Light is the goodness we shall share
Light is in our hearts, our God is full of light

Paddy's
100 KM
YOUR WAY

because life Matters

**WE ARE WALKING 100K,
FROM THE MATER HOSPITAL
DUBLIN TO ABBEYLEIX
MANOR HOTEL IN MAY.**

FUNDRAISING NIGHT
ABBEYLEIX MANOR HOTEL ON
SATURDAY APRIL 16TH 2022.

WE HAVE A FANTASTIC NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT PLANNED.

**WE ARE DELIGHTED
TO ANNOUNCE THAT**

**JASON
O'CALLAGHAN**
WILL BE JOINING US.
HIS SHOW MIXES FUN, MAGIC,
AND COMEDY HYPNOTISM.

**ALSO JOINING US ARE
THE HILARIOUS**

**"3 BUCKS LEFT"
COMEDY SHOW.**

HEAR THE "3BUCKS LEFT"
LEGENDS HUMOROUS STORIES
OF LIFE IN CASTLETOWN.

**WE ARE ALSO DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE HILARIOUS
BRIAN GALLAGHER TO BE OUR HOST FOR THE NIGHT.**

TO END THE EVENING WE HAVE LIVE MUSIC
FROM BEATS WORKING FOLLOWED BY THE
BAND REVELATION TILL THE EARLY HOURS.

**DOORS OPENING AT 7.15
AS KICK OFF IS AT 8.**

TICKETS: €25



Fundraisers
In Memory of
Patrick
O' Shaughnessy

Patrick sadly died last May following a double lung and heart transplant, when he suffered a bleed on his brain.

This fundraiser is to raise funds for the Mater Foundation in his memory.

Patrick is dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his Mam Claire, Dad Pat (Abbeyleix), brothers Raymond and Brian, sisters Claire, Sandra and Sharon, son Oisín and partner Pamela Byrne (Portlaoise) and his daughter Darcie Carroll who also lives in Portlaoise.

All support would be greatly appreciated.

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Portlaoise Weekend Swim Times

10:50am-11:35am
11:35am-12:20pm
12:25pm-1:10pm
1:10pm-1:55pm
2:45pm-3:30pm
3:30pm-4:15pm

*Pre-booking is highly advised as sessions are based on a
maximum capacity*

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a Week



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SALES

ACCESSORIES

REPAIRS

Stations of the Cross for Peace

Every
Friday Evening
during Lent
at 6pm
in the Parish Church



First Penance 2022



Next week in the Parish of Portlaoise we will celebrate First Penance. This is a big step in the faith lives of the boys and girls from second class. We continue to pray for them and their families.

Below are some of the prayers that our boys and girls are learning



Prayer for Forgiveness

O my God, help me to remember the times when I didn't live as Jesus asked me to. Help me to be sorry and to try again.
Amen

Act of Sorrow

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

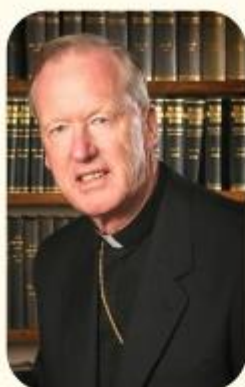
Prayer after Forgiveness

O my God thank you for forgiving me.
Help me to love others.
Help me to live as Jesus asked me to.
Amen



Holy Family Junior School - April 4th at 6pm
Scoil Bhríde, Educate Together, Maryborough and St.
Francis - April 5th at 6pm
Gaelscoil - April 6th at 6pm
The Heath NS - April 7th at 6pm (in The Heath Church)
Ratheniska NS - April 7th at 6pm (in Ratheniska Church)

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



*Bishop James
Moriarty*

Carlow/Dublin
Bishop Emeritus of
Kildare & Leighlin
2002-2010



Patrick Beere

Summerhill Lane,
Portlaoise



James (Jim) Maher

Thornberry,
Abbeyleix



Paul Mahoney

Mountrath Road,
Abbeyleix

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

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

**In Loving Memory of
Our Beloved Mother
BERNADETTE COYNE**

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
7th Anniversary occurred 29th March 2022.



*Not a day do we forget you,
In our hearts you're always near,
As we loved you, we miss you,
As it dawns another year.
Sometimes it feels a lifetime,
Sometimes only a day,
But deep down in our hearts,
You will never fade away.*

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

*Thinking of you today and always xxx
Sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.
May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Peace*



**In Loving Memory of
Our Beloved Sister
BERNIE COYNE**

Boughlone, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
7th Anniversary occurred 29th March 2022.



*May the winds of Heaven blow softly
and whisper in your ear,
How much we love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.
Remembered always by your sister
Kitty, Donie and family and also
your three sisters.
Love you always Bernie xxx*

May Bernie's gentle soul Rest in Peace

**In Loving Memory of
SADIE BOHAN**

Late of 34 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
38th Anniversary occurred 2nd April 2022



*We cannot forget the face we loved or the
memory of your smile or the countless things
you did for us to make our lives worthwhile,
It has been lonely here without you and
grows lonelier everyday,
The world has been a sadder place since
the world took you away, but we know you walk beside us,
and when our lives are through we pray that God will take
our hands and lead us straight to you.*

*Always remembered by her sons Billy, John, Michael, Maurice,
Eugene, Dermot and Brian, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.*

May Sadie Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of our Brothers **MICKEY & JACK DOYLE**

Late of 37 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.
Mickey's 12th Anniversary occurred 30th March 2022.
Jack's 14th Anniversary occurred 12th March 2022.



*Just a prayer from the family
that loved you, just a memory
fond and true, in our hearts you
will live forever, because we
thought the world of you.*



*We hold you close within our
hearts and there you shall remain,*

To walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.

*Always remembered, never forgotten by your loving
sisters Ellen & Guggie and brother Joe.*

May They Rest in Peace

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory of **WILLIAM (Billy) MARUM**

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

1st Heavenly Birthday occurs at this time.



Deep in our hearts there is a special
place, where we keep the memories
of your smiling face,
All the good times we shared and
the memories we made,
Will stay in our minds and hearts
and never fade.

*Loved and missed very much by his
brothers Danny and Richard, sisters
Catherine, Breeda, Tina and Mary.*

Rest in Peace William

In Loving Memory of **BRIDGET O'BRIEN**

15 New Road, Portlaoise.

3rd Anniversary occurs 4th April 2022.



They say there is reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will change the way I feel.
For no-one knows the heartache,
That lies behind our smiles,
No one knows how many times,
We have broken down and cried.
We want to tell you something,
So that there won't be any doubt,
You're so wonderful to think of,
But so hard to be without.

*Sadly missed by your daughter Theresa, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.*

Rest in Peace Bridget

In Loving Memory of **JIM DELANEY**

Late of Borris Road, Portlaoise.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
on Friday 8th April at 7:30pm.

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

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

May Jim Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of **MARIA MORAN**

Dr Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 9th April 2022.



5th Anniversary Mass will be
celebrated in

Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 10th April at 10am.

*Sadly missed by her loving husband
and family.*

May Maria Rest in Peace



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David **087-2369887**

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NIAL; 086-2770095

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Night Vigil for Peace in Ukraine



**All Night
Adoration**

For Our

**Ukrainian
Brothers And Sisters**

For

**Peace to Prevail
and the War to End**

Venue: St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe, Laois
EirCode: R32 AH90

Start Date: Thursday 07/04/22 @ 7.30 PM

End Date: Friday 08/04/22 @ 7.30 AM

Adoration 7.30 PM to 7.20 AM

Benediction 7.20 AM to 7.30 AM

Closing Mass at 07.30 AM

Celebrant Fr. Paddy Byrne PP

Contact Mairead Malone on 086 890 0673

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
31st March 2022

No €16,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Pat Bannon
Valerie Hyland
Marie O'Brien
Joan Ferns
Susan Gowing
Joe Ging
Aisling Gleeson
Annemarie Conroy
Anne Ging
Lil Gleeson
Barry & Nicola Phelan

MATCH 3s €1,000

11
Match 3s
€91
each

PROMOTER

Online Lotto
Maura Buggy
Marie O'Brien
Joan Ferns
Anne Ging
Anne Ging
Lil Gleeson
Peter Ryan
Anne Ging
Lil Gleeson
Bernie Phelan

Next Week's Jackpot is €17,000

Play PARISH



Follow Us
& Like Us

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portlaoiseparishlaois

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: @portlaoiseparish

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

All Masses and services from the Parish Church
are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times
057 8600119)



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

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

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ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS

Level 7/8 in Civil/Structural Engineering (or similar) Preferably with 1-2 year' post graduate experience.

Skills: Engineering Drawing and Detailing, Site inspections/Surveys.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Full Time Position, minimum level 7 in Architectural Technology

Skills: Construction/Architectural Drawing and Detailing, Site Inspections/Surveys.