

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

6th March 2022

**First Sunday
of Lent**

**WE STAND WITH
UKRAINE**



Welcome back to our 10am Sunday Mass. Thanks to Choir director Sarah Troy who has been working with the boys and girls for the past couple of months. We thank also Catherine Quigley who was Director for 40 years and wish her good health in her retirement.



The Parish Centre 057 8621142
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Tempted to Distraction?

If we are not criminals, and we don't particularly consider ourselves to be sinners, do we really need to worry about the devil, or the dangers of temptation?



If the temptations in our lives are simply to sit at the computer too long, or indulge in the odd tittle, how much does that really matter?

On the first Sunday of Lent we are always treated to the same lesson. We are asked to consider what we are about, how the devil might put spanners in the works, and what we can do about it. Today the devil finds Jesus in the wilderness. He finds him when he is hungry and weak and tempts him with attractive options, food, fame and protection. We don't see Jesus dithering, not even for a minute. Jesus is able to put the temptation behind him because he knows what he is about. Jesus understands his mission and it isn't about materialistic benefit or power. Jesus is able to put aside the temptation because he is confident that the same Holy Spirit that has taken him into the wilderness will lead him back out.

The wilderness comes in all shapes and sizes. For us it could be moments when we're feeling lost, broken, unloved, tired or overburdened. In these moments of weakness this is when we are most at danger. These are moments when the devil can come to us offering comfortable and attractive options. Comfortable and attractive options can tempt us to make poor decisions; decisions that provide distractions. The devil can be subtle. Temptations rarely lead the majority of us into crime or even into sin. Being tempted to finish off a bottle of wine or spend longer than we ought on Facebook doesn't seem so bad, but are the tens of little distractions we succumb to each and every day taking us away from who we really are, and from what is genuinely important?

Every day the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards our specific missions in life. Do we say 'yes' to the work God has lined up for us, or do we fall for all those comfortable little distractions?

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.



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.

Keeping Safe!

The Irish Bishops recommend that we continue:

The wearing of face masks inside Church buildings

use the Sanitisers

Suspension of the handshake

Holy communion be received in the hand

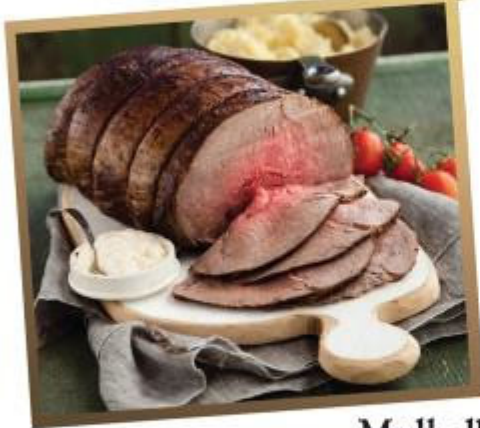
Holy Water fonts to remain dry

These recommendations will be reviewed later this month in the meantime we ask that you take them into consideration.



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PORTLAOISE LITERATURE STUDIES GROUP



We have resumed our group every Wednesday, 10.45am-12.45pm in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise, where we are very well looked after.

Don't let the fancy title put you off! We are just an ordinary group of people who love a good book and enjoy lively discussion.

We have read everything from Dickens to Sally Rooney and are currently reading Kim by Rudyard Kipling. If this is your cup of tea, which we also enjoy, come along and join us. You won't be disappointed.

Contact Ann 086-0678828 or Helen 085-1529558

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Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th March
Please support

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.



Pray the *Rosary*

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

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



Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group
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Portlaoise Active Age Group: Great News - Our club has now resumed every Wednesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre, we have a full fun filled programme planned. We plan for a safe sustainable return as we have all missed so much of our glory years due to Covid. Members must be fully vaccinated including booster. New members always welcome.

Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club; Auto-jumble, Sunday 20th March, from 8am in the Community Hall, Ballyfin. Strictly vintage, veteran and artisanal related stalls & traders. Pre-registration and approval for stalls required. Proceeds in support of local charities. For queries or information on the Ballyfin Vintage & Veteran Club, please message, text or call Pat O'Connor at 087-7824481.

Rosary at the Shrine; Market Square, Portlaoise at 2:30pm this Sunday 6th March and on the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome.



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AGM **Raheen Community Alert**
Annual General Meeting **AGM;** Monday 14th March at 8pm in Doogues Bar and Restaurant, Raheen.

Guest speaker; Garda Liam Martyn, community liaison officer. All members and new members welcome.

ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

♪♪ **Sts. Peter & Paul's Children's Choir** ♪♪

We are accepting new enrolments for 2022

Rehearsals take place every Friday in the Parish Centre and the choir sing at 10am Mass on Sundays.

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Time to Think!

God's Dream



We can wait no longer. Martin Luther King's Letter to White Church Leaders

In 1960, Martin Luther King was imprisoned after leading a civil rights march. His dream seemed a long way off. Criticised by white church leaders, he responded with his famous "Letter from an Alabama Jail", which included this section:

We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jet like speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse and buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to coloured children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five year old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat coloured people so mean?"; when you take a cross county drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "coloured"; when your first name becomes "nigger," your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last name becomes "John," and your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs."; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you



are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness" - then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair.

Faced with injustices like these, it would be understandable if King had become stuck in "the abyss of despair". His letter oozes a compassion for the suffering of his fellow African-Americans and a smouldering anger at the injustices heaped upon them. But his movement aroused violent opposition. Even the white church, which he had hoped would side with his cause, opposed what he was doing. At times the challenge must have seemed too big, the forces of oppression too powerful, and the future fated to be an endless rerun of the past. But to his compassion and anger King added hope. He was convinced that his dream was in fact God's dream; that God too had.

An Inspirational Prayer

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then. Put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: "The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me but in me, and I in Him."

St. Francis de Sales

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Resisting Temptation

There was a bowl of sweets sitting on the coffee table in the living room of Mary's house. Mary's mother noticed that she was looking at the sweets and said, "Now, don't you eat any sweets until after dinner or you will spoil your appetite." The sweets looked so good and the temptation was so great. "Surely just one little piece won't hurt - and mother will never know the difference," Mary thought to herself.



Have any of you ever had an experience like that? Here is another story which might sound familiar.

"Put away your books and take out one sheet of paper and a pencil," the teacher said. "We are going to take our weekly spelling test." Johnny had an empty feeling in the pit of his stomach. He knew that they were going to have a spelling test today, but he watched TV last night instead of studying for the spelling test and he wasn't ready for the test. As the test began, Johnny looked around the room and realised that he had a clear view of Sally's paper. "It won't hurt if I look at Sally's paper just this once," Johnny thought to himself. "I promise — I'll never do it again and nobody will ever know."

All of us have faced temptations such as these, haven't we? Did you know that Jesus was tempted just as we are? The Gospel tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Do you know what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He answered him with Scripture!

Jesus had not had anything to eat for forty days. He was hungry, and Satan knew he was hungry, so he said to him, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but he didn't. Instead, he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took Jesus up to a high place and showed him the worldly kingdoms below. "All of this belongs to me," he said. "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give it to you."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and led him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angels to rescue you."

Again, Jesus quoted the Scripture, "'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

Satan tempted Jesus just as he tempts you and me. Jesus resisted Satan's temptation, and we can too, by answering him with Scripture.



My Prayer

Dear Father, help us to learn what the Bible teaches us to do so that when the devil tempts us, we can do what Jesus did—answer him with Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We know that Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and praying. During Lent we try to follow Jesus' example by doing something special to show how much we love him and want to be like him. This is not easy and sometimes it is difficult to decide what we want to do and even more difficult to keep doing it for forty days.

There are three things that we are asked to focus on during Lent.



LENT

PRAYING: Spend a little more time with God.

SACRIFICING: Giving up something that you really like.

ALMSGIVING: Giving to those who have very little or sharing what you have with someone who needs it.

They are:

SOME OF THESE SUGGESTIONS MIGHT HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO:

I will share a smile



I will help my mammy

I will write a letter to my nana

I won't eat sweets

I will play with my little brother/sister

I will share my lunch with my friend

I will be patient

I will make a card for my mammy

I will eat my dinner

I will help clean the kitchen

I will say thank you to Jesus

I will do what my teacher asked

I will forgive someone who hurt me

I will give my daddy a hug

I will read a story to my sister

I will share my toys

I won't watch television

I'm sooooo
sorry...



I will pray for those who are hungry

I will put some money in the Trócaire Box

I will pray for those who have died

I will make a card for my granddad

I will help my teacher

I will clean my room without complaining

I will be kind to someone

I will pray for those who are sick

I will share my pencils with my friends

I will put my litter in the bin

I will help mind the baby

I will go to Mass

I will call my grandparents

I will pray for peace

I will say 'sorry'

I will make my bed

I will give away something that I like.





ALTAR SERVERS

Altar servers is something that we have missed since the beginning of the pandemic and we are delighted to start welcoming them back to all parish Masses.

If you are in third class and upwards (including secondary school!) you and a parent/guardian are welcome to a brief information meeting in the Parish Church on

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH AT 6PM



Stations of the Cross for Peace

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

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



Kathleen Lawlor

Clonrooske View
Portlaoise



Rita Whelan

née Flanagan
Corrigeen

Sr. Catherine Campion

Kilcock and formerly of Mountrath Rd.

Sr. Esther Quinn

Presentation Sisters
Iona, Western Australia and formerly
of Old Knockmay Road

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
LILY KELLY**

Lr. Boley, Abbeyleix.
28th Anniversary occurred 3rd March 2022



*Forever in our
Hearts*

*Always remembered by all
her loving family.*

Rest in Peace Lily

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In Loving Memory of
PETER O' BRIEN
22 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.



The sisters and brothers of the late Peter O' Brien, would like to express their sincere thanks to all who sympathised with them, sent Mass and sympathy cards and online messages of condolences on RIP.ie.

Our sincere appreciation to those who travelled to attend Peter's funeral Mass and to those who attended the Rosary.

Heartfelt thanks to Msgr. John Byrne for the beautiful Requiem Mass and to Sarah Troy for the lovely music and hymns.

We would like to thank the management and staff of Suncroft Lodge Nursing Home and Mary, his Palliative care nurse for all their care to Peter.

Our thanks to Matthew Keegan and David Goode, funeral directors for the professional, compassionate manner in which they carried out Peter's funeral arrangements and to the gravediggers for preparing his final resting place with such care.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to you all. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Peter's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, on
Saturday 12th March at 10am.

Rest in Peace Peter

**In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH DEEVY**

Late of Lakeglen, Portlaoise.
24th Anniversary occurs 6th March 2022

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this Sunday 6th March at 12:30pm.



Though your smile is gone forever,
And your hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories,
Of the one we loved so much.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part,
God has you in his keeping,
And we have you in our hearts.

*Sadly missed by his loving daughter Marie, son-in-law
Seamus, grandchildren Blaine, Evan, Aoife and Clodagh,
their partners and families.*

May Joseph Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

LILY DARGAN

29th Anniversary occurred 3rd March 2022

LAURENCE DARGAN

44th Anniversary occurred 27th February 2022

Late of 3 Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.

Gone, yet not forgotten, although we are apart,
Your spirit lives within us, forever in our hearts.

Loved and remembered always by Mary, Eugene,
Sean and Ronan.

May They Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory of

LAR DOOLEY

29 Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 7th March 2022

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Monday 7th March at 10am.



*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 fondly remembered by
his family, neighbours and friends.*

Rest in Peace Lar

In Loving Memory of

WILLIAM (Mick) FENNELLY

Late of 30 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

45th Anniversary occurred 20th February 2022

Memory drifts to scenes long past,
Time rolls on, but memories last,
Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Love's remembrance outlasts all.

Loved and remembered always by
Mary, Eugene, Sean and Ronan.

Rest in Peace William



In Loving Memory of

PATRICK LEWIS

Raheen, The Heath, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary; 4th March.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
the Church of the Assumption, the
Heath, this Sunday 6th March, 9:30am.



*You left us special memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.*

Loved and remembered by his wife Kathleen and family.

May Patrick Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

BOB MULHALL

85 Marian Place, Portlaoise. Died 1st March 2013.

9th Anniversary occurred 1st March 2022.



Dad, our thoughts are always with you,
Your place no one can fill,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still.

*Always loved and remembered by
your loving family*

May Bob Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

JAMES MOFFITT

Raheen, Abbeyleix.

8th Anniversary occurs 11th March 2022



You are MISSED each
And every day
For you were
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Who meant more than
Words can say

Always remembered by all his family.

Rest in Peace Jimmy

In Loving Memory of

WILLIAM (Billy) O' SULLIVAN

Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise.

8th Anniversary occurs 9th March 2022



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

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church, this
Sunday 6th March at 8.30am.

Sadly missed by all his loving family.

May William Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of

MICHAEL LALOR

Ballycarnan, Portlaoise.

5th Anniversary occurs 10th March 2022.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 13th March at 11:15am.

*Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day, no longer in our lives to
share, but in our hearts you're always there.*

Sadly missed by his wife Peg and family.

Rest in Peace Michael

In Loving Memory of
NANCY (Johanna) HORAN
 Late of 23 Grattan Street, Portlaoise.
 9th Anniversary occurred 2nd March 2022

Mammy

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.

Missing you Always,
Hannah, Andy, Cian, Pat, Fiona, Jason & Rachel.

Also remembering
Sheila Horan, late of 9 Grattan Street, Portlaoise
whose anniversary occurs 9th March.

Also remembering
Michael McEvoy, late of Mountrath Rd., Portlaoise
whose 2nd anniversary occurs 21st March.

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

Always remembered by your loving family.

Anniversary Mass for Nancy, Michael and Sheila
 will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
 on Sunday 13th March at 10am.

May They Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
CHRISTOPHER LaCUMBER
 The Cottage, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise.
 1st Anniversary occurs 5th March 2022

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
 Parish Church, this Sunday 6th March at 11:15am.



Many the thoughts I give to you,
 As the long hours go by,
 Thinking of the things we used to
 do and say, just you and I.
 Sometimes they make me smile,
 Sometimes they make me cry,
 But are precious to me alone,
 Memories of You and I.

Sadly missed, loved and remembered by his loving wife
Bridie and family and brother Jim.

May Christopher Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
KAREN COONAN (née Dixon)

Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise. Died 3rd March 2018.
 4th Anniversary occurs at this time.



Our hearts still ache in
 sadness,
 And secret tears still flow,
 What it meant to lose you,
 No one will ever know.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
 Parish Church, this Sunday 6th March at 10am.

Sadly missed by her husband Owen, son Matthew, parents
Anne and Brendan, brother Alan, extended family & friends.

May Karen Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
BRIGID O'BRIEN, Ridge Road, Portlaoise
 Died 10th March 1968. (54th Anniversary)



Softly the leaves of memory fall,
 Gently we gather and treasure
 them all,
 Unseen, unheard, you are always
 near,
 So missed, so loved, so very dear.

Sadly missed and always remembered
by your loving family.

May Brigid Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
WILLIE GING

Late of 70 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
 Who died 29th February 2008



You were always there when
 we needed you,
 No task too great or small,
 With a loving heart and
 willing hands,
 For us you did it all.

Loved and missed today & everyday.

From Liam and Helena and all your loving family.

May Willie Rest in Peace

Happy the poor in spirit:
 theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Matthew 5:3



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Topics of the Day

Main Talks:

Faithsplaining: The importance of apologetics in Ireland today
Fr. Brendan Kilcoyne

"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

Workshops – Catholic Culture

From Smartphones to God
Fr. Gavan Jennings

"I Chant Believe It!" - Medieval Music in Modern Liturgy?
Maghnus Monaghan

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Portlaoise Parish



Results for
3rd March 2022

18

26

27

32

No €12,000 Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Peter Ryan
Peter, Breda, Anna May
Mark O Connor
Daniel Bonham

MATCH 3s €1,000

4
Match 3s
€250
each

PROMOTER

Lotto Gift
Peter Ryan
Peter Ryan
Mike Farrell

Next Week's
Jackpot
is
€13,000

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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

Next weekend we welcome the Divine Word Missionary to our parish. They will speak at all Masses.

First Week of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 90:1-2, 10-15
Roman 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

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

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

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
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